



## Vatican appointee vigorously opposed by BJCPA leader

The head of eight U. S. Baptist bodies' Washington office has asked President Reagan not to name a replacement for former American ambassador to the Vatican William A. Wilson, who resigned May 19.

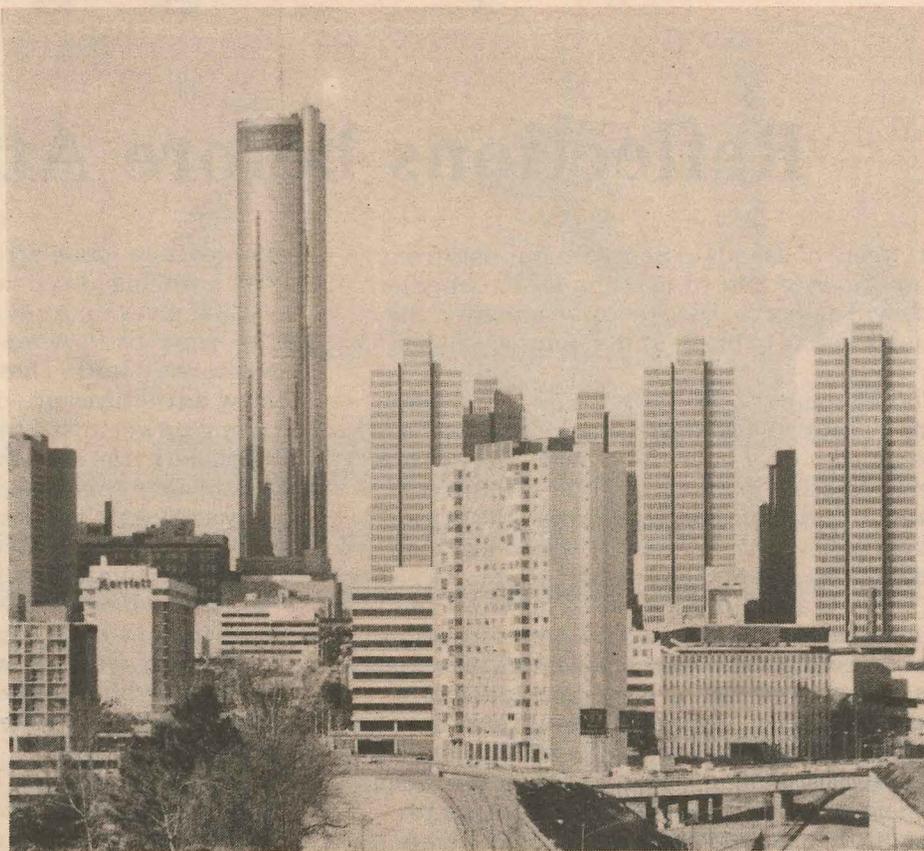
Wilson's resignation as the first U. S. ambassador to the Vatican since the mid-19th century came in the aftermath of reported embarrassment inside the Reagan administration over an unauthorized trip the 71-year-old California businessman made last March to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and an outspoken opponent of renewed U. S.-Vatican relations, asked Reagan in a May 21 letter to "rethink this entire arrangement," one he said is "unfair, unequal and unconstitutional." Dunn added, "We call upon you, Mr. President, to refuse to renew this ill-advised venture, a dangerous entanglement of church and state."

He wrote further, "We welcome the fact that today the United States does not have an ambassador to the Pope. Your administration's embarrassment at Ambassador Wilson's behavior is understandable. In fact, for many Americans the exchange of ambassadors between our government and a church is an ongoing embarrassment."

A lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the exchange of ambassadors, brought by Americans United for Separation of Church and State and others, was dismissed in May 1985 by a federal judge who agreed with the administration that the Constitution gives the President and Congress virtually exclusive power over U. S. foreign policy.

The Baptist Joint Committee has supported Americans United in its legal challenge to the exchange of ambassadors in a friend-of-the-court brief. Americans United has announced it will appeal the ruling either to the full third circuit or to the Supreme Court. (BP)



**Peachtree Street U.S.A.**

An unprecedented number of Southern Baptists will converge on Georgia's capital city, Atlanta, this coming weekend for auxiliary meetings prior to the SBC annual sessions June 10-12. The total may reach 75,000, including unrecorded visitors.

## Single challenges to be permitted for nominees

by Dan Martin

One-by-one challenges to nominees for the SBC Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees will be allowed at the 1986 meeting, according to SBC president Charles F. Stanley.

Stanley told Baptist Press he intends to allow challenges on an individual basis but will rule alternate slates out of order, regardless of what messengers decide to do about changing Bylaw 16.

The SBC Executive Committee has recommended Bylaw 16 be changed, adding wording to allow one-by-one challenges but prohibiting substitution of alternate slates. The action is scheduled early in the business, prior to the election of the Committee on Boards. To be adopted the amendment must be favored by two-thirds of the messengers present and voting.

In Dallas Stanley ruled challenges to the Committee on Committees' nominations must be one-by-one, disallowing the substitution of an alternate slate. His ruling was overturned by messengers, 12,567 (51.9 percent) to 11,801 (48.41 percent).

Stanley ruled any attempt to alter the committee nominations out of order and moved on to a vote on the original slate of nominees. That slate was elected 13,123 (57.8 percent) to 9,581 (42.2 percent).

"I discussed the matter with Jimmy (Draper) and John (Sullivan) and we are all agreed that if someone wants to make a nomination for some position, fine, we will rule that in order. But I will rule that it is out of order to propose a whole slate," Stanley said. (Draper and Sullivan have been designated official parliamentarians

at Atlanta, along with Barry McCarty, a professional parliamentarian and ordained Church of Christ minister.)

He noted the "bylaw is unclear," and said he still believes the effort by a single messenger to substitute an alternate slate in 1985 was both out of order and "unfair. I do not think it is right for one person to try to replace the work a whole committee has done, especially when the committee has worked very diligently to come up with these names."

Stanley said he hopes revision of Bylaw 16 passes, "not just for my sake, but for the sake of future presidents. The bylaw now is very unclear and what happened last year had never happened before. The change clarifies it for all of us. I think if everybody will just get honest, most people will agree it is the fairest way to do it."

In reference to his presiding, Stanley was asked why he had appointed a Church of Christ minister as one of the parliamentarians.

"We were given a list of 1300 people (from the American Institute of Parliamentarians) and there was simply no way to find out what denomination these people were, or even if they had a denomination.

"We had to make our selection on the basis of expertise, experience and knowledge and McCarty was highly recommended. The fact he was a Church of Christ minister was totally unexpected," Stanley said.

"He cannot be categorized as a moderate or a liberal or a conservative. He is just a professional, registered parliamentarian and when he is making rulings on parliamentary procedure, it will not make any difference what he is," he said. (BP)

## N. Ky. Baptists elect Randall Jones director of missions

After an 18-month search, Joseph Randall "Randy" Jones has been called to serve Northern Kentucky Association as director of missions. Jones comes to his new position from Central Baptist Church, Winchester, where he was associate pastor.



Jones

Jones is a native of Murray and is married to the former Lawanna K. Cain, whom he met while both were students at Murray State University.

He is a graduate of Kentucky Wesleyan College, Owensboro, Southern Seminary, Louisville, and the Spanish Language Institute, Costa Rica.

Jones was a field evangelist for the Foreign Mission Board in Costa Rica. He has been director of missions for Boone's Creek Association in Kentucky and Northwest Indiana Association, Gary, Ind. He has also been pastor at Utica and Sonora, both in Kentucky.

Jones assumed his duties June 1 and will work with the Home Mission Board in a survey of the northern Kentucky region. He sees the area's need for starting ethnic work, strengthening relations between churches and strategy planning for associational work to win more northern Kentuckians to Christ.

## Staying home? Gavel-to-gavel TV coverage to be available

The 1986 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta will be televised for the second consecutive year with live gavel-to-gavel coverage June 10-12. In Louisville the broadcast may be seen on Storer Cable Channel 13. Local coverage is being provided by Ohio Valley ACTS, the area's Southern Baptist television committee, and Storer Cable.

Coverage will begin Tuesday, June 10 at 8:30 a.m. and conclude Thursday, June 12 at 4:30 p.m. The transmission is being provided by the Baptist Telecommunications Network (BTN).

William Hancock, pastor of Louisville's Highview Baptist Church and president of Ohio Valley ACTS, sees the convention coverage as a significant event in Baptist life. "Last year Storer Cable helped Ohio Valley ACTS pioneer the SBC broadcast to a whole metropolitan area. We are pleased to be working with Storer again to make this possible. I would encourage all Southern Baptists in Louisville and Jefferson County to participate in this year's convention by watching it," said Hancock.

