



Senate and House debates

Compromise tax proposal may affect churches

A proposed bill which would revise the federal tax code contains proposals which will have a significant impact on churches, church related institutions and ministers.

Among its provisions, the revision would maintain tax exemption for church pension and welfare boards, restore housing deductions for ministers who own their own homes, restrict taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions.

Conferees from the U. S. House of Representatives and Senate reached agreement on the compromise bill in mid-August but are not expected to take action until both houses of Congress reconvene Sept. 8. The House passed its tax revision bill last December; the Senate passed a separate bill June 24.

After a series of meetings July 17-Aug. 16, U. S. Senator Bob Packwood, R-Ore., and Congressman Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., announced the compromise plan.

The maintaining of exemption for church pension and welfare boards was the major church-state concern in the entire package, according to spokesmen for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a First Amendment watchdog group of eight Baptist denominations, including the Southern Baptist Convention.

A spokesman said if the package had stripped exemption from church pension and welfare boards, it would have marked the first time the Congress would have decided which activities or ministries of a church body are subject to federal taxation.

Darold Morgan, president of the Annuity Board, the SBC agency which administers retirement and insurance programs for Southern Baptists, testified on the impact of tax revision proposals on ministers, churches, denominations and their agencies. Morgan testified as chairman of the Church Alliance, a coalition of pension officers of 28 mainline denominations.

The compromise bill would end deductions for charitable contributions for taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions, ending a three-year experiment during which such non-

itemizers were permitted to deduct portions of their contributions to charities. If the compromise bill is adopted, the benefit will end Dec. 31, 1986.

The compromise also revokes Revenue Ruling 83-3, an Internal Revenue Service ruling which was adopted Jan. 3, 1983, and froze the ability of ministers receiving housing allowances to take deductions on mortgage interest and real estate taxes if they own their own homes.

The proposed revocation of the IRS ruling, if made law, will mean ministers receiving housing allowances who failed to claim deductions for interest and real estate taxes paid in 1983, 84 and 85, will be eligible to file amended tax returns and receive a refund.

According to Gary S. Nash, general counsel of the Annuity Board and secretary of the Church Alliance, the tax bill contains several other provisions that would affect church and denominational workers.

Included are non-discrimination rules that would require employers to equalize benefits for employees at all compensation levels, set more restrictive limits on amounts that can be credited to an employee's retirement program, and revise the system under which ministers and churches can participate in the Social Security system.

Nash said the "anti-discrimination rules are designed to get employers to provide more benefits to lower-paid employees. If an employer pays the cost of medical insurance benefits for a higher-paid employee's wife, but does not do the same for lower-paid em-

ployes, the plan can be considered discriminatory. Then, the higher-paid employee's benefit—the amount of the spouse's medical insurance premium—would be subject to taxation.

He added that if, however, the employer provides the benefit for the lower-paid employee as well as the higher-paid, neither group would be taxed for the benefit.

Certain church retirement plans will be exempt from some of the non-discriminatory rules, Nash said, but other church-paid benefit plans, such as medical and life insurance, will be subject if the reforms become law. For denominational agencies and institutions, the rules will apply to retirement plans as well as other benefits.

Under the tax reform proposal, 403 (b) retirement income accounts, such as those administered by the Annuity Board, will be subject to more restrictive "catch up" rules. In "catching-up," a plan member puts more personal money into his 403 (b) account in order to make up for the years in which he put in little or nothing.

The proposed provision will allow the employee to defer taxes as an elective contribution up to a maximum of \$9500 per year. Such contributions are deducted from salary and are not subject to taxes until withdrawal. The \$9500 maximum does not include the amount an employer contributes on behalf of an employee, Nash said, adding current law allows for a much higher individual contribution.

Also, according to Nash, the proposal calls for penalty taxes, with certain exceptions, on early with-

drawals from pension plans, including those administered by the Annuity Board.(BP)



Pattillo

Pattillo accepts Samford post

Wesley M. (Pat) Pattillo, vice president for development at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, has been named vice president for university relations at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.

He will direct the public relations, alumni and development offices of the Baptist-related university, which has an enrolment of 4000 students in eight schools including law, education, business, nursing, music and pharmacy. It is the largest privately supported university in the state.

Pattillo has been a member of the Southern Seminary staff 21 years. He was named vice president for development in 1972 and executive director of Southern Seminary Foundation in 1977. His work has been recognized by numerous awards, including the U. S. Steel Award for sustained performance in financial development.

He is a journalism graduate of the University of Georgia and Ohio State University, and attended both Samford and Southern Seminary.

The new Samford official, 45, is a former national president of the Baptist Public Relations Association and has been regional chapter president of the Public Relations Society of America. He is current chairman of professional education for the Religious Public Relations Council, an interfaith organization headquartered in Philadelphia. He is also chairman of the task force on promotion and development for the Baptist World Alliance, Washington, D. C.

In Louisville, Pattillo is vice chairman of the regional ACTS television board and is a member of the order of business committee of Long Run Baptist Association. In 1984-85 he was appointed by the area Chamber of Commerce to the Leadership Louisville program.

His wife Zelma is chaplain of the Masonic Home of Kentucky. She will remain in Louisville until next spring while their daughter Laura completes her senior year at Atherton High School. Their son, Stephen, is a freshman at Atherton.

National CP holds steady, thanks to state conventions

Contributions to the Cooperative Program budget continue to outpace inflation, thanks to support from state Baptist conventions.

July receipts for the Southern Baptist Convention's national unified budget totalled \$9,272,097, an increase of 6.18 percent over the same period last year, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee.

"Our increase has to be attributed to state conventions," Bennett said. "Churches are not increasing their gifts to the state conventions in the proportion those conventions are forwarding increases to the national Cooperative Program."

Bennett praised the work of state leaders, particularly executive directors and stewardship promotion directors, who are leading their conventions to grow in national giving. This comes at a time when several state conventions—whose economies are tied to agribusiness and the petrochemical industry—are feeling financial pressure close to home.

