



## Lepper, Miller elected KBC department leaders

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

The election of two staff department heads and the adoption of a \$20.1 million projected budget constituted major items of business handled by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's executive board in its spring meeting last week.

Meeting May 5-6 at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly in Shelby County the board elected M. John Lepper Jr. of Hardwick, Ga. to become director of the Family Ministry-Church Administration Department. It also elected Charles D. (Chip) Miller of Middletown to direct the Sunday School Department.

Lepper, 39, is currently pastor of Hardwick (Ga.) Baptist Church. Miller, 48, has been on the staff of the state Sunday School Department since Jan. 1, 1985 as an associate.

### Budget tops \$20 million

The executive board adopted a 1987-88 budget goal of \$20,177,275 which will be recommended to the Kentucky Baptist Convention in annual session in November 1986 at Elizabethtown.

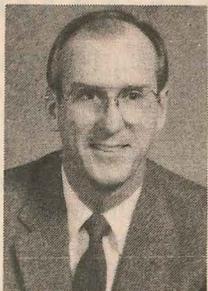
The projected goal includes a basic operational section of \$17,527,275, a bold mission challenge section of \$1.3 million (same figure as in three preceding years) and additional estimated income of \$1,350,000. In both the basic and challenge sections funds will be earmarked with 38.125 percent going to SBC causes and 61.875 percent remaining in the state.

The executive board further planned in detail the 1986-87 budget total of \$19,016,462 approved by the convention at its November 1985 session in Lexington.

KBC executive secretary William W. Marshall warned in his report to the board before the 1986-87 budget was finalized that an overall five percent increase in it over the current year is "the smallest increase we have projected in many many years."

Noting a downturn in giving patterns he observed that "it seems far better to plan realistically" than to base spending projections on "an inadequate plan."

Marshall went on to call the budget



Lepper



Miller

"a miracle" for it is based on "the generosity of people whose giving could stop at any time." He called for the board and staff to "handle it carefully, wisely, protectively and lovingly."

In concluding his report Marshall urged the board to consider some type of cooperative endowment campaign to benefit all Kentucky Baptist agencies and institutions. He further called for an endowment program to financially assist Baptist families in the state in sending their children to the Kentucky Baptist colleges of their choice.

### New department heads

Lepper, the new director of the Family Ministry-Church Administration Department, succeeds C. Vernon Cole who earlier accepted a new assignment on the KBC staff. Lepper is a native Floridian.

A former Kentucky pastor, Lepper served Upton (Ky.) Baptist Church, 1974-78, and First Baptist Church, Lebanon Junction, 1978-81, from which he went to the Georgia congregation he now serves. Earlier, he held pastorates in Tennessee at Shiloh Baptist Church, Seymour, 1971-73, and Center Point Baptist Church, Springfield, 1973-74.

He is a graduate of Carson-Newman

College, Jefferson City, Tenn. (BA, 1972), and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville (M.Div., 1977; D.Min., 1981). He was engaged in hospital training at Highlands Baptist Hospital, Louisville.

Married to the former Connie Jackson of Concord, N. C., Lepper is the father of two daughters, Tanya, 9, and Allison, 6.

He will join the KBC staff July 1.

Miller, new Sunday School Department director, is a native Louisvillian who has served on church staffs in Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, Florida and North Carolina as pastor, youth director, minister of education, associate and administrative pastor. His Kentucky service includes the pastorate of Highland Baptist church, Lexington, 1958-60; executive director, Good News Club, Louisville, 1960-65; and administrative pastor, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville, 1977-80.

A graduate of Georgetown (Ky.) College (BA, 1965), Miller also attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, 1977-79.

Married to the former Nancy Schwerdtfeger of Henderson County, Miller is the father of three children, Charles, 26, Robin, 24, and Stephen, 23.

He assumed the directorship of the Sunday School Department upon his election last week. Miller succeeded Fred Halbrooks Jr., who retired.

### Other agenda items

The executive board transacted a myriad of additional business matters at its spring meeting last week.

Weekly camp rates at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek Baptist assemblies will be increased by \$5 per camper weekly beginning June 1, 1987. The new weekly (Monday-

Friday) rates will be \$50 per person.

A total of \$50,230 was appropriated to pave the roads at Jonathan Creek Assembly in Marshall County.

A revised policy on financial assistance in counseling to ministers and denominational employes was adopted.

Board members were urged to immediately contact the two Kentucky U. S. senators to request that a current bill which would deprive ministers of certain retirement benefits be "left alone."

A plan for using part time retired ministers as church starter strategists across the state was announced in an effort to begin 400 new churches, missions and preaching points by 1990.

Several vacancies on the executive board were filled through new appointments.

Don R. Mathis, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Corbin, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, presided as chairman of the board.

Elected secretary pro tem was Doris Yeiser, Kentucky Baptist Convention staff archivist. She fills the position occupied by the late Leo T. Crismon.

Other officers of the board include John W. Searcy, Franklin layman, first vice chairman; Ray Cummins, pastor of Marion (Ky.) Baptist Church, second vice chairman; G. Allen West, assistant coordinator, Kenya project, KBC Direct Missions Department, Middletown, assistant secretary; and Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer.

The state executive board will reconvene Nov. 10 at Severns Valley Baptist Church, E'town, a day prior to the opening of the 149th session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Tanner resigns HMB to become Oklahoma state Baptist leader



Tanner

William G. Tanner, president of the Home Mission Board since 1977 and former president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, was elected executive director-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention

of Oklahoma during a meeting of the board of directors May 5.

Tanner, 56, succeeds Joe L. Ingram who has been BGCO executive 15 years but is stepping aside June 30 to direct the Baptist Health Care Corp.

Tanner is expected to begin duties in Oklahoma July 1. His election must be ratified by messengers at the state convention Nov. 10-12 in Bethany.

After considering some 30 men and interviewing a dozen, Tanner was recommended by the search committee because "he has the big picture like nobody else," said the committee chairman Warren Hultgren, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tulsa.

Tanner answered the question of his "stepping down" from a national agency to lead a state convention. "There is no stepping down in the Lord's work. I am stepping forward."

## 20-year educational fund plan to become permanent allocation

by Gregory L. Hancock

What began 20 years ago as a project to fund new buildings on the campuses of Kentucky's Baptist academic institutions was scheduled for conclusion at last week's executive board meeting at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly.

In 1965, responding to the call to an almost unprecedented special called session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, messengers voted to underwrite the capital building needs of Baptist education in Kentucky. To do this concerned educational institutions were allowed to borrow money from private agencies. Notes were to be paid by special allocation from the Kentucky Baptist Convention budget.

Six million dollars was borrowed by Campbellsville, Cumberland, Georgetown and Kentucky Southern colleges, Clear Creek Baptist School and Oneida Baptist Institute. Every year since a \$300,000 Christian education allocation has been earmarked in the Kentucky Baptist Convention budget to be distributed by percentage to the institutions.

Of the funds allocated, \$268,650 goes to undesignated capital needs.

\$31,350 goes to the building of new Baptist student centers.

Because of the convention's action there are today five new student centers serving Baptist students in the state. Three properties have been acquired and will eventually be converted for use as student centers.

The cost of a Baptist college education in Kentucky has risen from an average of \$1034 in academic year 1965-66 to an average of nearly \$5702 in academic year 1985-86. At the same time the average population of Kentucky Baptist college campuses has fallen from 1344 to 1245.

Acknowledging the need for Kentucky Baptists to assume responsibility for the future of their academic institutions, William W. Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, asked the convention's executive board to translate the annual Christian education allocation into an increase in the amount budgeted for colleges and institutions through the Cooperative Program. The increase would continue to be distributed according to the current percentage allocation.

The board responded by approving the recommendation.

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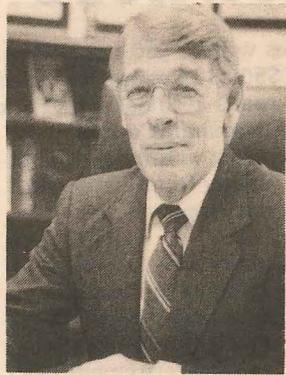
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# sanford's perspectives

## Tribute to B. B. McKinney



Jack D. Sanford

One of the great Southern Baptist leaders of the recent past is the object of celebration during 1986. The one hundredth anniversary of the birth of B. B. McKinney will be celebrated during this entire year.

He had the capacity to take a simple event from daily life, set it to music and thrill thousands of believers for generations to come. William J. Reynolds, associate professor of music at Southwestern Seminary, relates an incident which demonstrates McKinney's ability to produce greatness from the commonplace.

McKinney served on the music faculty at Southwestern and he was in great demand as an evangelistic singer.

In 1930 Mary Virginia Lee, Sunday School Board consultant for high school age young people, asked him to write a song for this age group on the theme "Serve the Lord with Gladness," based on Psalm 100.

Shortly after he received this request McKinney traveled by train from Ft. Worth to New Orleans. He thought about the request and the challenge to write a song for this age group.

As he sat in the train he read and read again Psalm 100. The click of the wheels seemed to provide a rhythmic support for the tune taking shape in his mind. As the train rolled on its way the words and music came together.

When McKinney arrived in New Orleans the completed manuscript was in his briefcase. Robert Coleman of Dallas published "Serve the Lord with Gladness" in 1931 and it has remained a favorite of Southern Baptists since.

It was one of McKinney's songs which helped me decide the Lord was calling me to

ministry. During a B.Y.P.U. meeting in the old First Baptist Church, Covington, Ky., the song "Wherever He Leads I'll Go" was being sung. I felt the tug of the Spirit and began what has been a lifelong journey of service to Christ. I thank McKinney for the spiritual power of that simple song. Its composition came out of a life experience.

