

## Young men of Central City lead spiritual revival

by Jack Sanford, Editor

It began with a Wednesday night study of the book *Doctrine of the Laity*. But it spread across the church to create a genuine spiritual revival.

Wilson Lofland, pastor of First Baptist Church, Central City, told Western Recorder he taught the book by Finley Edge to a group of men in his church who were in their 20s and 30s. Then Joe Ben Tucker, chairman of evangelism at Central City, and the pastor asked 14 young men to meet with them, pray together and conduct revival services.

The men chosen were persons who had not done public speaking, some of them were not active in all the life of the church and none of them were in the public eye of the church.

Those who responded were Jackie Perkins, Pete Winters, Jackie Winters, Don Cary, Gary Carver, Richard Shaver, Ronnie Gish, Ronnie Gossett, Dennis Oliver, Tony Hopper, Mark Eades, Mark Stone, Steve Brothers and Reedy Thompson

"We asked each of them, 'Where are you with the Lord?'" Lofland said. "If something is touching you, you can relate it," the pastor declared.

As they discussed this idea and prayed together each man began to develop his own testimony. One coal miner said he had no idea what he wanted to say, then on the haul road by himself he began to talk with the Lord and the words came to him and he spoke

### South dies in Missouri

Rheubin L. South, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, died Nov. 6 in St. Louis following a battle with leukemia.

South, 64, was executive director for almost 12 years. Previously, he was pastor of Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, Ark. for 23 years.

For 14 years, South was a member of the SBC executive committee. He also was national president of the alumni association of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., and was a trustee of the school at the time of his death. He was the immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Association of State Convention Executive Directors. (BP)

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with boldness and conviction.

Each evening during the revival the men met before the service for prayer then sat together in the front of the church to support by their physical presence the person who was speaking. Mark Stone said he "thought I could say my thing, coast through the rest of it and that would be it." But a spirit of fellowship developed and each man found himself supporting the others and praying for them.

Out of this meeting, which was extended one day past the scheduled closing, a revolution in Church Training

has developed. Prior to the lay-led revival the CT attendance was 60-80. Now the attendance is doubled to more than 150 during October.

In addition the church received two members by profession of faith with many sincere rededications by church members. "It was a real revival," Lofland declared.

Wives were drawn into the circle and as many as 40 young marrieds are present each Sunday night for CT and worship services.

The group went outside Central City to Immanuel Baptist Church, Mayfield,

to spend a day with young laymen from that congregation. They prayed together, shared their testimony and offered encouragement to the Mayfield people.

Since the revival the group has continued to meet. They have drawn others into the group and Lofland declares this has been "the greatest experience in my ministry." He has been at Central City 11 years and now feels comfortable stepping aside because he knows the men are under the leadership of the Lord and "God is doing great things in our church."

## God isn't in hiding, but he won't force us to find him, 300 told at international student retreat

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

"You and I will never be able to fully grasp God," W. Bryant Hicks told 300 collegians studying in Kentucky colleges and universities earlier this month.

Addressing an international student retreat sponsored by Kentucky Baptists, Hicks declared, "God is not discovered by accident," but only "by intention" and "by purpose." God can be "related to" and "he wants to be related to." He (God) desires to have "fellowship with us."

Continuing, Hicks disclosed that God is not someone who is "hiding from us." He wants to be found, but "he will not force himself upon anyone." He is saying, "Give me all your strife and trouble" and "come to me and find peace and rest."

Hicks, M. Theron Rankin professor of foreign missions at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, later went on to call America "one of the most war-like nations in the world."

"Our own government gives that impression," he told the internationals. He encouraged those present who were Muslims and Buddhists and representatives of other religious groups to "live and work toward peace in your own lands."

Said Hicks: "If I do what I do because I want to go to heaven, that is a totally selfish thing. But if I do what I do because of what God has done for me, that is a beautiful thing."

"Because God loves us so much, he will never cease to bless us. He does nothing for himself, but for us," Hicks added.

In conclusion, he observed that, "just as darkness cannot stop light, the love of God continues to penetrate. We can turn our backs on it, but God is merciful to us and continues to give us opportunity to respond to him."

The international student retreat has been held for many years under auspices of the Kentucky Baptist Student Department. In recent years, it has convened at one of the state resort parks, meeting this year Nov. 7-9 at Lake Cumberland.

A park's entire facilities are rented out by the state Woman's Missionary Union, which picks up the entire tab for the weekend conference for campus



W. Bryant Hicks

internationals. Budget this year of \$14,000 was exceeded by the larger than usual number of participants.

Clay Mulford, Baptist campus minister at Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, explained that "we are not trying to convert anyone as such" in these annual international retreats. The idea, he added, is "to present this Christian message in as sincere a manner as possible" so students from foreign lands are "exposed" to the gospel through a Christian "climate" and "lifestyle."

The weekend includes recreation, an international talent show, small group discussions, plenary sessions and meal-time fellowship. All full time Kentucky Baptist campus ministers are required to attend with the international students they take, and campus BSU presidents in the state are also invited. One of the in-state Baptist student performing and ministry teams from the previous summer is usually on the weekend agenda.

The 300 persons registered at Lake Cumberland this year represented 45 different nationalities.

In a closing address to the retreat, Hicks told the group he did not believe Jesus "intended to start a new movement." Rather, he (Jesus) wanted to invite people "to come to him in a personal faith commitment," Hicks said, giving his personal testimony.

"God is absolute love," he intoned. "He cares more for us than I care for myself."

## Baptists, Jews, Catholics plan joint TV venture

by Greg Hancock

Thirty pastors and denominational leaders from the Louisville area and Long Run Association met Thursday, Nov. 20, for lunch at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to discuss the formation of a new denominational board.

Citing the reluctance of Storer Cable Co. to dedicate a special TV channel to a single denominational interest, Roy Honeycutt, seminary president, and Bill Hancock, pastor of Louisville's Highview Baptist Church and president of the Ohio Valley American Christian Television System board, proposed a multid denominational board. Through it Southern Baptists would cooperate with Catholics, Jews and other mainline protestant denominations on what would be called the Faith Channel.

Ohio Valley ACTS (OVACTS), Catholic Communications and Ecumedia would each compose one-third of a 15 member Faith Channel board. This board would resolve problems encountered in broadcast presentation and allocate program time to participating parties. Early projections indicate a minimum of 14 hours each day would be presented by Southern Baptists and ACTS with the remaining 10 hours divided between Catholic Communications and Ecumedia. The reason for the unbalance is that ACTS is a 24-hour broadcasting network while Catholic Communications and Ecumedia broadcast only in daytime hours.

Southern Seminary will take the place of OVACTS in the structure. The ACTS subscription rate will be billed to the seminary on the basis of its smallest regular semester enrolment. This will save churches in Long Run Association considerable money as the previous billing system was based on 10 cents per resident member per congregation per month. The seminary will be "broker" for Southern Baptist churches who would like to be involved in the Faith Channel but who have reservations about an ecumenical endeavor.

Hancock, speaking at the seminary luncheon, said, "The main thing we need is a show of strength and participation of all our churches. We need a minimum of 50 churches involved."

"We are not asking for money as much as involvement," Hancock went on. "This may be our last chance to put ACTS in the Louisville area."



Jack D. Sanford

# sanford's perspectives

## The task ahead of us

At the Kentucky Baptist Convention this year we decided we must cut back our proposed budget because of poor Cooperative Program receipts. The cut was from a proposed 1986-87 budget goal of \$17,680,630 to \$16,900,600. That is the basic operating goal for budget year 1986-87, with a proposed reduction in the 1987-88 year as well.

The Southern Baptist Convention share of Cooperative Program funds was reduced from 37.5 percent to 37 percent for 1986-87 and a proposed increase to 37.5 percent in 1987-88, which means a delay in reaching the KBC goal of a 60/40 split.

We are sad because of the necessity of this action, especially since three other state conventions—Oklahoma, Florida and Georgia—have gone to 50/50 in Cooperative Program gifts to SBC causes.

All of this means Kentucky Baptists must dig deeper in order to meet the needs of an expanding program of ministry and missions. We need more funds in Kentucky and we need more funds in the SBC. Yet many churches are doing more than their share and all the digging we can do will just not produce much more. Unemployment is high in many parts of Kentucky and additional money is just not there.

The answer seems to be an increase in the

evangelism ministry of all our churches. We must win more and more lost sinners to Jesus Christ, for as we reach more people for Christ we have the potential to increase not only offerings to our local church, but also offerings to all the causes Baptists support around the world.

