

Liberian confesses to stabbing in Yekepa

Missionary, daughter murdered in own home

A Southern Baptist missionary and her 10-year-old daughter were found murdered in their home in the northeastern Liberia town of Yekepa early Nov. 26.

Libby Tarlton Senter, 47, Shelby, N. C. and her daughter Rachel had been dead several hours when Earl Williams, a missionary who lives nearby, entered their home, discovered the bodies and found a knife, the apparent murder weapon.

A 32-year-old Liberian man, Benjamin M. Morris, admitted to the murders Nov. 27. He told Liberian officials that he stabbed the two after Mrs. Senter intervened to prevent him from molesting her daughter.

George Senter, Mrs. Senter's husband, was in Monrovia, the capital city about four hours away, to pick up his 15-year-old son, Philip, for an American-style Thanksgiving holiday. Philip attends an American Cooperative School for missionary children there.

Senter, Gibson, Tenn., is assigned as a field evangelist and has been working to start and strengthen churches in about 20 villages around the town. Mrs. Senter, assigned as a church and home worker, was heavily involved in her husband's work, according to John Mills, director of Baptist Foreign Mission Board work in West Africa. The couple had lived in Yekepa since 1980.

Williams went into the Senter's home when Rachel did not appear to leave for the school she attends with his own child. Williams, pastor of Mount Nimba Baptist Church in the city, and his family live adjacent to the Senter's in what Mills described as a relatively nice section of town.

Police and soldiers apprehended Morris at a checkpoint in Karnplay, Liberia, about 30 miles from Yekepa and 20 miles from the border of Ivory Coast, a nation to the northeast.

The Liberian's confession came after Senter asked to speak with Morris privately. He told Morris he forgave him for what he had done to his wife and daughter and asked him to confess.

"Looking face to face in Ben Morris' eyes, George expressed his forgiveness and asked Ben to make a confes-



Southern Baptist missionary Libby Tarlton Senter with her daughter Rachel practice the piano. Mrs. Senter, Shelby, N. C. and her daughter were found murdered in their Yekepa, Liberia home Nov. 26.

sion," said Bradley Brown, administrator for the 67 Southern Baptist mission personnel assigned to Liberia. The conversation between Morris and Senter took several minutes and was punctuated by intermittent periods of emotional breakdown, Brown said.

Morris, a Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary graduate, had been doing odd jobs for Senter and Williams, and both men had worked with him to help

involve him in Baptist work around Yekepa. But apparently he had been unable to work himself into a meaningful ministry in any of the churches, Brown commented. "We've found out now there was obviously some resentment that he wasn't able to come in and probably be assistant pastor or something of this sort at Mount Nimba Baptist Church," he said.

Morris came to Yekepa only a few months ago, telling the missionaries he

had wandered from the right life but had changed, and wanted to serve God in Yekepa. "Naturally, Earl Williams and George Senter wanted to take him at his word, and they befriended him," said Brown.

After graduating in 1979 from the seminary, Morris found a job teaching at Ricks Institute, a Baptist school run entirely by Liberians. But he left the institute early this year and temporarily lost fervor for the Christian life.

During recent months Morris had visited regularly in the Senter's home, and he had even slept there. So it was not unusual that Mrs. Senter would let him enter when he came to the door at about 11 p.m. Nov. 25.

Rachel Senter's death is believed to be the first murder of a dependent foreign missionary child in Southern Baptist history. Mrs. Senter's death is the 11th murder of a Southern Baptist missionary since the board was organized in 1845.

The last such victim, James Philpot, was shot to death last year after a traffic accident in Mexico City. During the past 25 years, five other missionaries have been murdered in Zimbabwe, Taiwan, Gaza and the Dominican Republic.

Mrs. Senter was a graduate of Wake Forest University, with a BA degree. She received an MA in religious education from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and an MS degree in social work from the University of Louisville.

She taught high school in Chesapeake, Va. and did social work in Evansville, Ind. The Senter's were home missionaries in Indiana from 1971 to 1980.

Study group has 'healthy confrontation' with BJCPA

A meeting between a nine-member Southern Baptist Convention fact-finding group and the staff of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs was a "healthy confrontation," the study committee chairman said.

"We had our confrontation," said Gary F. Young, chairman of the special committee appointed by the SBC Executive Committee in September to study the relationship between the convention and the BJCPA.

The committee was appointed in response to a motion introduced in the 1986 annual meeting of the SBC which called for the SBC to withdraw from the BJCPA and to establish "an exclusive Southern Baptist presence" in the nation's capital.

Young said the "confrontation was painful, but all confrontations are painful for me." He added he considers the confrontation on issues "healthy" because "it was the first time that participants in the issues were able to sit and talk about the matters that divide us."

He said the two-day meeting was "not intended to evaluate personnel. I felt it was a time to bring people who had various opinions together with the personnel (of the BJCPA) to see if we could answer some questions and clear up some of the difficulties."

At the start of the meeting, Young told BJCPA staffers: "I hope you will not feel this is a grand inquisition. We will be asking you why you said something or wrote something. Please don't interpret that as accusations. We will be confrontive. We will ask questions and deal with some things. We are dealing with issues, and not personalities, but we are not rocks, so personalities will be involved."

The meeting featured sharp questioning of BJCPA staffers over the joint committee's opposition to the School Prayer Amendment, the leadership style of Executive Director Dunn, as well as Dunn's former association with the controversial People For the American Way and the writing of Associate Director Stan Hastey.

Following the meeting, Young commended the staff: "I am proud of you because you have submitted yourselves to a grueling experience. No one forced you to do it. You submitted yourselves. I commend you for your Christian spirit. I commend you for turning the other cheek. I commend you for practicing the scriptures in your life and letting Christ shine through you."

Young added that while "forgiveness and healing are now in the process, it does mean that I think solutions are possible."

Revival stirs mountain church

by Jack Sanford, Editor

Red Hill Baptist Church, Three Forks association, was stirred with a Spirit-filled revival.

James Murphy, pastor of Finley Baptist Church, Green Valley association, was invited to preach Friday through Sunday by Red Hill pastor David Cheek. Little did either of them know what the Lord would do in such a short time.

Murphy said what happened was a "miracle." The Red Hill church had only 12 in Sunday school just four years ago, but on the Sunday morning that closed the meeting the Sunday school attendance was 80.

The short revival meeting produced 11 professions of faith, 10 rededications and one transfer of letter. All of the people who made professions of faith were teen agers or adults except one child. Several of the girls who made professions of faith were members of the local high school basketball team.

Murphy said the Lord did it all and, "All I did was preach and get out of the way."

Included in the preparations made by Cheek and his congregation was an all-night prayer meeting.

When the meeting ended, Murphy said he returned home "high as he had ever been."

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Jack D. Sanford

sanford's perspectives

Who cares for the church secretary

We Baptists believe the local church is the place where care and love abound toward all persons in need. People from off the street, destitute people half a world away and unfortunates we have never seen receive expressions of our love and care. We believe this is what Christ would do and our calling is to follow him. But we sometimes fail to demonstrate that care and love to the people closest to us.

Often the most forgotten person in Baptist church life is the church secretary who does not always receive the same love and care we so lavishly give to other people.

The church secretary is in reality an administrative assistant to the church staff, carrying out complex assignments that cover the entire range of ministry, yet she is taken for granted by far too many uninformed church members, or is thought of only as someone who answers the phone and takes care of the mail.

If that same person worked the same job in industry or business or education or for professional people, the salary and benefit package would be much higher than it is in the churches.

That is the point to be made and understood. We neglect these valuable people by taking for granted they will be there to do the job, regardless of what we pay them or how we treat them. Consequently we try to get by with as little as we can.

Note the salary scale for most church secretaries. It is considerably lower than in other offices. Not because the work is less critical. On the contrary, the work of the church secretary is absolutely vital for the success of church programs and ministries.

The salary scale is lower because salaries are usually set by men and secretaries are usually women. The men who call the shots may have worked in low paying industry, or spent their work life in a job where secretaries were not part of the work force, or been the victims of companies which did not consider adequate salary and retirement benefits important.

Thus they may bring their own disappointment and disillusionment to their task of setting salary packages for church employees. They have forgotten a cardinal rule of the Christian life: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Now they are in a position to do, but many times they don't.

Note the benefit scale for most church secretaries. It is almost non-existent. Few church secretaries have paid life insurance, still fewer have paid accident and disability insurance, and only a handful have any kind of retirement coverage. All these benefits are regularly granted most other staff members. Only a few of our churches consider the needs of their secretaries in these important "fringe" areas.

The matter of retirement coverage is a critical point, since most women outlive men and often have no reliable source of income when they are widows. If her husband had some retirement coverage at his death, chances are the widow's share is usually much less so that painful life

style changes are often required of her if she is to make ends meet.

The churches could do something about this if they had the will and the leadership necessary to act.

The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has made available to church secretaries participation in the age benefit plans for many years. However the church had to decide to cover the secretary and pay the church share of coverage before any benefits went into effect. Unfortunately this has not been the case in far too many instances, because the churches either did not know the secretaries could be covered or were not interested in extending this benefit to them.

Perhaps the average church member does not know how important the church secretary is to the success of the church's programs and thus lets this matter of care slip by unnoticed.

Such is not the case with pastors. Practically every pastor in the land will tell you the most important person with whom he works is the church secretary. She not only does typical "secretary things," such as correspondence and telephone answering, she goes several second miles further.