In December 1935 McKinney became music editor at the Baptist Sunday School Board. Early in that ministry he was asked to sing in a Sunday school convention at Clanton, Ala. The speaker for the meeting was a former classmate of McKinney's, Robert S. Jones.

Jones had served as a missionary in Brazil for more than a decade but had been forced to return home because of his health. McKinney expressed his deep regret that Jones had to return from the mission field and asked him about his future plans. Jones said, "I don't know Mac, but wherever He leads, I'll go." Those words stuck in McKinney's mind.

McKinney returned to his hotel room and wrote words and music before leaving for the evening service. At the close of the service McKinney told the people of his conversation with Jones and said he had been inspired to write a song, "Wherever He Leads, I'll Go."

Thanks to God who provided us such a giant as B. B. McKinney and thousands of others who were just as dedicated, just as in touch with the human heart and just as willing to be used of the Lord. Such persons have made Baptists what we are today and all of us give thanks that God is still calling forth good men and women whose heart is warm for the Lord and whose abilities are dedicated to his service.

## Lottery dead for the present

There will be no lottery in Kentucky this year. The failure of HB 134, which would have asked voters to approve a lottery, failed to clear the House and so is dead.

Many people worked hard to see this legislation stopped, including the Temperance League of Kentucky and the Kentucky Baptist Convention through its public affairs committee. Delbert Butts of the Temperance League worked especially hard, gathering more than 20,000 names on petitions opposing the lottery and attending numerous meetings in Frankfort.

This victory over gambling interests is only a pause before another onslaught begins. The pressure on legislators is tremendous from special interest groups. Legislators are under constant bombardment not only to provide money needed to run the state but also to satisfy power groups which can influence voters. For this reason it is imperative we stay alert and be informed.

Western Recorder will do everything possible to stay on top of developments between now and the next session of the legislature.

We will publish whatever news is available and report what is happening in this continuing battle. Your prayers and influence are necessary if we are to be successful in our commitment to a strong moral climate in Kentucky.

We sympathize with hard-pressed legislators who hesitate to impose new taxes on the citizenry. However, the evils of increased gambling, especially through a state-sponsored lottery, demand opposition to this form of repressive taxation.

Those members who opposed the lottery in the state government committee are: Joe Barrows, William Brinkley, James Bruce, Donnie Gedling, Bobby Richardson, Danny Ford, Lonnie Napier, Herman Ratliff, Ramsey Morris and Ronald Cyrus.

You can bet those persons who favor a lottery will contact these legislators for support next time. For this reason Kentucky Baptists must inform the legislators who voted against the lottery of our support for their position. A simple thank you note would do the trick.

### western recorder

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

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# Jamestown church to be featured in BTN Sunday school program

by Wade Daffron

The members of First Baptist Church of Jamestown were being watched Wednesday night, Apr. 2.

As pastor Dan Grider delivered his message, he was being followed...by television cameras.

As the church held their weekly meetings, a camera crew from the Baptist Telecommunications Network was filming their activities. The network had been interested in the increase of attendance the church has had recently, especially in Sunday school.

## The church has experienced an overall growth in Sunday school attendance from 174-206 in a six-month period.

The network decided this would be an interesting subject for the network's Sunday School Growth Journal. The Journal is an hour long news magazine program done by the BTN cable network. Sunday school growth consultant Ken Marler of the Sunday School Board in Nashville came with the crew to conduct interviews and see what was causing the increase in attendance.

"The Jamestown Baptist Church has shown some growth," Marler said. "We decided to come in and see what was happening." Marler said the church has successfully enlisted programs and creative ideas to promote attendance and growth.

"The church has experienced an overall growth in Sunday school attendance from 174 to 206 in a six-month period," he said.

Marler sent the network to different churches around the country to film segments that will be seen in all 50 states. Marler said there was a special reason they came to Jamestown.

"We are going to use this church as an example," he said. "We hope other churches will see this and go, 'Hey, there's a church in Jamestown, not Louisville or some big city, and look what they're doing.'"

Marler said one reason the church is successful is because of meetings they have on Wednesday nights. The church holds meetings on those nights to decide and plan what will happen on the following Sunday. Marler commended this.

"It's unusual for a church to do this," he said. "Only churches doing good work do these kinds of things."

Another reason the church has experienced growth is pastor Dan Grider.

Grider is a young, energetic pastor who easily motivates and inspires the church members. He has been known



Pastor Dan Grider prepares nervous church members for filming.

to use puppets and a unicycle to reach people. Grider was thankful and appreciative of the interest shown by the BTN network.

"We're excited that a national network came down," he said. "It's really gotten things going."

Grider performed like a pro during the interviews. He and a church member James Monin of Jamestown told Marler how they enlisted ideas such as visitation, phone calls, notes and other means to enlist members.

The filming was completed that night and the show featuring the Jamestown segment is scheduled to air in May.

Church member Ruth Stapp summed the event up very well when she entered the church and saw the many cameras and lights.

"This is a highlight of our lives," she said.

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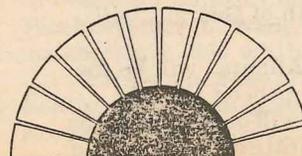
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Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

# baptist news in brief

## Charlotte's Cave joins Episcopal priesthood

Julian Cave, senior minister at St. John's Baptist Church in Charlotte, N. C., has resigned his congregation to become an Episcopal priest.

Cave has been pastor of the 1500-member church 11 years. His resignation will be effective May 31, when he will begin an internship at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in Charlotte.

He has worked closely with Bishop Robert Estill and Suffragan Bishop Frank Vest of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina in developing his new vocational plans, he said. After the internship in Charlotte, he will spend the 1986-87 academic year at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, "to get immersed in the Episcopal experience."

Cave, 52, has spent 30 years in Baptist ministry. He has identified with the moderate-conservative faction within the Southern Baptist Convention and has championed social issue causes and ecumenical projects.

Cave has criticized the present leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention and has distanced himself from fundamental conservative views he says rely on a too-literal interpretation of the Bible.

"Southern Baptists talk a lot about local autonomy, but when you exercise it, it really isolates you from the group," he explained. "You are free to be autonomous as long as the issues are peripheral and cosmetic, not serious or substantive." In the Episcopal church, quite frankly, there is an allowance for greater diversity. There's not that kind of pressure for conformity."

## Brotherhood trustees approve 1986-87 budget

Trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission approved a 1986-87 operating budget of \$3,285,188 for the agency during their Apr. 25-26 meeting.

Income for funding the budget includes a projected amount of \$924,000 from the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program and \$2,097,578 from sales of materials.

The program services division of work at the Brotherhood Commission will receive \$1,398,798 of the budget to develop and implement the agency's plan to help churches involve men and boys in missions. It will take \$666,100 to fund administrative services; \$610,410 for business services and \$583,880 for support services.

They also listened to reports on the Fellowship of Baptist Men, a Brotherhood enlargement campaign, and the seventh national Pioneer Royal Ambassador Congress to be held in Memphis, Aug. 4-6, 1986.

In his report on the Brotherhood enlargement campaign, Charles Ragland, Florida Brotherhood director and chairman of the enlargement committee, said the major thrust of the effort will be to start new units of work in local churches. "We want to help pastors get the concept of what it's like to have every man and boy involved in missions through Brotherhood," he said.

More than 500 men and boys already

have registered for the national Royal Ambassador Congress with more than 2500 expected to attend, according to Russell Griffin, director of the children and youth department at the Brotherhood Commission.

## Son of FMB official killed in car crash

Lewis Gray Myers, the 23-year-old son of Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board staff member Lewis I. Myers, died early May 1 when the car he was driving collided with a truck on U. S. Highway 60 in West Virginia. The truck driver was not injured.

The Myer was enroute to Friends, Va., to Louisville to visit friends. He had been working at a ski lodge in the Aspen, Colo. area, and had come to Richmond to visit his family and attend the Apr. 26 wedding of his sister, Margaret.

He was born in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) while his parents were missionaries in Vietnam. The family later moved to Richmond, where his father has worked in several Foreign Mission Board staff positions, most recently as director of the new Cooperative Services International office.

Myers attended the University of Virginia in Charlottesville for several years after finishing high school in Richmond, and planned to complete his studies.

## 5 meal events offered at WMU annual meeting

Kentucky women will have the opportunity to join other women from across the Southern Baptist Convention at the Omni Hotel for five meal events during the 1986 Women's Missionary Union Annual Meeting in Atlanta June 8-9.

A luncheon for Women in Professional Ministry will begin at noon on Sunday. This luncheon features a panel of missionary women led by Minette Drumwright, special assistant to the president, Foreign Mission Board.

A Prayer Box Supper will follow on Sunday at 5 p.m. WMU, SBC executive director Carolyn Weatherford will lead the program. Scheduled speakers are Susan Brindle, home missionary from Portsmouth, N. H.; former national WMU president Christine Gregory and current president Dorothy Sample; and Kansas/Nebraska WMU president Jeanie Nolan.

Members of Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF) will join together Monday at 7 a.m. for breakfast. Speakers include Myrtice Owens, RN, South West Africa; Angela Greer, RN, Cordele, Ga.; and Marilyn Bayne, RN, Simpsonville, S. C.

Ethnic women will take part in a breakfast at 7 a.m. on Monday. Language WMU consultant Doris Diaz will be the leader. Testimony and song will be shared by Gilda Reyes, director of music, Primera Iglesia Bautista, Atlanta. The Laotian Youth Choir and Deaf Choir, both of Georgia, will perform.

"Alive from Atlanta" will be the theme for the luncheon for All WMUers which will begin at 11:30 on Monday. This meal event will be held at the Georgia World Congress Center

and will be led by national WMU staff members.