"The leadership is doing a great deal of work outside the spotlight, but it is paying off," he said. For the first 10 months of the current fiscal year, Southern Baptists have contributed more than \$103.6 million to the national Cooperative Program, an increase of 6.97 percent over the same

period last year. The national goal for the year is \$130 million.

Bennett expressed "concern and optimism" about the long-term health of the Cooperative Program.

"I am concerned that Southern Baptists will remain committed to world missions through the Cooperative Program. If they do not, we will face a decline," he said.

But Planned Growth in Giving—the convention's new 15-year campaign to promote systematic increases in giving on the part of Southern Baptists to their churches and on the part of churches to the Cooperative Program—has provided Bennett with a source for optimism.

Planned Growth in Giving should lead to stewardship growth in established churches, providing funds which will help those congregations establish new churches "wherever needed in the United States," he said, adding the new churches then will contribute to increased mission work.

A national Planned Growth in Giving seminar will be held in Nashville Sept. 24-25. "The seminar is primarily designed for denominational leadership and will serve as a follow-up to the 1985 national seminars and the first year of church experiences with Planned Growth in Giving," said Cecil A. Ray, national director of the campaign. (BP)

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sanford's perspectives

Eliza Broadus offering helps many



Jack D. Sanford

The Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union will lead the drive to reach \$500,000 for state missions through the Eliza Broadus offering during the week of prayer, Sept. 7-14, 1986.

That \$500,000 goal will provide funds for church building grants, disaster relief, college student retreats, special ministries to retarded, deaf and others, language missions, missionary kids' retreats, ethnic women's work, Cedar and Jonathan Creek, Oneida, Clear Creek and many other ministries supported by Kentucky Baptists.

The study materials for the week of prayer take one on an imaginary journey through Kentucky to visit some of the mission points which depend upon the Eliza Broadus offering for continued existence. It is not a complete tour but it is revealing nevertheless.

The journey begins at Luther Lockett Correctional Complex at LaGrange. This state institution for adult male felons has 650 inmates whose spiritual needs are met by the only state-employed chaplain on record, Darryl Tiller. He is assisted by student interns and all of them are dependent upon the offering we will take this September for state missions.

The next stop on the missionary trail across Kentucky is at Marrowbone Baptist Center at Lookout. Here Greg and Alice Whitetree carry on the most difficult missionary task imaginable. They minister to many families through food assistance, counseling, clothing distribution and personal witnessing. The closest recreational facilities are 30-45 minutes away, so the demands on the Marrowbone Center are constant and overwhelming. The Eliza Broadus offering guarantees Kentucky Baptists will have a continuing voice of hope and redemption in this mountain region.

Along the journey through our state is a stop made at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Middletown. Here we are introduced to Bill Jagers, associate in the Direct Missions Department of the KBC. Jagers talks about "Mission Kentucky," a plan to evangelize the state, establish new preaching points and churches, increase

mission awareness among Kentucky Baptists, develop believers in prayer, discipleship and stewardship and call out the called. It is an ambitious plan which can succeed if Kentucky Baptists are faithful in giving through the Cooperative Program and the Eliza Broadus offering.

Next stop along the way is at Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly at Hardin. This beautiful campground on Kentucky Lake has facilities in a dormitory for 120 people plus a motel which can accommodate 130 people. In addition there are rustic cabins, a central dining room, recreation room, a prayer garden and open tabernacle and administrative space for George Gray and his staff. This marvelous meeting place will receive \$12,000 from WMU if the Eliza Broadus offering goal is reached. This money will help Jonathan Creek continue conferences, retreats and Bible study work so essential for growth in our Baptist family.

The final stop in the imaginary journey across Kentucky, and the most rewarding to missionary kids, is cleftRock at Mt. Vernon. This is a retreat center for MKs which has been in operation since 1974. Each year Bob and Eddie Fields open their hearts and arms to nurture and love children of missionaries who need some "family care" while they are separated from their parents. The cleft-Rock retreat ministry is funded by the Eliza Broadus offering and is a must for strong support.

Of course this missionary journey has not touched all the bases, but it is enough to give all of us an idea of the vast scope of work for Christ being done in our state. It is essential we support this work with generous offerings above our tithes since so many people are dependent upon this offering each year.

Mark the date—Sept. 7-14—and make the journey to each of the exciting places Kentucky Baptists bear witness to Christ. Then write a generous check to continue and expand this ministry of love and redemption.

Who is in touch with grassroots Baptists?

We have heard a lot about "grassroots Baptists" in recent days, but who is in touch with these elusive people?

Certainly the denominational executive is hardly in touch since most of his/her time is spent in program planning, personnel supervision and money management. He knows Baptists but is hardly an expert on "grassroots Baptists."

The state editors, though many of them come from pastoral backgrounds, are hardly in touch with grassroots Baptists in any meaningful sense. Our time is spent in gathering, organizing and disseminating news from a broad spectrum of Baptist life which gives us wide acquaintance with Baptists, but hardly superior knowledge.

Pastors may be in touch with "grassroots Baptists," but here again the average pastor is concerned with his congregation, his community, his programs. His church and community

may not be typical of all Baptist groups so his knowledge of "grassroots Baptists" is limited.

The one person in Baptist life who is most likely to be in touch with "grassroots Baptists" is the director of missions. He is the one person who has continual contact with pastors from a wide geographical area and churches of every description. If anyone knows Baptists it should be the director of missions.

We salute these men who often serve in difficult places with little recognition and often small compensation. They are the true connoisseurs of what is grassrootism. When the director of missions says this is what Baptists are and this is what Baptists want, he may know more than any of the rest of us.

Perhaps it is time we listened to these servants of God for they may have some answers we have been seeking for a long time.

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

homes for children

Harvest time

Although I have been gone from the farm for many years, a lot of farm things remain in my blood. I know what farm work is like: plowing, planting, cultivating and harvesting as well as feeding the stock, milking the cows and cleaning out the stalls. The farm people work hard and walk by faith that the seasons will be good and the harvest plentiful.

