

Jill Payne, a senior from Clarksville, Tenn. and president of the Austin Peay State University Baptist Student Union there, strolls across campus with Baptist campus minister Jim Alexander. "Walking with Jesus" is theme of this year's On to College emphasis suggested for August. On to College is a local church activity sponsored by National Student Ministries of the Baptist Sunday School Board to show concern for students as they enter college or return to campuses for the fall.

## Part of SBC offering to help Atlanta's poor

The pastor who suggested the idea hopes the world hunger offering taken at the 1986 SBC means Baptists "will leave something in Atlanta besides a bad name for all our squabbling."

Messengers gave \$28,753 to the offering in response to a motion by Charles Chilton, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Dumfries, Va.

As recommended by Chilton, 20 percent of the contributions will be distributed through Atlanta Baptist Association "for the poor and homeless of Atlanta." The rest will be divided 60 percent to the SBC Foreign Mission Board and 20 percent to the SBC Home Mission Board for hunger relief.

Last year in response to a similar motion SBC messengers in Dallas gave more than \$77,000 to a hunger relief offering. Chilton suggested the smaller offering this year may be due to the fact the offering was taken after a business session "when people weren't in a very good mood" rather than after the Foreign Mission Board's report as he had suggested in

his motion. "I wish someone could have addressed the need for the offering and explained the reason for including a percentage for hunger ministry in the Atlanta area," he says. "Maybe that would have made a difference."

Chilton said he decided to recommend the offering that would include the poor and hungry of the host city after preaching in an Atlanta church on Sunday before the convention. He learned from a church member a homeless woman had been living for months in a car in the church parking lot.

Chilton, a former Southern Baptist missionary to the Philippines, has been concerned about world hunger throughout his ministry. "You can't ignore the issue after watching people eat out of your garbage cans," he said.

An offering for the homeless and the hungry ought to be something every Southern Baptist could support, Chilton says. "If we cared more about some of the real issues of life, maybe we wouldn't be so caught up in splitting theological hairs. (BP)

## Senate passes tax reform, church pensions in doubt

by Kathy Palen

By a 97-3 margin the U. S. Senate has passed its version of the tax reform bill.

Senate and House of Representatives conferees, who are yet to be named, next will attempt to reconcile the just-passed Senate bill with the one approved by the House last December. Conference work is expected to begin in mid-July.

Should a compromise be reached by the conferees, the conference report would have to be approved by both houses and signed by President Reagan.

Among the differences to be worked out is one concerning the tax-exempt status of church pension groups—including the Southern Baptist Annuity Board. While the Senate tax reform plan would retain current law allowing federal tax exemption for non-profit organizations offering "commercial-type insurance," the House version would repeal that exemption.

Specifying "annuity contracts shall be treated as providing insurance," the House legislation would strip the Annuity Board and other similar church pension and welfare groups of their federal tax exemption.

Another difference the conferees will face is over the eligibility of non-itemizing taxpayers to claim deductions for charitable contributions. By rejecting an amendment to make such deductions permanent, the Senate agreed to allow a current provision for such deductions to expire as scheduled at the end of 1986. The House version includes a permanent provision for non-itemizers annually to deduct all charitable contributions in excess of \$100.

The two plans also differ in regard to provisions for 403(b) tax-sheltered annuity contracts such as those offered by the Annuity Board. The House bill would distinguish between employer and employee contributions to such plans and place a \$7000 cap on annual employee contributions. The House plan also would override a current provision that allows a participant to designate a portion of his salary as a "catch up" device for years in which he was able to put little or nothing into a retirement plan.

Both versions would reinstate clergy housing benefits. Under current tax law only ministers who occupied their residence or had a contract to purchase one by Jan. 1, 1983 are eligible to declare mortgage interest and property tax deductions in addition to tax-exempt housing allowances. Even that limited eligibility is scheduled to end in 1986.

Under both bills the reinstatement would be retroactive, meaning ministers unable to claim mortgage interest and property tax deductions for tax years 1983 and 1984 would be eligible to file amended returns to seek refunds.

In addition both versions would allow churches that elected to claim exemption from paying Social Security taxes for their non-ministerial employees to revoke that election.

A 1983 change in Social Security laws forced churches—and all non-profit organizations—to participate in the nation's retirement system by paying the employer's share of Social Security taxes and withholding the employee's portion for all non-ministerial employees.

By law ministers will continue to participate in Social Security as self-employed persons. (BP)

### No paper next week

In keeping with a longstanding policy there will be no issue of Western Recorder published July 8. The next issue will be dated July 15. Western Recorder does not publish the second week of July or the final week of December each year, in compliance with postal regulations.

### Dunn challenges Congress to look at tax reform bill

James M. Dunn, head of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, has challenged Congress to take a hard look at proposed tax reform.

In a letter to members of Congress Dunn declared, "For Congress to suggest it has the right to determine the mission and purpose of the church raises serious constitutional questions," Dunn warned. "The pension boards of the church...would be taxed on their ministry of caring for their own retired, disabled ministers and their widows unless this serious flaw is corrected."

Dunn stated, "I am sure you do not want to allow the Congress to say, in effect, to the churches, 'We will tell you that caring for the elderly, ill and widowed servants of the churches is not a part of your ministry.'" Dunn added, "Since it is part of the ministry of the church it should retain exemption."

In addition to his letter, Dunn supplied each member of the Ways and Means Committee copies of resolutions passed by the SBC and the Executive Committee on the subject of taxing church pension funds.

Selected members of the committee will join Senate conferees in trying to reconcile the two versions of the tax bill, H.R. 3838 which must then be signed by President Reagan to become law. (BP)

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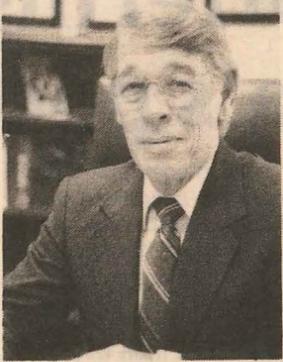
July 1, 1986

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# sanford's perspectives

## Can it happen again?



Jack D. Sanford

A little book by Mary K. Crawford called **The Shantung Revival**, published in 1933, tells a remarkable story of revival and spiritual growth in the North China Mission of the SBC during the early days of the 1930s.

What is remarkable about the book is the way God moved into the life of many missionaries. There are no accounts of great preachers, nor great evangelistic meetings, nor publicity, nor planned campaigns. People simply read the scriptures, prayed, experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, confessed their sins and received newness of life which spread like a grass fire across the countryside of China.

Stories of healings, restitutions, requests for forgiveness for unkind words and deeds and many conversion stories are told, including the story of a pirate who kidnapped one of the missionary women only to be won to Christ by his captive.

A quotation will illustrate the sweep of the revival. "In the densely populated county of Pingtu, Shantung, where the revival began the churches have been greatly revived, there are now villages in which every family has one or more saved persons, and in some villages nearly every one has accepted the Lord....One could not ask for more peace than now reigns in that region."

It sounds like the "mighty rushing wind...and cloven tongues of fire" of New Testament days, but it is China just before World War II.

As I read this little book I could not help asking myself, why are these miraculous outbreaks of the Spirit so rare? Is it because we have failed to prostrate ourselves before the Lord? Is it because sin is so deeply entrenched? Is it because we have put our priorities in other places?

The thought kept recurring: if we really wanted a fresh movement of the Spirit, we could have it. We would have to give up so much that

is important to us. We would have to give up our dependence upon our own wisdom and strength. We would have to give up our love of place and prominence. We would have to give up our self-interest, our penchant for having our way at all costs. In a word we would have to fall in repentance before God and empty ourselves.

Can it happen again? Of course it can happen again. The real question is: **will it happen again?** God is certainly able, but are we willing? It is a question each of us must answer.

The only sure thing is that unless we Southern Baptists experience some kind of newness of spirit, some inner renewal of heart, we will be put on the shelf and God will move elsewhere for a chosen people for this day.

The answer for Southern Baptists is revival, genuine spirit-led revival, and it must begin with the common people just as it did at Shantung...and Pentecost.

The SBC can come together and be a mighty force for world evangelism if we are willing to repent, confess our sins and be servants each of the other.

The SBC can come together and be a great force for winning America to Christ if we are willing to forego our rigid positions and treat each other like brothers who need grace for each day.

One of the features of the Shantung revival was the willingness of people who had been at odds to lay aside their differences and surrender to the leading of the Spirit.

Can it happen again? The formula is in the simple words: repent, confess, forgive, surrender. They are great Bible words which are the heart of what the Bible teaches about discipleship and brotherhood.

May each of us embrace the words, follow through on what they demand and experience our own revival.

## Act now for the future

The Annuity Board of the SBC has adopted a new plan to assist all church employes toward a better retirement. This new plan will help all churches, large or small, do a better job helping their employes during retirement years.