Tickets for luncheons are \$15; breakfasts, \$9.25; and the Prayer Box Supper, \$11. To attend, contact: Annual Meeting Tickets, Woman's Missionary Union, P. O. Box C-10, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010; (205) 991-8100 by June 1.

## Three staffers hired by Colorado convention

The Executive Board of the Colorado Baptist General Convention has elected Donald L. Barr, director of Sunday school, church administration and family ministries; Bob Worley, director of church training, church music and campus ministries; and Joe R. Chambers, manager of Ponderosa Assembly and director of recreation.

Barr is a graduate of Westminster College, Salt Lake City, and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. He has been a consultant in youth Sunday school at the Baptist Sunday School Board for five years.

Worley is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex. He joined the Colorado convention from Mississippi Avenue Baptist Church in Aurora, Colo., where he has been minister of education for two years.

Chambers has succeeded Joe Cherry who is retiring this spring after more than 17 years of service at Ponderosa Assembly, located between Denver and Colorado Springs. Chambers came to Ponderosa from First Southern Baptist Church of Colorado Springs, where he had been minister of education since 1980. He is a graduate of Texas A & M University in College and has completed all class work for a second degree.

## Crowders will appeal federal court ruling

An appeal will be filed to a federal court decision granting the Southern Baptist Convention a summary judgement in a dispute over conduct of business at the 1985 annual meeting of the SBC.

May 5 Judge Robert H. Hall of the U. S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia granted the judgement to the SBC and its Executive Committee in a suit which had been filed by Robert S. Crowder and others, protesting events which occurred at the Dallas meeting of the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

Early in 1986 a parallel lawsuit was

filed in Fulton County Superior Court in Atlanta by five laypersons from five states, seeking exactly the same relief. That case currently is awaiting action.

Attorneys for the Crowders and for the SBC told Baptist Press the state court is not bound by the decision handed down May 5 by Judge Hall, but both note they expect the state court suit to be dismissed because of what SBC attorneys called the "powerful precedent" of the U. S. District Court decision.

Of the May 5 decision by Judge Hall, Crowder said, "It just floored us that kind of decision would be forthcoming."

Crowder said the four plaintiffs have conferred and "believe we should appeal" the case to the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit in Atlanta.

"Mr. Emmett J. Bondurant, Miss Jane H. Vehko and Mr. John H. Floyd of the firm of Bondurant, Mixson and Elmore are filing the appeal in the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals...today (May 7)," Crowder said in a prepared statement he read to Baptist Press.

In the statement, Crowder cited four reasons the plaintiffs are appealing the decision:

"One. The decision confuses Baptist congregational church government with hierarchical church government, for the cases relied on by the court deal mainly with hierarchical churches;

"Two. The decision may be interpreted by the officers of the Southern Baptist Convention and other religious groups and by other courts to permit any presiding officer to ignore or violate any church constitutional or bylaw provision with impunity and deny the right of those who finally support the church organization in the expectation that the organization will observe its own policies and procedures;

"Three. The decision does not address the fact that not only is the SBC a corporation, but it sought and obtained corporate status from the Georgia legislature and as such is subject to civil law; and

"Four. The plaintiffs do not agree with the court's application of the precedents interpreting the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States."

In his statement Crowder added: "We do not expect this appeal to be resolved before the convention meets in Atlanta in June of 1986. We hope and pray that the convention leaders will not interpret the district court's decision as an encouragement to engage in arbitrary action, but rather will set before the world an example of Christian stamanship and fairness in the conduct of the business of the convention." (BP)

### LONG RUN CAMPUS MINISTRIES LUNCHEON WORKSHOP

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Campus Ministries Committee invites any persons in Long Run churches interested or involved in ministering to college students to come and participate.

# Crowders lose; 'Court can't involve itself in SBC internal affairs'—judge

by Dan Martin

Saying the First Amendment of the United States Constitution prevents the intrusion of secular courts into the internal church matters, U. S. District Judge Robert Hall on May 5 decided a federal lawsuit in favor of the Southern Baptist Convention and its Executive Committee.

The suit was filed Dec. 5 in the U. S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia by Robert S. Crowder and his wife, Julia of Birmingham, Ala., and Henry C. Cooper of Windsor, Mo., who asked the federal court to interpret SBC bylaws to enjoin the convention into compliance with the court's interpretation and to vacate the 1986 Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees.

In issuing his ruling Hall wrote: "Defendants contend that this court lacks jurisdiction over this action because it involves the resolution of an ecclesiastical controversy in violation of the First Amendment's requirement of separation of church and state. This court agrees with defendants."

It is uncertain what effect Hall's

ruling will have on a parallel suit filed in Fulton County Superior Court in Atlanta by five laypersons from five states, but attorneys for the SBC feel the federal court decision sets a "powerful precedent" which probably will result in a similar decision by the state court.

The dispute revolves around the report of the 1985 Committee on Committees, which had been appointed by SBC president Charles F. Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, and the subsequent election of its slate of nominations to the Committee on Boards.

When the report of the Committee on Committees was made Wednesday, June 12, 1985, nominating the Committee on Boards, messenger James Slatton, pastor of River Road Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., attempted to amend the report by proposing a new slate of nominees.

Hall noted Stanley ruled Slatton's motion out of order. The decision was appealed and messengers rejected Stanley's ruling. After the vote, the morning session concluded without resolution of the issue.

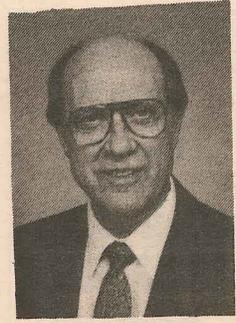
"When the evening session convened," Hall wrote, Stanley "ruled Dr.

Slatton's motion out of order, this time on the ground that nominations from the floor...in any form...were prohibited by the bylaws." He added the Crowders and Cooper "contend that they attempted to appeal this ruling but that they were not recognized by the chair. The slate of candidates nominated by the Committee on Committees was elected by a majority of the messengers...."

Following the convention, the Crowders appealed to the September meeting of the SBC Executive Committee, which, rather than overruling the convention action, voted instead to affirm the election of the 1986 Committee on Boards.

The Crowders and Cooper—who were later joined by Allen McCartney of Vero Beach, Fla., as plaintiff—filed the federal suit.

In his decision, Hall writes: "What is actually at issue in this case is a question of church governance. Whether Reverend Dr. Stanley's rulings were correct or patently incorrect is irrelevant because a decision as to validity of his rulings would involve this court in the internal affairs of the Southern Baptist Convention, a position the court cannot assume." (BP)



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

## homes for children

Let's strengthen the home

There is no subject of more vital importance than the home. It is the institution that Satan most wants to destroy. If Satan can control the homes, he will have little trouble controlling the churches or the schools or the government.

For 50 years Southern Baptists have encouraged our churches to observe Christian Home Week, climaxing the emphasis on Mother's Day. The various programs and helps provided for families during these special weeks have given marvelous help and strength to families.

The need to strengthen families, however, has never been greater than it is today. The disintegration of the family has reached an alarming peak. The average length of marriages now stands at 9.4 years, while many other families are hanging together only by a thread.

Today's conditions tell us we must find ways to provide more help for our homes. Southern Baptists are trying to provide extra assistance.

Beginning this year the churches are encouraged to participate in a six weeks Christian Home emphasis stretching from Mother's Day to Father's Day. Since Baptist Homes for Children works with so many children from broken homes, we see the dire need to strengthen families. We need to provide more preventive help so we would not have to provide so much rescue help. I want to urge all of our churches to work hard at strengthening the families and homes.

As you emphasize ways to strengthen the family, and as you pray for stronger Christian homes, please pray for your Baptist Homes for Children. These homes are yours. They are alternative Christian homes which provide a safe place in a Christian environment for children who do not have a suitable home in which to live.

Baptist Homes for Children has now produced a brief video tape that provides vital information about who we are and what we do in the lives of children. A copy of this video tape is being placed in the office of each associational director of missions to be used by the churches. I urge each church to show this video to your people as soon as possible.

## Reactions swift to court's decision

The defendants were "elated" and "gratified" and the plaintiffs were "disappointed" by the decision of U. S. District Judge Robert Hall finding in favor of the Southern Baptist Convention in a federal lawsuit.

James P. Guenther, the SBC's attorney, told Baptist Press: "I am pleased that we were able to persuade the federal court to share our view of the First Amendment. But, I am even more pleased that the case is over and we can look back and say that in the fight we kept the faith."

SBC president Charles F. Stanley told Baptist Press: "I conscientiously did what I sincerely thought was right. I am grateful the decision has been made. This is a significant decision for the continuing separation of church and state. It is not only a victory for Southern Baptists but for every church in the denomination."

Jane Vehko, an attorney who represented the Crowders, said: "We are obviously disappointed and do not

think the decision is a sound one. It is unsound because it places the SBC above the law with respect to certain matters, and I don't think that is necessitated by the First Amendment, as the judge found."

Harold C. Bennett, president of the SBC Executive Committee said, "I think the convention continues under an absolute mandate to follow its own constitution and bylaws without exception."

James Slatton, pastor of River Road Baptist Church in Richmond, Va., was the messenger who introduced the alternate slate of nominees to the Committee on Boards which set off the parliamentary wrangling that ultimately resulted in the lawsuit. Slatton was not a party to the lawsuit.

Slatton, who has a doctorate in church-state separation doctrine from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., said: "It is important that Southern Baptists understand that the court has not

exonerated Charles Stanley's rulings in Dallas. The judge has clearly refused to pronounce one way or another on Stanley's handling of the issues surrounding my motion.