September in Kentucky is thought of as the special harvest month. Crop growth is about over, the maturing process has set in and farmers are beginning to assess what the harvest will be. Some southeastern parts of our country have been devastated by drought this year. These farm people are suffering great losses. However, it has been refreshing to see how farm people in Kentucky and other states have responded by giving hay to feed the stock in the drought stricken areas.

Even in Kentucky, some parts have experienced drought and crops have been hurt. However, for the most part Kentucky is experiencing a good crop year. As we enter into the harvest month of September, let us remember to thank God for all of the good harvest and abundance of food we are able to produce in this great land of ours.

September reminds us of another very important kind of harvest. This month is the time Kentucky Baptists participate in the annual "food roundup" for Baptist Homes for Children. This wonderful project is planned and promoted by our Women's Advisory Board. These women are ably assisted by the many child care representatives in the associations and churches across Kentucky.

The "food roundup" offers the opportunity for thousands of our friends, both adults and children, to purchase some staple food items to help feed the children in our care. These items are delivered to their churches and then transported to designated pick-up points. Baptist Homes for Children secures a truck and gets the food at these pickup places. Last year the "food roundup" saved us from having to buy over \$20,000 worth of food and also provided \$7800 in cash with which to buy food.

Let's do it again and make this September harvest month for children in our care.

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Leon Simpson
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clear creek comment

Evangelism, not cynicism

At Clear Creek we believe in keeping the basic message of salvation simple. All of our professors have had a genuine and memorable experience of grace. Every prospective student demonstrates he has been born again through faith in Christ.

While our students train at Clear Creek this experience is kept fresh by sharing it with any and everybody they encounter. Evangelism is not just a course taught here. It is an everyday experience at Clear Creek. We share a daily witness concerning Christ and his love and each year our students win hundreds of people to faith in the Lord.

We live in a very cynical age. Skepticism reigns in America in 1986. Prayer is reduced to mere auto-suggestion by many and faith is wishful thinking. The miracles of the Bible are doubted but much faith is placed in the 'miracles' of modern science. Salvation is presented by these modern unbelievers as an emotional experience based on neurotic needs or improperly digested food.

Many of us are tempted to argue or develop apologetics in light of these attacks on our faith. However, our Lord said, "You shall be my witnesses." The best response to modern unbelief is to preach the simple message of salvation. We should share our personal experiences at every opportunity and let the Holy Spirit do his work.

Keith Miller shares an interesting experience in **Habitation of Dragons**. A man was visiting a cancer patient in the hospital and afraid to witness to him. Finally, as he left he stammered out, "Well, I hope the Lord gives you peace about this situation."

Immediately, the man's face lit up with a smile. "All my life I've heard about Christ," he said. "But yesterday I prayed in desperation that God would do something for me. You know what happened: I felt that I saw Jesus standing here. People were reaching inside their coats, taking out their hearts and handing them to Jesus. And, do you know, I gave him my heart too."

The answer to skepticism is faith. We will never be able to outwit, out-argue or outmaneuver those who are lost. But we can share with them what has happened to us since we trusted Christ. The world needs evangelism, not cynicism.



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baptist news in brief

Pastoral leadership key to longer tenure

Longer tenure among Southern Baptist pastors may be due more to Dwayne Conner, pastoral ministries consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

A new study in pastoral tenure released by the Church Administration Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board showed the average tenure for pastors in Southern Baptist churches is now 4.6 years, up from the 2.7 years in a previous study.

Conner, in a conference at Glorieta, (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center on keys to longer pastorates, said the longer tenure revealed in the new study likely does not reflect any significant improvement in ministry skills.

"There is evidence that the increase is due to economics," Conner explained. "More pastors own their own homes; it is harder to sell homes between moves, and congregations face financial limitations on the amount of money they can spend to relocate ministers."

Conflict and the failure to deal with problems are two of the primary causes of short tenure, Conner explained. Instead of dealing with conflict, many pastors find it is easier to move every three or four years and repeat the same material over and over.

"There must be a shared vision of

the potential of the church through a leadership style which draws people into the dream and goals of the church," he said. "Churches and pastors must learn to deal with conflict and not be torn apart. They must learn to win together and believe that both pastor and members have the best interests of the church at heart. (BP)

Preschool workshops on September calendar

Kentucky Baptists will sponsor eight Preschool Leadership Workshops in September: First Baptist Church, Somerset and Gardenside Church, Lexington, Sept. 15; Erlanger Church, Erlanger and First Church, Pikeville, Sept. 16; First Church, Shepherdsville and Forest Park Church, Shepherdsville, Sept. 22; First Church, Mayfield and First Church, Madisonville, Sept. 23.

Using the theme, "Growing Preschoolers in Sunday School, Church Training and church music," the workshops provide practical information for all preschool ministry.

After a general session at 7 p.m. dealing with foundations of preschool

work, each leader will choose one of three specific conferences concerning Sunday school, Church Training or church music. Preschool specialists from the Baptist Sunday School Board and state approved workers in the Kentucky Baptist Convention will teach the session.

The Sunday School, Church Training and Church Music departments of the Kentucky Baptist Convention have joined together in sponsoring this series of workshops. For more information, contact Chip Miller, general coordinator of the workshops and director of the Sunday School Department, Middletown.

BSU seminar provides training for students

Kentucky college students will participate in a Baptist Student Union Share Seminar Sept. 5-6 at Central Baptist Church, Winchester. The seminar for all students in eastern Kentucky will train young people in one-on-one witnessing.

Leaders of the sessions will use the Share Seminar booklet written by Milt Hughes, consultant in Bible study/discipleship, National Student

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Homes for Children food shower set for September

The sixth annual September Food Shower sponsored by the Women's Advisory Board of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is now underway. This popular project collects thousands of dollars in food items each year for youth in our care.