Our motive in reaching them is not money. The Lord forbid we ever stoop to that level, but the increase in offerings is one of those dividends which comes when the gospel is believed and accepted as a way of life.

Thus evangelism is the best route for stewardship development. Win a person to Christ and it is probable he will give his money to the Lord's work. That is not always the case, of course, but it happens enough times to make us believe the best way to increase the church income is to reach more people for salvation. It seems to be biblical that our first task is to win people to faith in Jesus Christ, then trust God to help new converts see the light of biblical stewardship.

Until we mature as stewards we will have a shortfall in church budgets and Cooperative Program funding. Until we expand our evangelism we will not have only shortfall in offerings, but we will have churches reaching only part of their potential for the Lord.

## New tax law has a word for ministers

This is not the place to stress economics but it is the place to notify ministers the changes in the 1986 tax law have some important provisions which touch ministers.

The new law retroactively reinstates the full deductibility of interest and real estate taxes on an ordained minister's home.

The new law states any minister who opposes Social Security and rejects coverage must notify the ordaining body. Ministers who previously filed for exemption from Social Security coverage are given a limited-time opportunity to revoke their earlier decision.

There are changes in IRA regulations, con-

tributions to tax-sheltered annuity plans, charitable contributions, expense accounts and educational travel.

The new tax law is complex and most of us will need a lot of help to find our way. The new tax law runs to 1800 pages in two volumes so help is needed. The Annuity Board has a Communications Department prepared to help us, so call them or seek the advice of a tax accountant, tax lawyer or someone who is up on what is new in this important area. A little time spent now could save not only time in the future, but dollars as well.

## An annual disclaimer

It seems we have to issue a notice every year about this time. Perhaps it has something to do with Halloween.

Anyway, here goes. The petition now circulating which claims Madalyn Murray O'Hair is trying to get religious broadcasting off the air is false. It is false now and it has been false since it first appeared in 1975.

Western Recorder is constantly asked to give information about this persistent rumor. Once again we tell all our readers to ignore the petition.

To sign it, to circulate it, to encourage others to advance it is a mark of gullibility and does no service to our integrity as intelligent people.

Maybe it is the spirit of Halloween pranks which sends this thing off every year. In any event, the petition is false and you do yourself and other Christians a service if you refuse to sign it.

If you sign it, who do you think has the last laugh? There are even suggestions the petition has been circulated all these years just to make Christians look stupid.

**western recorder**

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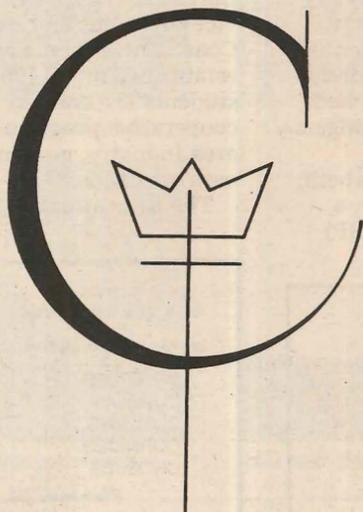
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**James H. Cox**  
Associate Editor

## fourth estate

### A few Innocent remarks

I liked the young man immensely the moment I first met him.

Tall, slender, with piercing eyes, an engaging smile and an inquiring mind, this talented black youth of about 16 is a tremendous credit to his nation.

Innocent Padya, though not employed full time by the Zimbabwe Baptist Mission, "helps out" at the Baptist communications headquarters in the capital of Harare. He has shown a genuine interest in developing creative ways to relay the gospel to his countrymen, say Southern Baptist missionaries, giving unselfishly of himself.

Innocent's ability as a writer was brought to my attention almost immediately upon my arrival in Zimbabwe last February. I had left Kenya after a month of experiencing Kentucky's partnership in progress to participate in an east African Baptist communications conference in Zimbabwe. Innocent was one of the star pupils.

Inny, as his friends call him, loves to write. He possesses skills beyond his years, effectively communicating through the printed page what he wants to say. I marveled at the intellect of his questions, at his intense perceptions and at his commitment to a high calling.

As a result of our time together he almost single-handedly created *The Southern Cross*, a four-page monthly mimeographed newsletter, circulated to Baptist churches in and around Harare. Many of the principles of writing and design which we discussed in the communications conferences have been adapted in that publication.

I have continued to stay in touch with Inny. I am trying to encourage him in his belief that God has a writing ministry for him as a career.

Inny Padya is a product of Southern Baptist missions. He's one of those individuals I met who might never have been brought to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ had our convention not been committed to that purpose. Thank God, this remains our priority!

In a few days, thousands of churches will be talking about Lottie Moon, and the seasonal offering named for her. About half of the Foreign Mission Board's operating budget is dependent on our gifts to this offering.

When I think of Inny, I am reminded that there are millions of other young people around the globe whose talents the Lord can use. But first they must hear the gospel. That means there's a lot depending on you and me.

Won't you help find and develop some more Innys out there?

# baptist news in brief

## CP enjoys record-breaking October

Southern Baptists' national Cooperative Program got off to its best start ever, with October receipts totalling \$10,937,115, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the convention's executive committee.

The Cooperative Program is the SBC method of funding missions, evangelism and education endeavors worldwide. The 1986-87 Cooperative Program began its fiscal year Oct. 1; the national goal for the year is \$136 million.

October CP receipts were a record for that month and higher than the \$9,039,034 posted in October 1985.

He said reasons for the large increase are difficult to determine. It might have been due to churches whose annual budgets close out Sept. 30 sending along their CP checks at the end of the fiscal year, which would have been tabulated nationally in October. Or it may have been due to churches which surpassed their regular annual budgets of their "challenge budgets" along to the Cooperative Program.

In addition to the best October on record, the monthly total represented the third-best monthly total in Cooperative Program history.

If Southern Baptists are going to reach their \$136 million CP goal, receipts for the remaining months of 1986-87 must average \$11.37 million. (BP)

## Young asks prayer for study committee

Prayer has been requested for the fact-finding committee studying the relationship between the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The seven-member committee was named during the September meeting of the SBC executive committee to study a motion made during the 1986 annual meeting of the SBC that called for severing the convention's relationship with the Baptist Joint Committee. Composed of nine Baptist groups in the U. S. and Canada, its major task is to support Baptist positions regarding the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution.

The SBC motion on the Baptist Joint Committee was referred to the executive committee, which is to deal with the issue and report back to the convention during its annual meeting next summer. The special committee will report during the next meeting of the executive committee in February.

The call to prayer was issued by Gary Young, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz., and chairman of the fact-finding commit-

tee. "We will meet Nov. 20-21 in Washington with the Baptist Joint Committee staff," he announced.

"This will be the first meeting in which our full committee will meet with the Joint Committee staff. It will be our first opportunity to discuss with each other the issues involved.

"This meeting is perhaps more crucial than our report to the executive committee, because this meeting probably will shape that report more than any other meeting," Young stressed.

The fact-finding committee's meeting with the Baptist Joint Committee staff will be from 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, to 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21 (EST). The meetings will be open to the public, Young said.

## Owen Cooper dies of cancer at 78

Owen Cooper, 78, the last layman to serve as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, died Saturday, Nov. 8, after a three-week illness with cancer.

Cooper, who headed the SBC 1972-74, was buried, at his own request, in private graveside services in Jackson, Miss., on the day of his death. A memorial service was held Sunday, Nov. 9, at First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, Miss.

A leader in religion, politics, economics and humanitarian causes, Cooper in 1985 was named Layman of the Century by the Mississippi Baptist Convention. At the 1986 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, Cooper was presented the Distinguished Service Award of the SBC Christian Life Commission in recognition of his contributions to moral and social concerns.

Cooper, born April 19, 1908, near Vicksburg, Miss., also had been a member and former chairman of the SBC executive committee, vice president of the Baptist World Alliance, president of the Pan-American Union of Baptist Men, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, president and secretary of the Mississippi Pioneer Missions Committee, member and chairman of the board of trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and a trustee of the Southern Baptist Foundation.

He also had been one of the founders of the Baptist Laity Journal, a publication aimed at giving the laity a voice in the denominational controversy. Cooper long had been a champion of the involvement of the laity in church and denominational affairs and had been a speaker at numerous meetings concerning lay involvement.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, four daughters, a son, a brother, a sister and nine grandchildren. (BP)

## Pastor asks leaders to 'stand down'

The cause of peace in the Southern Baptist Convention would best be served if the two most-visible proponents of both sides of the denominational controversy would "stand down" at next year's annual meeting, John Bisagno says.