"I remain convinced that it is well within the rules to offer a substitute slate for election to the Committee on Boards. I appealed from the chair to the convention, and by printed ballot the convention majority voted to overrule the chair. Wednesday night Stanley simply refused to be bound by the decision of the convention. He ignored all calls for points of order or discussion.

"That behavior constituted raliroading and was patently out of order. What more evidence do people need to prove that the office of president must be depoliticized and that the body must hold to account the political machine which is responsible both for stacking committees and for misusing the position of the presiding officer?" (BP)

## Valentine stepping down at CLC

Citing "personal health concerns," Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission executive director Foy Valentine has requested the process for finding his successor be set in motion.

In a letter to the commissions' chairman, Charles R. Wade, Valentine asked that a search committee be activated to nominate an executive director-elect "as soon as in the providence of God the right person can be found."

While no date was set for the search committee's report, Valentine noted that when the commission meets in September he will be only 22 months from the age 65 retirement date designated in the agency's employment policies.

In response to Valentine's request, Wade, pastor of First Baptist Church,

Arlington, Tex., has appointed six other commission members to be on a search committee with him.

Committee members are Mrs. Patricia Ayres, member of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex.; Marvin Don Blanton, member of Oak Grove Baptist Church, Bel Air, Md.; David George, pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville; Mrs. Virginia Hendricks, member of Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Church; Roy Rhodes, member of First Baptist Church, Tallahassee, Fla.; and George Strickland, member of Beaucoup Baptist Church, Pinckneyville, Ill. Wade, a commission member since 1980, will be chairman.

Valentine, the dean of Southern Baptist Convention agency executives, has headed the Christian Life Commission since 1960. (BP)

## Credentials, tellers committees appointed

The Credentials and Tellers Committees for the 1986 SBC meeting have been appointed by SBC president Charles F. Stanley of Atlanta.

Chairman of the 27-member Credentials Committee will be Charles Page, pastor, First Church, Nashville.

Chairman of the 22-member Tellers Committee will be Jack Graham, pastor, First Church, West Palm Beach, Fla.

Kentuckians on the Credentials Committee are Jerry Lowrie, pastor, Main Street Church, Williamsburg, and Lawrence Hall, layman member of Severns Valley Church, Elizabethtown.

Kentuckian on the Tellers Committee is Hoge Hockensmith, pastor, Broadway Church, Lexington. (BP)



**James H. Cox**  
Associate Editor

## fourth estate

### Count it old joy

Southern Baptist conventions used to be fun.

I started attending them at Dallas in 1965, when they were fun. People were happy. Old friends shook hands, hugged, kissed and rejoiced in sweet fellowship.

It was so easy to spot the Baptists, dressed in their Sunday best. Husbands and wives strolled hand-in-hand along downtown streets, families sported messenger badges to and from the convention hall, at times a preacher clutched a Bible to his breast.

In the hall there was decorum. There was never total agreement on everything. We respected one another, however, and let our divergency be part of our heritage, not an obstacle to our mission.

But in 1979 the mood began to shift. I remember standing on the floor of the hall that year in Houston, looking up to see a small but influential faction peering out of "sky boxes" above us. These rather prominent persons had rented space to "oversee" and "direct" major votes taken on the floor. It was unnerving to thousands, and signaled things would be different from then on.

At St. Louis in 1980 and Los Angeles in 1981 I saw some of the ugliest confrontations ever between podium and pew. People of varying persuasions hissed and booed at the speakers.

While some of the rhetoric cooled in subsequent conventions, enough inflammatory kept hundreds of messengers "on edge," ready to lash out at the first sign things weren't going their way.

The zenith was reached last June. Maybe three-fourths of the messengers arrived in Dallas committed to a position, determined to win. People were angry. Beyond that, they were frustrated over long lines to get into the meeting hall or overflow auditoriums, interminable waits at snack stands, restaurants and rest rooms, a growing suspicion and hostility toward "the other side" and the oppressive heat on downtown sidewalks in June.

Tim Hedquist, convention manager, says it may take "up to two hours" to fill and empty the meeting hall in Atlanta next month. It's located two escalator rides below street level. If 75,000 messengers arrive as speculated, along with family members, visitors and vendors, the facility could be overtaxed by 50,000 persons.

There is work to be done by God's people. The SBC is the time to do it.

But the good times departed long ago. In their place, there is bickering, shouting, shoving and an attempt to get us to agree at any price.

For many, happy days aren't here again.

May God help us all.

# mountains to the mississippi

## personnel

**Ruth Fife** (see photo) resigned as minister of music at Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, after 31 years of service. She and her husband, Jack, will remain as members of Calvary.

**David Tullock** (see photo), minister of music and youth at First Baptist Church, Fisherville, resigned Apr. 14 to become pastor of Choptack Baptist Church, Rogersville, Tenn.

Tullock is a native of Loudon, Tenn., a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn. and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He was recently ordained to the ministry by First Baptist Church, Fisherville. Joey Rosas is pastor of First, Fisherville.

**Thom Rainer** has been called as pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church, Jefferson-town.

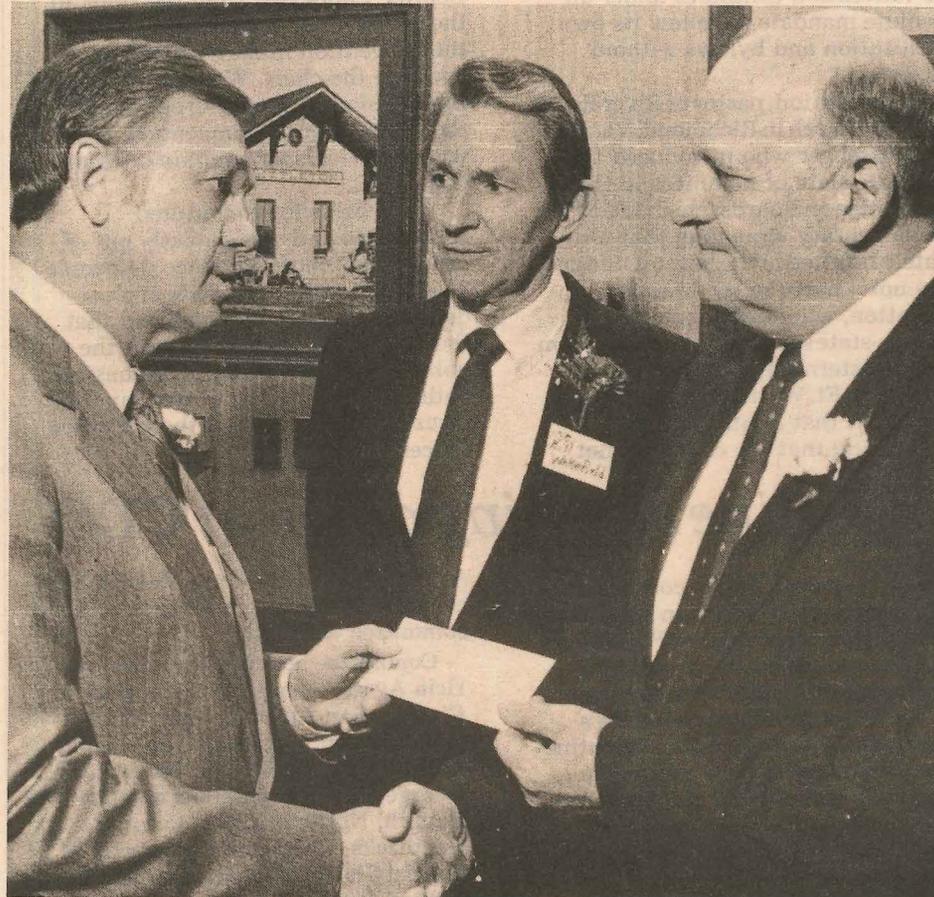
Rainer, a native of Union Springs, Ala., received the BS degree from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and the MDiv degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He is enrolled in the PhD program at Southern.

He is married to the former Nellie Joe King and they have three sons.

**Don Owens** began duties as pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church, Mt. Zion Association.

**Bobby Barnes** was called as pastor of Crittenden Baptist Church, Crittenden Association. He has been pastor of Rosedale Baptist Church, Covington.

**Ron Burdon** accepted the call as pastor at Jeffersontown Baptist Church, Long Run Association.



**Bill Hancock**, pastor of Highview Baptist Church, Louisville, presents a check to Foreign Mission Board president **R. Keith Parks** (r). The \$50,000 represents profits generated by sales of the book *Death to Life—Bangladesh*, written by missionary **Jim McKinley** and published in 1978 by Hancock's church. It chronicles the McKinley family's experience during the death of East Pakistan and birth of Bangladesh. The money is to be used to build a meeting place and training center for Baptists in Bangladesh. **Bill Wakefield**, the board's area director for South and Southeast Asia, is in the background.



Mrs. Fife



Tullock

**William B. Steele Jr.** was called as pastor at Temple Baptist Church, Central Association.

**Gregory Brooks** began duties as pastor at Willisburg Baptist Church, Central Association.

**Charles Nelson** is interim pastor at Water Valley Baptist Church, Graves County Association.

**Tim Allred** has been called as interim pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Graves County Association.

**James Hutchinson** was called as minister of education and youth at Georgetown Baptist Church, Elkhorn Association. He goes to Georgetown from Lewisport Baptist Church, Blackford Association.

**David Elliott Ford** has accepted the call as pastor of New Banlick Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association.

Ford is a graduate of Cumberland College, Williamsburg, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex. He is married to the former Karen Edwards.

**Charles D. Woody** began duties as pastor at Salem Baptist Church, Ohio River Association, Apr. 13. He re-

ceived the BA degree from William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., MTh degree from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary and the ThD from International Seminary.