She is the voice of the church to strangers, the guardian of the pastor's time, the peacemaker in many conflicts, the confidante of all who seek her out, the sounding board for staff members, the liaison with the church membership and the smiling face you see every time you go to the church office.

Through more than 30 years as a pastor I was honored to have great secretaries and I salute them all—Hesta Hunter, Barbara Wyatt, Lois Hodges, Johnnie Peek, Ann Scott and Bettye Duncan. They gave much more than they received, as is the case with far too many great Christian women now serving the churches in this important position.

A complimentary dinner during National Secretaries Week, a bouquet of flowers on special days is not enough recognition for these people. These are good expressions of concern and appreciation, but these recognitions do not pay any bills.

Take a hard look at what you are doing, and not doing, for the people who make your church office run. They deserve the best you can possibly provide for them. The least you can do is pay them adequately and see they have coverage for retirement.

When they step aside because they are too old to work, who will take care of their needs? They would prefer taking care of their own needs through a retirement check each month. The dignity which comes with financial independence is important to all of us and should be denied none of us, especially those who labor with the people of God.

Coverage in the Annuity Board's retirement program would be a first, critical, necessary step in honoring those who give so much and receive so little.

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viewpoint

Honeycutt on the 'Glorieta Statement'

by Jack Sanford, Editor

Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern Seminary, addressed a lengthy statement to "the seminary community, alumni, friends, our Southern Baptist family and the general public."

The statement was shared with Western Recorder so that, in the words of Honeycutt, we might be kept "abreast of developments here at the seminary as we look toward the possibility of making reconciliation a reality within the Southern Baptist Convention."

Western Recorder now shares that statement for the same reasons. It is important that all Kentucky Baptists be aware of what is happening at this crucial time in the peace process in our denomination. The full statement follows:

"At Glorieta, New Mexico, the six seminary presidents initiated a bold and daring step toward reconciliation within the Southern Baptist Convention. The proposal was unanimously supported by the seminary presidents and represents our best effort to be partners in the process of reconciliation. Unfortunately, certain inaccurate and misleading public interpretations are being made. Some suggest that capitulation has occurred; that the seminary presidents have accepted the inerrantist theory of scripture and are attempting to shift the seminaries toward fundamentalism. Such interpretations are creating false perceptions of Southern Seminary that need immediate correction. I remain committed to the fairness and openness of the 'Glorieta Statement,' but I also intend to preserve the distinctive heritage of Southern Seminary.

"In clarifying my intention to preserve the heritage of Southern Seminary, let me make the following specific commitments and reflections to the Seminary community, alumni, friends, our Southern Baptist family and the general public.

"First, the Glorieta document represents the guiding principles of the administration of the seminaries, but it is not intended as a new faith statement. Southern Seminary remains committed to the Abstract of Principles and to Article I on scripture as the norm that continues to guide our teaching and serves as the legal contractual standard for seminary professors:

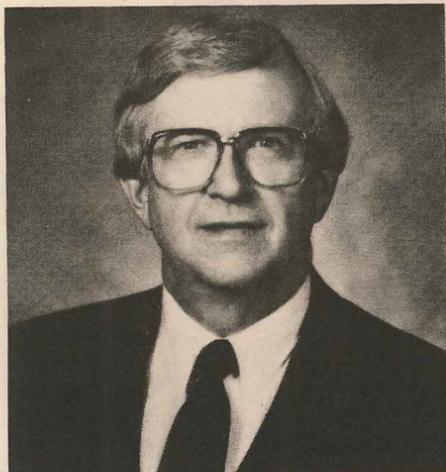
"The scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are the only sufficient, certain and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience."

"Second, the clear and unqualified view of both the faculty and the the faculty's unanimously adopted 1984 'Resolution of Gratitude and Commitment to Southern Baptists,' in which our belief in 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:20-21, reaffirms our commitment to teach within Article I on scripture of the Abstract of Principles, and commend the 1963 'Baptist Faith and Message' statement on scripture. We still confess without ambiguity, now as then:

"On this historic occasion, we, the faculty of Southern Seminary, recom-

mit ourselves to Jesus Christ as Lord and to the centrality of the Bible for all matters of faith and doctrine. We believe, without reservation, in the inspiration and authority of the Bible and all that the Bible says about itself."

"Third, we continue to affirm the trustworthy authority of the Bible *within its purpose* of speaking to the *theological* concerns of faith and the Christian life, commonly defined in our confessions as 'matters of faith



Honeycutt

and practice.' In that view, we remain faithful to the great Baptist confessions including both the 1925 and 1963 'Baptist Faith and Message' statements, which, written under the respective leaderships of E. Y. Mullins and Herschel Hobbs, affirm that the Bible 'has salvation for its end' and is 'the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried.'

"Fourth, we will keep faith with the scholarly biblical tradition of Southern Seminary by continuing to interpret the divinely inspired scripture—with reverence, accuracy, and integrity—through the best of historical-critical methodologies.

"Fifth, the statement on scripture within the 'Glorieta Statement' was an effort to affirm a broad base of agreement among all parties in the conflict of a high view of the inspiration and authority of the Bible. I recognize in retrospect that the wording of this consensus statement requires careful interpretation and elaboration if the views of the presidents, as conveyed in discussion with the Peace Committee, are to be understood.

"Sixth, my personal commitments to the Peace Committee were clearly enunciated in six principles shared with the committee. The 'Glorieta Statement':

"Is proposed in good faith. The

presidents have taken a major step in sincere effort to be authentic partners in the search for reconciliation within the convention.

"Is proactive. The proposals are proactive toward resolving the denominational conflict and represent a consensus statement adopted unanimously by the presidents.

"Recognizes diversity. The document acknowledges authentic differences that are sometimes substantive between Southern Baptists, but does so with the conviction that our diversity should be overshadowed by unity so long as we remain within the boundaries established by the seminaries' and convention's statement(s) of faith.

"Calls on no one to abdicate his or her convictions. As the document does not require others to alter their convictions, neither does it call on us to abandon our convictions.

"Presupposes enlarging the circle to include all Southern Baptists. Reconciliation will be achieved not by reducing the circle of our fellowship to increasingly narrow dimensions, but by enlarging that circle to include all who stand within the current operative statements of faith among Southern Baptists.

"States commitments that are already largely implemented at Southern Seminary.

"Seventh, the seminary presidents have taken the first step toward reconciliation in offering specific proposals to address perceptions about the seminaries. We are now publicly calling on those in appropriate positions of power to take the next step by adopting equally specific proposals to address the political dimensions of the controversy. The fairness we seek for the classrooms should be sought by others for the boardrooms.

"In closing, I ask you to pray for our convention and all of us at the seminary. Also, I ask for your understanding and your support while we seek to be dynamic partners in a process of reconciliation. We remain committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the seminary's heritage."



Leon Simpson
President
Clear Creek Baptist School
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek comment

The Wonder of Christmas

John Peterson once wrote a song that included the words, "The wonder of Christmas is filling the air, the wonder of Christmas is seen everywhere." Surely this is our testimony at Clear Creek as we enter into the Christmas season.

As I read Luke's account of our saviour's birth, I am struck by the descriptive words he used—"the glory of the Lord," "good tidings," "great joy," "praise God," "glory to God in the highest," "peace, good will." God gave the good doctor Luke insight into the birth of our Lord which is unrivaled. Shepherds at night were lifted from fear to awe and wonder. A baby in a manger occasioned worship in the hearts of all who visited. There was a wonder to that first Christmas which involved 'the glory of the Lord' and caused 'great joy' to all whose hearts were receptive.

I am convinced that the Lord intends for each of us to experience a sense of wonder as we celebrate Christmas this year. John Byron said, "Christmas awake! Salute the happy morn where-on the Saviour of the world was born!" and Thomas Tusser penned the admonition, "At Christmas play and make good cheer, for Christmas comes but once a year."

At Clear Creek we always celebrate the Christmas season with worship and praise. We have just concluded the Lottie Moon Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions. God so loved us that he sent his son and we have prayed, "Here am I, Lord. Send me!" Our children have already presented their Christmas program and our Campus Choir's Christmas Concert is this Thursday (Dec. 11, 1986) at 7:00 p.m. in the Binghamtown Baptist Church. Our almost 50 teenagers are presenting a live manger scene for the next two weeks and in various ways we are trying to worship our Lord and witness for him.

Each year many individuals and churches give new toys and gifts or money to buy them so that our students will be able to have gifts for their children at Christmas. Tonight (Dec. 9, 1986) is a most exciting time called our Shopping Spree, a time when our fathers and mothers are able to choose gifts for their children for Christmas from the wonderful store of gifts and toys you have provided, because so many of you cared and shared. This is truly the wonder of Christmas—that God's love causes us to love and care and share!

