

Wilma and James Whaley, hosts to Kentucky Baptist volunteers to Kenya during the partnership years 1985-87, examine a wood carving from Nairobi, Kenya while on a visit to Middletown.



Hayes, Dixon receive recognition

by Jack Sanford, Editor

Raymond Leroy Hayes, business manager of Western Recorder, and Michael Carey Dixon, director of Christian education at Spring Meadows Children's Home, have been selected as Outstanding Young Men of America by the board of advisors of U. S. Jaycees.



Hayes



Dixon

The award is recognition of the achievements and abilities of men between the ages of 21 and 36. These men are being honored for their outstanding civic and professional contributions to their communities, their state as well as their nation. More than 150,000 nominations were made from civic, political and religious leaders across the nation.

Hayes, a native of Bowling Green, is a graduate of Campbellsville College and Southern Seminary. Prior to joining the staff of Western Recorder,

Hayes was minister of youth and evangelism at Kenwood Baptist Church, Louisville. He also served Hawesville Baptist Church as minister of youth. He is married to the former Danita Kay McNabb.

Dixon, a native of Ashland, is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and Southern Seminary. Prior to joining the staff at Spring Meadows, Dixon was a church planter apprentice in Hawaii. He also was a summer missionary to Hawaii and chaplain at the Louisville Children's Detention Center. He is married to the former Carla A. Grace.

Foreign Board open to work with deaf

The Baptist Foreign Mission Board is studying ways to involve more deaf Southern Baptists in missions and increase ministries to an estimated 5 million to 10 million deaf people of the world.

During its December meeting, the board adopted a statement on deaf ministries.

"Contrary to the perception noted at the SBC, the Foreign Mission Board does not have policies precluding the appointment of deaf personnel," the statement said. "Appointments are based on field requests. We do not have field requests calling for matching of gifts and skills of the non-hearing with related field needs and opportunities."

But the statement went on to report that mission board staff members have been meeting for several years with representatives from the Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf. Emphasis has centered on exploring the needs for ministry and ways deaf Southern Baptists can get involved.

Board staff members and missionaries are investigating possible ministries for deaf mission workers in other countries. Baptist ministries to the deaf or deaf congregations already exist in Japan, Taiwan, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Colombia.

In February, board personnel and leaders from the Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf will travel together to the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Trinidad. They will survey the potential for ministries to the deaf in those countries and the possibilities for using deaf mission personnel.

Staff members also have identified at least a dozen missionaries with ability to communicate in American sign language. (BP)

Partnership connection

'After you've been to Kenya what else could be any better?'

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

The Kentucky-Kenya project has been worth "everything we have invested in it," the on-site Kentucky Baptist hosts said in an interview in Middletown earlier this month.

James and Wilma Whaley spoke both personally and of their belief the two conventions have benefitted.

Said Wilma: "Many more have come to receive the good news than would have been possible" if Kentucky Baptists hadn't been in partnership with Baptists in Kenya. She went on to allow that they "expected culture shock" when they first went to Kenya in January 1985. "Suprisingly, it never materialized," she added.

James said they were expecting "far more opposition" from the missionaries than they had, too. "They (the missionaries) could not have been any better," he declared.

As they saw "we were not there to impose restrictions or projects on them, they realized we were there to help them," Whaley continued. "Now, every missionary in the country has projects (involving Kentucky people) planned for 1987."

The Whaleys are on a brief vacation in Kentucky at the two-thirds point in the commitment to the Kenya program. They have lived in Nairobi, the capital city, two years, and will depart Jan. 2 for a final year of volunteer service.

In their assignment, they are usually the first and the last persons most Kentuckians see when they arrive and depart the east African nation. It is their role to orient their visitors, make them feel welcome, get them to their own places of assignment, then back to Nairobi and on a plane for home.

Whaley's concept has all along been that each missionary knows "more about the needs" and "what they want done than anybody else." Thus, he has "worked with" the Southern Baptist foreign missionaries stationed throughout the country rather than doing something "entirely separate" from them. It has "worked well," he believes.

The Whaleys have also visited every area of the country, except one, before sending Kentuckians in, believing they should be aware of conditions in order to properly orient those coming.