Friends of this ministry are encouraged to donate food during this time of special emphasis. In some instances the food staples will be taken to their churches and then delivered to regional pick-up points. In other cases the collected items will be transported directly to regional sites. From these places the food will be distributed to Baptist Children's Homes at Spring Meadows and Glen Dale, and the temporary shelters in Elizabethtown and Dixon.

Canned goods and other staples are suggested foods to be donated. The agency also encourages farmers to donate pork or beef that has been "USDA Inspected". Home-canned products cannot be accepted because of government regulations. All food should be packed in boxes with tops in case stacking is necessary.

"The Food Shower means more to our agency than words can express," said Eldred M. Taylor, executive director. "First, it makes people all over the state conscious of the fact that we exist and have needs. This is because the Women's Advisory Board and all of our Child Care Representatives promote it.

"Second, it's a tremendous boost for us because the Food Shower gives people a chance to do something personally for the homes. They select the food, take it to the church and some even transport the foodstuffs to regional pick-up sites. They have done something with their own hands to help us.

"Third, it's a boost to us because the Food Shower has amounted to approximately \$20,000 in value in each of the last few years. This enables the homes to stay within their food budgets and avoid large increases in expenditures," Taylor added.

Children in the Baptist Homes also have need for personal supplies such as soap, toothpaste, tooth brushes, deodorant, powder, shampoo, and lotions. These items can be delivered to the pick-up points along with the food for distribution. (Remember that the average age of Spring Meadows, Glen Dale and temporary shelter residents is fourteen or fifteen).

For the location of a regional pick-up point in your area, see the list below or call the development office in Middletown. Tom Moore, director of development/communications, will be happy to answer any questions regarding the September Food Shower. Telephone 245-2101 or toll-free 1-800-292-9440.

Financial contributions should be directed to the attention of Rev. Tom Moore, Baptist Homes for Children, 10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, Kentucky 40243.



pick-up points

Southwestern Region:
West Union Associational Office, Paducah
First Baptist Church, Mayfield
Caldwell-Lyon Associational Office, Princeton
Christian County Association Office, Hopkinsville
First Baptist Church, Murray

Central Region:
Glen Dale Children's Home, Glendale
Spring Meadows Children's Home, Middletown

Southeastern Region:
First Baptist Church, Corbin
First Baptist Church, Hazard
Barbourville Baptist Church, Barbourville

North Central Region:
Erlanger Baptist Church, Erlanger
Central Baptist Church, Lexington

Northeastern Region:
Unity Baptist Church, Ashland
First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg
First Baptist Church, Pikeville
Campton Baptist Church, Campton

Western Region:
Green Valley Associational Office, Henderson
Little Bethel Associational Office, Madisonville
Daviss-McLean Associational Office, Owensboro
Ohio County Associational Office, Hartford
Blackford Associational Office, Hawesville
Ohio Valley Associational Office, Sturgis

Southern Region:
Bethel-Logan Associational Office, Russellville
Warren Associational Office, Bowling Green

South Central Region:
First Baptist Church, Somerset
First Baptist Church, Danville
Greensburg Baptist Church, Greensburg

Ministries, Southern Baptist Convention.

Emphasizing Christian growth and witness, the seminar has three basic training objectives: to develop a disciplined Christian lifestyle, to improve relationships and to learn to communicate the gospel effectively.

The Student Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, sponsors two BSU Share Seminars each year, one for eastern and one for western Kentucky. For more information, contact Don Blaylock, director of the Student Department, Middletown. (KBC)

Evangelist Vance Havner dies in North Carolina

Vance H. Havner, 84, longtime Southern Baptist evangelist, author and Bible conference speaker, died Aug. 12 in Greensboro, N. C.

Havner's ministry, which began during his adolescent years as pastor and writer spanned seven decades. His

pastorates included First Baptist Church, Charlestown, S. C. Later he became a full time evangelist and conference speaker whose services were sought throughout the United States. For 10 years he wrote a weekly column for the Charlotte (N. C.) Observer entitled "Havner's Reflections." He wrote 38 books, most of which are still in circulation.

Robertson, Bell head BSSB departments

Directors of the Music Publishing and Property Management departments of the Baptist Sunday School Board were elected by trustees during their semi-annual meeting in Nashville.

Fetus G. Robertson, an employe of the board since 1967, was elected to head the newly created Music Publishing Department which will begin operation Oct. 1. Richard Bell, who has owned a construction and de-

velopment company in Houston will direct the Property Management Department which oversees maintenance and construction projects in Nashville and at the 63 Baptist Book Stores and two conference centers.

Robertson, 52, has been supervisor of the youth/adult/general materials development section of the Church Music Department since 1980.

Bell, 47, has owned the Sabel Company since 1984.



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

Sunday at Parklands

Parklands Baptist Church is, I suspect, very much like yours and mine.

It's large and airy, seats 450 or more in attractive and comfortable surroundings, and provides for another 250 youngsters at the same time in an outdoor children's church.

Jalousie windows offer a backdrop for the platform area. A microphone stands at the podium. To the speaker's right sits a piano and a robed choir of perhaps two dozen trained voices. The 1956 edition of Baptist Hymnal is used for congregational singing.

The audience includes both white and black members.

An offering is taken, there are prayers and testimonies and the pastor preaches a 25-minute message. The worship service, which begins at 11 a.m., dismisses at 12:10.

Sound like home?

It's not even close.

Parklands Baptist Church is located in suburban Nairobi, Kenya.

I attended it on a visit to east Africa earlier this year. I had heard about Parklands when I was in Kenya in 1984 but did not get to attend then.

Because our Kentucky Baptist hosts James and Wilma Whaley are now members of Parklands, I was able to visit it while staying with them over a weekend. The good things I had heard about Parklands, I found, are all true.

Fifteen men participated in the Bible class I attended that morning, eight of whom claimed America as their birthplace. The tall black man who taught the class was well educated and spoke excellent English. He covered the Bible material, challenged our minds with questions and opened the floor for discussion. I reminded myself I was in Sunday school in Nairobi, not Louisville.