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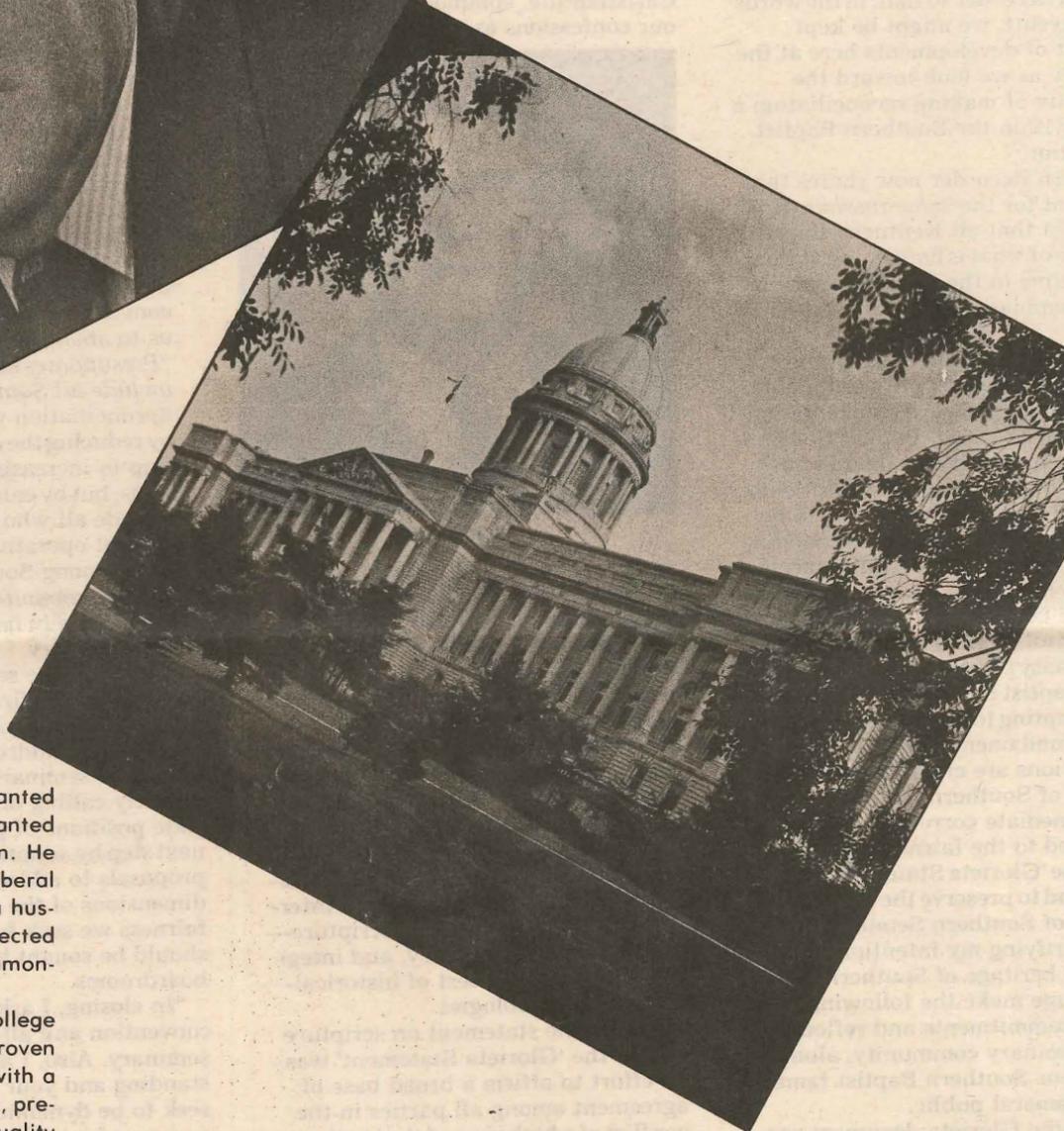
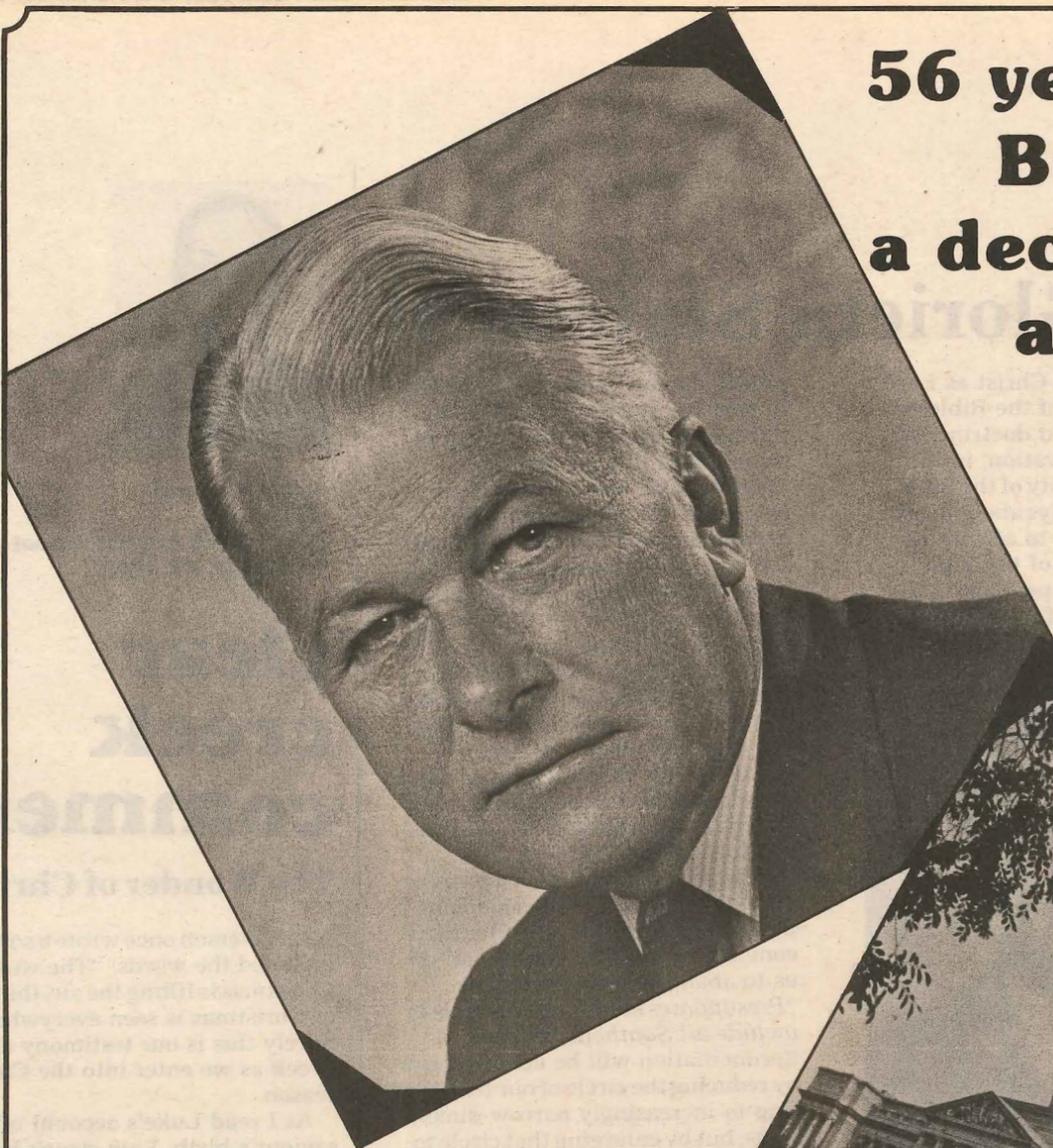
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baptist forum

Congregation appeals HMB action

I am enclosing a motion that our church passed at a business meeting on Nov. 5, 1986. This motion was sent to the chairman of the board of trustees of the Home Mission Board. I thought you and the readers in our own state might have some interest in it:

The congregation of St. Matthews Baptist Church wants to affirm the Home Mission Board for the fine support it has given women in the past who have served our Lord through their ministry in social work, mission centers, chaplain positions and in many other capacities. For many years our congregation has ordained women to serve on our deacon council and to the gospel ministry. We have recognized the gifts and calling of these women to ministry and have enthusiastically ordained them to serve our Lord. We were, therefore, disappointed with your recent decision not to grant home mission funds to churches who have women pastors. We believe each congregation has the right and privilege to seek the leader God would have for them. We would not like to see a restriction like this one curtail the opportunity of God to work in and through the lives of women ministers in his service. We encourage you to rescind your action not to grant aid to churches that have women serve as pastors. We encourage you to permit God and each mission congregation to follow freely his leadership in finding the person whom they call to serve as pastor, whether it be a woman or man.

William Powell Tuck
Louisville

Let women follow God's rules

I have read in Western Recorder about the Home Mission Board decision concerning women pastors. Such statements as "Christian women and men who understand pastoral leadership as a gift given by the Holy Spirit" and "God will continue to choose whomever God wills" were made. Both statements allude to God's sovereignty which is a revealed doctrine.

Mr. Willoughby's attempt to justify women in ministry for winning the cities to Christ is apparently an allusion to the Great Commission which is also a revealed doctrine. It was said that women are called into the ministry and the Holy Spirit has given this gift to women. Now the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead and we know from scripture God is immutable; He never changes.

God has made clear in his word the role of men and women. We do not have the authority to change this. God says for women to be keepers of the home; also she is to teach the younger women to love their husbands and children. You will not find where the woman is to be in authority or leadership over the man. That is not God's way.

The same Holy Spirit who revealed these truths to men of old cannot contradict himself. I would urge the women to try the spirit whether it be of God or not.

God's role for the woman is not demeaning but it is blessed by God. God has revealed the role and bounds of Christian women. To the extent that Christian women order their lives by

God's revelation is the extent to which God will honor and bless.