At the heart of the plan is a "matching gifts" concept which allows the church and the state convention to match the contributions of the employe up to certain levels. This means flexibility to meet the varying needs of local churches and will increase the amount of retirement funds available to participants.

The plan goes into effect Jan. 1, 1988, but the time to act is now. All state conventions have already adopted the plan and will set aside funds for their "matching" share. The local church must also adopt the plan and agree to participate whenever the effective date arrives.

The church must complete a cooperative agreement with the state convention. Forms for this are available from Don Spencer in the KBC Annuity Department. These forms and the action which makes them official should be taken now. There is no advantage in delay even though the

program does not go into effect until 1988.

What this new development does is give each church a plan for the retirement of all employes. The plan is not tied to one particular person but is a plan the church has adopted and which the church will carry out regardless of who is on the staff. Participation will be continuous and will include all those individuals whom the church designates.

The horror stories of former church employes living at disgraceful levels because of inadequate retirement income are well known. This new plan is an effort by all segments of our Southern Baptist family to eliminate those horror stories and treat each other with respect and dignity. Participation in the plan will also allow us to fulfill the biblical teaching that the "laborer is worthy of his hire" even after he is no longer on the job.

Investigate this now and be ready to fully participate on the beginning date, Jan. 1, 1988. It is a small investment by the church which will pay large dividends in the future.

**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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# baptist forum

## Where is eastern Kentucky?

A lot of us folks up this way have found it interesting that "Frankfort is headed toward eastern Kentucky," as my dear brother Allen Harrod who serves on the Committee on Boards has suggested.

It seems to me Paducah is headed toward eastern Kentucky if you are coming from St. Louis.

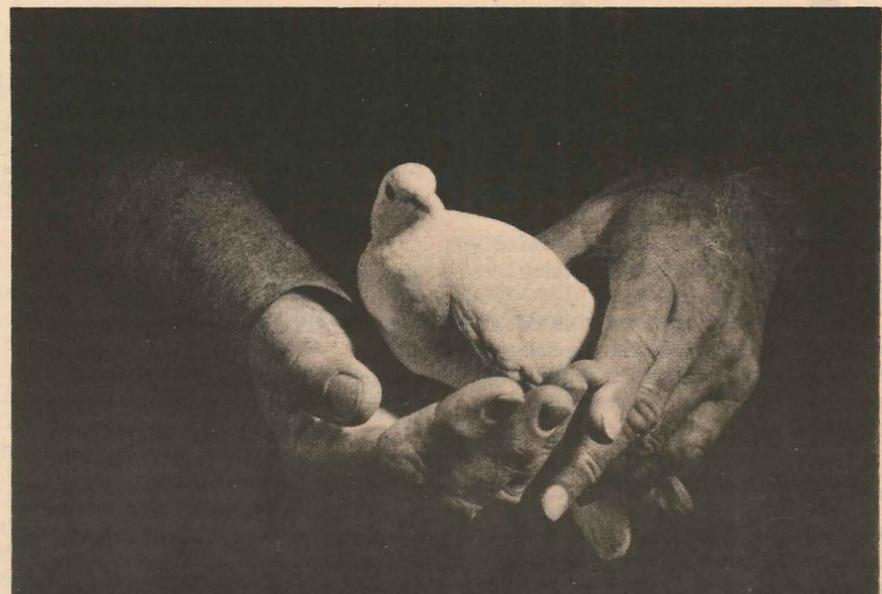
Harrod was quoted saying no recommendations of east Kentucky men were suggested to the Committee on Boards on which he serves. Here are a few I want to suggest as they meet in preparation for the St. Louis convention:

Ben Baird, Hazard; Gene Crowder, Elkhorn City; Leon Greer, Louisa;

Ken Holden, Flatwoods; Steve Hopkins, Prestonsburg; Jim McKenzie, Russell; Bill Messer, Ashland; Glenn Mollette, Pikeville; Chuck Stewart, Rosehill; and Don Yeager, Paintsville.

These names are only a few eastern Kentucky names I would like the Committee on Boards to consider. Some fit into one or the other factions while others fit into neither group.

Glenn Mollette  
Pikeville



**"I will give peace."**

(1 Chronicles 22:9)

**Observe Day of Prayer for World Peace  
August 3, 1986**

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

# I will give peace

by William M. Pinson Jr.

One of the greatest legacies a leader can leave is a legacy of peace. David, referred to in the Bible as a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22), left a legacy which earned him a place of honor. He is regarded as the greatest of the kings of Israel.

Though not perfect, David possessed many admirable qualities. He loved God and desired to serve him. He led his people with strength and power. He secured the land from its enemies so that Israel experienced great prosperity.

Yet David did not leave a legacy of peace.

God told him, "You have shed much blood and have waged great wars...." (1 Chron. 22:8, RSV). For all his might and for all his devotion to God, David was not allowed to do the one thing he wanted most to do: build a worthy temple to be dedicated to God. As a man of war he had disqualified himself from erecting the building that was to be the center of Israel's worship. God did not want the temple looked upon as a monument to a mighty warrior because then the people would be constantly reminded of David's military prowess rather than of God's spiritual presence.

God did promise David that a son of his could build the temple: "He shall be a man of peace. I will give him peace from all his enemies round about...." (1 Chron. 22:9, RSV). A man of peace could build a temple for the worship of the great God of peace. The temple would be a monument not to war but to God's shalom.

In the time of David peace was a prospect for the future, not a fact of the present. Almost 3000 years later, peace remains elusive. Yet its elusive character has not destroyed humanity's vision of peace or the hope for peace. One of the testimonies to our desire for peace is that politicians from nations in every part of the world find it necessary to justify their actions in the name of peace. Humanity, unable to stamp out war, now seldom tolerates open glorification of war. Wars, when fought, are justified as means to the goal of peace.

Baptists need to say and do more about peace. We need to study the Bible as seriously for its message about peace as we do for its guidance in family relations. We need to preach as intensely about the urgency of peace as we do about the dangers of pornography and drug abuse.

In 1983 the Southern Baptist Convention designated the first Sunday in August as the day of Prayer for World Peace on the denominational calendar. Special days on the SBC calendar invite Baptist churches to unite in study and prayer. We need to think more, study more, preach more and pray more about peace.

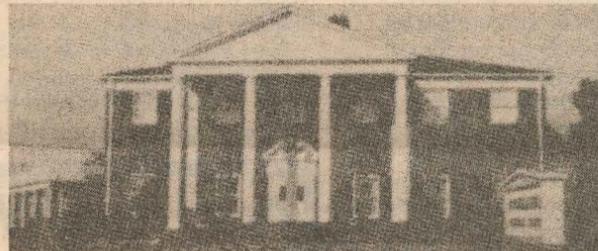
According to the Bible, faith involves far more than believing there is a God. We know that "faith, if it hath not works, is dead" (James 2:17). Baptists have been stalwarts in missions, in evangelism and in our commitment to many ethical values. In growing obedience to God, we also need to become stalwart workers for peace with justice, doing the things that make for peace and praying that God "will give peace" (1 Chron. 22:9).

Pinson is executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas.

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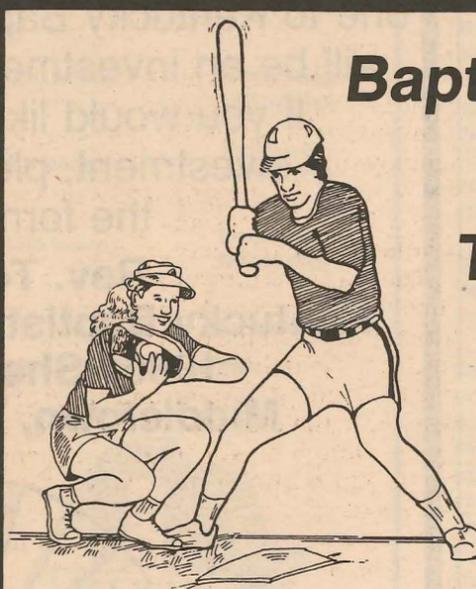
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**Leon Simpson**  
President  
Clear Creek Baptist School  
Pineville, KY 40977

## clear creek comment

### What Clear Creek is about

During the summer our graduating students leave us one by one. It is a very proud yet sad time as they launch out into a new ministry and we bid them godspeed.

Ray Woodie left us recently. He is not a graduating student—actually, he graduated last year and served as graduate assistant to the president during this past year. Now he has been called to Coral Hill Baptist Church, Glasgow, and felt the Lord leading him to accept this great church.

Ray is married to the former Linda Dunsmore. She is a wonderful Christian woman, daughter of a pastor who attended Clear Creek, and a tremendous asset as a pastor's wife. Little Jordan was born during their years at Clear Creek and keeps their lives interesting and exciting.

Ray has a wonderful testimony. He relates, "To reflect on the depth of God's amazing grace worked in my life is both a joy and an impossibility.