**Van Russell** accepted the call as pastor at Oak Grove Baptist Church, Blood River Association.

**Doug Thomerson** was called as pastor at Hanging Fork Baptist Church, Allen Association.

**Jerry Anderson** resigned as pastor at Gamaliel Baptist Church, Monroe Association to pastor in Ohio.

**Ken Anderson** has been called as minister of music and youth at Nicholasville Baptist Church, Elkhorn Association.

Tom Miller is pastor at Nicholasville.

**Bob Goodwin** accepted the call as minister of music at First Baptist Church, Winchester, Elkhorn Association.

**Mike McCawley** began duties as minister of youth at Hillsboro Baptist Church, Elkhorn Association.

**Oakie Shepherd** was called as minister of youth and education at First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg, Enterprise Association.

He is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He has served churches in Kentucky, Indiana, Arizona and Texas.

Stephen D. Hopkins is pastor at First, Prestonsburg.

**Paul Williams** resigned as associate pastor at Highview Baptist Church, Long Run Association, to become pastor of First Baptist Church, Somerville, Tenn.

William L. Hancock is pastor at Highview.

**H. B. Kuhnle** began duties as interim pastor at Memorial Baptist Church, Frankfort, Franklin Association. He is a pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

**Ralph R. Redden** resigned as pastor of Valley View Baptist Church, Tates Creek Association. Redden has been a pastor more than 30 years.

Redden will continue to live in Richmond and is available for supply work.

**Ken Cummins** is interim pastor of Woodburn Baptist Church, Warren Association.

**Roger Wood** resigned as pastor of Columbus Baptist Church, West Kentucky Association, to enroll in seminary.

## Good News revivals

**Meta Baptist Church**, Pike Association: 37 professions of faith; more than 50 rededications; two additions by letter; Claude W. Turner, pastor/evangelist.

**Highview Baptist Church**, Long Run Association: 28 professions of faith; 71 rededications; 10 additions by letter; Jim Wilson, evangelist; William L. Hancock, pastor.



**First Baptist Church, Paintsville, recently renovated its sanctuary. The renovation included installing a new ceiling, restructuring the pulpit area, improving the lighting and changing the color scheme. Donald L. Yeager is pastor.**

**Central Baptist Church, Corbin, Mt. Zion Association:** 65 requests for baptism; 14 additions by letter; more than 150 total decisions; Don Short, evangelist; Don R. Mathis, pastor.

**Green River Memorial Baptist Church, Taylor County Association:** 10 requests for baptism; 27 rededications; four additions by letter; Eldred Taylor, evangelist; Donald Gowin, pastor.

**Edgewood Baptist Church, Christian County Association:** 11 professions of faith; seven rededications; four additions by letter; Lloyd Bardowell, evangelist; E. D. Helton, pastor.

**First Baptist Church, Burkesville, Freedom Association:** 28 professions of faith; 12 rededications; Chuck Robinson, pastor of Stony Point Baptist Church, Freedom Association, evangelist; Mark S. Lilly, pastor.

**Oneida Baptist Church, Booneville Association:** eight professions of faith; two additions by letter; one dedication to full time Christian service; more than 200 rededications; A. B. Colvin, evangelist; Joel A. Rackley, pastor.

**Muldraugh Baptist Church, Salem Association:** three professions of faith; five rededications; one addition by letter; Charlie Flener, Jefferson County police chaplain, evangelist; Greg Abercrombie, pastor.

**Salem Missionary Baptist Church, Mortons Gap:** nine professions of faith; 20 other decisions; Barry Hardison, pastor of Wingo (Ky.) Baptist Church, evangelist; Kenneth Johnston, pastor.

**Immanuel Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, Severns Valley Association:** seven professions of faith; one addition by letter; Billy Compton, pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green, evangelist.

**Hillvue Heights Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Warren Association:** 10 decisions for baptism; nine other decisions; Don Jones of Billings, Mont., evangelist; Don McConaughay, pastor.

**Irvington Baptist Church, Salem Association:** nine professions of faith; seven rededications; Gary M. Bunch, pastor.

**Green Acres Baptist Church, Long Run Association:** three professions of faith; 13 rededications; five additions by letter; Lawrence Meredith of Dayton, Oh., evangelist; Daniel P. Powell, pastor.

**Evarts Baptist Church, Upper Cumberland Association:** 25 professions of faith; 44 rededications; two additions by letter; Bill Helton, Steve Duff, Charles Rice and pastor Roy Faulkner were preachers for the revival.

**ordinations**

**Lincoln Brownwell** was licensed to the ministry by Walnut Street Baptist Church, Long Run Association. Brownwell, a native of Liberia, is a student at Southern Baptist Theologi-

cal Seminary, Louisville. His licensure was requested by his home church, Providence Baptist Church, the oldest Baptist church in Liberia. Jon Stubblefield is pastor at Walnut Street.

**Jeffrey Lynn Eaton** was ordained to the ministry by Campbellsville Baptist Church, Taylor County Association. Eaton has been interim pastor of Trammel Creek Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association. James Jones is pastor at Campbellsville.

**associations**

**Long Run Association** is sponsoring a clinic on the Christian clowning ministry May 18 at Shively Baptist Church at 2 p.m. For further information call Billie Dixon at (502) 896-4150.

**congregations**

**Providence Baptist Church, Winston, Boone's Creek Association,** had J. Martin Edwards, great great grandson of the church's founder to fill the pulpit recently.

J. J. Edwards founded the church in 1856 and was pastor more than 20 years. J. J. Edwards preached for 61 years, baptized 11,765 persons, married 1428 couples and delivered 2500 funeral sermons.

J. Martin Edwards is pastor of First Baptist Church, Watonga, Okla.

**Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville, Long Run Association,** celebrated completion of its 1000-seat auditorium Apr. 27 at morning and evening events.

A service of dedication was held in conjunction with morning worship. Four families recalled highlights of the congregation's 24-year history. Pastor James P. Lewis led the congregation in a dedication commitment. The adult choir presented an anthem written for this occasion especially for Westport Road by Jim Niehoff, "O What a Beautiful Place."

That evening several hundred members gathered at a Louisville hotel for a victory banquet. The event signified the approaching half-way mark in the payment of pledges to the church's Together We Build campaign for the new facility.

The new addition to Westport Road will be complemented by remodeled educational, choral practice, office, foyer and fellowship space. The congregation has 926 members.



**Westport Road Baptist Church**



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

**clear  
creek  
comment**

**His best for the Lord**

Robert O. Fitts is retiring at Clear Creek this year after 23 years of faithful service. Professor Fitts will continue to teach as distinguished professor of Old Testament. However, this gives us an opportunity to honor him in a special way.

Long ago Paul gave Robert Fitts' testimony, "What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ...that I may win Christ....That I



**Fitts**

may know him...(that) I might attain unto the resurrection...." (Phil. 3:7-11). Since giving his life to Christ at age 15 in First Baptist Church, Nashville, he has tried to "do them the best you can...for the Lord."

He graduated from Carson-Newman (majoring in English, Greek and History) and Southern Seminary. He also served in the U. S. Air Force during World War II.

He pastored Benton and Bethel Baptist churches in Harrodsburg, First Baptist churches in Junction City, Stearns and Wheelwright, and served in the state Sunday School Department from 1951-53 and 1958-60. Since 1963 he has taught at Clear Creek Baptist School.

He has chosen the best wife. Velois Sinkhorn was a college girl in Harrodsburg Baptist Church when Bob needed a VBS worker. She has been helping him now 43 years.

He has the best children. John O. Fitts is a cardiologist in Bowling Green and Suzanne Fitts Mantooth is a pastor's wife at Morehead (after being a missionary to Israel eight years). Deborah Fitts Conely is in Winchester after teaching in Knoxville five years and Douglas Allen Fitts teaches in the Bell County school system.

Professor Fitts demands the best from his students. His well-prepared lectures on the Old Testament are spiced with humor and followed by difficult tests—ask any alumnus!

I have asked Professor Fitts to deliver the commencement address this spring and we honored him with an appreciation dinner May 9. Family, friends and faculty had an opportunity to share love and memories with Bob and Velois.

**correction**

A previous edition of Western Recorder reported T. Tommy Tucker resigned as pastor of Olivet Baptist Church, West Union Association, to become pastor of Horse Cave Baptist Church, Liberty Association. Tucker is actually resigning the Horse Cave congregation to accept the pastorate of Olivet Baptist.

# Shoptalk

## Serving in the denomination

by Thomas Miller

A woman once suggested, "Maybe you should choose another line of work."

I have never considered the ministry another line of work." I did not choose the ministry, God called me to it.

When I accepted God's call the role of minister seemed quite simple: lead people to salvation, teach them to find God's will and show them how to seek God's help in coping with life's trials. I felt a pastor should be a humble, loving servant of others.

After serving as pastor for a short time there came other demands on my time. Since I was called to serve I tried to cooperate. Thus I have been on committees and boards in the association and the convention. But always the church took top priority.

Serving the denomination was a learning experience. It was interesting to see how Baptist gears operated.

It was beneficial to know how plans are made, programs carried out and



Miller

institutions run. It was informative to discover how Cooperative Program funds were spent. It was encouraging to observe the friendly spirit of some Baptist leaders.

However, it was disillusioning to find that not all was beautiful in Beulah land. I questioned the value of some cherished organizations and projects. And I was dismayed by the proud, divisive, almost hateful attitude of some men with whom I served.

Furthermore, I was overwhelmed by the vast system of networks called the Southern Baptist Convention. When you consider all the people, buildings, machines, money, politics and waste that are a part of today's SBC you wonder how we got so far away from the single-minded Jesus with the simple gospel.