It would be good to remember Boyce's Abstract of Principles in which Article I states: "The scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are the only sufficient certain and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience."

Mrs. Virginia Brown
Louisville

Faith must be shared

The gospel is the good news that something wonderful has happened. That marvelous event was the incarnation by which God entered human life and history for our redemption and reconciliation. In Jesus Christ, God came into the world "to seek and to save that which was lost."

As Christians we are transmitters of this good news so that "the world may know" that God loves all people and desires their redemption. We are "ambassadors of Christ" charged with a "ministry of reconciliation"—God making his appeal for reconciliation through us.

"We have this treasure (gospel) in earthen vessels." God shares the gospel with us that we may share it with a perishing world. If you had a cure for AIDS or cancer would you not share it with those afflicted with these deadly diseases? Even more so must we share the healing and liberating good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ with the spiritually ill.

Sharing our faith must be done with a sense of urgency. As students we were surprised when James Moffatt, distinguished biblical scholar and translator, spent an entire lecture on the word "first" in John 1:41-42. Andrew had met Christ and John records that Andrew "first found his brother Simon" and brought him to Jesus. Sharing his faith became the priority of his life.

How can we effectively share our faith? By learning how to do it. We learn from scripture to do it with zeal and intelligence, "gentleness and reverence"; by joining a group in the church (or forming one) dealing with "Dialogue on Sharing Your Faith"; and by living our faith.

We share our faith with the whole world as well as the individual. The divine imperative is to make disciples of all nations. In obedience to this mandate, we are assured of the perennial presence of the living Christ through "all the days," days of joy and sadness, despair and hope, defeat and victory.

Henlee Barnett
Prof. Christian Ethics Emeritus
Southern Seminary

Christians must fight humanism

The 13th affirmation of Humanist Manifesto 1 and 2 clearly states the purpose and program of humanism is to transform and control all associations and institutions.

What do the humanists who want such total control advocate? They advocate atheism which they call nontheism. The advocate situational ethics, denying there is absolute right or absolute wrong. They advocate sexual immorality, which they call the exercise of one's sexual proclivities. They advocate the right to commit suicide, abortion, divorce, and

ethanasia. And they advocate a world system of government which they call transnational federal government.

Can the humanists actually control all associations and institutions? They are small in number, but they work with missionary zeal. Their thought patterns are dominant in our society. They can and will control if we let them.

People who know the facts about humanism will not let their institutions be controlled by the humanists.

William R. Hagan
Taylorsville

Lord, when were you hungry or naked?

I have just finished reading Western Recorder's coverage of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and I am disappointed to see no statement came out of the convention about the issue of poverty and hunger in our state, much less in the entire United States. This of course is in sharp contrast to the strong stand taken recently by Roman Catholic bishops. Granted, they drafted their pastoral letter following six years of study of the subject. Yet, one does not need thorough research to realize that too many people in our country are suffering. A visit to any

mission in any city will be as enlightening as many years of study on poverty.

How long will it be before we as Baptists are willing to make a collective effort to at least address the problems of the poor in our church communities? To expect anything more than a brief "glance" from any large Southern Baptist organization, that is so deeply entrenched in more important matters, like biblical inerrancy, is naive or foolish idealism.

David M. Ramsey
Louisville

Thanks to Severns Valley

On behalf of the staff of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, I wish to extend a word of heartfelt gratitude to the staff and members of Severns Valley Baptist Church for their hospitality and generosity in hosting this year's KBC meeting.

Kentucky Baptists are blessed to have such generous and hospitable folks offer their services for our annual meeting. May God's blessings to the Severns Valley church be in direct proportion to the blessing they have given us.

William W. Marshall
Executive Secretary-Treasurer



Second Glances

Ken Perkins
Missionary to Transkei

Just what are we doing here? Missionaries ask themselves that question. In whatever role we serve—be it doctors, teachers, preachers or nurses, to name a few—we are committed to use our skills to glorify the kingdom's work.

Sometimes though, the reality is far less than the ideal.

Recently our weeks in Transkei (one of the independent homelands in South Africa) have been filled with the boy's education, new baby care, regaining mom's health and trying to build a house. So we have depended on Sundays to allow us a ministry in the classical missionary sense.

Sundays are good for this sort of thing. Right? Wrong.

First there was the crazy man.

As I sat in a teen-age Sunday school class, listening to a lay person teach, my prayers bombarded heaven with "Why am I sitting here, Lord, doing nothing? I could have stayed in the U.S.A. and done this."

About that time a huge black man disrupted the class and did a striptease. Smiling inwardly, I approached him, since I was the only adult present who spoke Xhosa. Besides, I am an expert on mentally disturbed people because we dealt with many people in Malawi whose minds were terribly affected by bouts with malaria.

Joking with this giant, I got him away from the children and into my four-wheel drive. Playing with my beard and jerking the steering wheel as I drove, he told me to take him to South Africa to buy a gold mine.

Instead, I took him to the police who had arrested him twice the day

before for hurting people, damaging property and stripping naked in the streets. I offered to carry him to an institution or pay his bus fare—but they turned him loose. There is no help to be had.

Frustrated by the lack of "spiritual" ministry, I waited for the next Sunday. And on the way to church we came upon an accident. Giving assistance kept us busy until church was over.

The third Sunday we got to church—but no one else came, though we waited for hours.

Finally, the following week a national pastor requested my help. I had visions of getting to preach to an inhabited church devoid of accidents and crazy people. Instead he wanted me to haul four bags of seed corn from his wife's village to his village.

Serving the Lord in Africa? Right!

But in the following days we saw the spiritual fruit. Parents thanked us for being used of God and protecting their children from the crazy man. The young couple involved in the accident went to one of our churches for the first time the following week and wrote us a most moving letter.

The young "corn" pastor shared a heartwarming testimony with his non-Christian family about our love for them. And the church which didn't come hear me preach asked my wife and me to speak in a major rally.

What are we doing here?

It seems almost anything and everything the Lord desires us to do.

(Ken Perkins has been a Southern Baptist missionary since 1983. He served first in Malawi and now in Transkei.)

baptist news in brief

NABF names Griffin committee chairman

Russell Griffin, director of the Children and Youth Department of the Baptist Brotherhood Commission, has been elected chairman of the North American Baptist Fellowship youth committee.

The NABF youth committee, which met at the international BWA headquarters in McLean, Va. also chose Cassandra Jones of the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc., as first vice chairman and Beth Loughead of American Baptist Churches as second vice chairman. Don Simmonds of the Baptist Federation of Canada was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

Committee members and the Baptist World Alliance Youth Department expressed thanks to Jeff Jones of American Baptist Churches for chairing the committee previously. Jones resigned earlier this year.

The North American Baptist Fellowship, made up of eight Baptist conventions in the United States and Canada, is one of six regional organizations of the Baptist World Alliance.

Griffin, 39, Memphis, Tenn., succeeds Charles Beckett, Richmond, Va., who has been acting chairman since July 1986. He was previously Royal Ambassador director for the Mississippi Baptist convention and minister of youth and recreation at First Baptist Church, Vickburg, Miss.

"I am really thrilled that Rusty

Griffin has been chosen for the NABF committee chair," said Paul Montecute, London, chairman of the BWA Youth Department. "We appreciated his contribution to the Asian Baptist youth training conference in Singapore and as a co-opted member of the international program committee planning the 11th Baptist Youth World Conference in Glasgow in 1988."

Griffin said his immediate goals are to make youth leaders aware of the resources available from other Baptist bodies and to generate a sense of shared responsibility between Baptist regional fellowships.

"As I deal every day with missions," he said, "I see this as a real way for Southern Baptists to become involved in our world through the BWA."

Griffin will also be mobilizing North American youth and their leaders to become part of the Glasgow youth conference, scheduled for July 27-31, 1988.

Griffin is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary. He and his wife, Jan, are the parents of two children.(BP)

BWA seeks director for Women's Dept.

A search committee has been appointed by the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance for a director, according to Mrs. Edna Lee de Gutierrez of Mexico, D. F., Women's Department president.

The appointee will be executive administrator of the department and work in consultation with departmental officers and the executive committee.

Routine duties will include general correspondence and regular communications with the Continental Union Executives, monthly reports to the president and secretary-treasurer and maintenance of records and the departmental mailing list.

An important part of the position is communication through the annual Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer program and two issues annually of *Together*, the department's newsletter. There is also dissemination of news through BWA publications and information service releases. For more information, Write: Baptist World Alliance/Women's Department, 6733 Curran St., McLean, VA 22101-3804 U. S. A.(BP)

Chinese can reach world, Parks says

Chinese Christians scattered around the world could make a "tremendous impact" for the gospel in many nations, insisted Baptist Foreign Mission Board president R. Keith Parks.

"There are enclaves of Chinese all over the world, maybe stronger groups of Chinese in more countries than any other race," Parks said after a recent visit to eastern Asia. If Christians in overseas Chinese communities become

committed to world evangelization, he told Chinese Baptists in Hong Kong and Taiwan, "you could influence most of the nations of the world, because you're everywhere."

Parks spoke at special church services in Hong Kong and Taiwan, where Baptists have been celebrating the 150th anniversary of the beginning of Baptist work in China.