Detailed schedules of the three-day event may be obtained by calling the Highview Baptist Media Ministries office at 239-7711.

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June 3, 1986

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# sanford's perspectives



Jack D. Sanford

## Reflections before Atlanta

Next week thousands of Southern Baptists from across America and from many foreign mission fields will gather in Atlanta to participate in the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Those who have been SBC regulars for many years already know this is not the SBC of days gone by. Not only have the crowds increased in recent years, but many substantive changes have characterized the convention in the past seven or eight years, not the least of which are the following:

- There is a continuing rise of mistrust and suspicion among once peaceful brethren whose annual meeting was like a homecoming in former days. Today name calling is the principal tool of those who distrust anyone who would dare have a contrary opinion. The terms liberal, fundamental, conservative are good words but we use them in a pejorative way toward other Baptists to pinpoint them as the enemy within the camp.

Once Southern Baptists prided themselves on their generosity toward a brother who had a different point of view. Unity in diversity is what we called it. Not any more. Now a brother or a sister who dares espouse a different idea is immediately suspect as the enemy and branded as an object of contempt and ridicule, a person to be shunned by true believers.

- There is a growing atmosphere of grimness among a once joyful, happy group of people who sensed their destiny as persons on mission for Christ. There were a few times in the past when the SBC had grim, tense moments of controversy, but for the most part gatherings prior to 1979 were times of celebration and most controversies were quickly settled so the work of the convention could go forward.

In the days before the present controversy began pastors, missionaries, teachers and laymen by the thousands gathered to renew acquaintance, rejoice at victories won, weep over failures, share a meal together and do the work of the convention in a spirit of joy.

Not any more. Now we gather as enemies, without humor, without courtesy, without grace, each one wary of his neighbor and each ready to pounce on the person who would smile or crack a joke. We no longer break bread as friends but gather in camps to plan strategy against each other.

- There is a constant shrinking of the spirit of adventure among us. Once we were adventurous people who could conceive Bold Mission Thrust and launch a nationwide television network using satellites and the newest technology for the glory of God. These grand schemes to share the gospel with every creature in the world before the end of this century and put decent entertainment into American homes were examples of our pioneer spirit of adventure for Christ.

No longer does this characterize us. Now we are afraid to think new thoughts, afraid to

project new ideas, afraid to dream new dreams. We are being forced into an ever narrowing mold which gives no room for the wind of the Spirit to propel us forward into new, experimental ventures of faith. Those who would beckon us to new adventures are now castigated, accused of being unworthy of the name Baptist.

- There is an erosion of the primacy of freedom as the true way of faith. We once believed that any and every believer was free as a priest under God to read, understand and interpret the Living Word for himself without benefit of clergy and to act on what he believed was God's will without instructions from anyone.

Not any more. Now we have almost lost the freedom which shaped us from our beginning. Conformity is now the Southern Baptist watchword, not freedom.

Walter Shurden, in his book *The Life of Baptists in the Life of the World*, points out that Martin Marty said "baptistification" is the new mood of such diverse Christian groups as Anglicans, Catholics, Lutherans and others. What Marty meant was that these other Christian groups were adopting what has historically been a Baptist life style, that is "baptistification" is a "spirit of freedom" which once characterized Baptists and is now appearing in other Christian groups.

What irony, for it now appears we have lost, or are very close to losing, that spirit of freedom which comes to us from the pages of the New Testament itself. Constant pressure is on us to comply with what some of our people decree is the will of God for all of us. Each of us is no longer able to think for himself, interpret the Word for himself, respond to the Lord for himself. We must be told what is right and that is a sad state for any free people. It means enslavement to an autocratic, imperial, spiritual aristocracy able to think for the masses and deliver oracles from heaven as though we had a "Baptist Pope" who speaks with infallibility.

These are sad days for Southern Baptists because we are losing something significant in our corporate life. We are losing the will to think for ourself and act for ourself. We are also losing the will to give freedom to others to think and act for themselves. We are becoming automatons, marching in lock step behind charismatic-like leaders who assume a mandate from God to think and act for all the people.

Will the Atlanta meeting of the SBC in this year 1986 turn us back toward less mistrust, less suspicion, less fear and more freedom? Or will it be more of the same?

Only an aroused people who know the meaning of New Testament freedom will save the day under God. Atlanta could be a turning point. But then again, who knows if we want a turn toward what we once honored and cherished as our heritage in Christ?

## 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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## 150th Anniversary

## Hawesville church gives glimpse at life a century ago

by Patrick Cole, Staff writer

Folks in downtown Hawesville recently caught a glimpse of what life was like in the city during the last century.

The peek at the past was neither from photographs nor a dramatic reenactment. It came from people who celebrated the 150th anniversary of



Travis and Jeremy Estes don pioneer wear at Hawesville Baptist Church's anniversary day.

Hawesville Baptist Church dressed in the fashions of their ancestors.

Members of the Hawesville congregation attended church May 18 wearing clothes ranging from the rustic pioneer wear of the Kentucky frontier to the dignified top hat and tails worn by ministers in the 19th century.

Horse-drawn buggies were the mode of transportation for some on anniversary day as they traveled to the church tucked in the center of the Ohio River town.

"We need to be thankful for the heritage we have (and) for the people in the past who worshiped Jesus Christ as we do," pastor Phillip D. Basinger told his congregation.

Basinger reminded the church its heritage was part of a broader Christian heritage. "We're not only celebrating this anniversary," he said. "We're celebrating the love of God in Christ Jesus."

The pastor challenged the congregation to remember the faithfulness of God to the congregation, noting the church had overcome many struggles including near bankruptcy. "The Lord is good to us and he brought us to this point today," he declared.

Photographs depicting moments from the church's past were displayed

Paul Adams, minister of music and youth, Hawesville Baptist Church, awaits a ride in a horse-drawn carriage.



in the sanctuary. A 1912 Sunday school class, congregational pictures in the 1950s and building dedications were among the subjects of the pictures.

"These tell a story about who we are, where we are and the commitment of our forefathers," Basinger said. "Our forebearers saw to it our church was strong."

The church was organized May 30, 1836 with a membership of 10. Now

the church has 859 members and Basinger is its 34th pastor. The church also employs Paul Adams as full time minister of music and youth.

Basinger urged the congregation to be mindful of its heritage and creative in its mission as it faces the future. "We build on what's gone on before," he shared. "But you and I must use the modern resources of our world to share the gospel."

## christian education

## Kentuckian claims top honor at Belmont

Janet Greenfield, a native of Princeton, graduated summa cum laude at Nashville's Belmont College May 10, becoming the college's first graduate since 1982 with a 4.0 grade-point average on the four-point system.

Miss Greenfield, the daughter of



Miss Greenfield

Rev. and Mrs. Harold Greenfield of Princeton, received the BA degree in English. Her father, a Southern Baptist minister, is associational director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Association.

Miss Greenfield, as Belmont's summa cum laude graduate, received the Kathleen B. Horrell scholarship award to the graduate who has made the highest scholastic record over the four-year period of college life.

She was also the 1986 recipient of the Rutherford Award, given each year to a graduating female "who has demonstrated strength of character and involvement...and, through hard work, has also provided her own expenses."

## Cumberland to offer more summer courses

The Cumberland College Graduate Program has expanded its summer course offerings to include a June mini term and a 10-week term in addition to regular summer term offerings,

according to Cumberland's president Jim Taylor.

The course offered during the June mini term, June 16-27, is EDA 636, School Law, taught by Robert Schoonover. The class will meet daily, from 2-6 p.m. School Law is offered at Cumberland as part of the Rank I Certification Program.

The course offered during the 10-week term, June 3-Aug. 7, is EDC 630, Research Methods in Education, taught by Joe Taylor. The class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Additionally, several other graduate courses are being offered during the first summer term, including EDA 630, Introduction to Educational Administration, part of the Rank I Certification Program.

Late registration for the June mini term, the 10-week term, and the first summer term graduate courses will be held through June 6.

For further information telephone Robert Schoonover, director, Graduate Studies Program, (606) 549-2200, ext. 434.

## Louisvillians create Boyce scholarship

The first named scholarship to be announced for the Boyce Bible School has been established through the gifts of a Baptist couple in Louisville.

Douglas Hardin created the scholarship in honor of his wife Carmen. The two became interested in the Boyce Bible School through their pastor at West Broadway Baptist Church, Larry Orange.

While attending Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Orange met several Boyce students and became

impressed with the school, which is a division of Southern Seminary for students without college degrees.

The first recipient of the Carmen M. Hardin Scholarship is Joyce Head, a Boyce student from Monroe, Ga. She is preparing for a career as an office worker on a foreign mission field.