To date about 250 Kentuckians have arrived to assist in various mission projects in the partnership. In the final year, 1987, there have been requests for about 700 additional Kentuckians by the missionaries. But Whaley thinks it's not unreasonable that 900 "could be gotten."

One of their "biggest disappointments" has been the estimated 30% of the time they had to tell a national Baptist pastor that someone they had hoped for from Kentucky would not be coming. Enough people had not "signed up" to fill all the pending requests.

But, optimistically, Whaley says January and February "look good," with almost 100 Kentuckians expected. The partnership office in the Kentucky Baptist Building in Middletown is working "tenaciously" to

enlist the other 800 needed to fill slots developing later in the year.

Wilma observed that they would have "some helpers" next year in their particular assignment. To get the anticipated large crowds of Kentuckians around the country and handle other logistical chores, a young couple, Buddy and Dawn Lee, will spend the last year of the partnership living in Nairobi. Buddy Lee is a Southern Seminary graduate and former missionary journeyman to Kenya who met Dawn Dison while there. Her parents are Dale and Patsy Dison, missionaries at Nyeri, Kenya. Dawn has attended the University of Louisville.

Whaley announced that he and Wilma would miss "our extended personal relations" with some Kentucky Baptists, due to the volume expected in 1987. He said they would use hotels to house some Kentuckians who arrive in Nairobi, in addition to their own home, because there will be "so many at one time." He also expects to use more rental vans than in the past to move people from place to place.

But Whaley's original four goals will continue for every Kentuckian who goes to Kenya in 1987, the same as in 1986 and 1985: to take them to a place where they can "work hard," to take them to see some type of mission work "other than what they did," to take them shopping and to "give them the chance" to see some animals.

In two years on the field Kentucky Baptists have helped Kenyans realize 15,000 professions of faith, 8000 baptisms and more than 250 new churches.

The Whaleys believe Kenya may be leading all countries of the world now in baptisms. "Certainly it's right near the top of the list," Whaley affirms.

He cites evangelism, new churches and trained leadership as three of the greatest assets Kentucky Baptists will have planted in their partnership nation when the experience ends a year from now.

Asked what happens to the Whaleys at that time, Wilma was quick to respond.

"We can't imagine the Lord putting us anywhere any better than Kenya," she assured. "We want to be in the center of his will, whatever he does with us."

Whaley acknowledged that the couple will have "a few months at home" to consider future opportunities when they return to Middletown in a year. (Whaley was on the Kentucky Baptist Convention staff 31 years before retiring two years ago. At that time he was an executive associate to the executive secretary-treasurer.) "Then (after a rest) maybe we'll do something in home missions, or perhaps foreign missions somewhere else."

No matter what happens then, the experience in Kenya appears to have been a good one for all concerned. The Whaleys affirm, "That includes us."

No paper next week

In keeping with tradition, there will be no Western Recorder on Dec. 30. Look for the next issue Jan. 6.

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Jack D. Sanford

sanford's perspectives

Looking ahead with hope . . .

At the heart of the Christian faith is the idea of hope, which in biblical terms is the certainty that God cares for his people and will act for good in all things.

We hope in Christ because we have cast upon him, in confidence and trust, all our cares and all our future. We have never known him to fail in meeting our deepest needs, so we hope for better things when there is no rational basis for hope.

We find ourselves at the end of 1986 with a country which is literally on trial around the world for what appears to many to be scandalous mischief in Washington. In spite of this we have hope God will lead our country to greatness in the world because the heart of America is good and decent.

We find ourselves faced with no certain peace in our own Baptist family, though several encouraging signs have appeared in recent weeks. Still, the situation is less than peaceful among us and yet we have hope God will break down the barriers which separate us from each other and bring us to peace because we are brothers and he is father to us all.

We find many of our churches struggling to meet budgets, failing to reach people for salvation and generally in a malaise of uncertainty. Still we have hope God will stir his people with new life and new vision and give victory where defeat lurks for we know he is able and we are not happy with mediocrity.

Perhaps we need to get on our knees and do a little old fashioned confessing of our sins in order to revive our hope. We have become a very sophisticated people in many ways, and the idea of public confession does not sit well with some of

us. However confession is central to the cleansing of the Holy Spirit, and we surely have sins to confess and a need for cleansing of the spirit if we are to know any hope at all.