"As a young boy, like Paul, I had the best religion could provide. Two years of catechism, choir member, youth leader, head acolyte (lights, candles, etc.), and a sincere desire to please my parents convinced me that I was ready to die at anytime. Even though my smile proclaimed my contentment, my heart was crying out for true peace and companionship.

"During a revival service one night I came to realize God loved me for who I was and not what I had done. I knew I was a sinner and discovered there was a God that loved me anyway. My heart burst with incredible joy as I simply asked Jesus to forgive me and to be my Lord and savior.

Peace flooded my soul and for the first time my smile and my heart were in complete agreement. Since that day in spring 1977, God has proven his love a hundred-fold. He is faithful, merciful and worthy of my devotion and praise.

"I can't express in this testimony the fulness of his grace shown me, but when eternity rolls around look for me in glory and I'll share with you the rest of the story!"

As graduate assistant Ray has served with a beautiful spirit and a good attitude. He has been cooperative and willing to do anything asked of him. He loves God and has a spiritual depth and maturity far beyond his years. Working with God-called men like Ray Woodie is what Clear Creek is all about.

## christian education

### State SWBTS luncheon scheduled for Nov. 2

The Southwestern Seminary alumni luncheon at the Kentucky Baptist Convention Nov. 2 at noon will be at the Stone Hearth Restaurant on the south side of U. S. 62, west of the I-65 interchange.

Those who wish to attend may send a check payable to Charles Rice for \$6.50 per person. Mail it to Clear Creek Baptist School, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, 40977. Tickets will be \$7 each if not purchased in advance.

### Two with state ties receive MBTS degree

Two Kentuckians were among the 108 persons receiving degrees during recent commencement exercises at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Awarded the MDiv degree were Ronald D. Abrams, from Berea, and Randall E. Noel, Middletown.

Abrams is a former member of Liberty Avenue Baptist Church, Berea. A graduate of Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, Abrams is pastor of First Baptist Church, Bogard, Mo.

Noel received two of the nine academic awards presented during commencement. He earned the Baptist Book Store award, given to a graduate

who has excelled in preaching. The award is the 13 volume set of **20 Centuries of Great Preaching**. Noel also received the Wornall Road Baptist Church Award in Theological Field Education. The cash award is given to a graduate who excels in ministry under supervision.

A graduate of Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo., Noel plans to begin PhD work in New Testament at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

### Arkansas couple create seminary O. T. chair

Mr. and Mrs. Hill Williams of Ft. Smith, Ark., have committed \$500,000 to establish an endowed professorship at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

The Donald L. Williams Chair of Old Testament Interpretation will recognize the Williams' son who taught at Southern Seminary from 1961 until his death in 1983 from cancer.

The half-million-dollar gift was announced by seminary president Roy L. Honeycutt during the seminary's recent National Alumni Reunion.

A native of Ft. Smith, Williams held the AB from Baylor University, MA from Southern Methodist University, the BD from Southern Seminary and a PhD from Duke University.

Prior to joining the Old Testament

faculty at Southern Seminary, Williams served as an assistant in the English Department at Baylor and as an instructor in the Religion Department at Duke.

### Campbellsville to offer preaching services

Preaching services are to be part of Campbellsville College's first annual "Summer Studies in the Scriptures."

The program is July 14-18 with preaching services at 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and teaching sessions 9 to 11 a.m. Tuesday through Friday.

The preacher is Harold T. Bryson, professor of preaching and chairman of the division of pastoral ministries, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Bryson has written several books including "How Faith Works: Studies in James." He will be teaching and preaching from the book of James, the January Bible Study book for 1987.

Pastors will be able to bring their families and dormitory space will be available for those who want to stay on campus.

Registration fee for the teaching sessions is \$25 per family. The athletic center including the Junior Olympic-size swimming pool and the tennis courts, will be available for family recreation.

For more information on the program, call H. E. Coker, chairman of the Christian Studies Division at Campbellsville College, at (502) 465-8158, ext. 244.

### Georgetown chorale sings for music meeting

The Georgetown College chorale, under the direction of Tony Whitfield, made an appearance before the Southern Baptist Convention's Conference of Music Ministers at Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga. earlier this month.

The Georgetown chorale was one of only three Southern Baptist college organizations asked to assist with the 30th anniversary celebration by the musician's conference.

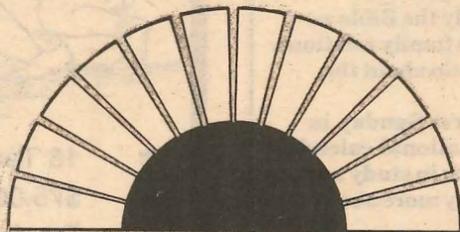
## And He Who Gives A Child A Home Builds Palaces in Kingdom Come

John Masefield

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### Missouri president steps down June 30

Charles Chaney, president of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., since Dec. 1, 1983, has resigned that position effective June 30. He will remain at the university as special assistant to the chancellor and dean of the Courts Redford School of Theology and Church Vocations.

The change in roles was requested by Chaney because he felt the demands of the presidency for the next few years required him to move further from his major vocational commitment.

Chaney, a native of Texas with professional experience in Texas, Illinois and Kentucky, came to Southwest Baptist University as dean of the Redford School of Theology in 1981. He was vice president for academic and religious affairs in fall 1983 and became president in early December 1983.

Chancellor James Sells will continue as chief executive officer and also will be responsible for the work of the office of the president. Trustee chairman A. L. Palmer said it will be several months before a new presidential search will be established. (BP)

### Knifley native receives Campbellsville award

Sherry L. Hein of Knifley has been awarded the first annual W. E. Burton Scholarship at Campbellsville College.

The W. E. Burton Scholarship Fund was established at Campbellsville College in memory of W. E. Burton, former student of Russell Creek Academy and Campbellsville College and registrar of the college. To qualify for the scholarship, a student must have earned 48 semester hours, be a full time student and have a grade point average of 2.75 or above on a 4.0 scale.

The scholarship is to be awarded each May to returning students who

show exceptional promise of becoming outstanding teachers. The amount to be awarded is \$250 per semester for one year.

Mrs. Hein has also been elected president of the National Education Association-Student Program for the 1986-87 school year and has been appointed to serve on the curriculum and governance committee of the Self-Study for the Teacher Education Program at the college.

### Kentucky native graduates from NOBTS

Donald Glen Smith, from Fulton, received the MDiv degree May 17 at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Smith was a member of the 68th graduating class at the seminary.

He is married to the former Hilda Gattis of South Fulton, Tenn., and is the son of Henry Smith of Fulton, Ky.

Smith's home church is South Fulton Baptist, South Fulton, Tenn. He holds the bachelor of science degree from the University of Tennessee, Martin, Tenn.

### Cumberland begins 2nd summer term July 7

Registration for the second summer term at Cumberland College will be held July 7 from 1-3 p.m. in the Gatliff Gymnasium. Classes will begin July 8.

The last day to enter a class will be July 11. The second summer term will end Aug. 7 and commencement will be held Aug. 9.

The Graduate Studies Program will offer a July mini-term, July 14-25. The course SED 536, Basic Sign Language, will be taught by Robert Dunston and will meet daily from 2-6 p.m. Students may register for the mini-term either during regular graduate registration or on the first day of class.

In addition to the mini-term, several other graduate courses will be offered. Registration for graduate courses will be held July 7 from 1-5 p.m. in the Gatliff Gymnasium. Graduate students can see their advisors in their offices between 9 a.m.-12 noon July 7.

For further information about undergraduate or graduate registration telephone (606) 549-2200.



James H. Cox  
Associate Editor

## fourth estate

### The system works

Among the least observed dates on the denominational calendar of Southern Baptists, I suspect, is Christian Literature Day, to be celebrated Sunday, July 13 this year. I think those who set aside a day to honor Christian literature, and designated all of July for emphasis on state papers, denominational publications and missionary magazines, however, had worthy intentions.

I have a few thoughts I'd like to share about Baptist state papers.

I remind myself frequently that Western Recorder *is not, never was and never will be* MY paper. That may sound strange. But I neither own it in principle or in fact. Rather, it is my happy privilege to be a part of its staff. I serve at the pleasure of the editor and the board of directors, to whom I account for my actions. I was elected to my position by them in 1975.

My responsibility is not discharged there, however. The editor, the staff and the board are expected to produce a journal faithful to certain principles which are in harmony with the wishes of Kentucky Baptists.

Thus, we are actually employed by you and serve you in the ministry to which we have been called. You may not have been among those who called this staff to our places of service, but if you have been a messenger to a Kentucky Baptist Convention annual session, you have been given the opportunity to name 12 directors to the board of Western Recorder. These 12, acting on your authority, elect the professional staff of your weekly news journal.

These same 12 may at any time vote to remove any or all of the staff members, also acting on your behalf. The system is as simple as that.