## Campbellsville prof joins social work group

Carlos Anderson, assistant professor of social work at Campbellsville College, was chosen as a member-at-large of the Kentucky Association of Social Work Educators at its spring meeting recently at Shakertown.

Anderson joins professionals from other universities and colleges in the state including Eastern Kentucky University, University of Kentucky and Thomas More College, as a member of the KASWE executive committee.

Anderson has been at Campbellsville College since 1973. He received the BA degree from Georgetown College; MA in religious education from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; and MA in social work from George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

## Biology chair founded at Georgetown College

Georgetown College, in an expression of love, received over \$513,000 from 65 physicians who established a Chair of Biology to honor professor Dwight Lindsay who recently retired after teaching at the school 37 years.

A 1958 Georgetown graduate,

Wally Montgomery, practicing physician/surgeon and president of the Kentucky Medical Association, devoted more than 12 months heading the campaign from his home in Paducah.

Announcement of the gift was made by president W. Morgan Patterson at a dinner honoring Lindsay, who has coordinated the premedical program at the college 15 years and has been successful in placing graduates at medical schools all across America.

Earlier in the day more than 100 people attended a symposium, dedicated to the honoree, Lindsay, addressing the subject of human health.

The afternoon's program, featuring eight Georgetown College physicians and medical school students, was highlighted by a lecture from Alan Lansing, a Louisville heart specialist.

Dwight M. Lindsay is an alumnus of Hanover College. He received his AB degree in 1947.

## Georgetown facility named for botany prof

Mary E. Wharton, retired chairman of Georgetown College's biological sciences department, was honored by the school when the botanical wing of the George Matt Asher Science Center was named for her.

Mrs. Wharton, author and/or co-author of several books about the flora, trees, horses and history of Kentucky, continues to provide her skills as a teacher and scholar 12 years after her retirement.

Georgetown College's president W. Morgan Patterson lifted the veil from a bronze plaque located at the head of the hall named for Mary Wharton, who taught at the school for 27 years.

# Support Your Pastor



## ANNUITY BOARD SUNDAY '86 JUNE 22

**AB** Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention

# Support—A Baptist hallmark

A message from Darold H. Morgan, president, Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention

Southern Baptists have always had an enduring love and respect for their pastors.

I experienced firsthand some of this love and respect—translated into support and concern for my family and me—during my 25 years as a pastor.

And for 15 years now at the Annuity

Board I have observed firsthand how Southern Baptists support their pastors and church staffs through the retirement and insurance programs administered by the Annuity Board.

I am honored to be a part of an organization that helps so many churches support their leaders.

Yet many Southern Baptists are not

aware of how the Annuity Board, in partnership with churches, serves those who serve the Lord.

Therefore, it is our hope that you will encourage your church to observe Annuity Board Sunday June 22, 1986. The day has been set aside on the Southern Baptist calendar to highlight the board's ministry.

Consider using some suggested activities as ways to educate your congregation about the work of the Annuity Board.

If you need information about our organization or its programs, contact the annuity representative of your state, Don Spencer, Middletown, or write to the Annuity Board, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, TX 75201.

# Survey indicates laymen believe in SBC schools and institutions

By Jack Sanford, Editor

Wilkerson and Associates, a public opinion research firm, has concluded a survey among Southern Baptist laypeople which indicates the majority do not "question the integrity of SBC schools and agencies."

The poll was authorized by several Southern Baptist laymen from across the South who believe strongly in the denomination. P. Oswin Chrisman, a Dallas attorney, deacon at Cliff Temple Baptist Church and former chairman of the board of Southwestern Seminary said, "The results of the poll point overwhelmingly to a large

majority of Southern Baptists who have faith in our institutions and their leaders."

The press release Chrisman sent to Baptist state papers declared, "The preliminary results of a recent survey of opinions among Southern Baptists will give messengers much to ponder as they prepare for the annual meeting in Atlanta."

The press release stated some preliminary findings in the survey indicate:

"One, contrary to recent political assertions that Southern Baptist institutions are liberal most Southern Baptists believe their schools and

seminaries clearly represent the mainstream of Southern Baptist life.

"Two, more than 70 percent of Southern Baptists believe diversity of opinion and the priesthood of the believer are traditional aspects of Southern Baptist life and should continue.

"Three, Southern Baptists widely trust their agencies.

"Four, Southern Baptists clearly disapprove of political maneuvering to take over the convention and its agencies.

"Five, Southern Baptists strongly believe the Bible is inspired and without error and they believe it is not

necessary for Southern Baptists to agree on how it is inspired."

Chrisman concluded the press release by stating, "Results of the survey are very encouraging. In spite of extensive political efforts to foster mistrust of our institutions, the large majority of Southern Baptists have faith in and respect for our institutions and their leaders...."

The survey included laypeople in 10 states (including Kentucky) and was carried out in April 1986. A press conference is scheduled for June 9 in the press room at the Atlanta World Congress Center, site of the SBC meeting.

## baptist news in brief

### Missouri Baptist leader suffers from leukemia

Missouri Baptist Convention executive director Rheubin L. South has been diagnosed as suffering from leukemia. He is being treated at Barnes Hospital, St. Louis.

South has experienced health problems since November. Doctors initially diagnosed the illness as anemia. In March South was forced to cancel his travel schedule and cut back office responsibilities.

May 12 South was admitted to Barnes Hospital suffering from pneumonia. Additional tests confirmed his blood condition had degenerated into leukemia.

South is undergoing chemotherapy treatment and is expected to remain hospitalized through June. Doctors offered encouragement about potential success of the treatments when they met with family members May 18. (BP)

### High-tech microphones to be tried in Atlanta

Messengers to the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention will conduct high-tech debate.

A computerized monitoring system developed for the convention should assist messengers who want to participate in discussion of business while it allows the chair to conduct that business more efficiently, says Fred Wolfe, chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business who asked that the system be developed.

Here's how the system will work:

- About 13 microphones will be scattered throughout the four halls in which the annual meeting will be held.

- Each mike will be equipped with four switches so the first messenger in line can register his or her intent—to speak for the proposed action, to speak against the action, to call for a point of order or to speak to a point of personal privilege.

- A microphone ordering box (MOB Box) will be located on the podium. It will have lights which indicate the position of each person who is first in line at each microphone. It also will have a digital indicator which will show which mike is next in line to speak, based upon the sequence in which the mikes were activated.

- Officials on the podium then can turn the mikes on from the MOB Box in the sequence in which debate is to be conducted.

Selection of the microphones will not be automatic, however. The chair or someone he designates to operate the MOB Box can override the system's sequencing preference or cancel all microphones completely.

Wolfe has contacted state Brotherhood directors and several Atlanta area churches and secured a corps of laymen who will work at the microphones. They will greet messengers who approach the mikes, arrange them in order according to the position they wish to take and help them indicate that position on the mike's four-button switch.

Twenty-seven laymen from 12 states have been named including Russell Adkisson, Brandenburg, Ky., state Brotherhood president. (BP)

### Reagan urged to leave vatican post vacant

Americans United for Separation of Church and State urged President Reagan not to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of U. S. ambassador to the Vatican William Wilson.

In a letter to Reagan, Americans United executive director Robert Maddox cited the church-state controversy surrounding the diplomatic post and the ensuing federal court case as reasons for the action.

"Mainline denominations have joined in a suit contesting the constitutionality of sending an ambassador to the Vatican," Maddox stated. "The litigation process has not ended. And we believe as long as the constitutional questions remain unresolved, the President of the United States should not place himself in the position of possibly violating the constitution." (BP)

### Criticism out of control puzzling most Baptists

Southern Baptists stand at a crossroads where they must choose continued argument and impasse, division or face the facts "that what we need is to advance upward, forward and onward," a retired agency executive and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention said.

James L. Sullivan, fifth president of the Baptist Sunday School Board from 1953-75 and SBC president in 1976-77 spoke on the topic, "Where Are Southern Baptists Today?" during chapel services commemorating the board's 95th anniversary.

Regaining a sense of balance and

direction is the hope for the future of Southern Baptists, said Sullivan "That's where God is and that's what the future for Southern Baptists must be."

Describing the current situation in the denomination as a "puzzle to most Baptists," Sullivan said criticism out of control is at the heart of the controversy. He contrasted attitudes of persons on both sides in the present problems plaguing the denomination with those of differing groups of Baptists in the 18th century.

Today, said Sullivan, "if we could just get Southern Baptists to calm down enough to think with their brains instead of their emotions, we'd be over 90 percent of our problems."

"In a democracy, criticism is a vehicle of change because every person, every situation, every program, every thing can be criticized justifiably," said Sullivan. "But criticism must be kept under control, and there is one of our major problems." (BP)

### Tennessee homes win in appeals court

The United States Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit has upheld a district court's ruling which declared that Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Inc. is an "integrated auxiliary of churches."