Bisagno, pastor of the 18,000-member First Baptist Church, Houston, called for a depoliticized president and a unified Pastor's Conference as vital steps toward reconciliation. He presented his proposal in the Nov. 10 issue of his church newsletter and discussed the issue three days earlier in an interview with Baptist Press.

His newsletter column and verbal comments to his congregation on peace in the SBC were prompted by the Glorieta Statement made by presidents of the six SBC theological seminaries, the SBC peace committee's acceptance of that statement and a related peace proposal presented by moderate-conservatives in the convention.

He specifically urged SBC President Adrian Rogers and moderate-conservative standard-bearer Winfred Moore to remove themselves from denominational politics.

"The greatest thing to happen in this decade," he said, "would be to agree on this type of person (a non-political, positive leader as president); get the Pastor's Conference together with nothing but preaching with no debate; then, when the time comes for the convention, for Adrian to nominate this type of person and Winfred to second and then unify around evangelism and missions."

"Time is vital," he said. "The SBC has lost years of its witness. We've got to regain it as soon as we can." (BP)

## Mercer starts first engineering school

Mercer University's School of Engineering, dedicated in outdoor ceremonies in Macon, Ga. 17, is the only engineering school located at a Southern Baptist university.

In addition, the new school is the only private engineering school in Georgia and the second engineering school in the state.

The Engineering School, headed by Carroll B. Gambrell, former executive vice president and provost of West Coast University, Los Angeles, was established in fall 198. More than 200 students are enrolled and an effective cooperative program is in place with area industry, government and business operations.

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## Nashvillian 'disinvited' by Oklahoma Baptists

Oklahoma Baptist officials withdrew an invitation they made to Nashville pastor Charles Page after they learned his church had elected three women deacons.

An Oklahoma minister said the move to drop the pastor of First Baptist Church was taken to avoid "making waves" among state Baptists.

But Page called the ruckus "silly." "It's one of those periphery issues that should not be a test of fellowship or faith," Page said. "It's been a family matter within our church, and it's been a very smooth transition for us. But we don't think it's anybody else's business, frankly."

Page, pastor of the 2700-member First Baptist Church since 1985, was to preach at the Nov. 11 annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, the state Southern Baptist organization. But the week before Page received a call from a member of the convention program committee who said his panel decided it would be best to withdraw the invitation.

"We were trying to stay away from making waves at this time," said Paul Salyer, chairman of the committee that agreed to remove Page from the meeting's agenda. Salyer is pastor of South Lindsay Baptist Church, Oklahoma City.

"We wanted to clear the possibility of having a convention that might create distractions. We didn't want to take away from our new executive director's installation or have him get off to a shaky start."

New director William G. Tanner, former head of the Baptist Home Mission Board, was to speak earlier the same day Page was slated.

Last month, First Baptist members elected 15 new deacons, three of them women. It was the first time the church has widened the role of deacon to include women.

Another Oklahoma pastor said the decision to remove Page was directly related to the current fight within the denomination.

"It's a form of punishment by the extreme right that is in control," said Gene Garrison, First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City. "I'm embarrassed by this. It's the most regrettable thing to happen in years."

Four years ago, Garrison's church was "disfellowshipped" from the local Baptist association for a year after the congregation elected three women deacons, he said.

Salyer said his committee made its decision unanimously. No group or individual that opposes women's ordination had stepped forward to complain about Page's impending preaching engagement, he said. (BP)

## BSSB trustee urges respect, harmony

An atmosphere in which people with diverse opinions can respect and love one another while working out their differences for the welfare of God and the Baptist Sunday School Board is the goal of the pastor now serving as chairman of the 85-member trustee board.

"I would like to see the harmony of a local Baptist church doing the work of the Lord with its diverse people," said Lloyd Batson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pickens, S. C. "If you do that, you can work out most anything."

As a trustee of the Sunday School Board, Batson served on the search committee which in 1983 recommended Lloyd Elder as president. He calls the experience "the single most pleasurable assignment I've ever had in denominational service. There were no vested interests, no candidates, no hidden agendas."

A sense of humor, a conviction that differences can be resolved and absolute confidence in the power of God give Batson an optimistic view of the future of Southern Baptists.

"Southern Baptists not only will survive, they will thrive," he predicts. "It may require readjustments, even confession and renewal." (BP)

## Six presidents called best in education

Six Southern Baptist college and university presidents have been identified as among the most effective presidents in higher education.

A two-year comprehensive study named the 100 most effective chief executive officers in higher education as selected by their peers. Those named in the study represent approximately three percent of college presidents across the country.

Baptist college presidents listed in

the survey include: Herbert H. Reynolds, Baylor University, Waco, Tex.; E. Bruce Heilman, University of Richmond, Richmond, Va.; John E. Johns, Furman University, Greenville, S. C.; Fred B. Bentley, Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, N. C.; Lewis Nobles, Clarke College, a division of Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss; and Bruce E. Whitaker, Chowan College, Murfreesboro, N. C.

The study, "The Effective College President," was designed by James L. Fisher, president emeritus of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, and Martha Tack, professor of educational administration and supervision at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

The researchers surveyed 485 individuals who were considered knowledgeable about higher education. Each was asked to identify five persons they considered to be the most effective college presidents in the nation.

Preliminary results show that the effective president relies on respect rather than popularity, tends to work longer hours, makes decisions more easily and takes more risks in order to move the institution forward. (BP)

## Dilday denies claims of capitulation

The Glorieta Statement by the six Southern Baptist Convention presidents to the SBC peace committee was "not a capitulation," Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary president Russell H. Dilday told Texas alumni of the school.

Dilday spoke to about 250 alumni and friends of the seminary at a breakfast during the Baptist General Convention of Texas meeting in El Paso Nov. 5. He described the Glorieta Statement as a declaration of faith made by the presidents of Southern Baptists' seminaries but said the statement has been misinterpreted by some secular media, leading some Baptists to view the statement as a victory for the fundamental-conservatives and others to see it as a defeat or "capitulation" of moderate-conservatives.

The statement was "a providential expression of our faith," Dilday said. "It was a statement of six individuals," he said, "not of their trustees or faculties."

"It is time all Southern Baptists come together and look at these doctrines that have been of concern to us," Dilday said, explaining three national conferences scheduled by the seminaries' presidents for the next three years will address this problem.

The first conference on biblical inerrancy will be May 4-7 at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N. C. The next two conferences will address biblical interpretation and biblical imperatives.

Dilday said the seminary presidents want to help Southern Baptists find the answers to three questions: "What does inerrancy mean? How do you interpret what the Bible says? How do you apply it?" (BP)



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

# clear creek comment

## "10% Thankful"

I am convinced the greatest sin in my life is an unthankful spirit. It is a chronic, crippling and besetting sin that I often lack a thankful heart.

In Luke 17:11-19 the story is recorded of Jesus healing 10 lepers. In verse 15 we read "And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks . . ." One out of 10 (or 10%) of those blessed by the Lord were thankful, and it is my conviction the percentage hasn't changed today. I am also persuaded that most of us do not live in a spirit of thankfulness more than 10% of the time.

Thanksgiving season always blesses my heart for it helps me prepare to properly and spiritually celebrate the birth of our Lord. And the spirit of thankfulness to God carries over into the new year. As Robert Lintner said, "Thanksgiving was never meant to be shut up in a single day."

Thanksgiving season also condemns our tendency toward worshiping and depending on material things. Richard Douglass says, "The modern American seldom pauses to give thanks for the simple blessings of life. One reason is that we are used to having so much. We simply assume that we will have all the good things in life. Another reason is that it hurts our pride to be grateful. We do not want to admit that God is the provider of all good things. We are simply his stewards. Being thankful requires humility and faith in God. When we have these, we can be grateful."

I also believe a thankful heart must be cultivated. We are not born grateful but born again to be grateful. Samuel Johnson said, "Gratitude is a fruit of great cultivation: You do not find it among gross people." Shakespeare said (in *King Lear*), "How sharper than a serpent's tooth to have a thankless child." Bishop Sheen once said, "A very interesting phenomenon in children is that gratitude or thankfulness come relatively late in their young lives. They almost have to be taught it; if not, they are apt to grow up thinking that the world owes them a living."