I appreciate the Baptist way of doing things. It does not require a majority vote of all Baptists belonging to a state convention to hire or fire a staff member, to develop policies, to determine budgets, and on and on. Rather, a representative group of your peers selected by you directs the staff to produce a weekly news journal which maintains the objectives and ideals of Kentucky Baptists. As problems arise, the board is able and qualified to solve them. I've watched it happen again and again in Baptist life. The system works.

I'm grateful God has given me this place of service. I pledge to serve you as faithfully as I know how in our time together. I trust I will never think of it as *my* paper, but always as *your* paper. It is my ministry, seeking to fulfill that call I answered more than 27 years ago. Under God, I will do all I can to be the best Christian journalist *for you* I know how to be.

## Attention Pastors and Laity!

Approximately 60 additional volunteers are needed August 31-November 18 to fill requests for the following vacancies:

Team Number	Dates	Location	Persons Needed	Specific Tasks
86120	Aug. 31-Sept. 16	Malindi	12(6 teams)	Proclaiming (witnessing)
86117	Sept. 7-23	Kilifi	3 men (laymen or pastors)	Proclaiming (witnessing)
86141	Sept. 5-23	Rumuriti, Kericho and/or Nakuru	3 pastors	WIN SCHOOLS
86140	Sept. 12-30	Kakamega/Kalale	2 pastors	WIN SCHOOLS
86119	Sept. 14-30	Malindi	12(6 teams)	Proclaiming (witnessing)
86118	Sept. 21-Oct. 7	Kilifi	8(4 teams)	Proclaiming (witnessing)
86121	Sept. 28-Oct. 14	Malindi	12(6 teams)	Proclaiming (witnessing)
86144	Nov. 2-18	Kitale	4(1 team)	Construction

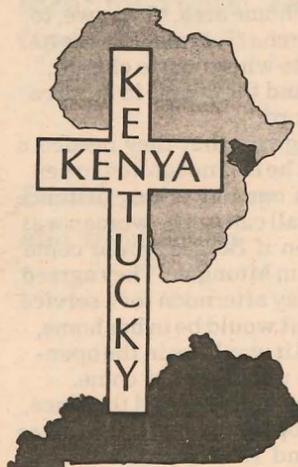
Note: Teams may consist of two men or a married couple.

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# THE KENTUCKY-KENYA CONNECTION

Features by Laura Lee Stewart  
SBC Press Representative, Nairobi

## Missionary teaches tourists "security of the believer"

Missionary Ralph Bethea entered the departure lounge in Nairobi to board a flight home to Mombasa and noticed quickly that most of the other passengers were German tourists. The twin engine turbo-prop plane had an electrical problem, and so they had to wait about an hour to take off. During that time, Bethea began talking to some of the German people. He noticed one had a Kayak insignia on some of his gear, and this was an interest of Bethea's. They had both done the New River in Virginia and so the groundwork was laid.

Soon the question arose, "What do you do?" The tourist said he was an industrialist in Germany, and he asked Bethea the same question. "I'm getting up a party for the king," Bethea answered. "Oh, what kind do you work for?"

"The king of kings," was his answer.

"Oh, you're one of those religious people."

"Yes, I'm a missionary for Southern Baptists living in Mombasa."

"Well, my wife sometimes gets religious, but I don't have time for that," the visitor commented.

About that time the boarding call



Ralph and Linda Bethea

came through, and they boarded the plane. Bethea was seated across the aisle from the industrialist and his

wife.

About 15 minutes out of Nairobi, an engine went out and the other one sputtered in difficulty. The plane tilted sharply, and the ground got closer and closer. The stewardess announced, "It's an emergency."

The industrialist's wife started crying, "I'm going to die, I'm going to die!" Her husband said desperately, "Missionary, tell me how to get saved."

Bethea picked up on the man's comment and said, "I don't know if we have time or not."

"You pray for time!" the man said. And Bethea did just that. He asked the Lord for time to tell this man how to be saved.

About that time the plane began to level out and turn around to head back to Nairobi. The man jumped over his wife and grabbed Bethea's arm and said excitedly, "Now, you tell me how to be saved."

Some of the other Germans began to comment and the industrialist said, "You be quiet. He's going to tell us how to be saved."

Bethea explained simply how to receive Jesus and be saved, and the industrialist knelt in the aisle of that

limping airplane and asked Jesus to come into his life.

In a few minutes they were safe on the ground and back in the departure lounge. The visitor began to talk in German, and Bethea realized he was witnessing to the other people. Within a little while, 18 of those tourists prayed to receive Christ into their hearts.

The industrialist said, "I've ignored God for so long. I want to serve him now."

Bethea had just been to the Baptist Publications House in Nairobi and had gotten 10 English New Testaments. He gave those to the ones who said they did not have Bibles. He got some more when they got to Mombasa and gave them also.

When the call came to board the plane again, some said, "No, I won't get back on that plane. I'm going to catch a train."

However all those who had received Christ got on the plane and continued their journey. The industrialist commented, "If that missionary is going, I'm going too."

Bethea smiled again and commented that this was a part of the security of the believer.

### Preaching after midnight

## Kenya service leads Russians to light of the son

Missionary Ralph Bethea and some pastors were starting a new church in a mud house in the Likoni area of Mombasa. It is a poor area of the city, and eight families shared the one house where they were meeting.

This would be Bethea's first time to preach there in Swahili. He got his chance at about 9 p.m. and preached for about 10 minutes. He thought he had finished as he sat down, and the leader thanked him for the introduction. He said they would get to the sermon in a little while.

He was called back at 10:30 p.m., used the same message but managed to stretch it to fill 15 minutes this time. They thanked him for the Bible

the north, they asked God to bring people to that new church from the north. They turned to the east and asked for people from the east. Then the south and the west.

About midnight a well dressed man and woman came in. The leader said quietly that Bethea should preach in English and have it translated because those people needed to understand what he had to say.

Bethea preached. Both received Jesus into their lives.

Bethea learned later that both were doctors. The man had been trained in Moscow and claimed to be an atheist. He said his wife kept telling him there was a God, but they had ignored him. He said his life was empty, but in his medical work he saw some patients who prayed and got results. Some of them got well when medically they should not. The question kept coming, "Is there a God?"

On that night, the couple felt

desperate. They prayed together, the first time he had ever prayed, "If there is a God, help me find you."

At about midnight they got into their car and started driving. They left the section of town where wealthy people lived, and drove to Likoni. There they heard singing and came in. There they found God.

Both are working in the church there now. They have three services each Sunday with a total of about 500 people attending.

*At about midnight they got into the car and started driving. They drove to Kikoni, heard singing and came in. There they found God.*

study and said he would preach the sermon after the prayer.

As they prayed, the people turned to each direction. As they looked to

A lady came to missionary Ralph Bethea several times to ask him to come to her home area, Mtongwe, to start a church. "I have to walk an hour to get to where I go to church," she said. "And the people in my area need the Lord."

Bethea agreed that they needed a church, but he had not gotten to her place. Then one day a long distance telephone call came. The woman was asking again if Bethea would come and preach in Mtongwe. They agreed on a Saturday afternoon for a service. He thought it would be in her home, but she said it would be in the open-air so more people could come.

When they finally found the place, about 75 people were waiting. Bethea preached and 18 responded.

He found the woman living in a one-room house. She had five chil-

**"I have to walk an hour to get to where I go to church ...And the people in my area need the Lord."**

dren, and her husband had left her. She worked, and the older children took turns taking care of the younger ones and going to school when they could.

"And what is the building next door?" Bethea asked.

"That is our new Baptist church

here," she replied. "You agreed we needed a church, and I've been working on it."

Bethea learned that the woman had taken the only plot of ground she had for a garden to feed her children, and she had used all of her savings for the past six months to go into a building. She was doing the work, and it was well under way.

Bethea dug into his pocket for what money he had and gave it to the woman for the building. "This is a gift from Baptists in America who also want you to have a church here," he said.

Later some of the preachers went out to see what was going on and they were excited too.

Bethea says he has no doubt but that God will build a church there with that kind of faith.

# Prepare for tomorrow

# Shoptalk

by Harold Purdy

Get ready for tomorrow for someday it will arrive. This is the theme of many a Bible-based sermon from our pulpits. Too often that message goes unheeded in a number of ways. One is in providing for the future of those who minister in our churches.

One of the most useful pastors I have known lived a long, full life in God's service but died in borderline poverty. He said, "The churches I served were small and could not pay me a very large salary. They did not make any provision for me through the Annuity Board and I am dependent now on a small Social Security check and the help a few friends give me. It is not adequate."



**Purdy**

There are others who minister in various ways in our churches now who will receive little or no retirement benefits because of similar shortsightedness.