The worship service that followed was meaningful. Conducted altogether in English, it spoke to my heart and lifted my burdens.

I believe Parklands is the only church among dozens I toured across Kenya in which I saw a piano and a robed choir, and where we were dismissed in less than two hours (or longer). The average Kenyan congregation meets not in a modern facility like Parklands but in mud huts with dirt floors, using crude homemade musical instruments. After several Sundays of this purely African experience, it was particularly meaningful to attend church at Parklands.

Our African friends worship the same God we do but with their own customs and traditions. As western ways gradually creep into the African experience, perhaps those of us who worship a little differently may have even more to celebrate with these deeply committed Christians.

DO YOU KNOW this man?



Send his name to:
KBC Sunday School Department
Box 43433
Middletown, Kentucky 40243

What does your church provide for a servant that retires?



Faithful for many years, the old church bus was finally put out to pasture—literally! Joe's wrecking yard came and hauled her off and now she sits in an isolated rural lot with dozens of other rusting derelicts.

Without realizing it, many churches put retiring staff members in the same category as a worn out bus: considering their retirement needs as being no more than a quiet spot to sit and rust away.

The new expanded church annuity plan helps draw a realistic distinction between church things and church people. Congregations that adopt the plan for their pastors and ministerial staffs not only dignify the end of a useful career but the duration, as well. They can tend the needs of others knowing their congregation has taken care of their needs.

For more information about taking care of your church servants,

contact: Don Spencer
Annuity Department
Kentucky Baptist Convention
P. O. Box 43433
Middletown, KY 40243-0433
Phone: (502) 245-4101

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Chicago, Ill.—A free offer of special interest to those who hear but do not understand words has been announced by Beltone. A non-operating model of the smallest Beltone aid of its kind will be given absolutely free to anyone who sends for this free model now.

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Offer not valid in California.



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

"I cried out"

We have 512 girls and boys enrolled. Most of them live in our dorms. We have them 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Each one is special. God made each for a purpose. Jesus died for each. We are blessed to have the challenge and opportunity of working with each one.

Each has a distinct personality, each a bundle of potential. Over 100 are under 13 years of age. One lost his mother recently. She was 38. Another raised by great-grandparents lost both by death in a ten day period this past summer.

It is exciting to become acquainted with the many new ones, and to continue working with those we have had a year or five years.

Every day has its own measure of joy and sorrow, success and disappointment.

In the two week "break" after summer school before the new school year began, 25 of our students stayed here to work, helping in the gardens, mowing grass, painting or whatever. One of them was a young man who reads, writes and speaks fluently German, English and Persian and reads French. He fled his homeland several years ago because of revolution. Eventually he found his way here. He is outstanding academically.

Cumberland College has granted him a full scholarship. He left at 6:30 a.m. for college. He bid me "goodby" last night. Today I found a letter he left for

us. It reads in part:

"I don't know if I will ever find a way to compensate all the things done for me here, but allow me to thank you from me and my family.

"In these 11 months I experienced a lot of things at OBI. I learned a lot. I learned not to help people for future expectations or for showoff, but in order to please God and feel closer to him. The purpose of everything should be God.

"I would have expected what has been done for me only from my parents."

Then he wrote a prayer: "Oh, God! I thank you for showing me your chosen people, and letting me benefit, both spiritually and educationally, and gaining a new world'sight. Amen."

"I will be praying for you and your family. Please pray for us too. Good-bye!"

This note came to me near the close of the summer session: "Thanks so much for the wonderful time we had while on the school grounds the past weekend. The cooks have to be commended on such a wonderful meal that was served to us on Aug. 3rd. We've never had a finer meal. Our daughter has only been there a month but I feel this year is going to be the best yet."

One of our students who made remarkable progress last year and received an award by vote of the faculty for "outstanding progress" wrote before the start of school: "I have had a great summer. The best part was knowing I am coming back to Oneida. Thank you for everything Oneida has given to me especially a new start that put me on the right track. 'In the day when I cried out, you answered me, and made me bold with strength in my soul.' (Ps 138)"

We always miss those who go on to graduate elsewhere. Our admissions secretary recently received this letter: "I send my thanks to you, your husband, and all who had a part in guiding and caring for my son. I believe your school system has been good for Alan and am so glad to know he will be welcomed back should the need arise. He wants so much to try my hometown school. He wants this for many reasons, and I feel he should have the opportunity to show what he can do. I know your prayers and good wishes go with him. I will be in touch."

And this came from an Illinois mother: "Dan will not be coming back. He feels the past two years at Oneida have prepared him for a public school. I pray we are doing the right thing. I appreciate all the staff at Oneida did for Dan. You will never be forgotten!"



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

sunday school lessons

LESSON FOR SEPT. 7, 1986

Life and Work Series

Learning to pray

Matt. 6:5-6 Christ taught Christians three things which are necessary in learning to pray effectively:

The Pharisees made it convenient to be located in the most conspicuous places to put on a prayer "show" for the benefit of onlookers. Christ taught to engage in prayer merely to attract the attention of others and make an impression upon them is positively wrong. He emphasized real prayer is directed to God instead of to the people nearby. **Matt. 6:7-8** It is our Lord's will and desire that Christians shall retire to a secret place, and there pour out their hearts to God. He wants them to be conscious of their needs, to have a desire that their needs shall be supplied, and to ask him to do for them what they are unable to do for themselves.

Matt. 6:9-15 Christ gave his disciples a model to guide them in their praying. This model prayer falls into two parts—the first having to do with God and his kingdom, and the second having to do with ourselves and our needs.

We should pray to God in the spirit of filial trust and childlike confidence. "Our Father which art in heaven" should govern every relationship of our

lives. The petition, "hallowed be thy name," implies that we should approach God, with a spirit of reverence, humility and godly fear. We hallow God's name by obeying him and ascribing the honor of all we do to him.