My resolve for this Thanksgiving Day is to give more than a tithe of myself to a thankful spirit. I may not achieve 100% thankfulness. But I can be more than 10% thankful!

# baptist forum

## Hancock apologizes to Gardner

A quote attributed to me in a Louisville newspaper during Kentucky Baptist Convention week seriously offended a colleague and brother in Christ, Ferrill Gardner, pastor of Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville. I have apologized to Brother Gardner and to his church but would like to do so through the forum of Western Recorder as well.

Ferrill Gardner served the convention and represented his congregation well during his tenure as president of

the 1986 Kentucky Baptist Convention Pastor's Conference. He assisted me, personally, throughout the year as a member of the Communications Committee of the KBC executive board. It was wrong of me to be in any way party to "labeling" or embarrassing him.

I further apologize to and ask the forgiveness of the convention, at large, for the injudicious use of terminology that has potential to be inflammatory if misunderstood.

Gregory L. Hancock  
Middletown

**WE MUST  
MAKE  
CHRIST  
KNOWN**

# State convention reports

## OKLAHOMA

Messengers to the 81st annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma instructed their executive board to restudy the state convention's 50-50 division of Cooperative Program funds with the national Southern Baptist Convention.

Messengers also affirmed a May action by the executive board in electing William G. Tanner as executive director-treasurer of the BGCO, succeeding Joe Ingram, who retired.

The executive board elected Tanner May 5 during a called meeting. The constitution specifies the election had to be affirmed by messengers at the next annual meeting.

Messengers adopted a 1987 budget of \$17,746,300, same as the 1986 budget and virtually the same as 1985. The 1987 budget features the same 50-50 division of gifts between state and SBC causes.

Charles Graves, pastor of Nichols Hills Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, moved for the Cooperative Program study "to prevent severe negative impact" on state agencies, programs and institutions.

Graves, chairman of Oklahoma Baptist University board of trustees, said he fears the "economic difficulties confronting the state" and the resultant "negative impact" on church budgets could cause an "imbalance" in giving which would endanger state missions.

His motion authorizes the executive board "to make necessary adjustments in Cooperative Program allocations" if its study determines such a change is necessary.

The effort was opposed by Jim Sanderson, pastor of Jenks First Baptist Church. Sanderson said the motion was unnecessary because all convention agencies received their funding on a percentage basis, including OBU. "Everybody takes the pinch together," he said. "We all get hurt or blessed together."

A controversial issue occurred behind the scenes and messengers were not informed of the convention's program committee "disinvited" Charles Page, pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville, who had been scheduled to preach at the annual meeting, and whose name appeared on the printed program.

A week before the convention, program committee member Paul Box, pastor of First Baptist Church, Moore, Okla., called Page to tell him the invitation to speak had been withdrawn.

First Baptist Church, Nashville, recently elected three women to be deacons. The ordination of women has been a controversial issue among Oklahoma Baptists.

When the program was introduced by Paul Salyer, pastor of South Lindsay Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, and chairman of the program committee, no mention was made of Page's "disinvitation." The only reference was the agenda had been changed and the slot would be given to a special presentation to recently retired executive Ingram. (BP)

## TENNESSEE

A record number of messengers to the 112th Tennessee Baptist Convention approved a record Cooperative Program mission budget, amended committee guidelines to call for broader representation and defeated three attempts to place limitations on Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes Inc.

The unofficial registration for the

convention at Freedom Hall Civic Center, Johnson City, was 1776—passing the previous record of 1748 at the 1984 state convention.

The Cooperative Program budget for the November 1986-October 1987 convention year is \$22.5 million—a 7.14 percent increase over the 1985-86 goal and an increase of 8 percent above last year's receipts of \$20,831,030.34. The new budget will increase the percentage shared with missions and ministries supported by the SBC's Cooperative Program from 36.75 percent to 37 percent.

A bylaw amendment proposed by Ron Phillips, Hixson, would have authorized the convention president to nominate members to the committee on committees. Presently, these nominations come from the 15-member committee on boards.

Phillips said his amendment would satisfy a "concern that all views be represented" in the nomination process. The committee on committees nominates members for 10 convention committees, including the following year's committee on boards.

Phillips then moved that his bylaw amendment be referred to the constitution and bylaws committee.

Bill Sherman of Nashville spoke against the motion to refer because he said the amendment was not a "good idea." Sherman said, "We want broader participation, but we need to avoid any idea that brings division."

The motion to refer was defeated on a hand vote.

Phillips then said he "considered Bill Sherman's statements out of order" and that he would like to withdraw his amendment and write a letter to the constitution and bylaws committee.

President James McCluskey said the motion to amend the bylaws could not be withdrawn if there were any objection. No objection was voiced, so he declared the motion withdrawn. (BP)

## NORTH CAROLINA

Veteran observers called the 156th annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina the "calmest, most harmonious" session in recent memory.

More than 3900 messengers registered to be part of the decision-making in establishing the new "fraternal, voluntary" relationship between Wake Forest University and the convention.

The proposal, recommended by the general board of the state denomination after it had been hammered out by committees representing the university and the convention and approved by the Council on Higher Christian Education, was approved by an 81 to 19 percent margin. Messengers cast 2689 votes for the new arrangement which goes into effect Jan. 1 while 649 voted against it.

The new relationship has two distinguishing features from the previous arrangement: the convention no longer elects the trustees which govern the university, and the school no longer shares in Cooperative Program funds.

In other actions, the messengers approved a new structure for the operation and support of the convention's Bible institute at Fruitland.

The school has been made an agency of the denomination's general board, a unique arrangement within the state convention structure. It will be governed by a board of directors, elected by and responsible to the general board. One-third of the board will be alumni of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute.

Other than the decision on Wake Forest University, the decision which prompted the most debate was a resolution which called upon the Baptist Home Mission Board to reconsider its decision regarding salary supplements for ordained women who serve as pastors of churches. After discussion, the resolution passed by a two-to-one margin with the same language proposed by the committee on resolutions.

The messengers approved a record budget for 1987 of \$27,637,000 of which \$1,512,000 is a challenge goal above the base budget of \$26,125,000. Current receipts for the Cooperative Program are running more than 6 percent above 1985 and it appears the 1986 budget will be met for the first time in many years.

Southern Baptist Convention causes will receive 35.50 percent of Cooperative Program funds, up from 35.45 percent in 1986. (BP)

## ILLINOIS

Messengers to the 80th annual meeting of the Illinois Baptist State Association adopted a 1987 budget of nearly \$6 million Oct. 29-31 at Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church, Urbana.

Illinois Baptists will give 43.6 percent (\$1,948,499) of anticipated Cooperative Program receipts of \$4,469,034 to Southern Baptist Convention causes. That represents a tenth of a percent increase over 1986.

Messengers, who were split evenly last year over whether they would enter into a statewide \$2 million to \$3 million capital fund drive, granted the state board of directors permission to accept special funds and build an activities building at the Baptist Children's Home and complete major renovations at the student center.

Messengers accepted the board's recommendation that the state association staff study the feasibility of a pilot senior adult retirement facility and bring a recommendation back to the board in 1990. The recommendation includes a suggestion that the pilot facility be an 8- to 12- complex unit for persons who could pay to live there and care for themselves.

The convention rejected a constitutional amendment that would have limited the terms of convention officers to one year instead of two. The amendment also would have made the vice president the president-elect and the assistant recording secretary the recording secretary-elect. (BP)

## WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia Baptists said goodbye to one executive director and greeted another at their annual meeting Nov. 7-8 at Calvary Baptist Church, Morgantown.

Messengers bid farewell to Thomas E. Halsell, executive secretary of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists seven years. He retires Dec. 31. Messengers officially greeted Thomas A. Kinchen, who has been a professor at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, who takes over the executive position Jan. 1.

The convention adopted a record budget of \$1,519,076 of which West Virginia congregations will contribute \$678,965. The remainder will come from contributions by the Baptist Home Mission Board and Baptist Sunday School Board. West Virginia Baptists will contribute 25 percent of the gifts

from state convention congregations—\$169,771—to the worldwide missions, evangelism and educational causes of the Southern Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program. The 25 percent is up 1 percent from CP contributions a year ago. (BP)

## MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Baptists took their convention theme, "A new heart and a new spirit," seriously when they closed their Nov. 10-12 meeting with almost no issues debated.

The 1759 registered voting messengers passed without discussion a \$19 million 1987 budget, 36.5 percent of which goes to Southern Baptist causes outside the state.