The teaching of scripture reveals the necessity for some kind of assistance. When Jesus spoke of those who are called to serve he said, "The laborer is worthy of his hire." Paul said, "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor especially they who labor in the word and doctrine." Then he adds, "For the scripture saith, thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And the laborer is worthy of his reward."

Of course we correctly interpret these passages as referring to those who are active in ministry now. They deserve an adequate compensation from the churches where they serve. That is

where we too often stop. These scriptures also include stewardship for tomorrow.

Our theology and Christian ethics must lead us to believe God does not want his servants cut off when advancing years make them less active. This would be worse than the practice of the secular world.

Paul was emphasizing the moral and spiritual responsibility that rests upon Christians to provide for those dependent upon them when he wrote, "But if any provide not for his own, and especially those of his own house, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." That would certainly apply to the church as a family. Think of the schools, businesses and governmental institutions which have built-in security for their faithful employees. Our churches must not only preach a gospel of love but be role models of that love in caring for those who serve them.

When I graduated from seminary and became pastor of First Baptist Church, Madisonville, the pulpit committee pointed out in the budget an item designated "Pastor's Retirement." It was a little amusing then that in my twenties I was asked to discuss retirement. That seemed a century away. What I had been pushing off to some future date arrived with accompanying shock waves. Forty-seven years in the pastorate came to an abrupt end.

How thankful I have been that there were lay people in the churches where I served who had the love and foresight to invest in my future. Out of this have come many blessings. One of the greatest of these has been the opportunity to share with others the spiritual experiences God gave during my active days of ministry. Preaching, teaching, witnessing and counseling opportunities

have come on a wider scale than I could have enjoyed without financial independence.

I can say with loving urgency to those entrusted with the welfare of our churches: "Please help those who are your spiritual leaders now as they prepare for tomorrow."

*Harold J. Purdy is retired from the pastorate, but is serving as a member of the faculty of Boyce Bible School. Purdy has served as pastor of churches in West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. He is a graduate of Salem College and Southern Seminary. Additional post-graduate study was done at Union Seminary and Oxford University. Salem College conferred an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 1947.*

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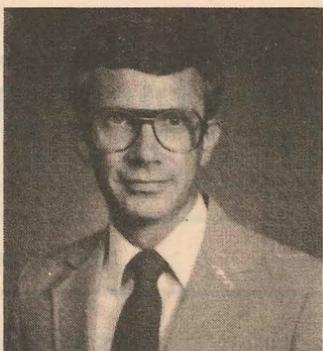
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# We're all in this together

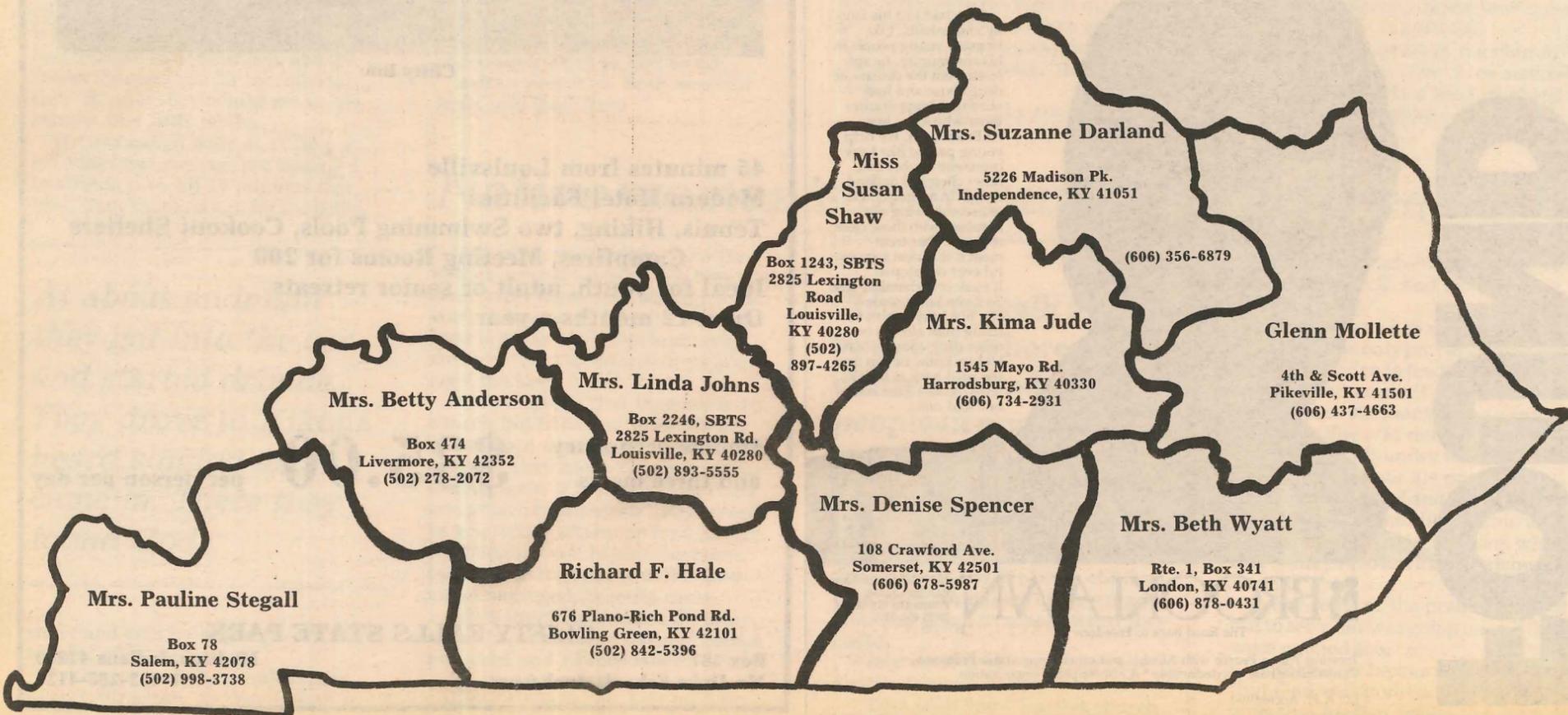
Ten Kentucky Baptists, journalists by trade either vocationally or avocationally, are committed to bringing us informative stories about timely subjects. These 10 Western Recorder state correspondents, strategically situated across the commonwealth, keep Kentucky Baptists abreast of what's going on among their people and their churches.

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## western recorder



*People are important to us*



# baptist news in brief

## Volunteers needed for Jamaican schools

The Foreign Mission Board is urgently seeking at least 30 more volunteers for the annual vacation Bible school-evangelistic campaign in Jamaica, scheduled for July 11-21.

The project, carried out in cooperation with Jamaican Baptists, will put volunteer teams to work in morning vacation Bible schools, afternoon home visitation and evening evangelistic services all over the Caribbean island nation.

"At this point we have 254 volunteers enlisted," said James Cecil, associate director of the FMB's Volunteer Enlistment Department. "But we desperately need at least 30 more to conduct the ministry." Volunteers already signed up come from 22 states.

Cecil said the Jamaica Baptist Union had requested more than 330 Southern Baptist volunteers to work with Jamaicans this year. Last year more than 470 Southern Baptists participated in the effort. They taught some 20,000 children in vacation Bible schools and led 2418 people to accept Christ as savior through evangelistic rallies and personal witnessing.

This year the VBS workers will continue to teach children, but will also train Jamaican VBS workers. For the VBS and evangelistic efforts, the FMB is seeking small teams of two laypersons led by a pastor, pairs of men, pairs of women and married couples. Volunteers will stay in the homes of Jamaican Baptists.

Cost per person for the trip varies according to U. S. cities where volunteers board connecting flights to Miami for group travel to Jamaica. Interested persons should immediately call James Cecil or Debbie Newman at the Foreign Mission Board, (804) 353-0151. Reservations must be made no later than July 3.

## A. U. files suit against Education Dept. rules

Americans United for Separation of Church and State filed legal action challenging the U. S. Education Department's new guidelines which allow broader federal aid to parochial schools.

The national religious liberty organization filed an amended complaint in federal court against departmental guidelines permitting the use of federal funds to buy mobile classrooms for use at parochial schools. The "Chapter One" program guidelines, which affect all 50 states, were issued June 17 by U. S. secretary of education William Bennett's office.

Americans United executive director Robert L. Maddox said secretary Bennett is encouraging public school districts to violate the constitutional separation of church and state. The rules will also hurt disadvantaged children eligible for the aid.

"It's bad advice," said Maddox. "Secretary Bennett is encouraging the use of tax dollars to build annexes for parochial schools. This is a waste of money and a clear violation of the First Amendment's wall of separation between church and state. We are determined to block this move in court."

In addition to constitutional and educational policy problems, Maddox said the mobile classroom scheme will hurt both public and private school children. Secretary Bennett has or-

dered public school districts to give private schools top priority. Because mobile classrooms are so expensive, school districts will have little or no money left to spend on actual instruction; both public and private school students will go without needed help because of Bennett's unwise guidelines.