Perhaps we need time to think, to reflect on what God has done for us and in us these past years and what he has promised for the future. By careful thought and prayerful reflection hope is revived and the spirit lifted.

One of the great tragedies of modern life is the lack of toleration we have for someone who spends time in reflection. We Baptists want action and the thinker is seen as a dreamer, an impractical person who must be shunned in self defense.

If someone saw us with our feet up on the desk gazing out into the afternoon, we would be immediately branded lazy, derelict and incompetent. We very well may be all of that, but looking out the window also may be one of the best things we do all day for it puts us in touch with self and the Lord who made us. It separates us, even briefly, from the often humdrum routine which can be so deadening to the growth of the spirit. We do it once in awhile just to see what the Lord will put into our mind and we feel better when it's over. No one may ever see any results from our reflections, but it raises our hopes and that is enough for us.

Maybe, as we gear up for the new year, all of us would be better off if we told the Lord of our mistakes, asked his forgiveness for our sins, took time just to think about things and rested on his goodness and mercy. It would raise our hopes and that would be a bonus for all of us.

That is a formula for a good new year, and that is what we wish for everyone of you.

Forging ahead with confidence . . .

There is no question these are troubled times and hope is hard to come by for many people in our churches.

But the word of God promises the presence of the Holy Spirit in all the world for all time to those who name the Christ as lord of life. It is in the confidence of that promise that we must forge ahead in the new year in spite of our weakness and fear.

We must do a better job in evangelism. Last year we did win more converts to Christ than in the past few years, but we are not even close to what we have done in other days. We must forge ahead in evangelism because with every tick of the clock we lose more and more of the world to paganism and death. The birth rate so far exceeds the conversion rate we will never reduce the percentage of lost people in our world unless winning lost people becomes our first priority.

We must forge ahead in missionary support. It is a measure of our timidity that the Foreign Mission Board depends so heavily upon the Lottie Moon offering to operate programs and services around the world. Such an offering as Lottie Moon should be icing on the cake, special money

for special needs, a little extra to do the second-mile things all Christians love. But that is not the case. Lottie Moon is essential to the ministry of the FMB and without that special offering, programs and services would be less than they are now.

We must forge ahead in ministry in the hard places. The inner cities of America, the waste lands of the drug culture, the barren fields of poverty all cry for some positive, caring word of hope and release.

We have that word in Christ, but we have been far too parochial in our concerns to make much of an impact on the waste lands of human misery and need which shadow every city and village in the world.

We must hear and act upon the living word of God which has declared, "Look upon the fields . . . pray the Lord of the harvest for laborers."

The fields are white, the laborers are few and the time is short. The new year could make a difference if we were willing to forge ahead in hope, trusting God for the wisdom and power we need to make an impact on this world for Christ. He will give power and wisdom if we want it.

And that is the question, isn't it?

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James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

Promises to keep

You've heard of the man without a country?

I'm a graduate minus an alma mater. Or so it seems.

In my possession is a sheet of parchment signifying that I earned enough credits to receive a bachelor's degree from George Peabody College for Teachers. Peabody College, however, ceased operation as a separate institution a few years back. After decades as one of America's premier teacher training institutions, and unable to continue its quality product without help, Peabody merged with nearby neighbor Vanderbilt University.

Today it exists as Vanderbilt's school of education.

Hence, my claim that I am a graduate without an alma mater.

There were rumors of a merger between Vanderbilt and Peabody even back in the Dark Ages when I was on campus. Lots of jokes surfaced. Some students wondered aloud what a combined institution with such an illustrious heritage might be named. A popular theory was "Vanderbody College." Others snickered over "Peabilt U."

Luckily, the Powers That Be weren't listening to the grads as the end of Peabody's career as a separate institution approached.

Old George Peabody, founder, had a favorite expression which became the motto of his school: *Education—A Debt Due from Present to Future Generations.*

It seems to me all of life should be like that. For, life means obligation.