The convention heard an encouraging report from its Mississippi Mission Campaign, which is endeavoring to raise a \$40 million endowment for Mississippi College, Blue Mountain College, William Carey College and the Baptist Children's Village. Two years into the campaign, a total of \$21,694,777 has been pledged, effectively tripling the four institutions' endowments less than halfway into the campaign.

The only issue of debate concerned a motion by W. E. Green of Louin to have Clarke College in Newton handed over to him to operate as a school for ministerial training. Green was president of Clarke 1944-54 and said rumors were abounding that Clarke was about to close its doors.

Messengers overwhelmingly rejected Green's motion, substituting another reaffirming their 1980 decision to merge Clarke with Mississippi College.

Later in the day, during the Mississippi College report, president Lewis Nobles assured the messengers he had no plans to close Clarke College, the student enrolment had stabilized at about 200, and should Clarke ever get into trouble, he would recommend the trustees hand Clarke back to the convention.

Green, in the closing session of the convention Wednesday, made a motion to reconsider the convention action and was ruled out of order. Roberts Rules of Order require that a person who voted for a previously approved substitute motion must ask for reconsideration. No one came forward and the matter was closed. Green said he would gather students and return later to a future convention to ask again.

Messengers elected as first vice president Roy Myers, pastor of Rocky Creek Baptist Church of Lucedale, and second vice president Tommy Tutor, pastor of Oakhurst Baptist Church of Clarksdale. Re-elected recording secretary was Clarke Hensley, retired executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, and elected assistant recording secretary was J. W. Brister, director of missions for Hinds-Madison Baptist Association. (BP)

## OHIO

The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio adopted a Cooperative Program budget for 1987 of \$2,979,307, with 41.5 percent going to national and world mission causes, up one half percent over 1986.

Resolutions expressed prayer support and encouragement for the SBC Peace Committee and deployed the erosion of Judeo-Christian values in the social and moral life of the nation. (BP)

## MISSOURI

"Just like it used to be." That was a frequently voiced comment as 2500 Missouri Baptists gathered at First Baptist Church, Raytown, for the 152nd annual meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention Oct. 27-29.

Retiring executive director Rheubin South was honored during the opening session. South, who was hospitalized in St. Louis with leukemia, was represented by his wife, Verna. Missouri Baptists presented her the keys to a 1987 Buick Park Avenue in appreciation for their services, a \$5000 cash gift for South and a \$2500 gift for her.

The \$15 million budget is divided into two tiers—a \$14.3 million operating goal and a \$700,000 challenge goal. In each level 35.187 percent is designated for Southern Baptist Convention causes through the Cooperative Program. That percentage is up more than four-tenths of 1 percent over the 1986 percentage going to SBC causes. It represents the first step in a four year program to increase Missouri's contributions to SBC causes by 1 percent over current levels.(BP)

## TEXAS

Texas Baptists reelected Paul Powell as convention president, adopted a \$65.5 million Cooperative Program budget for 1987 and reaffirmed their commitment to the Mission Texas goal of starting 2000 new congregations by 1990 at the 101st annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in El Paso Nov. 4-5.

More than 2300 messengers also adopted resolutions opposing abortion on demand, drug abuse and pornography; supporting missions efforts, particularly among Texas Hispanics; rejecting cuts in human services and legalization of gambling as means to balance the state budget; and offering prayer support to family farmers.

Powell, pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church, Tyler, was reelected without opposition to a second one-year term as president.

The budget adopted consists of a \$60.5 million basic budget—36.5 percent of which will go to Southern Baptist Convention causes—and a \$5 million challenge budget. Although the basic budget is the same amount as in 1986, the total budget reflects a 4.1 percent increase over the year before.(BP)

## LOUISIANA

Louisiana Baptists paid tribute to Robert L. Lee for his 33 years of leadership. Lee, who retires Dec. 1, became assistant executive secretary in 1953. Three years later, when he was elected executive secretary (now director) he was the youngest person serving in that capacity among Baptist executives. He now is the dean of executive directors.

Among gifts and honors presented to him during the Tuesday night session was a \$10,000 scholarship in his name provided by Louisiana College and an internship in his name established by the Baptist Message newspaper for seminary students studying religious journalism.

Messengers increased contributions to the national Cooperative Program one-fourth percent to 34.75 percent.

The budget of \$16,600,000, same as the current year, includes \$5,652,088 to Southern Baptist mission causes.

Prior to convening the convention, the executive board elected Truman Kerr as interim executive director from the time Lee retires Dec. 1 until a successor is elected. Kerr has been assistant executive director since 1978.

Mission partnerships will include major crusades in five Zimbabwe cities July 23-Aug. 2, 1987 and an evangelistic crusade in Korea in 1988. Both are extensions of work that have been under way for several years in both countries by Louisiana Baptists.(BP)

## GEORGIA

In a convention characterized by peace and harmony, Georgia Baptists elected their first fundamental-conservative president, adopted a historic 50-50 split of Cooperative Program funds and elevated a junior college to four-year status.

Clark Hutchinson, pastor of Eastside Baptist Church, Marietta, received 2338 votes or 55 percent in a three-way contest between Billy Nimmons, a moderate-conservative candidate, and Hoffman Harris, a non-aligned road nominee.

Hutchinson was nominated by former SBC president Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta. Hutchinson also is acting chairman of the Baptist Home Mission Board.

Nimmons, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dalton, received 1199 votes, or 28 percent, while Harris, pastor of Briarlake Baptist Church in Atlanta, netted 673 votes or 16 percent.

A record 4660 messengers gathered at Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, an Atlanta suburb.

Embattled state Baptist paper editor Jack Harwell was honored for 20 years service at the helm of The Christian Index and was further affirmed by a standing ovation from the capacity crowd.

The next day messengers defeated a motion that would have instructed the staff of the paper not to print "letters or news articles which contain derogatory remarks about other Christians." Several messengers spoke against the motion, defending their right to receive all the news about Baptist activities and people.

Harwell, who this year became the longest serving editor of the newsjournal, has been under fire since 1979 for an alleged pro-moderate-conservative stance. An attempt to fire him at the 1979 convention failed.

The controversy surfaced again in May of this year, when Lee Roberts, a businessman and member of Eastside Baptist Church in Marietta, called for replacement of Harwell, following an editorial in which Harwell was critical of the nominations of the SBC committee on boards, which Roberts chaired.

As a result of the charges, a five-member review board to oversee the editorial policies of the newspaper was appointed in August by the Index board of directors.

Messengers approved a \$26,946,000 budget, an increase of 12 percent over the previous year. The budget includes a historic 50-50 split of Cooperative Program funds between the state and national level.

In approving the action, the convention became the third state body to evenly divide its receipts with the Southern Baptist Convention. Florida

and Oklahoma conventions were the first to divide Cooperative Program receipts equally between state and national causes.

Messengers also voted to upgrade Brewton-Parker College at Mt. Vernon from junior to senior college status. The largest junior college in the denomination, Brewton-Parker will now provide south Georgia students with the only alternative to state institutions for their senior-level studies.(BP)

## FLORIDA

Florida Baptists, meeting in annual session Nov. 10-12 in Pensacola, reluctantly retreated from their record-setting pattern of giving to the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program.

After debate, messengers reduced the portion of the state convention's budget that goes to support SBC worldwide missionary, evangelism and educational causes by one-tenth of a percent. Beginning in January the Florida Baptist Convention will return to a 50-50 division of funds between state needs and SBC causes rather than move up as planned to a 50.2 percent share for the national convention.

Discussion of the budget dominated Florida Baptists' peaceful three-day meeting, which attracted 1792 messengers and 787 visitors.

Despite the reduction, the approved 1987 budget keeps Florida Baptists at the top of percentage giving among Baptist state conventions. Two other state conventions, Oklahoma and Georgia, also share funds on a 50-50 division.

Florida has been the nationwide leader in percentage giving to the Cooperative Program. In 1984, the Florida Baptist Convention became the first state group to approve spending equal portions of the money it receives on state and national causes. At last year's annual meeting, Florida Baptists raised the SBC share from 50 percent to 50.1 percent and were scheduled to move up to 50.2 percent this year.

Sluggish growth in giving and a pressing need to pay convention debt prompted the state board of missions to recommend the turnaround for the 1987 budget, however.