Americans United filed its amended complaint in a federal court action already pending against Bennett in Kansas City. The *Pulido v. Bennett* case, set for trial June 30, charged the secretary with intentionally trying to stymie Supreme Court decisions last summer against parochial school aid. The high court in its *Felton* and *Grand Rapids* cases barred the use of tax dollars to pay for classes in parochial schools.

## Postal Rate Commission calls for ending subsidy

Following an extensive study, the U. S. Postal Rate Commission has recommended Congress eliminate its current revenue foregone appropriation to subsidize postal rates for non-profit mailers.

In a report released June 18 and summarized during a joint congressional hearing, the commission also recommended the creation of separate subclasses for mail currently qualifying for preferred rates.

Postal rates for non-profit mailers—including state Baptist newspapers and some church newsletters—have been on a steady increase since 1970. At that time, Congress initiated a 16-step plan to phase out the federal subsidy providing reduced mailing rates for non-profit publications. Although step 15 of the plan was not scheduled to take effect until this summer, decreases in congressional appropriations pushed non-profit mailers beyond step 16 in early 1986.

Should Congress decide to continue the revenue foregone appropriation, the commission recommended a system for determining the needed amount of appropriation. Through calculating revenue foregone by applying the same proportionate contribution to the institutional costs of the Postal Service that is made by regular-rate pieces, the appropriation would be reduced by about \$256 million a year, according to the report.

In preparing its report, the commission held public hearings in Washington, and seven other cities. Three Southern Baptist representatives testified before the commission. Testifying were Bobby S. Terry, Missouri Word and Way editor; Presnall H. Wood, Texas Baptist Standard editor; and Jim Newton, Atlanta bureau chief of Baptist Press. (BP)

## 'Catch-up' month keeps CP ahead inflation rate

Southern Baptists played "catch-up ball" in May with their Cooperative Program unified budget, passing along more than \$11.5 million in undesignated receipts. May's Cooperative Program total of \$11,501,228 was up \$1,249,750 over the same period last year, for an increase of 12.19 percent.

After the first eight months of the current fiscal year, Cooperative Program receipts total \$84,236,504, an increase of 7.8 percent over receipts of \$78,144,259 through May 1985.

The May receipts are a "great sign" for the strength of the Cooperative Program this year, said Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee. "We've been playing catch-up ball," he noted.

May was the second-best Cooperative Program month in history, trailing January of this year, when receipts almost reached \$12.8 million.

Despite the good month, Southern Baptists still are not expected to reach their \$130 million annual Cooperative Program goal.

That figure will carry the Cooperative Program through the first phase of its basic operating budget and provide about \$2.5 million for capital needs, explained Tim Hedquist, Executive Committee vice president for business and finance. "We have to be pleased when our annual increase is at 7.8 percent while the inflation rate is in the low 3's," he said. (BP)



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

# homes for children

## Home

The Sunday school literature for four- and five-year-olds carried a significant little verse several years ago. It was as follows:

"Home is a place where people live  
And each one helps the other.  
Home is a place for happiness  
And loving one another."

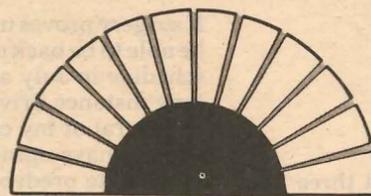
The mention of home brings thoughts of love, warmth, happiness and security. The word home puts our memory system in gear and we recall the variety of experiences with family, such as work and play, sorrow and happiness. Although this is true for many of us, we need to be aware of the fact there are multitudes of people who do not have good home experiences. This is why Baptist Homes for Children is so important. In these homes we are able to reach out to children who can no longer stay in their natural homes or who have no home at all. This ministry provides a home for children who have nowhere to turn.

It is our joy to provide Christian homes for children. Homes where they can feel loved and wanted, where there is happiness and security, where there is work and play and where sorrow and happiness is shared.

Home also is a place where it is nice to come back. It is like returning to the nest. Spring Meadows and Glen Dale Children's homes always have the welcome mat out, inviting former residents to return. Each campus has an annual homecoming, and makes a special effort to get alumni to return.

Glen Dale held their homecoming June 22. It was wonderful to experience the joy so many felt in being back home and seeing old friends. They came from as far away as South Carolina, and six were present from California. Glen Dale Children's Home is loved and highly respected by the Glendale community. They have long referred to Glen Dale as the "home" and lovingly referred to the children as the "home children." As one listens to alumni talk, it is most encouraging because the "home" has meant so much to so many.

Spring Meadows' homecoming will be held Aug. 2. We not only have homes where children live now, but homes to which they can come back for a visit and walk along memory lane.



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

## oneida journal

### Squeaking wheels

In answer to the question "what did you least like about Oneida this past year," signed student comments included the following: "being 18 and not able to kiss...cold weather fire alarms...no scary movies, nor horror books in the library...girls not allowed to smoke, not allowed to date town guys, not allowed to go off campus (without chaperone) ...study hall at night...noise...working... (more specifically) working in the kitchen... (very specific) please, whatever you do, don't put me on pots and pans...waiting in line for the phone ...chores...Mr. Day's 2 x 6 hitting me on the rear...the teaching agenda—hurray for summer vacation...getting campused for dumb reasons like leaving dorm room unlocked, being late to school, dirty clothes...dating regulations...the squeaking of the mop bucket wheels at bedtime is driving me crazy!!!"

What did you most like?  
girls and art...sports program...devotions...faculty-student relationship...movies...free time...chapel...drama and debate...the friendliness...my school grades and my friends...Christian love ...teachers...puppet shows...the junior play...the senior trip...choir...picnics...basketball...hiking to the Lions Cave...church..."

One of our girls was very succinct as to what she liked best about Oneida. His

name is "Bill." The dislike of several was "working in the bathroom."

"The food" is a rather standard dislike the world over in any group setting and Oneida is no exception.

One of our young men from central Kentucky informed us "the year was hard, being in love." Another one thought "this school would be a lot better if we could have TV in our rooms."

A Nicholasville boy was irritated by "lights on low at the movies" and a citizen of sunny California simply does not like "winter" in Kentucky. An Ohio boy believes "you should put in a smoking area during school hours, let anybody 16 or older kiss and get rid of most of the stupid rules."

Interesting were comments from students expelled from the school for several months up to a year and finally allowed to return. "I've enjoyed this year most of all. Oneida has done a lot for me I thank you for letting me return. I love Oneida and wouldn't want a diploma from any other school."

Another writes: "The school will help anyone who wants to be helped." A South Carolina boy rejoices at "finding Christ." A northern Kentucky boy notes that "you can learn responsibility here" "Revival" was the greatest thing for an Alabama boy and "getting back in fellowship" meant much to a Michigan boy once expelled.

Some students wrote extended comments on the back of the questionnaire. A graduating senior, orphaned quite young, answered "where going" with the comment "wherever the wind blows me" and went on to say "even though a lot of people think I am bad I have a lot of good. This school has helped me a lot. If I would have not come here and got straightened out, who knows where I would be. Thank you."

Another young man wrote: "I can never really thank Oneida for what it has done for me, for my growth as a person. If it were not for Oneida, I wouldn't be a Christian in all likelihood. I came in 1978 as an immature, small minded boy that couldn't live with others. Oneida helped me on the way to becoming a man. There is so much in my heart, I cannot say it all. But I can say I love you all."

A graduating senior wrote: "Back home I was nothing but a pot head, a drunk and a school dropout. Now I have some morals. I love this school and all the faculty and staff. I will try to make monthly contributions as often as I can because I owe Oneida my life."

Reprint from July 21, 1982



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

## sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR JULY 6, 1986

Life and Work Series

### Christians and government

**Matthew 22:17-21** Pharisees, Herodians and Sadducees—were at great variance, but they devised a scheme to lure Christ into self-incrimination. Their diabolical scheme was to propound a question to Christ that, regardless of how he might answer it, would bring upon him the hatred of the populace or the punishment of the secular authorities.

Christ instantly saw through their trickery and duplicity and made known the fact that it is the duty of all people everywhere to acknowledge their obligations to both human governments and to God.

**I Peter 2:13-17** Those Christians to whom Peter addressed this epistle were persecuted so they were prone to rebel against the government. Peter exhorted them to be in subjection to the governments of the countries in which they were residing and to render all rightful obligations to them. Of them he required respect and reverence for the rulers, subjection to the constituted authorities, and obedience to all the laws which did not conflict with God's word.  
**Acts 4:18-20** A cripple, who had been lame from his birth, sat at the gate of the temple to appeal for alms. When he saw Peter and John he thrust forth his hand. Peter said: "In the name of Jesus

Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." For this noble deed the apostles were called before the Sanhedrin, where Peter's defense was bold and pungent. The Sanhedrin decided the only thing they could afford to do was to threaten them, and command them not to preach or teach again in the name of Christ.