The three-judge appeals court filed its written decision May 14 in response to an appeal by the Internal Revenue Service of the lower court decision.

At an August 1984 trial in the U. S. District Court for Middle Tennessee in Cookeville the jury had determined the children's homes' "principal activity is exclusively religious" and therefore are exempt from filing Informational Return Form 990 as required by the IRS.

That verdict and a Nov. 14, 1984 memorandum from Judge L. Clure Morton declared the homes are considered an "integrated auxiliary" of Tennessee Baptist churches under the Tax Reform Act of 1969. The judge had instructed the IRS to refund \$29,665.12 in penalties assessed, plus interest, against the Tennessee institution for failure to file Form 990.

At a Feb. 10 hearing before the Court of Appeals Ray Hepper, Justice Department attorney from Washington, based the IRS appeal on two points—(1) "religious activity is limited only to the conduct of worship" and (2) the district court erred in allowing a jury trial on what he called a "matter or law." (BP)

### State court lawsuit voluntarily dropped

A state court lawsuit against the Southern Baptist Convention and its Executive Committee has been "voluntarily dismissed" by attorneys for the five plaintiffs.

The suit, filed in Superior Court of Fulton County, Ga. Jan. 23, was identical to one filed by Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Crowder of Birmingham, Ala. and two other plaintiffs in U. S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

May 5 U. S. District Judge Robert Hall ruled for the SBC, declaring the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution prohibits secular courts from interfering in internal church affairs.

The following day the Crowders and their coplaintiffs—Henry C. Cooper of Windsor, Mo., and H. Allen McCartney of Vero Beach, Fla.—notified the court they will appeal the decision to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, also in Atlanta.

John Floyd, an attorney with the Atlanta law firm of Bondurant, Mixson and Elmore, which represented plaintiffs in both cases, said the Superior Court suit was dismissed voluntarily, which means it can be brought back, if plaintiffs so desire.

Floyd indicated the dismissal "by no means is an admission of any sort that we think Judge Hall is correct. We respect him as a judge and realize the time he put in on his decision, but obviously we disagree with his ruling." (BP)

### BWA invites friends to SBC breakfast

A Baptist World Alliance Friends Breakfast during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta will feature an address by president G. Noel Vose and music arranged by New Orleans Baptist Seminary professor Leroy Yarbrough.

The Alliance general secretary-treasurer Gerhard Claas is scheduled to present a brief update on the world organization's ministries which touch 34 mission Baptists in 143 countries.

The breakfast will be held June 12 at 7:30 a.m., in the Peachtree Room of the Westin-Peachtree Plaza Hotel. It is open to all messengers interested in the BWA. Tickets at \$10 each may be purchased at the BWA exhibit (no. 2) during the convention or by writing BWA Friends Breakfast, 6733 Curran St., McLean, Va. 22101-3804.

# baptist forum

## Board opposes parliamentarian

In regular meeting of the Bethel Baptist Association in Russellville May 5, the executive board unanimously voted to go on record as strongly opposing the appointment of C. Barry McCarty as one of the parliamentarians for the annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting to be held June 10-12.

It is the feeling of the executive board we have enough qualified people within the Southern Baptist Convention to make it unnecessary to go outside the faith to fill this important position. Others who feel the same way are urged to express themselves.

Bethel Association Executive Board  
Russellville

## Pastor supports Gray's nomination

I am in my 25th year as pastor of Stithton Baptist Church, Radcliff. Radcliff is in Hardin County next door to Ft. Knox.

A member of our church, David Gray, will be recommended by the Committee on Boards to serve on the Executive Committee of the SBC.

The articles I've read to this point seem to give the impression Mr. Gray is not qualified to serve compared to some other Kentuckian.

I know nothing of the considerations of the two members of the Committee on Boards from Kentucky in regard to the nomination of David Thomas Gray. However, I do know something concerning David's family, church and community involvement.

Let me introduce you to David Gray. He has been a Southern Baptist 10 years and a member of our church seven years. He is 50 years old and was saved at age 6. He is a graduate of the U. S. Military Academy, Georgetown University Law School and the U. S. Army Command and General Staff College. For three years he served as an artillery officer and for 17 years he served as Judge Advo-

cate in the U. S. Army.

David Gray retired from the army while a lieutenant colonel. For 2 1/2 years he served as Chief of Civil Section, U. S. Attorney's office, Louisville. For the last 4 1/2 years he has practiced general law in Radcliff.

While serving in the army David taught Sunday school classes for 16 years and preached the gospel in Vietnam in bunkers and churches, in rescue missions, prisons and Bible conferences.

As a member of our church David Gray is a deacon, Sunday school teacher, choir member and a member of the Finance Committee.

David's wife has been a public school teacher for 20 years and is principal of an elementary school at Ft. Knox. She is a Sunday school teacher, choir member and a member of several church committees as well as a committee member in the association.

Their son Tom is on scholarship at Vanderbilt University. He is a member of Park Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville, and is involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Another son, Paul, is a 10th grader in the youth choir at Stithton and involved in church life.

Brother Gray did not nominate himself but was nominated by those given that responsibility. I commend them for reaching into our church for a qualified leader.

Gene Waggoner  
Radcliff

## Jimmy Carter for SBC president?

In thinking of the honest differences of opinion separating Southern Baptists at this time and aware that nominations for president may well determine the future work of our convention, the thought has occurred to me it might be wise for us to look beyond the slate about to be offered by both groups.

Would it not be wonderful if we could come up with a name acceptable to both? Suggestion...how about our

former President of the United States...Jimmy Carter, a Southern Baptist. Just a suggestion made to me by my wife but one I believe may merit consideration.

H. B. Kuhnle  
Lexington

## Apartheid: SBC style

One of the most explosive issues on the political scene is the system in South Africa called apartheid. This system is condemned by reasonable men everywhere and especially by liberal politicians. In this system the majority are ruled by the minority. The majority pay taxes, support the government and its institutions but have no voice in running those institutions.

There is a close parallel to this situation in the SBC. For years, until 1979, the liberal (now called moderate) minority by manipulation and behind-the-scenes political maneuvers managed to keep one of their own in the highest office. With a condescending pat on the head they have said to the majority, "Let us run the convention and its institutions. You're not capable of deciding your own destiny, your intellect doesn't permit it. Pay your tithes, support the institutions but by no means should you criticize them or have any voice in the direction they take. That would be treason. Leave that to us 'theological experts.'"

In 1979 the majority (conservatives) discarded their silence and said, "No more. We're not going to be ignored and go away. We're here to stay."

It may be true we are not capable of guiding our institutions. We did for

decades and did a pretty fair country job of it before someone decided we were too dumb and that to believe all the Bible without question is naive and anti-intellectual.

We may fail, as the doom criers are certain we will, in assuming leadership of our convention, but it will be our failure and not the failure of someone else to whom we have forfeited our God-given responsibility.

Harold R. Casey, Pastor  
Green River Baptist Church  
Beaver Dam

## Seminary trustees pledge to keep faith

One of the essential elements of family life is trust. Without trust families can be characterized by anxiety and hostility, rather than joy and harmony. In the Southern Baptist family we have had disagreements but we've always been able to accept our differences and cooperate for a greater purpose: spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.

When Southern Baptists elected me a trustee of Southern Seminary I accepted that role as a position of service and trust.

Over the past three months I have joined other trustees from across our convention in carefully studying concerns that have been raised about a small number of faculty members at our oldest seminary.

During this review process we have learned many things. There have been times when teachers have not been as clear in explaining their views as they could have been. Like each of us there are things they would now explain in a different way if they had the opportunity. Southern Seminary will be

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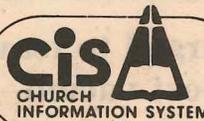
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stronger for having undergone this process.

One thing this review revealed stands out above all the rest: Southern Baptists can trust these godly men and women who have answered God's call to teach at Southern Seminary. Each has been faithful in teaching and writing in accordance with the seminary's confessional statement. They are committed Christian servants who love Christ and his church and are giving their lives to equip new generations of ministers for the work of the Kingdom of God.

As chairman of the seminary's board of trustees I pledge to Southern Baptists that they can trust Southern Seminary to continue preparing God-called ministers for lives of ministry based on an absolute confidence in the authority of holy scripture.

Seminary trustees are accountable to Southern Baptists for developing and monitoring seminary policies to assure the seminary will continue to be faithful to the Lord, to the Bible as God's word and to our responsibility of preparing men and women for ministry. We trustees are determined to keep faith with Southern Baptists and with the seminary's charter of 1858 which provides every professor shall teach "in accordance with and not contrary to" the seminary's statement of faith.