Each of us has debts we can never repay: to our ancestors and predecessors, to our contemporaries. At the same time, we have opportunities to leave something for tomorrow to our successors—to those here now, and to those who will live after us.

Robert Frost never penned more beautiful lines than these in "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening":

*The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.*

A new year will soon dawn. Some will make resolutions. Some will keep them. Many will not.

Why not bequeath a legacy for others in 1987? Like Peabody, you could leave this world better off than you found it. You might lobby against drug traffic or gambling interests, open your home to a student many miles from home, collect unsightly refuse and litter around you. Each of us can do *something* for the betterment of mankind.

Why not make it a promise to keep?

christian education

Georgetown surpasses charity drive goal

The faculty and staff at Georgetown College have set a record for gifts through the United Way, it was noted by Martha Simpson, chairman for the school's campaign.

The total contributed by employees, thus far, is \$3200, an 11 percent increase over a year ago. The goal for the college this year was \$2500. The college oversubscribed the goal by 28 percent and has been a participant in the annual effort since its beginning.

MSA program begins; joins Bellarmine, SBTS

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and Bellarmine College have contracted to begin a cooperative Masters in Social Administration (MSA) degree program, beginning Jan. 1, 1987.

The degree, which will be offered through Bellarmine College, will provide three possibilities in specialized administration courses. A health care administration track will be provided by Bellarmine. Southern Seminary's Carver School of Church Social Work will provide a social services administration track, and the seminary's school of Christian education will provide a religious administration track.

Seminary students will also be able to take up to 12 hours of MSA course credit at Bellarmine toward meeting degree requirements for the master of arts or master of divinity in Christian education.

Weddle asked to join state science board

Gordon Weddle, instructor of biology at Campbellsville College, recently became a member of the Kentucky Academy of Science board of directors. He had been chairman of the audit committee for the organization.



Weddle

Weddle received his BS degree from Oakland City (Ind.) College. He received his MS degree from Fort Hays (Kan.) State University. He has also attended Tennessee Technological University in Smithville, Tenn.,

and Campbellsville (Ky.) College. He is currently in his third year of doctoral study in zoology at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill. Before coming to Campbellsville College in 1981, Weddle was an adjunct instructor of biology at Indiana State University Evansville in Evansville, Ind. He was also a laboratory supervisor at Indiana State University.

College is time to crystalize values

A Southern Baptist education pioneer insisted the most important role of Baptist colleges is strengthening the commitment of students who are already Christians.

R. Orin Cornett, who became the first executive director of the South-

ern Baptist Education Commission in 1951, addressed nearly 100 educators during the mid-year meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools in Atlanta, Dec. 8.

Cornett acknowledged Baptist schools can shape the values of some students, but he observed many young people enter college already embodied with Christian ideals and values.

The college interval is the time when the values students have either crystalize into a strong permanent pattern of life commitment or are submerged under the frenetic barrage of worldly concerns and activities, he said.

"The key to the influence of the Christian college is its majority of Christian students who are responsive to the influence of the climate it offers and are capable to contributing to that climate as they progress to later college years," he said.

Cornett observed the college years are crucial for setting a direction for life and reaching a commitment to service: "This is the magic of the Christian college. It is aided and abetted by dedicated faculty and administrators who are able to manage things in the face of many problems.(BP)

Cumberland slates registration events

Cumberland College will hold registration, for all students who have not pre-registered for Spring semester classes, Jan. 5-6 in Room 223 of the Gatliff Building, according to president Jim Taylor.

College residence halls will open to receive students Jan. 4 at 1 p.m.

Orientation for incoming freshman and transfer students will be held Monday, Jan. 5 beginning at 9 a.m., in the McGaw Music Building. Advising of all students who have not pre-registered will be held Monday from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Registration for graduate students who have not pre-registered will be held Jan. 10 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in Room 223 of the Gatliff Building.

Late registration will be held Jan. 8 through Jan. 14 in Room 223 of the Gatliff Building, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. A \$50.00 late registration fee will be in effect.

Classes will begin Thursday, January 8. For more information telephone (606) 549-2200.

Missions conference focuses on healing

"Broken Hearts for a Broken World" is the theme for the 31st annual Student Missions Conference at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Feb. 20-22.