Ironically, Florida Baptists still will send more money to the Cooperative Program next year than ever before, according to projections. Although the CP will receive a smaller portion of the money Florida Baptists contribute to their state convention, the total giving is expected to increase eight percent next year.(BP)

## CALIFORNIA

A constitutional move to drop the word Southern from the state convention's name fell about 100 votes short as a record number of messengers gathered in Stockton for the 46th annual session of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

Messengers also approved wide-ranging recommendations from a special strategy committee which will provide objectives and goals for the convention as part of Bold Mission Thrust to the year 2000.

The name change generated heated discussion, several parliamentary problems and three time extensions. One amendment to shorten the name, but leave the word Southern in place,

failed to get a majority by 100 votes before the original motion to change the name to California Baptist Convention fell about the same number of votes short of the needed two-thirds.

Approved was an \$11 million budget, of which \$5,951,500 will come from California congregations, including a challenge budget of \$250,000. The new budget is a 4.8 percent increase over 1986 and represents 28.75 percent to the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program, a one-fourth percent increase over 1986.(BP)

## INDIANA

Messengers to the 27th annual meeting of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana reelected the incumbent president, passed a resolution on the editor of the state newsjournal, the Indiana Baptist, and passed a record budget.

For the first time in history an incumbent president eligible for reelection was challenged. Don Deel, pastor of Eastlake Baptist Church, Merrillville, has identified himself as "a conservative" but says he is not aligned with any political faction in the SBC. He was elected president in 1985.

Tom Evitts, pastor of the host church, First Baptist of Clarksville, was nominated by Don Claybrook, pastor of Rolling Fields Baptist Church, Jeffersonville, who told messengers: "I thank the Lord we have an opportunity to rise above the straightjacket mentality that runs roughshod over other Southern Baptists. Tom Evitts has that rare gift of combining intellectual freedom with a sold-out commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ."

When Deel was nominated no speech was made. The vote was 204 votes for Deel and 64 for Evitts.

Later Evitts criticized David Simpson, editor of the Indiana Baptist, for inferring editorially that his nomination grew out of an "organized, public, political effort to unseat Don Deel."

Simpson explained through the Indiana Baptist that the reference was to the Nov. 4 editorial. He said that phrase does not appear in the editorial. Further, some pastors, some of whom identify themselves as moderates, had met and discussed the possible nomination of Evitts. This nomination did in fact occur. Simpson concluded, "I stand by my analysis appearing in the editorial."

During the final session of the convention a resolution was presented commending Simpson for giving "a fair and balanced picture of the theological issues facing our Southern Baptist Convention in his editorial column."

The resolution encouraged Simpson "in his editorials to continue to deal with all the issues that currently concern Southern Baptists. We thank Dr. Simpson for unapologetically and clearly rejecting the false doctrine of universalism." The resolution passed by a vote of 108-56 after lengthy discussion.

Messengers from the 301 churches and 50 missions adopted a budget calling for a Cooperative Program goal of \$1,716,560, an increase of \$91,560. Of the goal, 32 percent will be shared with Southern Baptist Convention causes. The total budget for 1987 is \$2,322,954.

from politics to pulpit

## Former judge is now preacher

by Beth Wyatt,  
State Correspondent

Darrell Lewis, an aspiring young politician, has left that field and committed his life to preaching and evangelism.

He served in private law practice and as Bell County's Judge Executive for four years. Being elected to that office at age 29, he defeated his opponent who was older in years and political experience.

At age 12 he accepted Christ and united with West Pineville Baptist Church. After graduation from Pineville High School he attended nearby Union College. There he was awarded honors in political science and a BS degree in that field.

He married his high school sweetheart, Louise Messer, and they have two sons.

Darrell's childhood dream had been to be a politician and he geared his studies toward that goal. In pursuing his objective he was a social worker with responsibility for a caseload of 300 families. Following his graduation from University of Kentucky School of Law in 1978, he vowed to his classmates he would be a U. S. Senator in the next 20 years.

He affirms being in the ministry had never occurred to him and he was perfectly content with his Christian life for many years. About a year ago being

an 'average church member' was not enough. To Darrell and Louise there just seemed to be a missing piece in the puzzle. He acknowledges he was not doing anything wrong but was not doing that much right. He was feeling he was the kind of Christian who made our Lord sick.

According to Darrell he felt he could be helpful in the political world for Christ but when he realized that of the 200 divorce cases he had handled in his private practice, he was only instrumental in salvaging two, he came to see the political office as being good but not glorifying God.

Following this year's defeat to return to the judgeship he has used his expertise to work for a coal company and steer them to locate in the area. This endeavor will bring about 200 jobs for local residents.

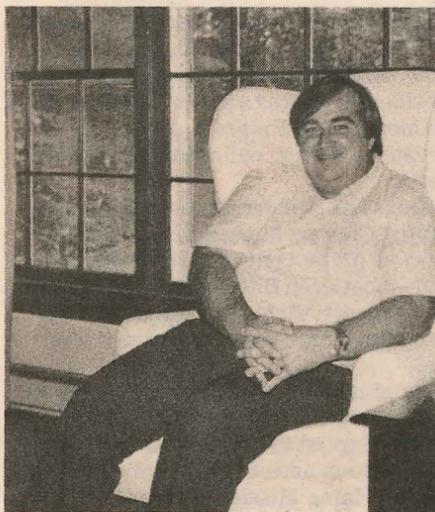
Lewis says losing that judgeship was one of the best things that ever happened to him.

When he acknowledged the Lord was dealing with him about his commitment to Christ as savior and not as Lord his life began to change and take on meaning. The family began to pray for the Lord to reveal his will to them, still not entertaining the idea of public ministry.

Public surrender came this fall and Darrell has been speaking and giving his testimony in area churches. He has been licensed by West Pineville

Church and has made application to enter seminary. He may be the only attorney in the class but he plans to be there soon. In seminary he will pursue a MDiv degree and perhaps a Doctor of Divinity.

"We have called Bell County home all our lives but are excited at the prospect of broadening our horizons for school and the ministry," the couple smilingly said. "Our family and friends don't think we need school but we know we do."



Attorney Darrell Lewis relaxes in his home. The former Bell County Judge Executive has cut political ties to preach and attend seminary.



Eldred M. Taylor  
Executive Director  
10501 Shelbyville Road  
Middletown, KY 40243

## homes for children

### Don't Miss It!

One of my joys in this ministry is meeting Kentucky Baptists and telling about our work with children. In order to take the message where the people are I travel a lot of highway miles. When driving on an interstate road I always try to watch carefully as I approach the place where I am to turn off. A few times I have missed the exit. When that happens, it is necessary to drive several miles to the next exit before turning around. My caution is, watch carefully, don't miss it!

When a baseball player steps up to bat, his concentration is on hitting the ball. All of the fans of that team are thinking, "Don't miss it." In basketball the player skillfully shoots for the goal with the earnest hope that he or she will not miss it. When one is going to travel by air, precaution is taken to arrive at the airport in time so as to not miss the flight.

In recent weeks much information has been disseminated regarding the annual Thanksgiving Offering. Hundreds of our Baptist churches have been receiving this important offering the past two Sundays. Multitudes of Baptists have put a special gift in the children's home envelopes and placed them in the offering plates with joy. It is obvious that many give sacrificially in order to thank God and share with children.

I was visiting with a pastor in one home where a sacrificial gift was made. The couple was well up in years. Their circumstances were obviously modest. The husband had an illness that required the amputation of one leg. His dear wife cared for the needs of her bedfast companion. When they learned that the church was receiving the Thanksgiving Offering for the children's homes, they did not want to miss it. She pulled four dollars out and said, "This is mighty little, but we want to have a part."

Have you missed it? Have you missed having a part in this worthy offering to help care for dependent/neglected children? It is not too late. You can give your offering next Sunday and it will be placed with those gifts of others. Don't miss it! Give thanks with a gift for children. A sacrificial gift will honor God, bless children and show true thanks.