Baptist missionaries J. Lewis and Henrietta Hall Shuck of Virginia, originally appointed by the Triennial Convention, reached Macao on the southern coast of China in 1836. They later moved to Hong Kong, where she died in 1844. The following year, Shuck moved to Canton and joined Southern Baptists' newly formed mission board, making China the first foreign mission field for the Southern Baptist Convention.

Thus began more than a century of work carried out by hundreds of missionaries, including such legendary figures as Lottie Moon and Bill Wallace. The missionary era in China ended with the rise of communism, but many Christians in today's post-denominational church of China still value their Baptist heritage.

Taiwan Baptists have been praying for at least 150 people to commit themselves to vocational Christian service during the celebrations. They topped that goal in November during a special service at Grace Baptist Church in Taipei, as more than 20 people joined others who already have made public commitments to service.(BP)

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

says

Thank you Kentucky Baptists
for the enthusiastic endorsement
of the
Beyond This Time
campaign for endowment



Call or write:

Eldred M. Taylor, Executive Director
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
10801 Shelbyville Road
Middleton, Kentucky 40243
502/245-2101

Lincoln-Casey DOM dies of heart attack

Jesse Sebastian, 61, director of missions for Lincoln-Casey Association, died Nov. 30 at the Ft. Logan Hospital in Stanford. Sebastian suffered a heart attack and died soon after being rushed to the hospital.

He is survived by his wife, Thelma and their four children, Stephen Michael, Phillip, Timothy and Beth. The funeral was held Dec. 3 at Calvary Hill Baptist Church, where Sebastian was a member. The service was officiated by Greg Hancock, Elmore Ray and Morris Traynor.

Originally from Lancaster, Sebastian had been a director of missions 16 years. Janie Lasure, secretary at Stanford Baptist Church and Sebastian's sister-in-law, stated that Sebastian was always willing to do pulpit supply and was known by many people in the association.

The family requests memorial gifts be donations to the Gideons or the association.

Bryant to chair endowment campaign

Mike Bryant, a Florence, Ky. insurance executive, has been named statewide chairman of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Beyond This Time campaign for endowment, according to Eldred M. Taylor, executive director of the child-care agency.

Bryant, a Tennessee native, began his insurance career as an agent in Greeneville, Tenn. in 1975. In 1981, he and his family moved to Florence, Ky. when he became a State Farm agency manager. Bryant has won numerous professional awards and recognitions as part of the State Farm organization.

Bryant and his family are actively involved in the life of Florence Baptist Church where Mike is a deacon, Sunday school leader and a member of several committees.

He and his wife, Donna, are the parents of three children: Jeremy, Natalie, and Jonathan.

In announcing Bryant's acceptance of the position, Eldred Taylor said, "I am thankful indeed that a man of Mike Bryant's deep Christian commitment and his special love for children has agreed to serve in this vital role. I am confident that the Lord led us to Mike and Donna. Furthermore, I am certain that their special abilities will provide the kind of leadership needed for the challenges that lie before us in this exciting campaign."

The Beyond This Time campaign for endowment was launched November 11, 1986 during the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. A challenge goal of \$3,000,000 was established following a statewide feasibility study conducted by the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Missionary's family gathers to grieve

Family and friends in the United States came together Nov. 29 to try to understand the life and violent death of Southern Baptist missionary Libby Senter and her 10-year-old daughter, Rachel.

Observed by reporters, television

cameras and a community in shock, they quietly gathered at Zion Baptist Church in Shelby, N. C., the home ground that nourished Mrs. Senter. Her father preached there for 16 years and she first dedicated her life to missions there.

Current pastor Russell Fitts remembered the last time the missionary family had been in the church, 11 months before.

"Rachel and Philip came with Libby and George to stand where I'm standing, and the entire family took part in a presentation on missions in Liberia," Fitts remembered. "You could tell by the way these children, Philip and Rachel, came to the rostrum and held the banners and posters that they were thrilled to be a part of what their mother and daddy were doing."

Bill Tarlton, Libby Senter's 87-year-old father, smiled at the memory. The retired pastor, known and loved in the Shelby area for almost 40 years, had been smiling for days as he accepted condolences, answered reporters' questions and tried to support other grieving family members.

Church members say it is his nature.

Tarlton and others who knew and loved Libby Senter remembered her as a determined, outgoing woman who enjoyed life, trusted almost everybody and feared nothing. She was valedictorian of her high school class in Shelby and earned honors at Wake Forest University and Southern Seminary. But the characteristics that turned up most often in memories were her love of people and sensitivity to their needs. (BP)



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

homes for children

Giving and Receiving

It is now midway between Thanksgiving and Christmas. This brings us to the season when the spirit of giving is intensified. Traffic has increased, stores are crowded, shoppers are checking lists and purchasing gifts. A wonderful spirit of benevolence is in evidence.

The approach of Christmas is a time when we plan gifts for friends and loved ones. It also is a time when many help provide for those who are in great need of food and clothing. Additionally, this is a season when we have an opportunity to make special missions gifts. What a wonderful time to honor our Lord through giving in his name.

The scripture tells us that Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Have you ever wondered why? Having learned the joy of giving and sharing, I know why it is more blessed to give than to receive. Giving out of a heart of love for our Lord makes the gift a love gift in his honor. That is a joyful blessing in itself. Then, when the gift in Jesus' name is to help someone in physical and/or spiritual need, there is a second blessing. So, while the receiver is blessed by receiving that which is needed, the giver is doubly blessed because the gift both honors God and blesses others.

Many have been doubly blessed by making a generous gift to the Thanksgiving Offering for Baptist Homes for Children. This helps feed, clothe and care for our children on a day-to-day basis. Many are also being doubly blessed by helping in a special way with Christmas gifts for children in our care. Your gifts honor God who loves all children, and you are bringing joy and blessings to the lives of children who stand in great need.

So often children who live at Baptist Homes for Children have not had many good things happen to them. Christmas observed in a Christian home setting such as Baptist Homes for Children is a very positive experience for them. It is a heartwarming experience to see individuals, churches, Sunday school classes and mission groups respond in helping provide Christmas presents for our children.

Your help with Christmas is a special loving experience for them. They are encouraged because you care.

classifieds

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Minimum experience required
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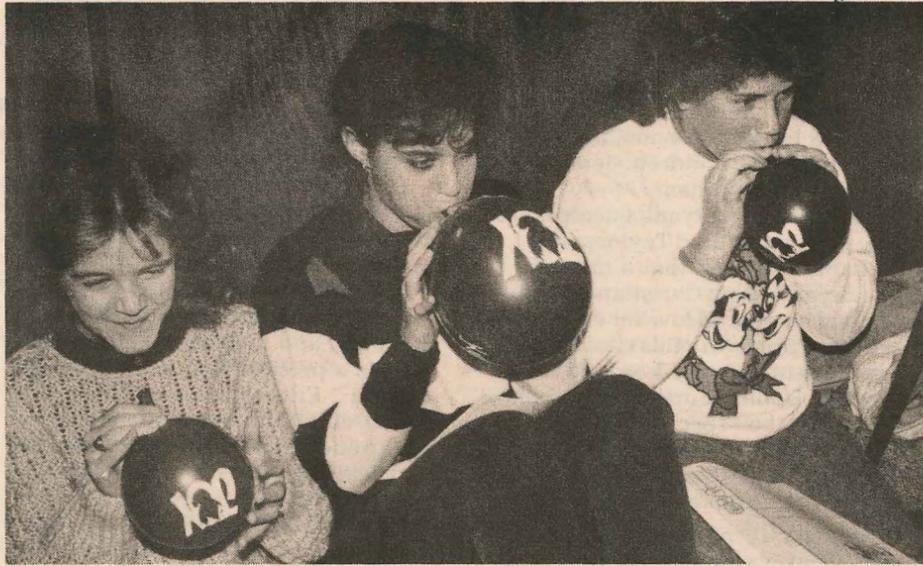
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Rooms and bus seating are limited



Literacy missionary Peggy Grossman talked about her work in Burkina Faso.



Acteens used balloons to represent gifts as part of an experience emphasizing giftedness.



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

Saying and doing

Johnny and Laurie Taylor are special friends on the mission field. Laurie was a Western Recorder intern while at Southern Seminary. Later, she served our readers as a state correspondent. Johnny has been on church staffs in Louisville, Whitesburg and Lexington. Their appointment by the Foreign Mission Board has an especially meaningful tie to Kentucky Baptists.

Following the KBC staff survey team's experience in Kenya in May 1984 an eight-page diary of that trip appeared in Western Recorder. "We knew then," Johnny and Laurie confirmed, "we could not put off saying 'yes' to God's call to foreign missions any longer. While we knew within reason we might someday go, not until we felt those needs so personally reflected in the diary did we reach that confirmation."

Another beautiful gift from the Kentucky-Kenya partnership!

I like true Christmas stories. This one happened to the Taylors last Christmas at Campinas, Brazil. It is told in Laurie's words:

Christmas is my favorite time of year and one of my favorite parts of Christmas is giving gifts. Our four-year-old son, Jonathan, reminded me God has gifts he wants to give us.

I was in my room studying for my weekly Portuguese test when I heard the front door slam. When I heard the refrigerator door open I went to the kitchen to investigate. There stood Jonathan reaching for the milk.

"No, Jonathan!" I said sternly. "You don't need any milk. You just finished supper."

Jonathan ignored me, grabbed the milk and ran out the door.