Featured program personalities will be: Bill Leonard, Southern Seminary professor of church history; Dr. and Mrs. Randal Parks, missionaries to Egypt; Gary Rand, composer and performer; and Len Sehested, author and speaker.

The annual event offers college students worship sessions and small group workshops focusing on a variety of topics related to missions.

For more information contact: Student Missions Conference, Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Rd., Louisville, KY 40280.

SBTS names Lines as CE professor

Timothy Arthur Lines, assistant to the dean of the school of Christian education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been named assistant professor of Christian education.

A native of Missouri, Lines is a graduate of Southwest Bible College, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, the University of Louisville, and Southern Seminary.

He has served on the staff of a number of churches in Kentucky and Missouri and has been adjunct professor and instructor at Southern Seminary.

He is the author of "Systemic Religious Education," which is to be released in early 1987 by Religious Education Press.

Music students begin fundraising efforts

Members of the church music conference at Campbellsville College have begun a campaign to raise at least \$10,000 over the next four years. The church music conference is an organization of students interested in church music. The funds are to be set aside for church music scholarships.

The funds, when accumulated, are expected to generate enough interest income to provide a new scholarship of \$250 every year for an entering church music student. Each scholarship will be renewable for four years. The group hopes the first scholarship will be awarded for the 1988-89 academic year.

The students are making an effort to contact potential donors and have also committed themselves to earn a significant portion of the money through their own efforts.

Trent Argo, a senior church music major from Gallup, N. M., and Rick Wigginton, a sophomore church music major from Princeton, Ky., serve as coordinators of the campaign. Wigginton is president of the group.

Persons wishing to make donations requesting further information should contact Martin at Campbellsville College or call (502) 465-8158, ext. 269.





Leon Simpson
President
Clear Creek Baptist School
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek comment

The eve of a great event

By the time you read these lines it will be Christmas Eve. The night before Christmas is always very special and the night before the first Christmas was the dawn of an era. It was the fulfilling of God's promises concerning the coming of the Messiah.

There is another promise for those of us who celebrate Christ's coming to earth as a baby, the blessed and precious hope of Jesus' coming again. The promise of Christ's coming is thrilling and trustworthy. Perhaps we will realize the fulfillment of our blessed hope this year!

'Twas the Night Before Jesus Came

"Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house, Not a creature was praying, not one in the house; Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care, In hope that Jesus would not come there. The children were dressing to crawl into bed, Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head; And mom in her rocker with the baby on her lap, Was watching the late show while I took a nap. When out of the east there arose such a clatter, I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash; When what to my wondering eyes should appear, But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here! With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray, I knew in a moment this must be the day! The light of his face made me cover my head, It was Jesus returning—, just like he had said! And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth, I cried when I saw him in spite of myself. In the book of life which he held in his hand, Was written the name of every saved man. He spoke not a word as he searched for my name; When he said, 'It's not here,' my head hung in shame. The people whose names had been written with love, He gathered to take to his father above. With those who were ready he rose without a sound, While all the rest were left standing around. I fell to my knees—but it was too late; I had waited too long, and thus sealed my fate. I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight; Oh, if only I had been ready tonight. In the words of this poem the meaning is clear, The coming of Christ Jesus is drawing near. There's only one life and when comes the last call, We'll find that the Bible was true after all."

Anonymous

baptist news in brief

Feezor dies at 94 after short illness

Southern Baptist statesman and denominational leader, Forrest C. Feezor, died Dec. 2 at Cleveland Memorial Hospital in Shelby, N. C., following a brief illness. He was 94.

During his 72-year ministry, Feezor was a pastor, college professor, Texas state convention executive director, evangelist and mission supporter.

Known for his giant, sweeping handshake, Feezor was a native of Lexington, N. C., and a graduate of Wake Forest University and Southern Seminary, Louisville.

Funeral services were conducted Dec. 5 at First Baptist Church of Shelby, with burial in Cleveland Memorial Park.

Memorial contributions may be made through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. (BP)

Vatican tie affirmed despite opposition

Opponents of renewed diplomatic relations between the United States and the Roman Catholic Church lost a last-ditch effort to challenge the arrangement at the Supreme Court Dec. 9.