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# KBC churches continue to adopt the expanded CHURCH ANNUITY PLAN



First Baptist Church, Corbin



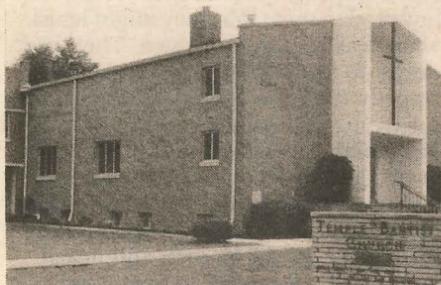
Sinking Fork Baptist Church, Hopkinsville



Minors Lane Baptist Church, Louisville



Buck Grove Baptist Church, Ekron



Temple Baptist Church, Owensboro



First Baptist Church, Clay



Unity Baptist Church, Richmond



Caldwell Springs Baptist Church, Marion



Harrodsburg Baptist Church



Cecilia Baptist Church



Baptist Church



Evergreen Baptist Church, Frankfort



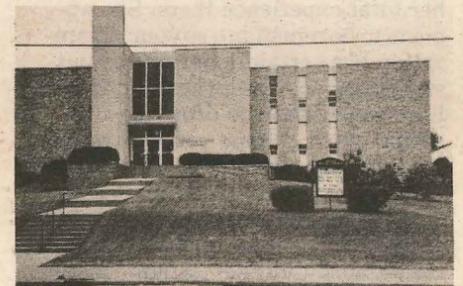
Antioch Baptist Church, Barlow



Karns Grove Baptist Church, Philpot



First Baptist Church, Owensboro



Central Baptist Church, Paris



First Baptist Church, Middlesboro



Gano Baptist Church, Georgetown



Oak Grove Baptist Church, Russellville



Hites Run Baptist Church, Hardinsburg



Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Owensboro



Second Baptist Church, Madisonville



First Baptist Church, Booneville



Beechmont Baptist Church, Louisville

**\* YOUR CHURCH CAN JOIN THESE!** The expanded Church Annuity Plan is a CHURCH retirement plan on a matching funds basis as a matter of church policy. The individual contributes, then the church matches that contribution 2 for 1. The state convention adds even more through matching funds. Ministers and church employees participating in this plan will have more adequate retirement, as well as having valuable protection benefits in the plan now. For more information, contact Don Spencer at your KBC Annuity Department, PO Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243 (502) 245-4101.



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

## oneida journal

### They did not return

We had to expel a West Virginia girl some months ago. She was very persistent in trying to return. But it was our decision that was neither best for her nor the remainder of the student body.

When we said "no" for the final time, her mother wrote, "Her previous school experiences had proven to her that rules were for everyone else but made to be broken by her. She had learned she could break them and still get by. It was refreshing to have Oneida refuse to allow it. I think she is quite a changed person because of her total experience there. She appears to be repentant, so your organization has certainly performed outstandingly to change her life. If you have some students drop out after school starts, I hope you will reconsider her application in the future."

A young man of Catholic heritage came to us last year from Ohio, our school having been recommended to the family by another Catholic family whose son was with us two years and graduated, an outstanding boy. This second boy while with us made a profession of faith and was baptized into our fellowship. He was a joy to work with. But for several reasons, his family decided for him to stay home

this year. They wrote, "Since Dan did so well in school at Oneida we are hoping he will do well in Dayton. We appreciate all you have done for him. He has always spoken so well of the school. If we run into any difficulties we will contact you about the availability of room for him."

A Tennessee young man came to us requiring much tender loving care. He was with us a year and a summer session. During that time we came to love his parents, a wonderfully active Baptist couple very devoted to their church. It was my privilege, as well as the privilege of our staff and students, to experience the hospitality of their Christian home. But the boy wished to remain at home this year and it was so decided. Some take to dorm life like ducks to water, and others do not. This particular boy never really liked dorm living though he made tremendous progress here. His mother wrote, "I appreciate all the kindness, understanding and help you've extended us all and recommend your school to the highest."

We had a wonderful mountain girl with us the past two years from a nearby mountain county. She is a fine Christian young lady and right at the top of her class. We were very disappointed to learn she had decided to stay home this year. Selfishly we wanted to have the opportunity to keep working with her. But of course her parents like to have her also and she will be a credit to her local public school. Her mother wrote:

"I want to thank you for the help you gave Charnel and our family the past two years. We recommend OBI to any family needing a good Christian school for their young people."

The mother of another girl from far western Kentucky wrote to say she was enrolling her daughter back in the home school. "I really appreciate what you've done for me and my girl. Her whole attitude and outlook has changed thanks to your great school."

A girl came to us last year from Louisville. She was doing poorly academically. Her family was "having discipline problems, belligerence, refusal to cooperate" with her. We worked with her a year and she is now back in her home school. Her mother writes: "I appreciate your time and effort. She improved greatly in her behavior and grades while at Oneida. She is continuing to improve."

God be praised.

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## sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR NOV. 30, 1986

Life and work series

### God's promises for the future

**Genesis 9:1-3** After the people were destroyed by the flood, God commanded Noah to come forth from the ark. Noah obeyed and brought with him his family.

God richly blessed Noah, the second head of the human race, and gave him special instructions about replenishing the earth and respecting the value of human life.

**Genesis 9:6-13** In emphasizing the sacredness of the life of man, made in the image of God, God demanded if a man takes the life of another his life shall be forfeited. God will hold every slayer responsible for the blood he sheds.

In this passage we have the account of the first great covenant mentioned in the Bible. As always, the initiative came from God's love and grace. God made an unconditional promise. He would never again destroy the whole earth with a flood. God ratified this promise with the giving of the rainbow.

The appearance of the rainbow tells its observers that, however dark the

cloud may be, the sun is still shining. And so it is with the dark and tragic things in our lives of which the clouds are the symbols.

The rainbow was a sign which would confirm faith and dispel fears. It shall ever be a symbol of God's protection of his people. Regardless of what circumstances they may encounter or tragedies they may experience, God's children can and should trust his reliability.

International Series

### Rejoicing in the Lord

**Nehemiah 8:1** After Nehemiah and his coworkers rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem, the people were longing to know what they should do to get right with God. A vast concourse assembled with a common need, hunger and anxiety. The people were eager to have the law read to them that they might learn what was required of them. They had desire to know what God said. What a tragedy today so many are requesting substitutes for God's word!

**Nehemiah 8:2-3** Ezra was delighted to grant the request of his countrymen, so he brought the book of the law before the assembly. Ezra stood upon a platform so he might be seen and heard more easily. We need to open God's word today and give it an opportunity to do its work.

The people showed their respect for God and their reverence for his word by standing. Its message was applicable to their daily needs, welfare, ideals and their hopes.

**Psalms 119:105-112** By the term "law" the unidentified writer of Psalm 119 meant the written revelation of the will and ways of God. Because of his high estimation of the intrinsic value of God's word, the psalmist gave it serious and prayerful study, and applied its teachings to his life. When he thought about many experiences of his life and recalled that on numerous occasions he would have gone astray had he not received light and direction from God's word, his heart overflowed with gratitude. He had learned that hiding God's word in the heart is the surest safeguard against yielding to temptation so he took it in through study, memorization and meditation.

The psalmist sang praises to God for all his truth had meant to him and done for him, as well as for the guidance which he had received. He rejoiced that he had yielded to doing God's revealed will. That is what all God's children should do in the present generation.



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## on mission together

### Hard times but still smiling

Here lately, with the oil bust, Texans have had to take some pretty rough economic lumps.

Dr. Elmer West, a close, personal friend, who is retiring at year's end from the Foreign Mission Board, shared with me an article concerning Texas humor.

The article by J. Michael Kennedy rekindled thoughts of those bygone days.

"There was a Texan who visited Maine and belittled every scenic wonder he was shown. Finally, his host, frustrated, slipped a huge lobster into the Texan's bed. When he pulled down the covers he gasped and called his host to the bedroom.

"What in tarnation is that?" asked the Texan.

"That's a Maine bedbug," said the Yankee.

"The Texan studied the lobster closely, and gathering his composure, said: 'Must be a young 'un!'"

With Texas in the grip of hard times, a new wave of Texas puns has emerged.

"A Texas bank is giving away to those who open new accounts the choice of a toaster or an oil well."

"A Texas oilman who had been turned into frog asked a fair maiden to kiss him and end the spell. She put the frog in her pocket and said, 'these days a talking frog is worth more than a Texas oilman.'"

Lean as times may be there, Texans still have room to brag:

"Texas leads the nation in the production of crude oil. It ranks first in the number of farms and ranches, cattle, sheep, goats, wool production, mohair, cotton, watermelons, spinach, hides and tallow.

"It has more miles of roads than any other state, has the tallest capitol building in the country, taller by seven

feet than the one in Washington, D. C.

"Dr. Pepper and Fritos were invented there. And it has Priscilla, the lifesaving swimming pig. Priscilla once saved a drowning child in a lake and now does personal appearances and product endorsements."