Was I angry! This called for discipline. I tore out the front door to retrieve the milk and teach Jonathan a lesson in obedience and respect. Then I saw a scene I'll never forget.

Leaning against our gate was a six-year-old street-child gulping the milk from the carton. Beside him was the wooden cart he pulls up and down the streets of Campinas from daylight until dark rummaging through garbage to find something to eat or sell.

"Mom," Jonathan quickly explained, "I didn't have time to ask permission. The little boy was hungry and he needed something fast!"

"Lord, forgive me," I prayed as I hugged Jonathan. "Please give me the gift of a child's heart, always trusting, ready to respond quickly to the needs of those around me."

"Let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions" (I Jn. 3:18, TLB).

O, come to my heart, Lord Jesus, There is room in my heart for thee.



80 Acteens gather at Mammoth Cave Park for weekend session

by Susan Shaw

From Murray to Cumberland to Florence more than 80 Acteens representing 20 Kentucky churches gathered at Mammoth Cave National Park Nov. 14-15 for a state Acteens junior-senior weekend.

The purpose of the weekend, which focused on "Walking in the Spirit," was to "create a group experience for older Acteens, to help them know the specialness of being in Acteens, and to provide them through Bible study and mission study some direction and guidelines for living," according to state Acteens consultant Cathy Howle.

Pam Brown, a high school teacher from Jasper, Ala. and former editor of *Accent*, led Friday evening and Saturday morning Bible study sessions. Kevin Landgrave, minister of music and youth at Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, led music during the event, and Paul and Peggy Grossman, missionaries to Burkina Faso, led mission emphasis sessions.



Kevin Landgrave, minister of music and youth at Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, was music leader for the weekend.



Acteens participated in a number of get-to-know-you activities, such as posing for a "family" album photograph.



Bible study was an important element of the weekend as Acteens focused on learning to walk in the spirit.

baptist news in brief

Duduit resigns to accept Samford post

Michael Duduit has resigned as director of communications at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., to become director of development at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., effective Jan. 1, 1987.

A native of Florida, Duduit holds a bachelor's degree from Stetson University, a MDiv degree from Southern Seminary and a PhD from Florida State University.

Duduit has also been development division coordinator while the seminary seeks a vice president for development.

He will direct Samford University's Annual Fund and seek corporate, foundation and individual gifts to the school. Samford is affiliated with the Alabama Baptist Convention and is the largest private university in the state.

Process resumes in suit against SBC

Legal proceedings have resumed in the appeal of a defeated suit against the Southern Baptist Convention and its executive committee.

Judge Robert Hall of the U. S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia ruled May 5 that the federal courts have no jurisdiction over action at the center of a suit brought by four laypeople against the SBC and the executive committee.

Robert S. and Julia Crowder of Birmingham, Ala.; Henry C. Cooper of Windsor, Mo.; and H. Allan McCartney of Vero Beach, Fla., had asked the federal court to interpret SBC bylaws, to direct the SBC to comply with that interpretation and to vacate the 1986 SBC Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees.

Their suit revolves around the report of the 1985 SBC Committee on Committees, which made nominations to the Committee on Boards. Specifically, it focuses on a judgment by Charles F. Stanley, then convention president, who ruled out of order the proposal of a new slate of nominees for the Committee on Boards, which would have replaced the Committee on Committees' nominees. The plaintiffs claim their rights were violated and the bylaws broken by the procedures. (BP)

Sellers home: based on love

The first time 14-year-old Paula saw her father cry was when he was told she was pregnant.

"It was 1:30 a.m. and Mom had just awakened him from a sound sleep with the news," she remembers. With tears streaming down his face, he looked into her brown eyes and said, "Paula, I love you more right now than I have ever loved you in my entire life."

It was assurance that Paula needed, calming fears of rejection that had kept her in constant panic for five months. Her doctor recommended Sellers Baptist Home and Adoption Center in New Orleans—the only Southern Baptist maternity home that serves the entire convention.

Cheerleader, varsity swimmer, student council member, Paula suddenly found herself "outcast," staring out of a bedroom window of a strange building, side-tracked by an unwanted pregnancy and a series of question marks for a future. Paula's days grew brighter, however, as Sellers gave her the anonymity and emotional breathing space she needed.

Founded in the 1920s as the Baptist Woman's Emergency Home, Sellers for half a century has ministered to the spiritual, physical, mental and emotional needs of its clients—and, often, of its clients' families.

Although the facility was founded as a ministry to destitute women, many clients today are middle-class. No one is denied admission because of inability to pay, however. Since its affiliation with the Baptist Home Mission Board in 1933, Sellers has been supported primarily through Cooperative Program budget receipts and gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

The subject of adoption is approached from an objective viewpoint. Through counseling sessions, each expectant mother comes to understand adoption is not child abandonment.

"Many times it takes greater maturity and love for a woman to place a child for adoption than to decide to keep it," says one counselor. "She realized she cannot provide what the child needs most—a stable family environment." (BP)

Layman re-elected at Alabama convention

After serving a term of 18 days, layman Steve Tondera, Huntsville, was re-elected president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention at its annual meeting in Mobile Nov. 18-19.

Tondera, who succeeded Lewis Marler of Jasper on Nov. 1 when Marler resigned because of health reasons, defeated Glenn Weekley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jasper.

An employee of NASA and immediate past chairman of deacons in the First Baptist Church of Huntsville, Tondera also is president of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association. He is the first layman to serve as president since former Mobile mayor Lambert Mims was elected in 1970.

Another resolution, recognizing women as "co-professionals" in ministry, failed to come out of committee because it was considered "divisive and controversial." The resolution, which stopped short of calling for the ordination of women, was offered by the Alabama Baptist Education/Music Association. (BP)

Dec. premium is gift from board

Southern Baptists covered in the church insurance program received an early Christmas present this year. Their December medical premium was free.

The Baptist Annuity Board refunded nearly \$3 million to 21,989 ministers and church employees or churches in November, according to statistics by the board. The free premium could mean an extra \$30 for an individual; up to \$250 for a family of

three or more.

The rebate was an incentive in last year's "Open Enrolment" campaign to get new people enrolled in the medical plan and reward current participants who were covered since January 1986.

The campaign opened medical coverage during October and November 1985 to all eligible ministers and church employees who had been denied participation in any medical plan. Some 6000 persons enrolled in the Southern Baptist medical plan. (BP)

Minister recovers from encephalitis

Mike Pike is on the comeback trail again.

After being hospitalized nearly two months through mid-September, he anticipates at least three more months of recovery from a near-fatal bout with encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain.

After closing his business, Pike became minister of education at Mobridge Southern Baptist Church in Mobridge, S. D. He had accepted Christ during the peak of his business, he says, even though he had been a church member for several years.

His work with the church abruptly halted in July when he became ill. In August when he was transferred to a Minneapolis hospital near his parents' home, he was only partially conscious. Doctors were unsuccessful in identifying the illness and helplessly watched as his condition continued to worsen.

Before the doctors finally identified Pike's illness, they became even more puzzled that his condition suddenly began to improve. Pike tried to convince them that the prayers of Southern Baptists who knew of his condition had led to his recovery.

He says his illness has made him more sensitive. "I was flinty. To get a spark out of flint you have to strike it. God had to strike me to get my attention," he explains. (BP)

Director 'welcomes' fact-finding effort

The executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs told a nine-member fact finding committee he "welcomes" their investigation into the work of the religious liberty watchdog organization.

"Meeting with this committee is a plus," said James M. Dunn. "We welcome the opportunity to help you get facts ... not opinions."

"It may surprise some of you that you have no stronger backer for a Southern Baptist presence in Washington than James M. Dunn," he said. "Southern Baptists do need an independent presence in Washington. It has come to some realization, with Larry Braidfoot (general counsel and citizenship specialist with the SBC Christian Life Commission) spending about a week a month here." Dunn was questioned about the committee's opposition to the constitutional amendment on school prayer, which was opposed despite a 1982 SBC resolution supporting the action. Dunn said the position taken by the staff followed a position statement adopted by the BJCPA board in March 1982. "We were saying what the committee told us to say," he explained.

He added the 1982 SBC resolution

was in opposition to eight other SBC resolutions passed supporting the Supreme Court's 1962-63 decisions opposing state-mandated prayer in the classrooms. Following the 1982 SBC resolution, he said, 10 state conventions acted on the matter; nine "repudiated" the SBC document and one supported it.

Stan Hastey, associate executive director, told the committee: "there is the perception that the Baptist Joint Committee has regularly defied the wishes of the Southern Baptist Convention. But in the entire 50-year history of the organization, the only time the position of the Baptist Joint Committee ran contrary to that of the SBC was in 1982. It is not as though we have been unresponsive. On the contrary, it has been a very happy consensus across the years." (BP)

P. J. Flamming named to peace committee

Peter James Flamming, pastor of First Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., has been elected to the Southern Baptist Convention peace committee, replacing Cecil E. Sherman of Ft. Worth, Tex.

Flamming's election was announced Nov. 25 by Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC executive committee, following a mail ballot of the 70-member executive committee.

He explained Charles Fuller, chairman of the peace committee, "requested a successor be elected as quickly as possible in order to be able to participate in the next meeting. He felt if the election was delayed until the February meeting of the executive committee, by that time the peace committee would have almost completed its work."

Bennett also said the provision requires that the filling of any such vacancy maintain the (political-theological) balance on the peace committee.