Responding as it normally does to petitions for reconsideration of cases already rejected, the court issued a one-line order declining such a petition from the American Baptist Churches, U. S. A., and other religious bodies and leaders. The routine order ends an unsuccessful three-year bid to have federal courts invalidate president Ronald Reagan's appointment of two ambassadors to the Holy See and the latter's sending of Archbishop Pio Laghi as papal pro-nuncio to the U. S.

Following Reagan's January 1984 appointment of William A. Wilson as ambassador to the Holy See, 20 religious groups and more than 80 individuals filed suit against the president in the U. S. District Court for Eastern Pennsylvania. That panel ruled in May 1986 plaintiffs had no legal standing to bring the suit and even if standing had been granted the challenge would have been disallowed because the president alone is given the authority under the Constitution to conduct foreign policy.

Last March, a three-judge panel of the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia affirmed the lower ruling, setting the stage for a final appeal to the Supreme Court.

Robert L. Maddox, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, issued a statement pledging to press Congress for the relief denied by the courts: "We intend to seek a legislative remedy in Congress and to make sure the public understands the harm it is suffering today. I have no doubt that eventually the truth will prevail. My only regret

is that such an egregious violation was even allowed to take place. This action shows once again that if Americans want to keep their rights, they have to fight for them."

Legal arguments pressed by Americans United and the other plaintiffs included insistence that the Exchange of ambassadors violated the First Amendment by preferring one religion over all others and that American Catholics themselves would suffer by the pope's ability to deal with the American government through an official envoy, thereby bypassing U. S. Catholic bishops. The latter have been outspokenly critical of official U. S. economic and military policies in recently issued pastoral letters. (BP)

South Florida proves rich mission field

The state of Florida is divided into two parts: the northern part, which is largely southern; and the southern part, which is mostly northern. Boca Raton is just north of Miami in one of the fastest-growing counties in the United States. This is where high-tech companies have large complexes staffed by young professionals. Many are transfers from northern states.

"The people in Boca Raton have New Jersey accents," says pastor/home missionary L. E. Boydston. "This is definitely not a southern community. For Southern Baptists, Boca Raton is as much a pioneer mission field as Portland."

The only Southern Baptist church, First Baptist, aware of the need for other Southern Baptist churches and encouraged by Florida Baptists and Baptist Home Mission Board church extension planners, gave up six families to begin a mission.

Boydston, a church starter in Portland, was offered the challenge of beginning the Boca Raton work. "When I saw the South Florida area, I thought there was terrific potential," says Boydston. "Like Southern California, this is a hub of trend-setting. Southern Baptists need a church to reach the people here," but it couldn't be started by traditional techniques.

When Boydston arrived in October

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- **OWENSBORO, FIRST BAPTIST** - Jan. 23-24
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- **LEXINGTON, IMMANUEL BAPTIST** - Jan. 23-24
Bruce Johnson (606) 269-5715
- **HOPKINSVILLE, SECOND BAPTIST** - Jan. 30-31
Freddie Morris (502) 885-0008
- **LOUISVILLE, VALLEY VIEW** - Jan. 30-31
Dennis Sills (502) 935-5142

STATE FINALS - Feb. 20 & 21 - ELIZABETHTOWN at SEVERNS VALLEY
Contact: Robbie Speer (502) 765-7822

1984, the First Baptist nucleus, enlarged to about 30 members under David Palmer's leadership, was meeting in the Italian-American Club. Boydston began a witnessing class, to help members reach their friends and co-workers.

The effort is low-key, but it is effective. Within two years, membership hit 185, with 245 in Sunday school. Because of transfers and the lure of Florida's coastline, perhaps 400 different people attend services or events each month. Among Boca Raton's regulars, only a few have come by transfer of letter; of more than 70 baptisms, only 14 were children.(BP)

Police give evidence in Liberia case

Police were to present their case Dec. 6 in Sannizuellie, Liberia, against the man who has admitted the murder of a Southern Baptist missionary and her daughter.

Investigators were to tell a Liberian grand jury sitting in the Nimba County courthouse why Benjamin M. Morris, 32, should come to trial next month in the murders of Libby Senter and her 10-year-old daughter, Rachel. Key evidence includes written and recorded confessions that resulted after missionary George Senter told Morris he forgave the man and asked Morris to confess.