"Thy kingdom come" implies the Holy Spirit is to have undisputed sway in our lives. "Thy will be done" involves a submission of everything to the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Start the list of personal petitions with a prayer for "daily bread." All of us are dependent upon him for everything. We should request his mercy and forgiveness of our daily sins. "Lead us not into temptation" is a prayer for protection in the future. God's forgiveness of us is contingent upon our forgiveness of others who have sinned against us.

International Series

The prologue

Gen. 1:1 The word "create" means "to bring into being without the use of preexisting material," which is something that God alone can do. To "make" is "to form something out of materials already existing," and that man can do.

Gen. 1:26-31 The three persons of the Trinity consulted, agreed and decided to create man. The creation of man was the result of God's sovereign decision (verse 26) and by God's direct and immediate act (verse 27). God made man in his own image, meaning a likeness of personality. Just as God knows, feels and wills, so man, made in his image, knows, feels and wills.

Having created man, God gave him instructions concerning how life was to be sustained (verses 28-30). Man was to exercise dominion over all God made. God rightly expected man to reach the highest level of spiritual maturity, moral excellence, and devoted service.

When God surveyed all he had made in those first six days, he saw his works were complete, exceedingly good and very excellent. Inasmuch as God supplies all of our needs, we should be faithful stewards of all he has committed into our hands and render a service that will be acceptable to him.

Gen. 2:1-3 After God had finished his creation, he rested from his work on the seventh day. His resting was because he had completed the work and he wanted to set apart the day as a special one. God wanted his people to set aside the seventh day as a day of rest for themselves, their servants and their animals and let it be a day on which they would worship and praise him.



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

on mission together

A good thing happening

Kentucky Baptist churches appear to be catching on to an excitement generated by the new Church Annuity Plan.

Regional conference attendance in the six locations (Paducah, Owensboro, Louisville, Ft. Mitchell, Winchester and London) exceeded expectations.

Attending were 487 persons (including 220 pastors and 160 laypersons), from 266 churches and 57 (of our 79) associations. Some early conclusions are:

*A large number of churches have indicated their churches will be acting on this in fall business meetings.

*Many will adopt the plan begin-

ning in 1987, even before state convention matching funds begin in 1988.

*Sixteen associations have scheduled similar conferences on the new Annuity Plan this fall.

On Aug. 25 I received the following letter from one of Kentucky's SBC Annuity Board trustees, Harold Stephens, of First Baptist Church, Ft. Thomas:

"A few days ago I attended a conference in Ft. Mitchell at which Don Spencer, Guy Futral and representatives from the Annuity Board discussed the expanded Church Annuity Plan and related matters. I thought, and several others present expressed similarly, that all of those presenting material did an excellent job.

"It was quite obvious they had 'done their homework' thoroughly and well, and their explanations were appealing and appropriate. The entire program, and those who presented it, reflected well on and enhanced the images of the Kentucky Baptist Con-

vention and the Annuity Board and the services they perform.

"As a Kentucky Baptist and trustee of the Annuity Board I was very pleased to be present at this meeting where such significant matters were presented in such an appealing way. Your people are deserving of high commendation, and perhaps you're the most appropriate person to extend it to them.

"It's a genuine pleasure to know that we have such capable people looking out for the interests of so many who have given their lives in Christian service."

Letters like this, of course, "make my day." It is but another reminder of some good things happening.

It is also a reminder Kentucky Baptist churches are beginning to recognize the need to support their ministry staff in a way that will make retirement a time of reasonable security and not a dark phase of life to fear.

Glorieta

CHURCH RECREATION WEEK

Adventure recreation draws people together spiritually

by Jim Veneman

The risk of adventure can draw people together in a unique experience of spiritual growth.

That is the concept behind adventure recreation, the subject of a five-day experimental conference led by Jerry O'Keefe, athletic director and coach at River Oaks Baptist School, Houston, Tex., during church recreation week at Glorieta, N. M.

"Adventure binds people together like nothing else can. Involve your church members in the possibility of peril, danger and risk, and they will come back a closer group than ever before," said O'Keefe.

Participants in the conference learned about adventure recreation through activities such as cycling, backpacking, day and overnight hiking, rock climbing, rappelling, fishing and cooking in the outdoors.

"Adventure recreation takes people a giant step forward in better relationships," said O'Keefe. "Through these experiences people learn well the principles involved in appreciation, cooperation, trust and how to work

together toward a common goal. Trust is the most difficult, yet the most important."

John Lilly, University Baptist Church, Clear Lake, Tex., said he had at first been concerned about whether he could succeed in the conference.

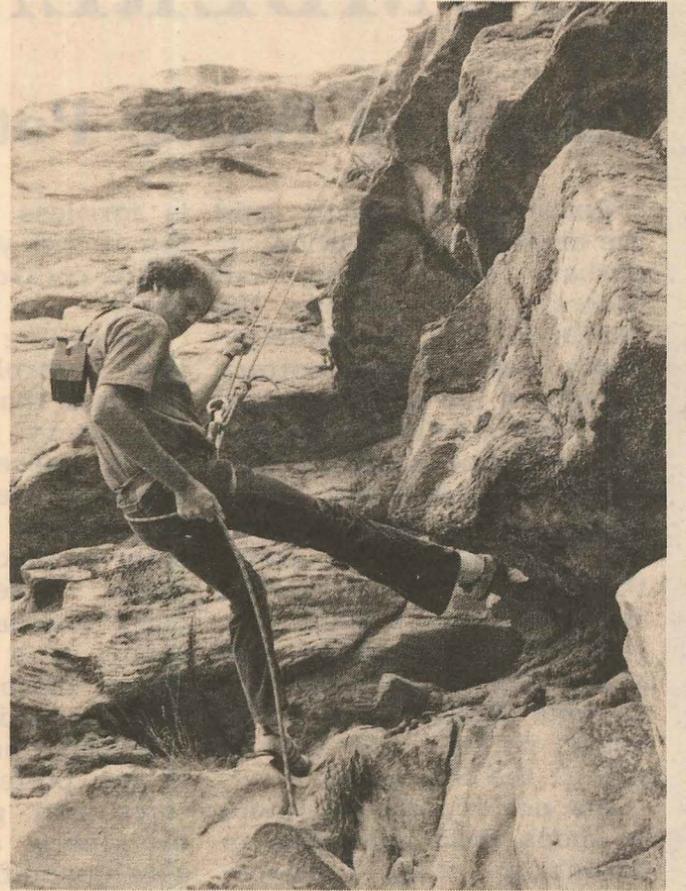
"But once I was in the class I discovered it put people in a supportive role instead of the traditional win-lose situation. By working together, it's amazing what you can accomplish."