However, a study of Jesus' disciples reveals some of the same problems of human nature. Two were politically motivated, seeking to be on his right hand and thinking the best way to deal with opposition was to burn them. Another disciple was an impetuous bully who defended Jesus with a sword. One disciple was pilfering funds.

As long as people are involved there will be no perfect organization. I decided the only way to change any Baptist work for the better was from the inside.

If we are honest we will admit our associations, conventions and boards are not infallible. They need the assistance of all Christians.

I have tried to show Baptist work requires sacrifices: time, travel, frustration, expense. Yet you will be rewarded by having given your best to Christian ministry, not just "another line of work."

*Thomas Miller has been pastor of Nicholasville Baptist Church since 1970. He is a native of Louisville, a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Seminary and a former member of the board of directors of Western Recorder.*



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## Pinnock issues apology for fueling SBC controversy

by Michael Tutterow

A former New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary professor and mentor to leaders in the inerrancy movement in the Southern Baptist Convention has apologized for fueling the controversy over biblical inerrancy, a theological position he now claims is "not well supported" by the Bible.

Responding to an "SBC Today" review of his latest book, *The Scripture Principle*, Clark H. Pinnock, professor of systematic theology at McMaster Divinity College, Ontario, Canada, renounced his firm belief in the inerrancy of scripture and apologized "if I caused suffering in the SBC on account of my singlemindedness."

Pinnock, who taught at New Orleans Seminary from 1965-69, was champion of biblical inerrancy, authoring two books in reaction to neo-orthodoxy encroaching on the American theological scene.

Pinnock's views influenced several students now considered leaders of the fundamentalist conservative movement in the SBC, including Paige Patterson, president, Criswell College, Dallas, Tex.; Jim Henry, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.; and Jerry Vines, co-pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

"As I look back on my years in New Orleans now, I see that I was in sharp reaction against what I thought was an insidious incursion among Southern Baptists of the very tendencies which across the Atlantic (Ocean) were dismantling the edifice of faith," he wrote in the May issue of *SBC Today*, a national publication of news

and opinion for Southern Baptists.

Fearful that neo-orthodoxy was infringing on Southern Baptists, Pinnock ignored "the large so-called moderate element and neglected the darker side of the conservative forces," he said. But the response, he conceded, "exaggerat(ed) somewhat the case for inerrancy.

"I am sorry if I caused suffering in the SBC on account of my singlemindedness," he said. While maintaining the "trumpet blast" against liberalism was needed, Pinnock added "polarization in theology is seldom good either for theology or church."

"I was insufficiently nuanced in distinguishing in my mind the important difference between liberal and moderate," he added. "If there are those who were hurt by my insensitivity on this score, then I offer a sincere apology."

Pinnock noted in his book that exaggerated claims for the perfection of the Bible convey the notion that "human writers were phantoms and penmen." While he saw inerrancy as the only guard against liberalism, Pinnock admitted "the inerrancy theory is a logical deduction not well supported exegetically."

Pinnock added he will continue to use the term "inerrant" in reference to the Bible to "convey to the most people the confidence which I have in God's written word."

He called on Baptists to cease their attempts to resolve the many "insoluble" problems of scripture and instead "trust in the savior presented in scripture and allow his truth to transform our lives."

*Tutterow is associate editor, SBC Today.*

## Slightly Soiled Saints

by Franklin Owen

"Franklin Owen is a grand storyteller. This book has him at his best. Frank Owen is a wise denominational statesman who loves God, God's people and God's churches. With wit and wisdom mingled he describes some of the people called Baptist. I enjoyed it as I have few books. You will too. I laughed and I cried as I read."

**Dr. Dotson M. Nelson, Jr.**  
Former Pastor  
Mountain Brook Baptist Church  
Birmingham, Alabama

"Every page is rich in humor and earthy wisdom. From the hilarious account of the 'Floppy Poppy' in the fifth grade operetta at Flat River to the emotion-packed eyewitness account as a chaplain with troops that took the prison camp of Dachau in World War II, the reader is totally caught up in the drama of these incidents. Franklin Owen has a remarkable combination of rare gifts — to see both comedy and pathos in the common daily events of life — to register in a photographic mind and totally recall the finest details of these experiences — and to communicate these happenings in the pattern and language of a classic storyteller. . . . SLIGHTLY SOILED SAINTS . . . leads the reader along a happy path of fun and laughter, sprinkled with a few tears, and revealing what 'real living' is all about!"

**Dr. Wayne Dehoney**  
Former Pastor  
Walnut Street Baptist Church  
Louisville, Kentucky

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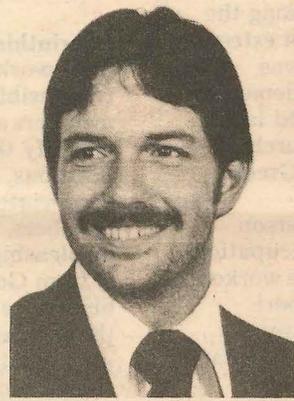
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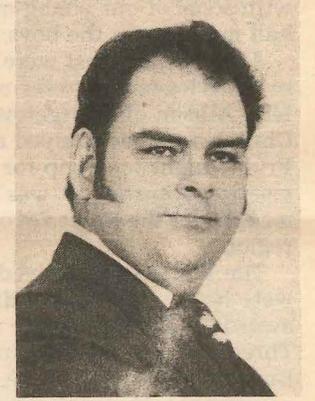
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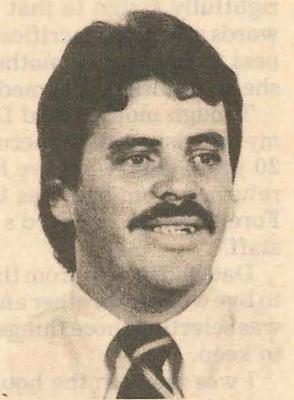
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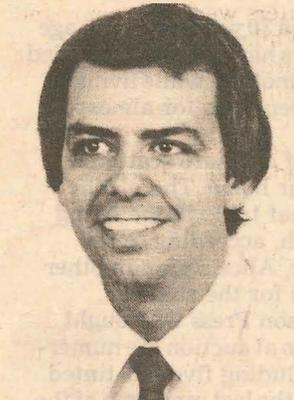
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Cumberland, KY



**JIM WILLIAMS**  
Minister of Music  
Ferguson Baptist Church  
Ferguson, KY



**STAN WILLIAMS**  
Pastor  
Russell Heights Baptist Ch.  
Columbia, KY



**JOHN YARBROUGH**  
Pastor  
Short Creek Baptist Church  
Hyden, KY



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

# oneida journal

## 48-hour whirl

We had a lot of guests for breakfast May 3. Four men of Clinton Baptist Church Brother had arrived before midnight. It was their first visit. We talked for some hours, and they met and talked with some of our young men who were hall monitors in the boys dorm.

Also, at breakfast were seven ladies in WMU leadership roles, and Rev. and Mrs. Allison of Georgetown Baptist Church who had arrived about 8 p.m. Friday night to set up for an all day meeting Saturday. It was a training meeting for the women of our Kentucky region.

The WMU folks arrived while we were having the annual dinner and awards ceremony for the athletes of Three Rivers Conference including Red Bird, Buckhorn, Riverside, June Buchanan School, Mountain Christian Academy and Oneida. We fed over 500 athletes at the dinner which we annually host. Afterwards our band and choir performed for nearly an hour and then awards were given to outstanding athletes of the participating schools.

Arriving in time for breakfast Saturday morning were members of the Brotherhood of Pikeville Baptist Church. The men had come alone last year but went home with such rave reviews their wives wanted to come, too.

Our kitchen staff had a delicious breakfast ready. After breakfast the WMU group had to get over to the

chapel to begin their activities. The Pikeville and Clinton groups followed me on tour. It was lunchtime when we neared the dining room again, having made a circle. There we spotted the van of Hyland Baptist Church, who had traveled from near Henderson, Kentucky. They joined the Clinton and Pikeville groups, and about 60 ladies of the WMU for lunch. I then said goodbye to the Clinton and Pikeville groups.

After lunch I began a campus visit with the Hyland group and a prospective student and his family that had arrived.

Finishing that tour I then showed around a lady from the Danville area who had attended our school over 60 years ago, and her daughter who had begun her schooldays also on the Oneida campus. I had a delightful visit with them and a friend accompanying them.

Saying goodbye to them, I stopped next door to visit a few moments with Mrs. Edith Allen, who taught me in the second grade. She gave me a snack and something to drink and I fell sound asleep in a chair. I awakened greatly refreshed three hours later.

I returned to the campus to find a concert in progress led by a Southern Seminary student. But some dear friends of our school arrived from Horse Cave and I showed them around the campus, and then to our guest house.

Returning to my office I went through the day's mail, took care of some phone messages, signed 41 letters awaiting my signature. Then two of my staff joined me at 10 p.m. Saturday evening and the three of us worked on mail until after midnight. Most of what we did was in preparation for the 60th anniversary reunion of our 1926 class and the 50th anniversary reunion of our 1936 class at graduation May 17-18.

My two staff members went back to their homes about 12:30 and I worked another 45 minutes. Leaving my office I met our dean of boys, Mr. Underwood, making his nightly round of the campus. We talked until nearly 2 a.m. reviewing the events of recent days. I went to bed then and arose at 5 a.m. and left with our choir at 5:45 a.m. for a concert in the morning service of Hurstbourne Baptist Church and an evening concert at Farmdale Baptist, both in Louisville. Monday morning I went to Cedarmore for the annual spring meeting of the Executive Board and back to Oneida late Tuesday afternoon.

Our student choir was tremendously well received in both the Sunday services and I got to see some of our graduates I have not seen for several years, and many other friends as well.