In his confession, Morris said he committed the murders after Mrs. Senter intervened to prevent him from molesting her daughter. Morris, a Liberian the missionaries had befriended, had worked around the Senter's home Nov. 25 before coming back that night to ask for a place to sleep.

Brown said Morris, a 1979 graduate of Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary, wrote his confession in flawless English for the joint security office in Yekepa, a mining town in northeastern Liberia where the Senter's live. The office coordinates law enforcement between local and national police and a private security force working under the Liberian American Mining Company (LAMCO), an iron ore mining firm in Yekepa.

Morris was apprehended Nov. 27 at a checkpoint about 20 miles from the Liberian border, the day after he allegedly stabbed Mrs. Senter and Rachel. When arrested he was wearing Mrs. Senter's tie-dyed shirt and George Senter's blue jeans and was carrying shorts and shoes from the Senter home, Brown said.(BP)

Schedules change at conference centers

Summer conference scheduling for Glorieta and Ridgecrest Baptist conference centers will return to pre-1984 times with all conferences starting on Saturday evenings and ending Friday at noon.

For the past two years, conferences have been on a rotating schedule beginning and ending on different days, according to Robert Turner, director of the Sunday School Board's Conference Center Division. That scheduling allowed for 14 conferences during the summer rather than 12.

He said the rotating schedule caused problems for laypersons who attended or led conferences because their vacation times sometimes had to be extended into two separate weeks.

No changes have been made in the reservations process, according to

Turner. All requests should be mailed to the conference centers beginning Feb. 1, 1987. Mail postmarked prior to Feb. 1 will be included with mail postmarked Feb. 2.

CP giving decreases after strong October

Southern Baptists' national Cooperative Program receipts dipped in November but remain ahead of last year's record pace, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention executive committee.

November's total, \$9,672,612, was 10.2 percent behind receipts for the same period in 1985, Bennett reported. However, receipts for the first two months of the 1986-87 budget year stand at \$20,609,728, or 4.04 percent ahead of the rate for October and November of 1985.

November's Cooperative Program dip follows the best October the program has enjoyed in its 61-year history. October receipts of almost \$11 million were 21 percent higher than those for the same period in 1985, giving the Cooperative Program a fast start on its \$136 million annual goal.

Examining the disparity between the Cooperative programs' fast start and slow second month, Bennett said: "The first two months of the fiscal year illustrate again a trend in Cooperative Program giving cannot be established during such a short period of time. I am not disappointed, but I do feel we must be realistic about

conservative estimates of Cooperative Program gifts."

Nevertheless, Bennett predicted an upswing. "I think there's going to be another spurt in December," he said. "The inclination toward year-end giving and the incentive to give before the Tax Reform Act of 1986 takes effect will motivate a lot of people to make their contributions before the law is enforced."(BP)

Pride is crucial to life of elderly

Older adults sometimes are viewed as obstinate or even odd by younger family members and friends when their actions really suggest a preservation of pride, an advocate on aging said.

"Pride is an enormous part of aging," Albert McClellan, who retired as associate executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention executive committee, told state family ministry leaders attending annual planning meetings at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

"Coming of Age: Senior Adults and the Churches" is the 1986-87 special emphasis of the Sunday School Board's family ministry department, which plans to culminate its year in April with a national senior adult convention in Ft. Worth, Tex.

He said churches must build programs for senior adults that "do not so much just fill their time, but fill their lives."(BP)



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

homes for children

A child!

Long before its birth, the prophet wrote: "For to us a child is born . . . and his name shall be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'" (Isaiah 9:6). In the fullness of time the angels announced that child's birth to the shepherds saying, "I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10-12).

At Christmas our attention is directed toward the celebration of the birth of a child—Jesus. We read the scripture accounts, sermons are preached, Christmas carols are sung and gifts are brought, all celebrating the birth of a child—our Lord.

While we need to celebrate his birth and there is much to be learned from a child, let us remember this blessed child grew to adulthood. Then we realize his birth is so important and so celebrated because of the life he lived, the death he died, the resurrection he experienced and the hope he provides all who believe in him. We celebrate his birth because he is our Lord and king.