Humor aside, there are lots of Baptist folk in that big state—over 2 million—part of our big family.

And when they are "down" economically, our larger mission program suffers significantly. In 1985, Texas Baptists provided \$58,397,270 through the Cooperative Program.

That same year, we Kentucky Baptists provided \$14,274,997. This year has been a hard Cooperative Program year for almost all of our 36 state conventions—but especially for oil states like Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana.

It's good for all of us that Texans can "laugh at themselves." It may be an export worthy of Kentucky Baptist consumption!

## 67 missionaries plan retirement

## Foreign Board honors largest emeritus group

A record number of Southern Baptist missionaries have retired during the last 12 months.

The 67 individuals recognized for their emeritus status by the Foreign Mission Board easily surpassed the previous record of 35 (1984) and the 33 who retired last year.

For the rest of this century, retirement totals are expected to range between 55 and 95, reflecting the rapid expansion of the Southern Baptist mission force following World War II.

The Southern Baptist Convention presently has more than 3700 missionaries working in 108 countries.

Nigeria missionaries posted the biggest number of retirements. Eleven missionaries who served a combined 320 years in that west Africa country have retired since last October—includ-

ing four women who averaged more than 36 years each.

Mary Evelyn Fredenburg (Minn.) worked as a nurse and a teacher and Mary Ellen Yancey (Ala.) taught and worked with Woman's Missionary Union 39 years each; Carol Leigh Humphries (N. C.) worked with WMU 34 years, and Barbara Epperson (Mo.) also worked with WMU and taught school 33 years in Nigeria.

John Abell and his wife, Betty, (Tex.) spent 35 years in the country. He worked in a Baptist colony for lepers and at Eku Baptist Hospital. Mrs. Novella Bender (Ky.) worked in Nigeria for 31 years, the last six after her husband's death in a car accident. She was a teacher.

Two couples shared time with other countries. Farrell and Elizabeth Runyan (S. C.) spent 18 years in Nigeria and 13

in Senegal as general evangelists and the last five years in Ivory Coast where he was regional consultant for evangelism and church growth for the continent of Africa.

W. Ralph and Joyce Davis (Miss.) did education work in Nigeria for 19 years, then for 16 years in Ghana.

Other retirees included:

Paul and Lena Early (N. C. and Ga., respectively), 11 years in theological education in the Bahamas; Jimmy and Susie Hartfield (Miss.), 25 years in Mexico and El Paso, Texas, in evangelism, religious education and publications; Harold and Alice Hurst (Ill. and Fla.), 27 years in Honduras, Panama and Mexico in media work, teaching and administration;

Dorothy Dell Shoemake (Texas), 34 years in Colombia, Ecuador and Dominican Republic in church education, administration and bookstore work; Edgar and Zelma Hallock Jr. (Okla.) spent 45 years in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in theological education and administration;

Leland and Helen Harper (Mo.), 32 years in Paraguay in hospital work and administration; J. Daniel and Julia Luper (Texas), 38 years in Brazil in general evangelism, aviation and administration; Margaret Pemble (Fla.), 34 years in Brazil in WMU, clinic and social work; Harold and Nona Mae Renfrow (Mo.), 31 years in Brazil in evangelism and education;

Ray and Mary Shelton (Tenn. and Ga.), 37 years in Uruguay in evangelism and education; Phyllis Clark (Ky.), 27 years in Kenya (the last 18 after the death of her husband, Eric) in WMU and women's work; Jewel and Jeanne Franks (Texas), 8 years in South Africa in administration;

Charles and Donal Culpepper Jr. (Texas and La.), 42 years in China and Taiwan in theological education; Bill and Rebekah Emanuel (Okla.), 35 years in Japan and the Philippines in evangelism and church development; R.

H. and Catherine Falwell Jr. (Ky. and Miss.), 15 years in Hong Kong and South Korea in theological education and church development;

Darrell and Norma Lea Mock (Okla.), 19 years in Japan in music education and women's work; Winfield and LaVerne Applewhite (Miss.), 31 years in Indonesia where he was a surgeon and hospital administrator and she worked with WMU; Lillie Rogers (Texas), 33 years in Singapore in education and church planting; Evelyn Schwartz (Tenn.), 37 years in Hawaii and Indonesia in WMU and education work;

Henry and Helen Turlington (Fla. and Va.), 12 years in China, Iran, India and the Philippines in education; Merrel Callaway (Ga.), 29 years in Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Yemen and Morocco in evangelism and bookstore work while his wife, Martha (Iowa), worked 19 years in Yemen and Morocco as a nurse;

Anne Dwyer (Va.), 32 years in Gaza, Jordan and Yemen as a nurse; Finlay Graham (Texas), 39 years in Palestine, Lebanon in theological education and administration, and his wife, Julia (Texas), 43 years in the same countries;

L. Parkes and Martha Ellen Marler (Miss.), 30 years in South Korea, Guam and Greece in evangelism; Joseph and Lila Mefford Jr. (Colo.), 33 years in Spain in education and media evangelism; William and Helen Rucht Jr. (Texas), 26 years in Italy in evangelism; Sam and Charlotte Shepard (Fla.), 11 years in Portugal in evangelism;

H. L. and Nell Hardy (Ky.), 36 years in Chile in evangelism; Norman and Evelyn Brown (S. C.), six years in West Germany in evangelism; Carl Hunker (Mo.), 40 years in China, the Philippines and Taiwan in theological education; Mabel Summers (N. C.), 35 years in Lebanon in children's work, student work and literature; and Hazel Watson (Texas and N. J.), 32 years in Japan in evangelism.



Donal and Charles Culpepper, SBC missionaries, visit Adrian Rogers.

## Missionary shows students the world

by Mark Winfield

Finlay Graham has come to Ft. Worth to show Americans the world.

Graham recently returned to the United States from 40 years of missionary service. He is retiring as the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's associate director for Europe and the Middle East.

As guest professor in missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Graham wants to help his students see beyond themselves, he said. "We Americans are woefully ignorant of the religions of the world."

This fall Graham is teaching seminary courses in Arabic and world religions. The Arabic course is a first for the Southwestern curriculum. It will primarily "help students who have the Hebrew to go a little bit deeper," Graham said.

Both courses will draw on Graham's missionary expertise, but the world religion course is a preaching point for him. Graham was born in Scotland and still carries some accent. He speaks softly with a loud message.

"We ought to be interested in Islam," he said. "The fastest growing religion in the world today is the Muslim faith." Muslims have one billion adherents around the world today, Graham said. "The petro dollars of Saudia Arabia are financing a crusade in different languages.

"More people from the so-called

Christian countries are becoming Muslim than people from Arab countries are becoming Christian," he said. Muslims are "winning more people to their faith than all Christian groups together." Graham explained that the Muslim religion cuts out much of the ethical standard of Christianity. "Muhammad made things easy," he said. "But the standard God has for us is very high."

He hopes his world religion course will give students "deeper insight into Muslims." The class will visit one of the two Muslim mosques in Ft. Worth. The presence of two Islamic worship centers there is evidence alone for Graham's concern for Muslim ministry, he said.

While serving the Foreign Mission Board, Graham helped establish the Arab Baptist Seminary in Beirut, Lebanon. The seminary celebrated its 25th anniversary last June. The Beirut seminary and its 70 graduates have had "a wide spectrum of influence" in the Arab world, Graham said.

Graham will spend the next year influencing American seminary students from the lessons of his missionary service. "We will be sharing much of our experience as well as the scholastic," Graham said of his classes. Just as in pointing out the Ft. Worth Islamic community, Graham will focus his classes on "needs right here in the United States," he said.

"But hopefully in the wider area, some will find an interest in missions."



When Helen and Henry Turlington were honored as emeritus missionaries, an old friend was on hand to share "rookie memories." Mary Sampson, another emeritus missionary who retired in 1983, shows a photograph of the couple. She and the Turlingtons were appointed to Shanghai, China in 1946.



# Foreign Mission Board

## Missionary Appointment Service

April 7, 1987  
Rupp Arena  
Lexington, Kentucky  
7:30 P.M.

*Everyone Is Invited!!  
Come One!! Come All!!*

An Appointment Service is:

- Stirring music from a mass choir and orchestra
- A parade of colorful international flags
- An exciting procession of missionary candidates
- Inspirational missionary testimonies
- A challenging message from Dr. Keith Parks, president of the FMB
- Uplifting worship experience
- The culmination of the total missionary appointment process