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

# sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR MAY 18, 1986

## Life and Work Series

### At work

**II Thessalonians 3:7-13** Among the Jews labor was held in high esteem, but the Greeks thought it was beneath the dignity of gentlemen to work. Only the slaves should labor. Certain members of the church at Thessalonica accepted the Greek viewpoint.

Paul taught that every person should have a legitimate occupation and work for a livelihood. He worked with his own hands to support himself, and did not have any sympathy with professing Christians who were lazy.

It is the will of God that each Christian be industrious and active. He has never placed a premium on laziness, or encouraged anyone to be a parasite on society. Honest labor for a livelihood is honorable and pleasing to God.

Paul commanded the Thessalonians not to assist idlers, saying, "If any would not work, neither should he eat." No one has any obligation to provide for any person who is able to work but not willing to do so.

**Colossians 3:22-25; 4:1** God's Word teaches that servants are to be

obedient to their masters, and masters are to be considerate with their servants. He admonished all to perform even their lowliest duties with an uplifting motive: the glory of Christ. He is vitally interested in the ordinary tasks of our daily lives, considers them to be of real importance and wants them done well in a noble Christian spirit.

Since Christianity has to do with our work during the week as well as with our worship on Sunday, it should be carried into every department of our lives. Is doing his will your chief aim? Is his honor and glory your chief concern?

## International Series

### The gifts of the Holy Spirit

**I Corinthians 12:4-11** To every saved person the Holy Spirit imparts one or more gifts. They are never bestowed for the gratification and glory of their recipients but are to be used to the fullest for the exaltation of Christ, the proclamation of his gospel, the salvation of the lost, the edification of the saved and the extension of God's kingdom.

**I Corinthians 12:28-31** All Christians have work to do and will be held responsible. Many of the church members at Corinth were disposed to magnify their own gifts, talents and positions, and to minimize and depreciate the gifts of their fellow-members. Such selfishness was very displeasing to Christ. Since every gift is from God, it should be utilized in his service with genuine gratitude for the privilege of doing so. It was never intended that the possessor of a gift should monopolize its use for his personal benefit.

**I Corinthians 13:1-3** The highly-coveted gifts of eloquence, prophecy, wisdom, knowledge, faith, charity and martyrdom are without value apart from love. True love, which colors the thoughts, prompts the speech and directs the actions of the Christian, makes life noble and sweet, so let it master your thoughts, feelings and will. Paul emphasized the preeminence of love by saying that its is greater than these other desirable gifts.



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

# on mission together

## Memories

My mother died 30 years ago at an age which my years have already exceeded by six. Alice's mother, while living to age 65, has been gone for almost 20 years.

Memories of each are scattered throughout our home. There's the walnut dropleaf table in the living room on which, according to the family history, Alice's grandmother ironed clothes for the children.

In the Jackson Press we bought many years ago at auction are numerous items, including five red-tinted water glasses, the last remnants of the eight my mother purchased with her hard earned catering money shortly before her death. Those glasses were special to her and when we use them,

I remember mother.

As a child I would not have known how to describe mother—I can only recall the childhood memory of "feeling good when I was with her." With the perspective of years, I can now rightfully assign to that "feeling" the words affection, sacrifice and faithfulness to the task of mothering which she so willingly assumed.

Though mother died Dec. 26, 1956, my last visit with her occurred nearly 20 years later when we had just returned from overseas to join the Foreign Mission Board's stateside staff.

Dad had moved from the homeplace to live with my brother and the family was selecting those things we wanted to keep.

I was alone in the house dad built in 1931, shortly before my birth. After rummaging through the items collected in the dining room, I decided to make a final journey through the house.

I walked up the stairs to the second floor where all of us children had slept. Considering the years of stress and wear, the bannister was in remarkably good condition.

I walked into each bedroom and stood, reminiscing. In each I had slept; in each, mother had nursed our illnesses, listened to our complaints and kissed us goodnight.

When finally I turned to leave the large front bedroom, I distinctly felt another presence. "Mother," I remember saying softly. In the silence, though I heard nothing, she was present to me.

As I closed the front door for what would be the final time in my life, I childishly knocked on the old brass knocker, and imagined her coming from the kitchen to answer the door. What a grandmother she would have been!

"Oh Lord of grace and mercy, how generous you are to provide mothers for the children of mankind."

# baptist news in brief

## Oklahoma pastor asks for church's forgiveness

Thirty months after 50 people followed pastor Chris Hartley out of Western Hills Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, he returned to ask forgiveness for the split he caused.

Hartley stood before the congregation Apr. 20 and said: "God has convicted me very deeply that I sinned against you.... I hurt many of you and I caused bondage for many of you. This morning I ask you to forgive me."

After the worship service, Hartley and his wife stood at the altar as church members filed down both aisles to tell him they forgave him and to ask his forgiveness for bitterness they harbored. Jerry Wells, current pastor at Western Hills, started the process that led to reconciliation with a series of sermons on forgiveness that began Easter Sunday.

Hartley, who independently had become convinced his own forgiveness was hindering his ministry, had prayed just days before that God would make a way to restore relationships with people at Western Hills. Wells invited Hartley to come before the church. Several members who had left Western Hills when he did came to the worship service with him. (BP)

## Hardin-Simmons gets \$750,000 for chair

A financial commitment of about \$750,000 to establish the W. D. and Hollis R. Bond Chair of English plus two additional endowed funds at Hardin-Simmons University was announced Apr. 25 by president Jesse C. Fletcher at the annual spring meeting of the Texas Baptist school's board of development.

The commitment is a deferred gift from Mrs. Hollis R. Bond of Floydada, Tex. The Bond Chair is a memorial to her husband and his brother, professor W. D. Bond, who taught English at Hardin-Simmons in Abilene for nearly 40 years.

Fletcher said Mrs. Bond wishes to honor her husband and the late HSU professor with a \$500,000 commitment in establishing the chair.

She also has committed about \$250,000 to establish two endowed funds—one for missions in memory of Mrs. W. D. Bond, wife of the professor, and an endowed scholarship fund for philosophy students in honor of Truett Walton, vice president emeritus at the school, and former dean and philosophy teacher. (BP)

## Alcohol tax proponents urge Baptist support

Proponents of equal tax rates for beer, wine and liquor have urged Southern Baptists to support a ninth-hour lobbying effort aimed at the Senate Finance Committee. The committee, chaired by Bob Packwood, R-Ore., is examining federal excise tax rates on alcoholic beverages during the final stages of its tax reform deliberations.

George A. Hacker, director for alcohol policies at the Washington-based Center for Science in the Public Interest, says the response from the nation's religious community "could be the difference between victory and defeat on this issue."

"Members of the Senate Finance

Committee have been hearing regularly from those who sell alcoholic beverages—producers, wholesalers, retailers—and from others who work in related industries," he said. "Unless grassroots citizens join alcoholism professionals and economic and health experts in expressing their concerns, the committee is likely to bow to enormous industry pressure."

The tax on liquor, adjusted for alcohol content, is now about 17 times the tax on wine and four times the tax on beer. Center of Science in the Public Interest officials estimate equalizing the tax rates at the current liquor rate would net \$4.7 billion in new revenues annually. (BP)

## Israel's highest court asks Baptists to move

Israel's highest court asked a Baptist church to leave a heavily Jewish area before it replaces the building destroyed by arson more than three years ago. The high court's three judges, reviewing a case filed by Narkis Street Baptist Church to reverse a denial of its building permit, suggested instead the congregation consider moving to another part of the city.

Pat Hoaldrige, acting chairman of Southern Baptist representatives in Israel, said he believed the court was trying to prevent further raising of religious and political feelings concerning the church.

The international English-language congregation of about 350 now meets under a tent-like structure of temporary roofing and tarpaulin beside the chapel ruins in western Jerusalem. The lot sits in the midst of a Jewish community, where until recently the congregation enjoyed good relationships with all of its neighbors. Many members are able to walk to worship.

In their statement, the judges said they would not rule on the case for two months. They said this would give the church and Baptist convention of Israel time to consider their recommendation to trade the property for a site that had been proposed earlier by the city and the Israel Land Authority. Lawyers for the church, who had felt positive about winning the case when it was filed, are now urging the congregation to move—on the condition the building permit at a new site will be issued as requested, Hoaldrige said. (BP)

## Missionary child undergoes amputation

Phillip Newberry a Southern Baptist missionary child stricken with meningitis, underwent surgery Apr. 29 to amputate his hands and feet.

Meningitis had caused poor circulation in his extremities, resulting in gangrene. This required amputation of the left arm almost to the elbow, the right hand at the wrist and both legs halfway to the knee.

Phillip is the 23-month-old son of missionaries Randy and Jan Newberry of Gordon, Tex. The child became ill while the Newberrys were attending a furloughing missionary conference near Richmond, Va., in late March. He was transferred to Children's Medical Center in Dallas a week before the surgery.

## Using computers for clerical work gaining popularity in churches

It may be heretical to say so, but fried chicken has some competition in Southern Baptist circles from an electronic byte which never had feathers.

Computer bytes of information seem to be invading every level of the denomination with surprising levels of success and acceptance.

At Trinity Baptist Church, Whiteville, the computer has helped in organization, time, money and general effectiveness. The pastor and minister of education even credit it with delaying the hiring of additional clerical personnel to handle the work of the church.

Tom Carringer, former minister of education at the church, began looking into computer systems two and one-half years ago which he believed would be suitable for small to mid-size churches.

He understood that Broadman Press of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board was developing software compatible with IBM equipment, so he bought the hardware for himself, for use in the church.

The church purchased the software and Carringer and the secretary began using the computer to assist with daily operations of the church.