As trustees we pledge to Southern Baptists that we will carry out our responsibilities to keep our seminary

true to its historic commitments, just as we have been diligent in examining the concerns raised during the current SBC controversy.

Like any family we are not all alike. That is true in the church where I am pastor just as it has always been true of our convention. We cannot ask of our seminary that which we do not ask of ourselves. But like a family we can trust each other and work together to serve Christ.

Perry F. Webb Jr.  
Chairman, Board of Trustees  
Southern Seminary

**Support for Western Recorder**

I'm from a long line of Baptists. We've had several Baptist ministers and several laymen in our family for years. I too am deeply disturbed over the problems in our convention. The only

news I get is from Western Recorder.

I fully agree with your articles on the first page of the May 2 issue. It would be very beneficial to Baptists to have Siler, Moore and Honeycutt elected to offices in our SBC. Too many of the elected men do not understand Baptist rules and policies.

My prayers are with you in this undertaking. Some tell me that Western Recorder news is biased.

Thanks for reports and the good news in Western Recorder.

Christine Oliver  
Morningview

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**Eldred M. Taylor**  
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## homes for children

### A transformed ladder

Every household needs a ladder. Some years ago I purchased a ladder, one long enough to reach the roof of our house. I placed two brackets on the back of a tool shed where my ladder is stored under the eaves of the roof. It is out of the way, but easily accessible on the few occasions when I need it.

That perfectly good ladder is no longer available for my use. It has been confiscated and transformed for a different use. This spring a pair of robins decided to build a nest on the top edge of my ladder where it rests against the wall.

To move the ladder would destroy the home of my robin family. So I have made arrangements to borrow my neighbor's ladder if I should have a need for one. Since robins often raise two families of young each year and since they return to the same nest for several years, I may not be able to use my ladder again for some time. I do not want to break up the plans of a pair of robins.

It has been worth not having my ladder to watch this pair of robins build their nest and care for their young. They carefully placed each stick and straw in place, daubed it with mud and lined it with soft, fine grass. When the four beautiful blue eggs were laid, the robins began the long process of sitting on the eggs. The parents left the nest only a brief period at a time so the eggs would not chill.

When the young hatched, both parents became very busy gathering worms and bugs to feed their babies. As I watched these robins work and care for their offspring, I had a longing for all children to have this kind of parental care. Of course, many children are well cared for by loving parents. But many others are unwanted, unloved, neglected and have great needs.

I am thankful Baptist Homes for Children is daily caring for many children who otherwise would not have loving parental care. While the pair of robins give close attention and care to their young, I am glad you are giving loving care to children through your Baptist Homes for Children. If we don't care and share, who will?

# Construction team from Gadsden, Ala. gives First Baptist, Dayton \$20,000 labor of love

by Suzanne Darland,  
State Correspondent

It took less than a week for a motley crew of bank executives, factory employes and retired construction workers to refurbish the inside of a sanctuary—a job a construction firm had estimated would take six weeks and cost \$20,000.

That was money First Baptist Church, Dayton (Ky.) didn't have.

So in March, pastor Johnnie Holloway contacted the Home Mission Board about a construction team coming to the inner city church.

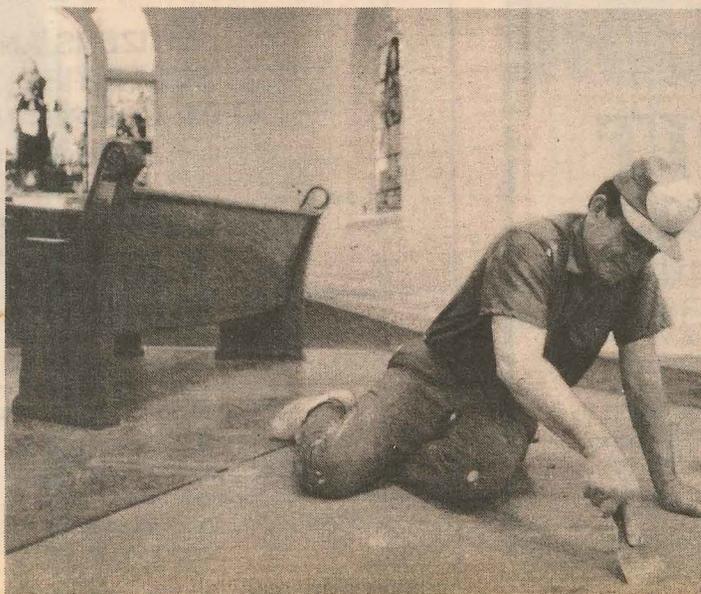
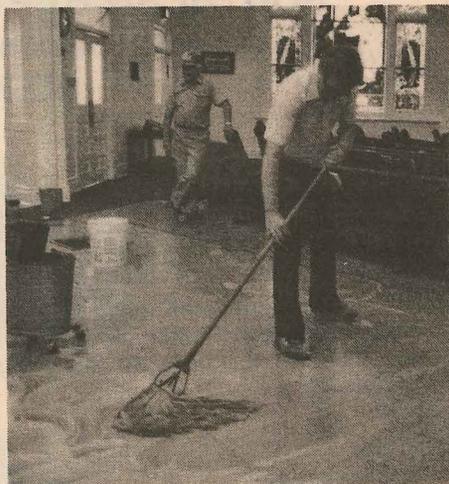
That team, members of two churches in Gadsden, Ala., pulled in May 3 to assess their job, worship with First Baptist members, then roll up their sleeves and get to work.

Parts of the sanctuary ceiling were falling down, and concrete walls were scaling badly. Moisture from the Ohio River, three blocks away, had penetrated every outside wall. Cracks seamed the drab olive green walls that hadn't been painted in 20 years.

Thirty panels of sheet rock and 49 gallons of paint later, the sanctuary is dazzling white and German art glass windows, before obscured by their dim surroundings, now highlight the interior of the 91-year-old building.

"When I saw it finished it almost made me cry. And I don't even go to church here," said Bonnie Childs, one of the 21-member work crew from Southside Baptist Church in Gadsden.

Pews were pushed aside so scaffolding could go up for the ceiling repair. Each wall had to be repaired, and one interior wall came down for renovation before it was reinstalled. In several instances, the cracks and scaling were so extensive crew members applied sheet rock over the walls



With some white enamel left from the refurbished sanctuary of First Baptist, Dayton, Max Cochran touched up the outside sign. Milton Jones looks on. Both men are members of a construction team from Gadsden, Ala., at the church May 3-10.



instead of trying to repair them.

Moldings were painted, the outdoor sign was spruced up, and years of old wax were scraped from the sanctuary floor before the team set out on a 10-hour ride home that Saturday.

Holloway staged a surprise fellowship for the team the night before they left. Members of the church got their first glimpse of the renovation and a chance to thank those who made it possible.

Some couldn't accept the thanks.

"I feel we're doing the most good for the people whose need is the greatest," explained Marlin McWhorter, a retired construction business owner and a member of Bellevue Baptist Church in Gadsden.

"We get a blessing out of this."

This is the seventh year at Southside and the fifth at Bellevue the Brotherhoods have sponsored such construction teams through the Etowah Baptist Association.

And Dan Childs, mission activity director for the Brotherhood at Southside, said it's not difficult to find men and women who'll volunteer a week to work with the team each year.

"Each year after the trip we show slides and share what we did," Childs said. Team members' enthusiasm is very contagious.

"This is something I've been wanting to do," noted Paul Wooten, on his first mission trip. "I'm already looking forward to next year."

Wooten said he could come this year because he finally was rehired after a long layoff stint. In the interim, he had purchased house-painting equipment to make money to tide him over.

**Johnnie Holloway (above), pastor of First Baptist Church, Dayton, pitches in with a construction crew that came from Gadsden, Ala., to refurbish his church.**

**Larry Watson (left), a member of a construction team from Gadsden, Ala., scrapes old wax from the floor of the sanctuary.**

He brought the spray rig with him to Dayton.

Four women came specifically to cook for the team, although First Baptist members supplied a number of meals. One of the "kitchen crew" drove 300 miles to meet the vans before they left Gadsden. Faye Powell is a former member of both churches and now lives in south Alabama.

While others in her office take vacations at beach resorts, Reba McClain, a bank vice president will tell stories of sleeping on cots in a church and getting up at 6 a.m. to patch, paint, and scrub.

Her coworkers find it difficult to understand.

"But there's such a sense of satisfaction here," she pointed out. "There's a real sweet spirit among the workers. I can't go to Africa, but I can come to Kentucky."

*"When I saw it finished it almost made me cry. And I don't even go to church here."*

The two church teams have worked together before. They've been to Oklahoma twice and Missouri. One year they completed construction on a black church in Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.