Flamming comes onto the peace committee at a time when the group has already met 10 times and is moving toward completion of its task. The group has announced it will make a preliminary report to the February meeting of the executive committee and have the final draft of its report ready for release in early April. (BP)





Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

A Gentle Breeze

Early last month I was asked to speak in the morning service of a long established church where I first spoke about nine years ago. I was thrilled to hear from the pastor a few days later that revival had broken out. The pastor wrote:

"Thank you for coming to share with us. Several expressed themselves most favorably. I believe many will be more supportive of our mission efforts than ever before. I am sure your message had an effect on our young people. Sunday evening we had two professions of faith, one by letter and five young men on recommitment of their lives. Revival broke out! The moving of the Holy Spirit was a gentle breeze throughout the congregation. As soon as possible we will be taking one of our boys to Oneida. My wife and I are looking forward to the opportunity to visit."

A woman in an adjoining county writes as she generously donates: "I praise God for the work at Oneida. I'm so thankful we have such a school in this area."

A father whose son is here on scholarship writes: "As soon as I find employment, I will not only pay the full tuition, but will donate additional money and whatever else it takes to keep Oneida alive and well. Thank you for allowing my boy to attend. I will never forget your school's kindness and generosity."

A woman aware of our help to Christian young people living under dictatorships and in danger of their lives be-

cause of their Christian faith writes: "I wish to thank you so much for your concern for Christians in horrible situations. It is no wonder that Oneida is prospering, You are truly doing the Lord's will."

An Indiana mother writes: "I did not have a chance to say all I wanted when I was there. I guess I was a little nervous. But I want to promise you if we can pay more than \$50 per month we will do so. I was shocked you would let him go for so little. I want to thank you for being straight and to the point. God has never failed us."

Some years ago I had to expel a young man for drinking. Later I was able to accept him back and he made a fine student and graduate of our school. Later he made an excellent Marine. He was one of the finest drivers I ever saw, and often he drove me when I spoke in varying churches. Recently I was very pleased to hear from him, "I always enjoy receiving mail from Oneida. I did learn a lot there. I remember when you spoke to congregations, you always said, with the apostle Paul, of faith, hope, love, the greatest is love because God is love. Hope you are well. Take care of yourself and keep up your great work working miracles with God's love."

From Tyler, Tex.: "Convinced that you are performing the Lord's will as your school ministers to the students, please find our 'help' enclosed. We have never seen Oneida..." But their letter brought \$200 to invest in the Christian training of our boys and girls.

A friend writes from Ashland with \$25. "I was there in May. I believe in what you are doing 100 percent. May God bless and continue to use Oneida in the lives of many boys and girls like Brian. I cried when I read of his death in Western Recorder."

Sometime ago I was invited to speak to the staff of an Adventist hospital. One of the nurses later wrote: "The Lord is using your school in a mighty way to disprove the 'ways of the world' in its management. With the Lord's blessing your people are proving that the seemingly impossible can be done! We all need to be more dedicated and loving Christians so that God can use us to help our fellow man more fully. More points you brought out will remain in my memory a long time. With the Lord's blessing there can be no failure. Keep up the good work and your dependence on God!"

(Reprinted from *Western Recorder*, Oct. 12, 1983.)



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

sunday school lessons

Lessons for Dec. 14, 1986

Life and Work Series God's blessing for mission

It will be profitable for us to study the inner life and outward conduct of this great character, Abraham, upon whom the Holy Spirit conferred one of the greatest tributes ever given to man, namely, "the friend of God." Nearly 14 chapters of Genesis are devoted to his life and work.

Genesis 12:1 In the call of Abraham we see the grace of God in action. While Abraham was living in Ur, a summons came from God for him to leave his country and go into the land God had chosen for him.

Genesis 12:2-3 With that gracious call from God came an invaluable sevenfold promise: to make of Abraham a great nation, to bless him, to make his name great, to make him a worldwide blessing, to bless those who blessed him, to curse any who might curse him, and through him to bless all the families on the earth.

Genesis 12:4-9 Abraham promptly started on his pilgrimage without knowing where he was going or what the future held in store for him.

Abraham's response to God's command was that of partial obedience. He did not leave his kindred as he had been commanded to do. His years in

Haran were wasted. Neither the place of disobedience nor of partial obedience can ever be one of full blessing.

Having learned the folly of compromise and procrastination, Abraham resumed his pilgrimage which brought him into a realm of danger (verse 6), and into the presence of God also (verse 7). Consequently, he built an altar and "called upon the name of the Lord." Those who walk in the pathway of obedience to God will be rewarded with intimate fellowship with him and increasing fruitfulness in life.

International Series From Preaching to Writing

I Corinthians 15:3-8 There were three parts to the gospel preached, and by which those who believed in Christ were saved, namely, Christ's death (verse 3), burial (verse 4), and resurrection (verse 4). God saw to it hundreds were able to testify they had seen the Lord after his resurrection. He walked, talked and ate with them.

Luke 1:1-4 Luke was the writer of the Gospel of Luke and of the Acts. He described the former as a record of what Christ began to do and teach, and Acts had to do with the things which Christ continued to do and to teach through his followers.

The Holy Spirit led Luke to make a careful research and a thorough investigation, and then add details which had been omitted by the other evangelists.

John 20:30-31 John made a very careful selection from the multitude of things Christ did during his earthly ministry, including an account of miracles Christ performed.

I John 1:1-4 In these verses John writes of Christ as the eternal word, who existed with the father before all time, who became incarnate in the flesh in time, and with whom people have vital personal experiences.

Christians enjoy fellowship with God. "Fellowship" signifies partnership. Real fellowship means knowing one another intimately, loving one another devotedly, and doing things together and for one another.

After receiving salvation from Christ, we must proclaim him to others as saviour and Lord. We are to declare we have heard, seen and felt him, and been changed by him. This is the only way our joy in Christ can be full.



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on mission together

The Gift of Patience

Not many weeks ago, Alice and I joined Bob and Eddie Fields as guests for lunch at the home of "Dr. Bob" and Millie Mills, formerly the "first family" of Georgetown College. Nestled in the rolling hills of Owen County, the property adjoins a serpentine lake, visible from the mostly-glass rear of their home. On their deck are numerous bird feeders, visited almost

constantly by a dazzling array of bird-life. The Mills' home and personal charm provide a visitor with the gift of quiet peace.

Before blessing the meal, "Dr. Bob" read a selection from a small booklet by Gerhard E. Frost entitled "Kept Moments." It meant much to me that day and I delighted in receiving from them later a copy of that book of reflections.

The reading he shared is entitled **I Remember:**

I remember helping
When I was very little,
helping two chicks
out of their shells.
They both died.

I remember helping a rose
to bloom; it withered.

I remember pulling carrots
to see if they were ready,
then putting them back
to grow. They didn't.

I remember how hard it was
to wait for the fullness
of time; it still is.

But time always moves
toward fullness; it won't
be hurried or held back;
It is God's very own creation
and all belongs to Him.

And that is good!

It reminds me once again how many a "good" or "right" thing can fail because the timing was premature.

It reminds me that discouragement sometimes stems from unrealized aspirations built upon unrealistic expectations.

It reminds me that impatience may turn an otherwise effective ministry into joyless labor.

As winter begins its annual pilgrimage across the land, we would do well to remember that spring will come to those who patiently wait.

Spring will come when it's time.

Philip Newberry is a walking miracle

Prayers help fulfill family's dream

A dream to be back on the mission field by Christmas will come true a few weeks late for a Southern Baptist missionary family.

Randy and Jan Newberry, both 36, and their children, Amy, 15; Joey, 13; and Philip, 2, plan to return to Brazil in mid-January after the two older children finish their school semester. For them, it is a culmination of many miracles and countless prayers.

Their emotional roller coaster ride began March 27 when Philip was diagnosed as having meningitis. Doctors doubted he would live, but a miracle occurred and he did. The Newberrys told doctors people around the world were praying for Philip.

Meningitis caused poor circulation in his extremities, which resulted in gangrene. A distinct line marked the boundary between living tissue and dead, dark, plastic-like tissue. Doctors amputated his hands and feet at that line.

Five weeks after the amputations, doctors at Children's Medical Center, Dallas, became concerned about an infection developing in Philip's arm. They decided to give him an antibiotic they knew he was allergic to. An earlier dose had caused a rash, but this time he had a severe reaction. Seventy percent of his skin sloughed off, and he developed pneumonia.

Doctors attached pigskin to Philip's body and his skin started growing back. Within two weeks he was recovering, marking another miracle.

Eventually Philip was fitted with artificial legs, and one more miracle occurred when he walked without crutches. Doctors told the Newberrys they had never seen a bilateral amputee—missing both legs—walk without crutches, and Philip is a quadrilateral amputee. Again, they told doctors people around the world were praying. Seeing their son walk across the stage at Glorieta (N. M.) during Foreign Missions Week in August fulfilled their first dream.

After Philip walked across that stage, the Newberrys said, "Our next dream is that we'll be back in Brazil by Christmas." But school schedules intervened, and it will be early January before they leave Texas for Brazil.

Randy firmly believes it is God's will for them to return to Brazil, even though staying in the United States would appear to be easier.

Classmates are begging Amy and Joey to stay in Gordon, Texas, and Philip could get more convenient medical treatment in the United States. Once a year Philip must be brought back to the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children in Dallas for doctors to check his arms and legs. He also will have to go to a Sao Paulo clinic about every six months to be fitted with new prostheses as he grows.