A deciding factor in getting a computer was the lack of organization of church records and information. Membership records were contained only in oversized books with no record of how a person joined the church.

Also, the church was adding members regularly and the process for including them on regular mailing lists and program records was ineffective and cumbersome.

The time invested in feeding information into the computer at first was significant, according to Carringer, but the benefits now far outweigh those efforts.

Recently a Sunday school teacher asked for a list of potential members for her class in the 40-50 age range. The teacher was not just surprised at receiving the list in a matter of minutes, but by the fact that there were 70 prospects who were members of the church in that age group. The Sunday school enrolment is just over 600.

Pastor Ray Justice estimated it would have taken a secretary two days to gather that information before the computer was available.

At the end of the church year, new cards for Sunday school records were done by the computer in one day while the secretary worked on another project. The previous year that job took two weeks.

A new church directory was printed in a matter of hours which would have taken weeks to do manually. Looking at the new directory also allows the church to reclaim members who have not attended church for a period of time.

The church keeps close track of members and finds new prospects just by using information in the files which members provided on an information sheet.

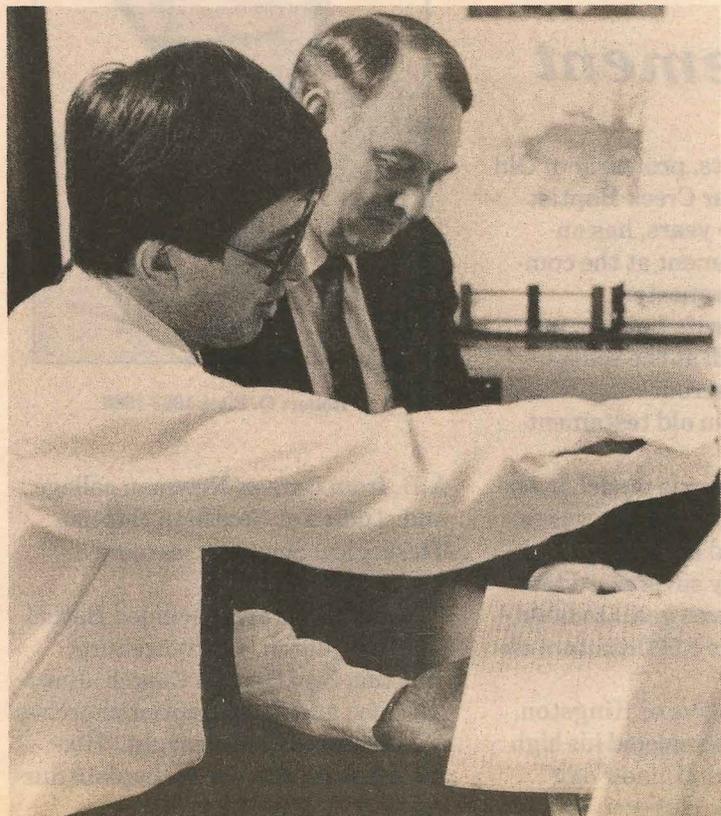
Other projects which are done with the aid of the computer are deacon family ministry files, the weekly newsletter, individual letters to church members, family profile sheets and any grouping by age, sex, organization program or simple alphabetical listings.

Carringer said a major benefit of the system is the immediate integration of new members because of inclusion in all mailings.

Carringer recently moved to Tabor City (N. C.) Baptist Church, where he will be the minister of education. Trinity Baptist Church, Whiteville, voted to purchase his IBM computer equipment before he moved.

IBM computer hardware is available to churches through Broadman in a CIS (Church Information System) package. Software packages are available on membership, stewardship, general ledger, prospects/outreach, attendance and word processing. Data General computer hardware and similar software packages also are available from Broadman.

All of the software is specifically suited for use by Southern Baptist churches based on how Baptists have traditionally kept records, according to Mike Overcash, supervisor of the Church Information System section in the Broadman division of the board.



Ray Justice (r), pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Whiteville, N. C., looks over a print-out with former minister of education Tom Carringer.



# Clear Creek Baptist School



Doug Lewis is a typical Clear Creek graduate: age 35, he was a Floyd County sheriff and pastored Benedict Baptist Church, Prestonsburg. He and his wife Lamarr have 2 daughters, Christina and Heather, and expect their third child in June.

## THE CLASS OF 1986

The 65 graduates of the class of 1986 are a diverse group, united in their commitment to Christ.

They came to Clear Creek from farms and factories. They were businessmen and barbers; miners and mechanics and military men; janitors and disc jockeys; sheriffs and salesmen.

They hail from across the country and across the world: as far east as Pennsylvania; as far west as Oklahoma; as far north as Michigan; as far south as Florida. One family is from Korea and one from Brazil.

Four graduate families have

grandchildren. Seven families have had new babies during their campus days.

They have ministered in local churches, jails, hospitals and missions. They preach, pray, visit, witness, teach, and sing for God. They have studied everything from Psalms to psychology, preparing to meet the needs of a hurting world.

Clear Creek is proud of these dedicated Christians who are leaders and servants for God. Our prayers will follow them across the world, wherever they minister.

## Fitts

## Announces

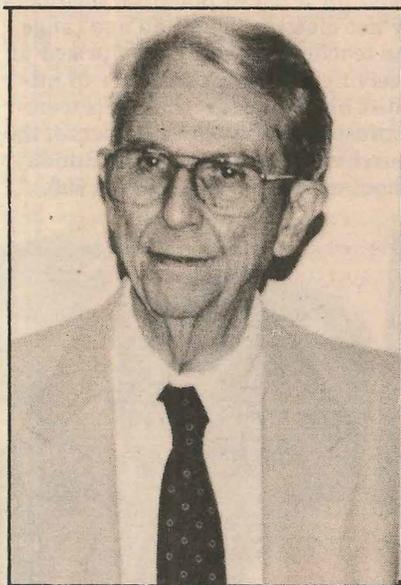
## Retirement

Robert O. Fitts, professor of Old Testament at Clear Creek Baptist School for over 20 years, has announced his retirement at the completion of spring semester.

Fitts and his wife Lois, an instructor of English at the school, have a home in Harrodsburg, where he plans to write an old testament survey text.

Clear Creek's scale model of Jerusalem in the time of Christ was researched, designed and constructed by Fitts. Aided by several students, the project took seven years to build, and is seen by over 1,500 visitors annually.

Fitts was a native of Kingston, Rhode Island but completed his high school education at Hume-Fogg High in Nashville. He received an



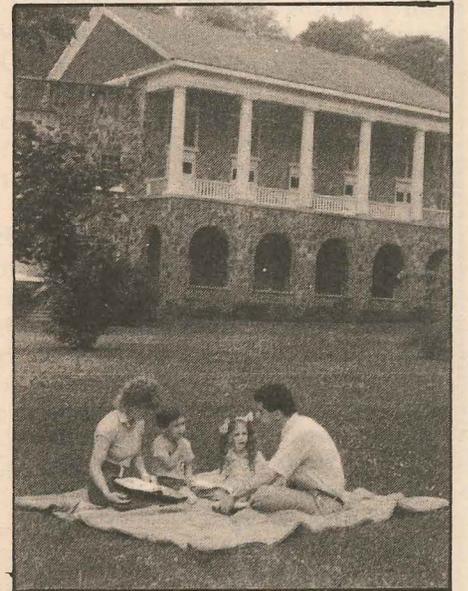
Robert O. Fitts 1963-1986

A.B. from Carson-Newman college and studied at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, earning a Th.M. in 1940.

His pastorates included Bethel Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg; Junction City Baptist Church, Junction City; and First Baptist churches in Sterns and Wheelwright. He served as an Air Force chaplain during World War II.



Dr. L. C. Kelly, president 1926-1954



Left to right: Michelle, Christopher, Amber, and Chris Morris share family devotions one spring evening on the lawn of Kelly Hall. Because of Dr. Kelly's dream, this family can prepare for Christian service.

## Clear Creek Creates Kelly Club

Celebrating the 60th anniversary of Clear Creek Baptist School this year, the L. C. Kelly Club has been created to honor the school's founder and his work.

While serving as pastor of First Baptist Church Pineville, Dr. Kelly discovered that only four of the 115 ordained Baptist preachers in the mountain area had a high school education. Keenly sensitive to the need for proper preaching of the gospel, and seeing the forks of the Clear Creek, he was inspired to dream aloud "Surely God must have made this beautiful spot for the moral and spiritual benefit of the mountain people."

In 1923 he persuaded Baptist layman in Pineville and Middlesboro to back him in purchasing Clear Creek Mountain Springs property, consisting of 450 acres of land and six cottages.

In 1926, the first session of the preacher's school was held as a two week study for 12 students led by one teacher.

In 1986, Clear Creek has an enrollment of over 200 students and a faculty of 31. The 1986 graduating class includes our 1200th graduate,

and joins our alumni who serve God in 25 states and six foreign countries.

This proud achievement is the result of one man's vision to prepare God-called adults to better meet the needs of the local church, and to proclaim the gospel with boldness throughout the world.

L.C. Kelly's story is the story of vision, prayer, and commitment to Christ. He left footsteps of faith for us to follow.

Friends, and all persons interested in preserving and promoting Dr. Kelly's vision are invited to join the L. C. Kelly Club at Clear Creek. Those joining in 1986 will become charter members and will receive a copy of Dr. Kelly's biography.

The first meeting was held April 24, with a program commemorating Dr. Kelly's work. There was a preview of his biography to be published in August, and discussion of plans to complete the endowment of the L. C. Kelly Chair of Bible.

Anyone interested in more information about this faithful fellowship may contact Dr. Carbin Bryant, Clear Creek Baptist School, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977.