"They couldn't get over that a church from Alabama would come down and help a black church," Childs recalls.

But James Hatley, a deacon and Brotherhood director at Bellevue Church in Gadsden, says a mission-minded church can't do anything less.

"Some people feel if they give to special missions offerings they do their bit. We want to be a part of it."

Pastor Holloway said the team's coming made an impression on the church that can't be measured in gallons of paint.

Located in a declining urban neighborhood in northern Kentucky, First Baptist once averaged 300 or so in Sunday school. Now 130 is the average attendance. But that's up 50 from when Holloway began his ministry there three years ago.

The church put up the \$2500 or so for materials, but received "\$20,000 in love," he gushed.

That Sunday was a time of praising God, he added. "I threatened not to preach, just to praise."

## Youth Evangelism Conference focuses on witnessing to addicted friends

"How to Witness to Youth with Drug and Alcohol Problems" is only one of the seminars that will be offered at the Youth Evangelism Conference, June 27-28 in Louisville. Over 1500 young people will gather for the annual conference held this year at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Larry Vance, chaplain of the Hardin County Correctional facility, will lead the seminar. Liz Curtis, radio and television personality for WHAS, Louisville, will share her testimony with the youth and youth leaders. Ex-world champion poker player Rick Hamil, who is now a Christian, will also share his personal testimony and suggestions for young people.

David McFerrin, a Christian humorist, will present skits in drama and comedy throughout the sessions. McFerrin is a Baptist minister in



Tippit

Atlanta, Ga.

Music for the conference will be directed by Kevin Landgrave, a

keyboard artist and soloist from Owensboro. Landgrave writes much of the music he plays and many of his musical pieces have been used in youth conferences across the U. S. The Saturday morning session will begin with the musical group TRUTH, from Mobile, Ala.

The featured speaker of the conference is Sammy Tippit of Bothel, Wash. Trippet is a youth speaker who has preached to over 100,000 people in Communist bloc countries. He was the pastor of a Baptist congregation in West Germany and was a leader in Baptist work in that country.

The State Youth Evangelism Conference is sponsored by the Evangelism Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Jay Brown is the director of the Evangelism Department.



Leon Simpson  
President  
Clear Creek Baptist School  
Pineville, KY 40977

## clear creek comment

### You can climb higher

I have just been listening to a cassette by George Sweeting, president of Moody Bible Institute, titled "You Can Climb Higher." It has led me to believe most of us as Christians live life on a lower plane than God would have us to.

With the psalmist we should say, "Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I" (Ps. 62:1). With the hymnist we should sing:

**I'm pressing on the upward way/  
New heights I'm gaining every day/  
But still I pray 'til heaven I've found/  
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground./  
My heart has no desire to stay/Where doubts arise and fears dismay;/  
Tho some may dwell where these abound/  
My prayer, my aim is higher ground./  
Lord, lift me up and let me stand,/By faith, on heaven's tableland,/A higher plane than I have found;/  
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.**

Longfellow speaks of life when he says:

"Not enjoyment and not sorrow/Is our destined end or way/But to act, that each tomorrow/Finds us farther than today."

Every Christian should be marching onward and upward every day for our Lord. Like the Swiss mountaineer, if the Lord should tarry his coming, our epitaph should be, "He died climbing."

"The millenium is at hand. Man has invented everything that can be invented. He has done all he can do."

These words were spoken by a bishop at a church gathering in 1870. They were challenged by the presiding officer, who suggested a great invention would be made within the next 50 years.

The bishop asked him to name such an invention.

The reply: "I think man will learn to fly."

The bishop claimed this was blasphemy. "Don't you know that flight is reserved for angels?"

The bishop was Milton Wright, father of Orville and Wilbur.

At Clear Creek Baptist School we teach and believe that every Christian by the help of God can become better than he is. Our faculty, staff and students are committed to growing in grace and learning to be a more useful servant of God. No matter what your state or circumstances—You can climb higher!

### Joining hands with Germany

## Baptists explore using media in Europe

by Todd Deaton, Staff Writer

Southern Baptists may have started something with their recent "Good News America, God Loves You" emphasis that may have repercussions across the Atlantic.

This spring 27 German Baptists witnessed the awakening of Southern Baptists' national revival campaign as representatives of the two denominations joined hands to explore how to bring good news to Germany—and Europe—through media and evangelism.

Robert Don Hughes, assistant professor of mass media and communications at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, welcomed 11 representatives of the German Baptist Union interested in establishing a media ministry in their own country.

### "Pastors, laity, television technicians, journalists have come together as a team to bring Christian media to Germany."

The group of three pastors and eight laymen was beginning a three-week tour that also included visits to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Radio and Television Commission, both in Ft. Worth, Tex.; and an introduction to the Baptist Telecommunication Network (BTN) of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

The media ministry workshop introduced the 11 Germans to all aspects of television productions.

The group began with a preproduction planning session to discuss formats, equipment, technical personnel, expenses and talent. After a brief glimpse at proper techniques for using a studio camera, they were supervised through a mock production and editing procedures.

In less than a week the group had conceived and produced its first 12-minute video in German, "Media Work: a new way of sharing the gospel." The video features interviews with the

participants, their anticipations, what they have learned during the week-long workshop and how they hope to use television as a ministry in Germany.

The German Baptist Union plans to produce quality Christian programs for public broadcasting. But for the moment this dream is blocked by the government, which controls both the national and regional television networks.

Herman Woock, pastor of Goettingen Baptist Church, has other plans for the immediate future. "We already have a chance to use media in many of our 380 German Baptist churches," he said. "In formats similar to BTN programs, television can prepare lay persons for different kinds of ministry to youth, elderly and sick."

But Woock is concerned. Presently only 65,000 people in Germany are Baptists, or about one person out of every 100. "Our primary objective in coming to America is to discover how we can use media as an outreach tool," he explained.

"The church needs to demonstrate what it is doing in the community," he said. "Media can be used to explain to the unchurched why we are in church and how it can meet their needs."

Axel Waschke of Hamburg, Germany is a layman interested in media ministry and excited about seeing ACTS (American Christian Television System) and BTN while in the United States.

"Time on public channels is becoming more available as the government relaxes its hold on the networks and cable is arriving in many areas. Our task is to make programs with Christian emphases to fill these times," he asserted.

Waschke, a television technician, has a vision of designing a television service for the church. He is a pioneer in this field and wants to focus the camera on the church members and their lifestyles rather than on pulpit figures.

"Perhaps the most important thing we have gained so far is the creation of a common bond," he continued. "Pastors, laity, television technicians, journalists have come together as a team to bring Christian media to Germany."

Southern Baptists also helped German Baptists develop strategies for urban evangelism in a simultaneous

conference for the other 16 Germans hosted by Lewis A. Drummond, professor of evangelism at Southern Seminary.

Among this group was Bernard Suderman, a Russian immigrant now living in West Germany, who wants to discover urban evangelism techniques to combine with his media ministry. He operates a Transworld radio station in Monte Carlo, just south of France, that transmits Christian programs in German, English and Russian across the borders of the Soviet bloc.

"People in Russia have no way for fundamental information of Christianity to reach them; they need to hear the good news," Suderman interjected.

Southern Baptists aid Suderman's ministry through the Foreign Mission Board and the Cooperative Program.

The radio station is successful with its international ministry. "Only a few

### "What we are doing is the same thing, sharing Christ with others, despite our language and cultural differences."

letters are reaching us, but the ones we get are strong testimonies from towns with no Baptist churches," he began.

"After broadcasting in these areas, the letters tell of churches that are being established as a result," he stated.

Hughes, leader of the media workshop understands what Southern Baptists can learn by exchanging ideas with German Baptists. While the German group was at Southern Seminary they attended a Good News revival at Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville. Hughes witnessed an event there that capped the week's work.

Sitting next to me was Helmut Schlender who needed a translator," said Hughes. "At the close of the service, he sang 'Just As I Am' in German.

"Helmut inspired the Americans sitting near him. What we are doing is the same thing, sharing Christ with others, despite our language and cultural differences," Hughes concluded. "In Christ there is no east or west and in him we are really all one."



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

# oneida journal

## Beautiful girls, handsome boys

What a wonderful week we have had! The 1986 Commencement events are over and another school year is history.

We had four differing honors assemblies to recognize, perhaps, the most achieving group of students in our history. In the first year of statewide academic team competition, our Oneida students won the high school district academic championship, and our middle school students won the second place award.

Sophomore Troy Miller, who came to us in the 7th grade four years ago from Floyd County, advanced on to the state tournament and ranked third in language arts. One of our middle school students advanced to the state in science. Many of our students this year did college level work in English, American history and other subjects.