Karol Peters, who was part of a group of 43 persons from University Church attending recreation week, said adventure recreation can be a good way to involve prospects as well as members in church activities.

At the conclusion of the week, Charles Shiver, also of University Church, said, "It was an incredible moment when we were each told to just back off of that cliff (during the rappelling activity). It took trust, faith, plus a lot of new skills. Adventure like that can change your life."

Church recreation week is sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board Church Recreation Department.

Sammy Little of Missouri City, Tex., carefully selects his path during his first attempt at rappelling during the adventure recreation conference during Church Recreation Week in Glorieta, N. M., sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board.



Spirit team activities provide more involvement, friendships

by Jim Veneman

At first, Eddie Sandifer had some doubts about being separated from his friends and put on a spirit team for activities during Church Recreation Week.

"Now I'm glad that's the way it was. I've made some really good friends here," said Sandifer, Calvary Baptist Church, Homer, La.

Youth spirit teams for Church Recreation Week work together in Bible study and prayer groups, as well as sports and recreation.

"Spirit teams provide youth with the growing experience of meeting new people," said Jim Blakeney, program coordinator, Church Recreation Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board. "It's easy to just spend time with your own friends, but your circle of relationships never grows."

Though the spirit teams do compete with each other, Blakeney said the concept is different. "The games here are designed for team effort. Each team member is encouraged and supported by his teammates. They're all challenged to become involved," he said.

Laura Byrd, minister of recreation, Highland Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., brought a group from her church to Church Recreation Week and served as a spirit team leader.

"As I watched my team play volleyball, I saw the spirit team concept working. No matter how the points fell, they all got pats on the back for doing their best. They really learned to care for other people."

Kyle Bellue from University Baptist Church, Houston, Tex. said, "I thought spirit teams would be like any other team, but they're not. We're more like a family."

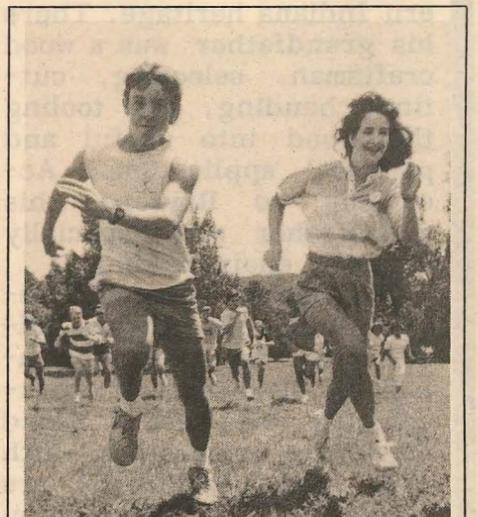
The importance of involvement is something very real to Bellue, since he has only been a member of University Church for six months.

"When you get involved, you really get to know the people around you," he said. "You learn what they like and don't like, what they're feeling and what their needs are. But they also get to know you. You gain their support."

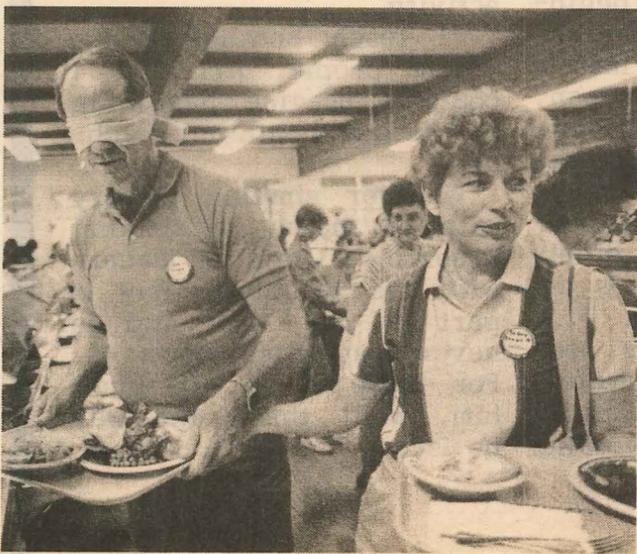
As I watched my team play volleyball, I say the spirit team concept working. No matter how the points fell, they all got pats on the back....

Blakeney believes the adults who accompanied youth to Church Recreation Week also have a learning experience.

"They were shown in dramatic ways that going home and teaching a Sunday school class isn't enough. You've got to be willing to become involved before relationships develop," he said.



Involvement and building relationships were at the heart of youth Spirit Team activities during a fast-paced game of "Giants, Elves and Wizards."



ABOVE: Jerry O'Keefe, athletic director and coach in Houston, Tex. instructs campers in preparing an overnight backpacking trip.

LEFT: As an exercise in trust, members of the adventure recreation conference were blindfolded.

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE

Rayford Watts: Potter, Teacher, Craftsman

Perhaps the family and the craftsmen's tradition, or perhaps the curiosity and diversity, or perhaps the challenge and the individuality of each piece of pottery turned on his potter's wheel send Rayford Watts, chairman of the Cumberland College English Department, back time and time again to create the masterful crafts that flow from his Indian Mountain pottery shop.

All of these combine with a basic urge for creativity to make Rayford one of the finest potters and craftsmen in the Southeast.

His pottery can be found in shops from Lexington to Gatlinburg, from Connecticut to Minnesota; and in the foreign countries of France, England, Holland, Germany, Denmark, Sri Lanka, Canada, and Australia.