Knowing they "must obey God rather than man," the apostles promptly decided to go on preaching Christ regardless of what the physical consequences of their action might be.

International Series

### Hope for the future

**Jeremiah 31:2-6** Speaking through Jeremiah, God told his disobedient people that, after they had paid the penalty for their rebellion, he would bring them out of their captivity. He also predicted that Jerusalem would be rebuilt to surpass their fondest anticipations. Jeremiah also predicted the spontaneous response of the remnant which would return would be that of gratitude and praise.

**Jeremiah 31:31-32** At Sinai God had made a covenant with Israel which was conditional. Its fulfillment was dependent on the faithfulness of the people, but they disregarded the will of God and continued in their sinful ways.

The new covenant was to be entirely different from the old one. Whereas the old one had been written on stone, the new one was to be written on the hearts of the people.

**Jeremiah 31:33-34** The prospectus of the new covenant of grace can be summarized in four words:

**Regeneration.** "I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts." God is pledging himself to give a new heart to all who enter this new covenant. Those who are regenerated by the Spirit of God will have created in them a disposition to walk in the Lord.

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

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

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



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## on mission together

### Those unexpected attention getters

I have spent most of the past three weeks on my back with my legs elevated. I can stand, kneel (carefully), and lie down but I have been unable to sit.

The culprit has been diagnosed through a CAT scan as a ruptured disc which gives the sciatic nerve fits. The neurosurgeon has recommended that I continue the "stay down" pattern for a few more days. With no further improvement, he recommends surgery.

Thus, as I write this, I am looking for even the slightest improvement. I much prefer that to surgery!

The problem has necessitated the cancellation of engagements that would require my driving or sitting for any extended periods of time, including the planned journey to Kenya. Surgery would keep me out for about six weeks.

If surgery proves unnecessary, I should be able to be back on a modified office schedule in July and do some limited long distance driving by August.

Several of my commiserating colleagues have opined that since my two immediate predecessors—Franklin Owen and Harold Sanders—had back problems, that it simply goes with the job. However, the search committee didn't include that in the job description!

Others have reminded me that it sometimes takes something like a ruptured disc, an ulcer, or a mild heart attack to remind some of us, not only of our limitations but that we probably need to slow down. In any event, the pain has gotten my attention.

So, I am reconciled to looking at this as an opportunity for personal and spiritual growth. Among the conclusions I have already reached are:

I've been asking a 54-year-old body to perform a 40-year-old life style without giving serious attention to

keeping in any kind of reasonable physical condition.

I still accept more opportunities/responsibilities than I can give my best attention to and make preparation for. That bad habit coupled with my mild perfectionism produces a higher than healthy level of stress.

Both of the above are realities I can do something about. It's for sure no one else can or will. I have no excuse to continue an unhealthy pattern.

Finally, being "home bound" hasn't been all bad. I've had some unexpected, quality time with Shawn, our high school senior; read several books I had put aside; and attracted pity and attention from Alice.

Knowing that I surely must have the most supportive and capable colleagues in any state Baptist convention has assured me that all's been well at the Baptist building.

Even with all of the above, I have this strange feeling that Alice will be very happy to see me up and out soon.

# S. S. teacher sees pupils grow to manhood

Max Daniel has been teaching fifth- and sixth-grade Sunday school classes so long that some of his first students have reached retirement age.

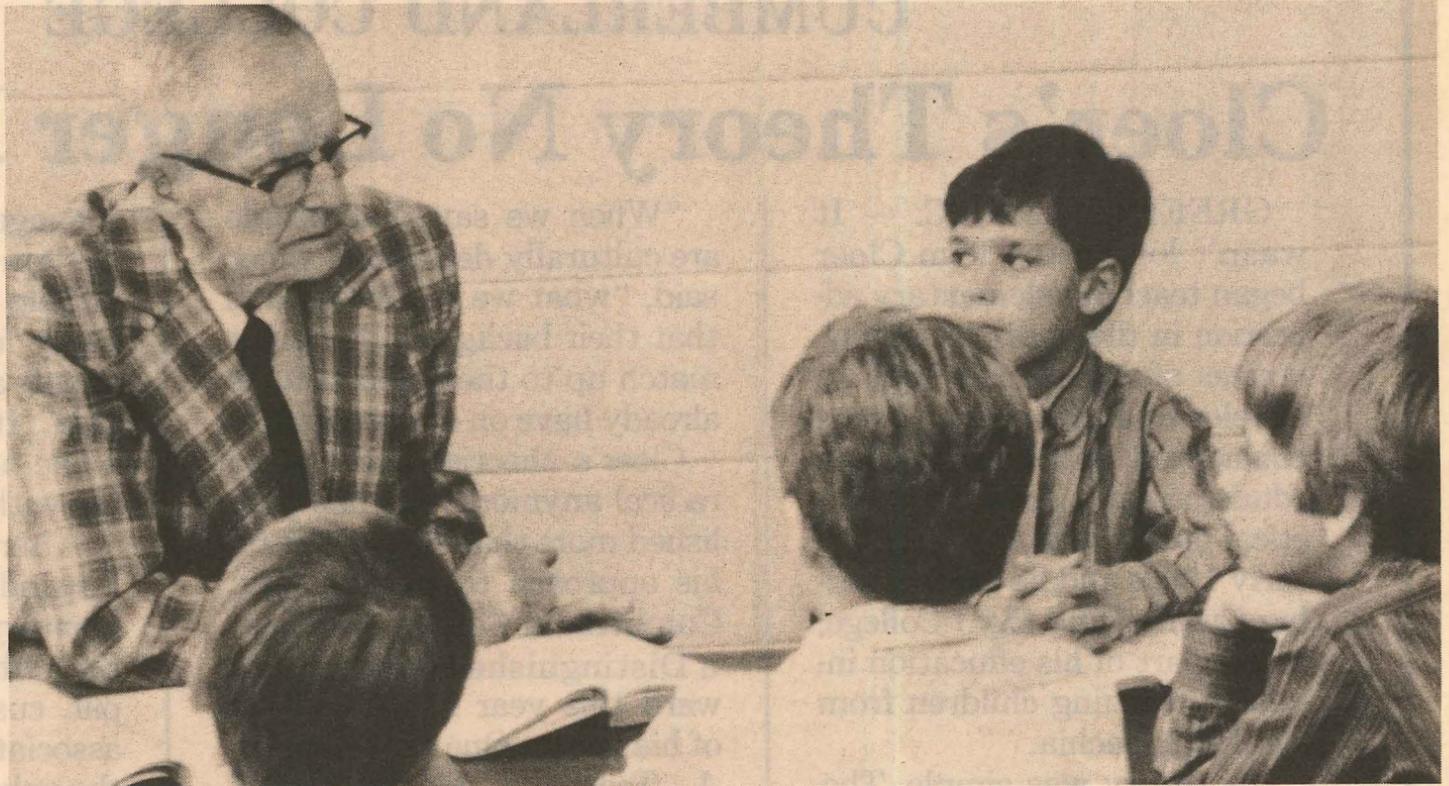
He's been teaching so long, in fact, that he can't remember if he started in 1933 or 1934.

*"If there's anything I've learned it's that people respond to your actions...If you show them your interested they really do respond."*

The 81-year-old deacon, teacher and associate treasurer of First Baptist Church, Americus, Ga. does remember he began teaching Sunday school "quite a few years" before he served time in World War II. He also remembers how it all began.

"The superintendent of Sunday school back in those days came up to me and said he'd noticed I had been attending church pretty regular," Daniel recalled. "So he asked me if I would teach a class of junior boys, but I never dreamed I'd be teaching this long."

Daniel, who has never been married, said he is proud that many of his former Sunday school students "who gave me quite a bit of problems" have gone on to be deacons in the church and outstanding community leaders.