Our valedictorian, with us four years, made so high on the nationally given PSAT test last year that Yale University, Stanford University, and many other leading universities have written her with scholarship offers.

Our athletes were also honored. With the exception of three of our varsity teams, each team set school records. Varying championship trophies were added to our shelves this year including our first in tennis and our third straight regional championship in cross country. Several of our students have taken first place in their track events and have advanced to the state tournament.

We also honored our achievers in

choir, band, piano, art and drama. For the first time "arts" sweaters were given for outstanding participation. Even as our assembly was being held, 16 pieces of art done by OBI students were on display in Louisville's Center for the Performing Arts, having already been on display for weeks in the Old State Capitol.

Percentagewise, considering high school enrolment, we had the largest number chosen by audition in the all-regional and all-state choirs this year. In the past two years our choir traveled over 8000 miles. About 50 of our students got in five hours of piano practice a week with a teacher supervising. Some made remarkable progress. Last spring in drama "The Sound of Music" went to a three night performance, but last fall we had 12 performances of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!"

Also we had an assembly honoring those of our students faithful in our daily work program on the farm, in the kitchen and dining hall, maintaining the grounds and cleaning the buildings.

The juniors gave a beautiful dinner for the seniors after Wednesday evening prayer service. The girls were so beautiful, the boys so handsome in their finest. The food was excellent and the fellowship so wonderful that it was nearly midnight before we finished.

Friday night was an evening of three one-act plays—poignant, hilarious and thought-provoking in turn. Also our fourth quarter art show was on display in the library. I never cease to be amazed at the talent of some of our students.

And Saturday evening was pure enchantment. Students of the class of 1926 with accompanying family members had come from as far as Texas and Florida to celebrate their 60th anniversary. From Florida and Alabama and Kentucky were students of the smaller 1936 class back for their 50th. A total of 68 special invited guests gathered for a two hour dinner in beautiful Anderson Hall, the only building remaining from their school days.

Then the group moved to Davidson Chapel for a two hour concert by our 92-voice choir.

Our dean of girls, Marty Hatfield, and her mother, Mrs. Janet Miller, had sewn for weeks. The result was stunning. Each youth had on shirts or blouses with a blue bow-tie or bow, wide blue cummerbunds, black trousers or skirts. They sang all from memory, much of it a cappella. They moved from the 50s hit "Mr. Sandman" with the men's octet to the eight-part a cappella "Shenandoah."



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# sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR JUNE 8, 1986

Life and Work Series

## Believers' resurrection

**I Thessalonians 4:13-18** On his second missionary journey Paul stopped at Thessalonica for a brief period, during which he preached the gospel of Christ in its purity and power. Paul not only preached the virgin birth, victorious life, vicarious death, and bodily resurrection of Christ, but also the second coming of Christ.

Most of the Thessalonian Christians waited, watched and expected Christ to return during their lifetime. Some of them "fell asleep" or died, and their fellow-Christians were distressed by the fear that their loved ones and friends who had passed away would occupy a position secondary to those who would be living when Christ returned.

Paul wrote this epistle to give the perplexed Christians proper instruction and set their hearts at rest. In this letter Paul taught his readers not to worry about their saved, departed relatives and friends not sharing in the glory of Christ's kingdom. He in-

formed them when Christ returns he will descend visibly and unexpectedly into the atmospheric heaven with a shout. Those who have died in the Lord will respond en masse to Christ's authoritative voice. Following the resurrection of the bodies of the deceased Christians, the living Christians will then be changed to immortals, and together they will be snatched away from all danger and caught up to meet their Lord.

How comforting are the precious words in this passage: "And so shall we ever be with the Lord." No other experience can compare with being like Christ, with Christ and with all whom he has saved, where there will never be any sickness, suffering, separation or sorrow.

International Series

## The wrongs of Jeremiah's nation

**Jeremiah 2:1-3** Jeremiah's sensitive soul was shocked by the vulgar religion of the people with its hollow mockery, shallow stupidity and crass materialism. Disgusted with the people who substituted idolatry for the worship of Jehovah, Jeremiah used scathing sarcasm to express his utter abhorrence. He contrasted their glorious past with their dark present. They had forgotten God, but he had remembered them. Their sin of desertion was astonishing and irrational. **Jeremiah 2:7-8** That a people, who had been so richly blessed of God and had risen to such great heights because of what he had done for them, should turn from God to the worship of idols was horrifying. What made it more sad was those who were responsible for maintaining the true faith—priests and prophets—were actually guilty of leading the people astray.

**Jeremiah 2:11-13** Pointedly God mentioned to Jeremiah two tragic sins of his people. The first was sin of desertion: "They have forsaken me." There was not a single justifiable reason for them to desert God. What base ingratitude!

Their second sin was substituting something else for Jehovah. Oh, the folly of those who forsake the fountain of sparkling and living water and choose a cistern of their own creation! A fountain is not a human creation, but is a spring of fresh sparkling and pure water bubbling up out of the soil in overflowing plenitude.

## A cry for help

There is a group of persons in our beloved state that is growing at a faster rate than most people imagine.

They are not always easy to identify because they are nearly everywhere. In the metropolitan areas they are more recognizable because they will occasionally stand in line. But most of the time they remain in the "woodwork" of our society.

They have little energy and even less power. Their influence is negligible and they are mostly silent. But they are out there, nevertheless, multiplying.

Who are "they?" They are Kentucky's poor and needy.

With federal funds on the reduction, the private sector will have to pick up the slack, if it is to be picked up at all.

Most of the people who read this column have never experienced the degrading and helpless state of poverty. This writer has been hungry only on

those occasions when he has chosen to be—not because there were no resources to provide food. And that may be part of the problem. Those of us who have never really "been there" find it difficult to believe that it really exists—this poverty and humiliation.

There is poverty and humiliation in Kentucky, in almost every locale. But this need not be. Not in America. And not in Kentucky.

While individual Baptist churches have addressed this reality in seasonal and limited ways, few validate this ministry with budget or training concerned membership for human needs ministry.

A major consultation on "human needs" was conducted May 22 at the Kentucky Baptist Building.

Participants included representatives from the Home Mission Board, Christian Life Commission, Southern Seminary, Long Run, Elkhorn and northern Kentucky associations, and several persons involved in specific human needs minis-

tries in our state.

Planned by Doug Strader and James Clontz of the Church Training Department, the group spent the concluding session in providing suggestions as to how Kentucky Baptists could helpfully address this problem.

Among the conclusions were:

1. Churches need to be sensitized to the need for "human needs ministries."

2. Church members who have special concerns in this area can be trained in "human needs ministries."

3. Certain churches, particularly in urban areas, should consider the employment of staff persons who are trained and equipped in "human needs ministries" (Christian Social Ministry).

4. Local and state laws which are considered to be unjust or unfair to the poor should be identified and challenged.

A biblical basis exists for a ministry to the poor and Matthew 25 reminds us of the consequences of neglect. We dare not keep our heads in the sand!



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# on mission together

# Inner city congregation opens doors to homeless

by David Wilkinson

On a wintry Sunday morning more than five years ago, Southern Baptist pastor Mike Elliott reluctantly invited a group of freezing, homeless men to come in for a cup of coffee.

His church has been opening its doors and its heart to the homeless ever since.

Elliott, a Christian social ministries home missionary and pastor of Jefferson Street Baptist Chapel in inner-city Louisville, had noticed four or five men huddled near the chapel's entrance trying to shield themselves from the icy wind.

The men had nowhere to go. The nearby mission where they had spent the night routinely emptied its residents at 6 a.m. Churches were locked, security guards kept them out of the hospital waiting rooms and bus station, and none of the stores were open yet.

Burdened by what he learned, Elliott decided to do something about the problem.

Now, every Sunday morning a group of volunteers from local Southern Baptist churches meets in the basement kitchen to cook breakfast for 50 to 100 homeless people who find their way to the chapel.

Unused space has been converted into small bedrooms for the homeless. Showers have been installed for street people who need a place to clean up. Storage space is provided so people can leave their belongings in a safe place rather than carry them all day. In addition to the services of a clothes closet, street people can get a change of clothes and personal care items such as razors and toothbrushes.

A washing machine and dryer have been installed. Street people, Elliott



Mike Elliott, pastor of Jefferson Street Baptist Chapel, Louisville, counsels one of the city's homeless men. Every Sunday morning volunteers host a breakfast for 50 to 100 street people.

explains, "don't have money to wash their clothes at a laundromat. They usually pick up clothing, wear it until it wears out and then throw it away."

Many of these uprooted persons, particularly the young, are more than restless—they are angry. "They have no meaningful employment, few if any intimate relationships and little hope for change in their lives," says Elliott.