Dr. Jim Taylor, Cumberland's president, praises him, "Mr. Watts works are outstanding crafts. His patience and skill make each piece of pottery he turns out a fine and distinctive work. You can see the specialty of each one."

Rayford's pottery is considered special enough that his works are occasionally presented to special friends of Cumberland College. Additionally, he has been commissioned by the college to piece in honor and recognition of Cumberland College's Centennial Celebration in 1988-89.

Rayford's roots are well-grounded in his Southeastern Indiana heritage. There his grandfather was a wood craftsman, selecting, cutting, bending, and tooling the wood into useful and practical applications. According to Rayford, his grandfather was especially adept at chair making.

But Rayford wanted something different. In his quiet, calm, unassuming manner, he elaborates, "I worked with wood but I found clay more interesting. With clay, the possibilities are more, well, primitive. You start with something that

is formless and, by shaping it with your hands, your hands control the final product."

According to Rayford, this control accounts for the fact that no two pieces of pottery are ever alike. "Each piece has its own character and you could never make all that is possible to make. Every time I work, I learn something new, whether it's making a spout or a lip on a pot. These discoveries take me on to new and better works."

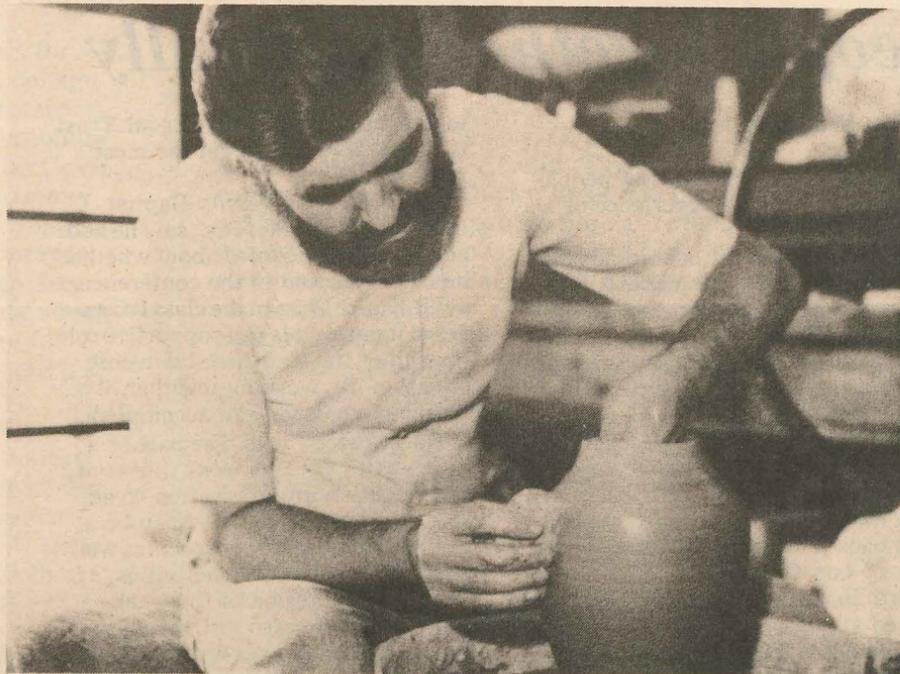
Rayford enjoys all phases of his pottery: mixing the clays and glazes, turning the piece on his wheel, glazing and firing the piece, cleaning his shop, and starting over.

"Sometimes your best efforts are not rewarded," explained Rayford. "For example, you can't predict or completely control the firing. A pot that felt good on the wheel may not turn out as well as you expected, and what you thought was your poorest pot will turn out as your best one."

By his own admission, Rayford, who is practical and utilitarian, likes to produce such items as pots, vases, candle holders, honey pots, and other useful items.

On the other hand, his wife June and daughter Julie provide ideas and create items that are more fanciful in nature. June is an avid fan of children's literature and gets many ideas from that median. Also a keen observer of the life around her, June gets ideas from household pets and animals and from nature. Daughter Julie, a senior in high school, is well-read and well-versed in many topics and provides many ideas as well as hand-built pottery items.

Rayford's crafts, and those of June and Julie, are proudly displayed in their own shop, Indian Mountain Pottery, beside their custom remodeled home in Jellico, Tennessee. Located on a quiet hill over-



looking historic Indian Mountain, the shop was hand-built by the Watts family and designed to fit their own needs and specifications. The building was made from materials collected from old buildings in Jellico and contains parts of eleven different buildings. In its own unique way, the shop is a monument to the history of the town of Jellico.

Just as they built their own building, so did Ray, June, and Julie teach themselves the art of pottery. They began in 1973 with only interest, ideas, and watching other potters at work and by attending crafts fairs. They read books on pottery and in the summer of 1973 they began their work, at first with clay on the kitchen table and then on a potter's wheel.

Since his humble beginning as a potter, Rayford has grown quickly into a well-recognized artisan. However, he quickly points out two factors that make his craft even more enjoyable. The first is the people he meets because of his craft and the second is his constant improvement.

"I meet really nice people. It just seems that craftsmen, and those interested in crafts, are just genuine people."

Rayford is continually learning and getting even better at his craft. A quote from an article about the entire Watts family in *The Knoxville Journal* summarizes Rayford's progression, "I really notice the evolving when I go to someone's home and see a pot I made three years ago and it's hard to believe I made it."

Although his craft is time consuming, 15-20 hours per week during the school year and more in the summertime, Rayford's first love is his teaching at Cumberland College. Both he and June are graduates of Cumberland and he returned to his alma mater to teach in 1968.

"I believe that the two activities balance. Teaching brings me into contact with people and pottery making is pretty much a solitary activity."

"I teach because I like young people. Actually, I couldn't imagine beginning Fall without beginning teaching."

Whether shaping pottery with his hands or shaping tomorrow's Christian leaders with his teaching, Ray is part of his task and is never separated from it. For those of us who know him, well, that's the way he is.