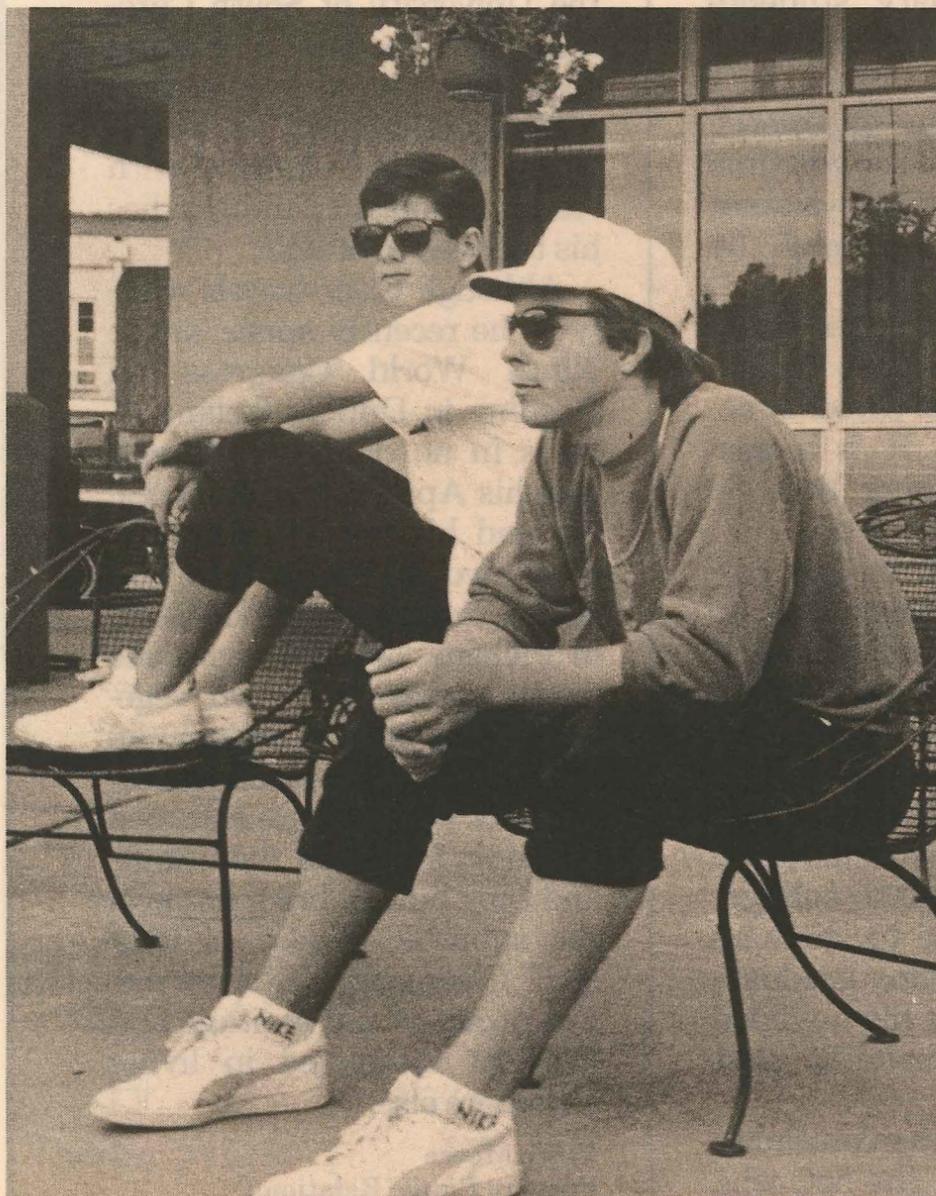
Max Daniel has been teaching boys the Bible for more than 50 years at First Baptist Church, Americus, Ga. Many of his pupils have gone on to become deacons and teachers in the church.

"If there's anything I've learned, it's that people respond to your actions," Daniel said. "If you show them that you're really interested, they really do respond. Some of my boys that were the most trouble really turned out to

be good ones."

The lanky octogenarian, who collects and sells aluminum cans and hands the proceeds over to the church, said he has always believed in teaching from the scripture.

Daniel, who is presently teaching from Bible Searchers, said, "Our church has always used Sunday School Board literature. But I really love to teach from this book," he said, gently placing his hand on the Bible.



Vince Henderson, left, and Cole Younger were two of 134 youth from First Baptist Church, Midland, Tex., who attended the Church Training Youth Celebration in Glorieta, N. M.

## Single church sponsors one-tenth of Glorieta youth

If there's ever been a candidate for the pull-your-hair-out award, the group of sponsors from First Baptist Church, Midland, Tex., could take it hands down.

But they don't want it. They don't feel they meet the qualifications.

This crew of 23 adults left their hometown for Summer Youth Celebration at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center in 11 vehicles packed with 134 teenagers.

Stated more clearly, they took approximately one-tenth of the 1297 teenagers who attended Summer Youth Celebration at Glorieta May 31-June 6.

And even though Charlie Dodd, the robust and charming youth minister retained a full head of hair, he acknowledged some of his strength was sapped.

"Sure, I'm tired, but it's a good tired," Dodd said at the end of the week.

In addition to taking his family (including wife, Jan, who helped with the group, one son and one daughter) and 134 youth, he taught a class three times a day.

Dodd had reason to pull his hair out, but he calmly sat, smiling through red eyes and saying, "If you reach teenagers who aren't Christians, then you're going to have to expect some mischief."

For example, last year while the youth group was enroute to Glorieta, two of his boys got off the bus, and he didn't see them again for four days.

"These kids come from a home where there isn't a loving environ-

ment, and they get on this bus, and it's full of love," said the 35-year-old youth minister. "They just don't know how to handle it."

Dodd said he began five years ago bringing his youth group to Glorieta. He started with just 35 youth and has increased that number by 100.

He said he is able to bring so many youth because of the great sponsors.

"These adults that come are interested adults," he said. "These guys love teenagers. They wouldn't be here if they didn't."

Midland First Baptist Church's 5000 active members must love teenagers too. They doled out about \$12,000 in transportation money to send the youth to Glorieta.

*First Baptist, Midland, doled out \$12,000 to send youth to Glorieta. At least half of the group made some decision for the Lord during the week.*

"That includes paying all the sponsors' ways," Dodd explained. "We feel like it's an investment in leadership."

He said it's also an investment in the youth.

He said at least half of his youth made some decision for the Lord, including commitments, accepting Christ or giving their lives to full time Christian vocation.

## CUMBERLAND COLLEGE

## Cloer's Theory No Longer Radical

GREENVILLE, S.C. — It wasn't long after Tom Cloer began teaching elementary education in the one-room schoolhouses of Appalachia that he developed a theory which was considered radical by some educators and downright heretical by the rest. It was in the early 1960s and he was attending Cumberland (Ky.) College, where part of his education involved teaching children from rural Appalachia.

His theory was simple. The mountain children suffered reading problems not because they were slow, but because the educators were giving them materials that, in terms of relevance, might as well have been produced on another planet. Cloer believed that it was the educators, not the children, who were suffering from a failure of imagination.

"Our mountain children had severe problems with the textbooks they were given," said Cloer, who has been a member of the education faculty at Furman University since 1974. "They didn't identify with Dick and Jane and their dog, Spot. They were familiar with hunting dogs and logging trucks and living in the mountains."

Cloer argued that the Appalachian children had a rich culture and a language all their own, and once they were taught to read their own language, they could move to the books from Boston and New York. And that's the track he followed, writing individual stories that the children could identify with. He's proud to say that his approach was highly successful.

"When we say that people are culturally deprived," Cloer said, "what we really mean is that their backgrounds do not match up to the textbooks we already have on our shelves."

Cloer's theories are not so radical anymore. He has published more than 65 articles on his approach to reading, and Cumberland College gave him a Distinguished Alumnus Award this year in recognition of his work. One of his books, *A Teacher's Handbook of Language Experience Activities*, is widely used as a teaching tool, not only for Appalachian children but for children throughout the United States. His approach is also being applied to secondary students and adults who are beginning readers.

"The language experience approach can be used anytime a child's language is at variance with standard English," he says.

Cloer's devotion to the study of reading skills goes far beyond the notion of career or academic interest. It is a passion and something that he feels he was meant to do.

Cloer grew up in the Appalachian Mountains and he lived in such sawmill communities as Turniptown and Stinking Creek before graduating with honors from Jacksboro (Tenn.) High School. He was one of three people in his graduating class to go to college, and the only one to show an interest in attending graduate school. Many of his boyhood friends didn't make it past grade school.

"I feel like I was somebody who fell through the net, who

managed to get through a system that wasn't designed to help me," Cloer said. "So I really feel an obligation to the people and children of Appalachia. It also fits my life-style. I like helping people and dealing with the underdog."

After graduating from Cumberland College, he taught elementary education in Pickens, S.C., where he served as principal, custodian, secretary and associate cook. He was also the only male teacher in South Carolina who worked with children in the first three grades.

He later earned his master's degree from Clemson University and his doctorate from the University of South Carolina, and became a reading specialist. He has been at Furman for the past 12 years, where he helps students with reading problems and teaches his theories to others.

Although Cloer travels widely — he recently spoke to the Ninth World Congress on Reading in Dublin, Ireland — he is in no danger of forgetting his Appalachian heritage. He and his wife, Elaine, and their two children, Tom and Shana, live on a nine-acre farm in Pickens County where the family raises their own vegetables and Cloer is actively involved in conservation issues.

"A lot of people are ashamed of being from the mountains and they build a brick home in the suburbs as fast as they can." Cloer said. "But not me. I'm proud of my heritage and I'm not interested in living anywhere else." □

Vince Moore  
Furman Public Relations