When Elliott came six years ago, Jeff Street had a few programs and a dwindling congregation. Now, 130 to 150 persons attend worship. During the week, every square inch of space is put to use as the chapel buzzes with activities—nutrition programs, missions education for area children, ceramics and other crafts for senior adults, a "Breakaway" program for men from the Community Treatment

Center, Bible studies for single mothers, tutoring, recreation.

Each week Jeff Street responds to crisis calls for emergency food and clothing and financial assistance for medicine, utilities or overdue rent. Creating order out of apparent chaos, secretary Janice Money patches together assistance for needy people through church benevolence funds, social service agencies, missions and other groups.

As Jeff Street's staff "saw what was happening to people," it became obvious the church had to move "beyond Band-Aids" to advocacy and social action, Elliott says.

He served on a mayor's task force on the homeless which studied the extent of the problem and made a series of recommendations to the

mayor. With his encouragement, Jeff Street has provided office space and support for Project Independence, an effort to keep poor people who can't afford to pay their utility bills from having services cut off unilaterally.

Elliott also has been working to get a Habitat for Humanity housing project going, hoping to utilize a glut of abandoned housing in Louisville to build homes for the poor.

Whatever the project, "the key is relationships," Elliott says. Dignity is appreciated as a precious commodity. Rewards are counted not in buildings or budgets but in the personal currency of individual lives.

Like Ed. After years of working for a meat truck driver, retirement meant living on the streets. Ed had always been paid in cash. Retirement income was a forgotten luxury.

Despite frail health, arthritis and two hip replacements, Ed is a regular at the chapel, helping with everything from firing the kiln for the ceramics class to folding Sunday bulletins.

After a hip operation, the chapel staff presented him a tee shirt with a message typical of Jeff Street's caring spirit: "Made by God. Replacement parts by Dupont."

Or Chester. A promising career as a licensed practical nurse was destroyed by 45 years of alcoholism. Elliott and Jeff Street, however, convinced Chester life was not over. Now a deacon and a regular helper at the chapel, Chester is a source of encouragement to other alcoholics.

"The road to the inner city is a two-way street: You give and you receive," says Elliott. "The poor and the homeless are not just some people we're trying to help. They are a way by which we are blessed. They keep the gospel tangible for us." (BP)

## Ethiopian volunteer returns to see night-and-day results

by Art Toalston

Mary Saunders went to sleep to the cries of hungry babies for five months last year. Now, the volunteer nurse says, "It's very quiet at night" in Rabel, Ethiopia.

Southern Baptists and Ethiopian Christians have fed the hungry and treated their illnesses. Rains have come in answer to prayer. Rural subsistence farmers have hope. The famine may be ending and their small fields may yield a harvest of wheat and other grains.

*"I don't know where we got the idea we have to understand the mysteries of God." Instead, she prefers to be sharing "the hope I have in my heart."*

Mrs. Saunders, of Richmond, Va., returned to Rabel in mid-April, eight months after her five-month commitment last year.

Each morning last year Mrs. Saunders walked beyond the gates of the feeding center among hundreds of bone-thin, blank-faced Ethiopians. Daily she found at least one adult or child who had died a few hours or

minutes before.

Now the crowds have gone home, returning only once each month for food to keep them alive until their crops ripen later this year.

"When I left, the shelters were full," she says. As many as 300 malnourished children and their parents were receiving high-protein food and medical care. Now there are six (children) in the shelters. That's the difference."

During her clinic hours she's seen a number of children she cared for during her last volunteer stint. But now they look healthier and have only minor ailments.

"Life seems to be sweeter. I'm so grateful I got to come back and see this," says Mrs. Saunders, wife of Davis Saunders, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board director for Eastern and Southern Africa. After several weeks at Rabel, she will work in the other four Southern Baptist feeding centers, giving other volunteer nurses a time for rest.

"You really could not talk about God's love to a mother whose baby is dying," she says. "You have to minister in love to the baby. And that gives you a wide open heart" from the mother.

Mrs. Saunders does not count herself a hero for returning to Rabel and her dirt-floor quarters, where water is carried in by jugs and candles must substitute for light bulbs. "You want the Father to have all the praise,"



Volunteer nurse Mary Saunders embraces a healthy child after returning to Ethiopia for another three months of work in remote feeding stations operated by Southern Baptists. Last year, she helped open the station at the village of Rabel that housed up to 300 malnourished children and parents. The shelter now houses only six.

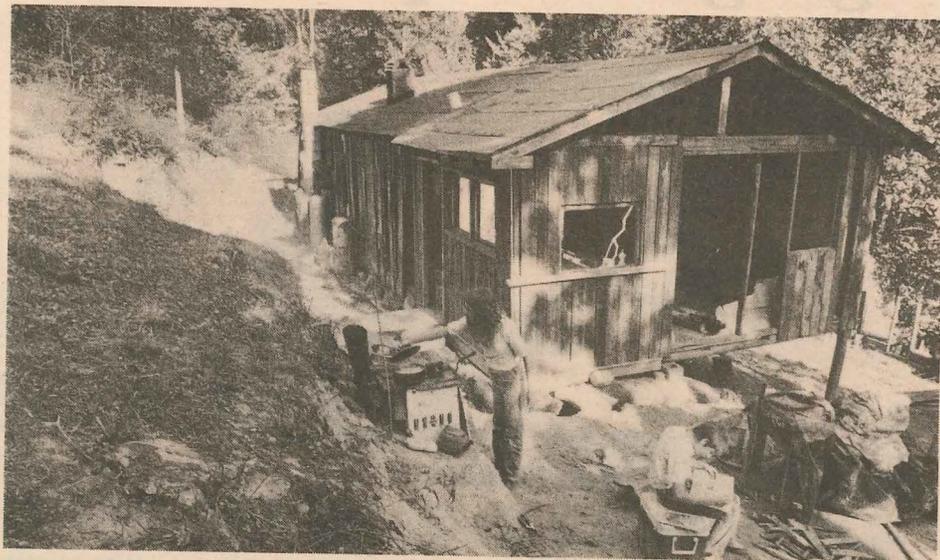
she comments.

"When you follow the leading of God's spirit, there's always an extra for you. And the extra he gave me was an incredible love for the people here,"

"I don't know where we got the idea that we have to understand the mysteries of God," she adds. Rather than wondering, she prefers to be sharing "the hope I have in my heart." (BP)



# KENTUCKY WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION



Mission Action is ministering and witnessing to persons of special need or circumstance who are not members of the church or its programs. Mission Action is also combating social and moral problems.

Woman's Missionary Union believes in ministering to the total person. We seek to meet the emotional, mental, spiritual, intellectual and physical needs of people who are in distress.

WMU focuses on certain Mission Action Target Groups:

- Aging
- Handicapped/Disabled
- Nonreaders and Others in Need of Tutoring
- Economically Disadvantaged
- Those Away from Their Permanent Homes
- Internationals/Language Groups
- The Sick
- Legal Offenders and Their Families
- Families in Stress
- Minority Groups
- Baptist Centers, Missions, Other Institutions
- Social and Moral Problems

(Materials for training and working with these groups can be found in the Baptist Book Store, WMU section.)



Three statements about Mission Action:

1. State WMU does not do Mission Action. Kentucky WMU makes churches aware of needs, offers training, and motivates for ministry.
2. Associational WMU does not do Mission Action. The Association coordinates Mission Action efforts of local WMUs and provides resources and training when requested.
3. Church WMU does Mission Action. Mission Action is local, face-to-face, personal involvement; therefore, the local church discovers needs and matches its gifts to those needs. Many times, the church works through a service agency in the community.

What do local Woman's Missionary Unions do in ministry and witness? Below is a partial listing of what churches are doing at present:

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Meals on Wheels                      | Showers for victims of disasters  |
| Friendship International             | Provide transportation for families to visit hospitals                            |
| Sponsor a refugee family             | Reading materials for prisoners   |
| Contribute to God's Pantry           | Personal health kits  |
| Assist in race track ministry        | Grocery showers for disaster victims  |
| Christmas gifts to hospital patients | Take elderly shopping   |
| Establish a local food pantry        | Show people how to spend food stamps wisely, then how to prepare nutritious meals |
| Gas and food for transients          | Literacy  |
| Pay electric bills for families      |   |
| Nursing home visitation              |   |
| Big A Club                           |   |

Perhaps, Eunice Beshears, WMU Director, Camp Ground Baptist Church, Somerset, says it best: "Sometimes, we have two or three families a week whose homes have burned. We keep dishes, furniture, curtains, other things to give them. It doesn't matter what faith (they have), if any. We help all who ask."

Woman's Missionary Union is involved in ministering and witnessing to people in need. Woman's Missionary Union is involved in doing what Jesus would do if he were here today.