The Newberrys have deep roots in Gordon. Randy moved there at 13 when his father became pastor of First Baptist Church. Jan was born there. They met at Gordon High School and got married at 18. Jan's family lives in Gordon, and Randy's family lives 30 miles away.

All of Gordon knows about Philip's brush with death, said the Newberrys' pastor, Bill Wright of First Church. Students prayed in school for Philip, as did civic clubs and churches.

The Newberrys are popular at school. Classmates this year selected Amy as the "cutest girl" in the school and Joey as "class favorite" for the eighth grade.

Amy is on the drill team, and Joey plays football for Gordon Junior High. Randy has been teaching a Wednesday night Bible study for youth, many of whom are his children's classmates.

In the months since Philip became ill, Randy and Jan have lived through the stress of not knowing whether their child would live, whether his high fever had impaired his hearing, sight or mental abilities, or exactly how they would cope with his needs. But cope they have, and as a part of that, they have developed new parenting skills.

Each day Jan helps Philip strap on his artificial legs and feet. Some mothers put the shoe on the wrong foot, but Jan sometimes puts the foot on the wrong leg, Randy jokes. She helps Philip eat by attaching a clip-on spoon to his arm.

The Newberrys have to see that he has someone nearby when he's climbing steps because he must crawl up them. They also watch him near uneven terrain because he has no feeling for ground surfaces and can trip easily.

He falls harder than other children because he can't break his fall with hands. The family must see that he doesn't walk in gravel because a fall on gravel would cause punctures in the ends of his arms.

What lies ahead for a boy who lost his left arm at the elbow, his right one at the wrist and both legs just below the knee? Snow skiing, swimming, bicycle riding, driving cars, tying shoes, dressing himself and opening doors—Philip's parents believe he'll do all those things.

An electronic arm may be in Philip's future, but they're expensive. A doctor in Minnesota is doing transplants of hands and feet, but transplant candidates must take risky anti-rejection drugs, and the Newberrys are leery of those.

Spending time with amputees gives the Newberrys encouragement. They met a 16-year-old boy who lost more of each limb than Philip did and the boy "talked about helping his dad work on the car," Jan says. "He didn't tell us anything that he has not learned how to do." They learned of a 7-year-old boy without hands or feet who can tie his shoes and dress himself.

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children in Dallas sponsors an organization of parents of amputees. "They get together once a month and encourage one another and just watch what the kids can do," Randy says, adding he may start a similar group in Brazil.

Philip "will have a tremendous testimony, and I believe Brazilians with their tremendous love for children will just absolutely love Philip to death," Randy says.

"The thing that has amazed us is how God has allowed Philip's story to spread and to touch lives all around," he adds. "It indicates that God really does have a tremendous plan for Philip's life. It is a little bit scary to think about the responsibility that he has given us."

The Newberrys cried recently as they recalled waiting through days and nights in the hospital. "We thought about if Philip died, what it would be like without him," Jan said. "I'd think about going to the beach and how much he liked the sand and the water. He liked to run. I thought about his birthday party and maybe it would be the only one that he'd ever have."

Pictures flashed through their minds

of Philip splashing in a toddler-size swimming pool and playing with his dog. There was the afternoon when Philip started walking at nine months and the times he played hide-and-seek with Joey. Amy and Joey asked God to spare Philip's life and to take theirs instead.

The weekend before he got meningitis, the Newberrys laughed at him playing in a motel pool. He would jump in and Randy would catch him and set him back on the pool edge. Each time, Philip would say, "Back, daddy, back," waving Randy to move farther from the edge.

"I remember telling Jan," Randy said, "If we lose him—Oh, we'd never lose him, because you can't lose something if you know where it is. But if the Lord takes him, we know where Philip is."

"If the Lord takes him," Randy said, "that will be a tremendous hurt. But that would be two of the most joyful years that we'd ever want—the two years that we had him."

During the crisis time, Randy, Jan and William Gaventa, the physician who directs medical services for the

Baptist Foreign Mission Board, sat together Easter morning as Philip lay injected with nine intravenous tubes, catheters in his stomach and chest and respirator and feeding tubes. Doctors doubted Philip would live another day.

The three cried together. Gaventa regained his composure and told Randy and Jan, "Whatever happens, God is going to take care of you. His grace will be sufficient for whatever the day holds no matter what that day holds."

Months later the Newberrys met a doctor in Dallas who asked them about Philip and if they planned to return to Brazil. "We told him about everything, what Philip lost and how well he has recovered," Randy recalls.

"The doctor just looked at me and said, 'I had an 18-month-old daughter who had the same type of meningitis, but she didn't survive. For a doctor that's real hard. ... You keep asking yourself the medical questions. What if we had tried this antibiotic or what if we had done that?'"

In Philip's case, prayer brought about a miracle that goes beyond medicine. (BP)

Randy and Jan Newberry saw a dream fulfilled when Randy (r) walked across the stage at Glorieta with their son Philip, a multiple amputee. Philip lost his limbs after contracting meningitis. He will return to Brazil in January with his parents, who are foreign missionaries.



'I feel proud'

21 Campbellsville College

internationals at conference

By Lisa Richerson
Student News Writer

"I always love and look forward to the conference. I have been ready and waiting to go since the beginning of the school year," said Aida Hailu, a Campbellsville College senior from Ethiopia.

"It's good to know that there are people out there who are going through the same experiences as you are and that you are not alone," she added. This was her fourth conference.

The annual international student conference for all Baptist Student Unions in Kentucky was Nov. 7-9 at Lake Cumberland State Park in Jamestown. It was sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention Student Work Department and the Woman's Missionary Union of Kentucky.

"The conference gets all the people from different countries together to meet people. It helps the internationals keep from getting homesick," said Mimi Samson, a Campbellsville College sophomore from Ethiopia.

"The purpose of the conference is to share Christ with people from other cultures and backgrounds," said Dan Flanagan, Campbellsville College campus minister. "It provides an opportunity for the students at the College to fellowship with internationals from other colleges. It gives them an opportunity in a Christian context to learn more about other cultures," he added.

International students from all Baptist Student Unions in Kentucky are invited to attend. This year 300 students from 16 campuses attended the conference. "It is the biggest conference ever held in Kentucky. We were very pleased with the turnout," said Flanagan.

Campbellsville College had the sixth largest attendance with 21 international students present. Forty-six countries were represented.

One part of the conference is the talent show. "We learn a lot about different cultures and religions and share how different areas feel about things. This was new to be sharing in this way," said Tegest Nega, a Campbellsville College senior from Ethiopia.

The talent show allowed students from different cultures to share something from their countries with the group. Miss Samson, Aida and Rahel Hailu and Selome Kebede performed their traditional dance and other Ethiopian students joined them.

There were three small group sessions during the conference where

the students were assigned to groups to discuss their problems, likes and dislikes about being in a different country than their own.

"Speaking to others about this helped me to clear areas in my own faith and religion," said Miss Nega.

"Even though we are from different countries and continents, we can gain some sense of identity and unity from each other that makes us feel closer," she said.

"Having the discussions gives you the chance to discuss similar experiences with other people like you. I have made a lot of friends by attending the conferences," said Miss Samson.

The conference also hosted a fashion show in which Miss Samson participated. She wore the Ethiopian Abesha Kames (traditional dress). "The fashion show was to show how different countries dress," she said. "The fashion show featured about 46 students representing various countries," said Ayo Olaniyan, a Campbellsville College sophomore from Nigeria. Olaniyan is the BSU international coordinator at Campbellsville College.

"A roll call was a part of Friday evening's activities. When each country's name was called, the students from that country stood. Persons wishing to, then went forward and placed a flag on their country," Olaniyan said.

Olaniyan placed the flag of Nigeria on his country. Sophia Melakou, a freshman Campbellsville College student from Ethiopia, placed a flag on her country, and Kamal Houry, a senior Campbellsville College student from Israel, placed his flag on Israel. Martin Mapoma, a freshman Campbellsville College student from Zambia, also placed a flag on his country.

"It is a good feeling to be able to stand and represent your country by placing a flag on it. I feel proud to be able to do that," Olaniyan said.

"You could see the pride each student has in his country. It is unreal how proud they were of where they are from," said Karen Burnham, Campbellsville College Baptist Student Union president. Miss Burnham is a senior from Decatur, Ga.

"It was a great fellowship for the students from different countries," said Flanagan.

"Each conference is new and exciting no matter how many times



MIMI SAMSON models her native dress, the Ethiopian Abesha Kames, during the fashion show at the conference.



ERMYAS GEDLU, left, a freshman from Ethiopia, and Martin Mapoma, a freshman from Zambia, play checkers during a recreation period at the conference. They are both students at Campbellsville College. (Campbellsville College photos by Ayo Olaniyan)

you have been before. There are always new people there to meet and talk with," said Miss Kebede.

"The students greeted each other the way they do in their home country. It was neat to learn how people greet each other in different countries," said Miss Burnham.

"This is the first time for a lot of Americans to be a minority. It is a growing experience to see all

people from different countries come together for this. I learned a lot by watching them. I liked the experience, and it gave me a feeling of learning," she said.

"I would encourage other students to go to the next one. It is a rewarding experience. The experience is like nothing you have ever thought of or felt before," said Miss Kebede.