The prophet Isaiah not only wrote he would be born, but also wrote, "And a little child shall lead them." How many hard hearted fathers and cold hearted mothers have had their hearts melted and warmed by the leadership of a child! Jesus encouraged adults to bring children to him. He even placed a child in the midst as he taught saying, "Unless you return and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Then he taught humility and admonished us to receive children in his name and thus receive him. The faith of a child is also held up as an example for adults.

A child! What child is this? He is the Christ child, our savior. The beloved carol says it so well:

*"O holy child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today!"*

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Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Christmas "doings"

Oneida has to be one of the busiest places on earth. Take this past Sunday for example. Sunday School classes were conducted for all of our students over a two-hour period, and Dr. Joel Rackley conducted his usual three morning services in the Oneida Baptist Church, each service well filled. During the preceding week the sanctuary walls and ceiling had been all newly painted, new ceiling lights put in for the first time since the building was dedicated in 1949, all new carpet replacing that put down 12 years ago, new hymnals added, etc.

Following lunch I am aware of at least eight major activities. John and Hannah Sanderson, teachers here for 15 years, hosted their annual Christmas open house for the senior class which they sponsor each year. While that was going on, the junior class sponsors were chaperoning a Christmas party in the new dining room. During this same part of the afternoon a Walt Disney movie "Where The Red Fern Grows" was being shown many of our other students.

Prior to the evening meal the Fellowship of Christian Athletes had a Christmas party in the newly renovated Home Economics department that was doubled last year.

During the evening worship service, approximately thirty of our middle school students sang a special Christmas musical that they had been practicing on for months. Many sang solos. I was really surprised, pleasantly so, at just how much wonderful talent these pre-teenagers represent. We have an enrol-

ment of approximately 130 in this age group, and over 400 high schoolers.

After the evening worship service, our Baptist Student Union went caroling in the village. It was a bright night with a ring around the moon. I went over to the farm manager's home for some tea and fellowship. I could distinctly hear the carolers a half mile away in the quiet evening. They later had refreshments in the newly redecorated pastors home. Pastor and Mrs. Rackley have graciously hosted a number of groups during the holidays.

The last major event of the evening was the annual girls dorm Christmas party hosted by deans Hatfield and Garrett.

In the new dining room the evening before we had welcomed nearly 100 pastors, wives and other guests to the annual Booneville-Irvine Association Christmas dinner held on our campus.

Monday was also the usual busy school day, beginning the last week of the quarter and final exams before Christmas.

A. B. Colvin, president of our Kentucky Baptist Convention, had left his home at 5:00 a.m. to get here to preach the daily morning chapel service.

After school our wrestling team was off to Lexington Bryan Station and a wonderful 36-30 victory over that very large school.

In the meantime, senior Debra Thomas with us four years, was delivering a speech at the Governor's Mansion in Frankfort, one of only two of this past summer's Governor's Scholars, statewide, invited to share in a dinner of approximately 60 corporate supporters of that annual academic program. Governor Collins gave her a warm hug and later quoted Debra several times in her own speech.

At the same time this was going on, our Middle School Academic team was away in Bell County winning their fifth academic competition of the season. Our high school academic team record is 4-1 including one televised win.

Closer to home things were not going so well. Our girls junior varsity and varsity suffered losses on our home floor, as did our middle school basketball team away. The girls varsity record is 6-4, our middle school boys record thus far is 14-4.

Other Christmas events included boys dorm parties, the church choir concert, our student choir singing two differing programs, and the second of four major drama programs for the year. Then HOME FOR CHRISTMAS for our Oneida family.



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR DEC. 28, 1986

Life and work series

Salvation for all

Luke 2:22, 24 God sent his son Jesus into the world for the purpose of providing salvation for all who would believe on him. Joseph and Mary had Jesus circumcised, presented him to God in the Temple, and then made a sacrifice at the time of Mary's purification. Due to her poverty and inability to sacrifice a lamb, she presented a pair of turtledoves instead.

Luke 2:25-32 Simeon was spirit-anointed, enlightened and led. Assured by the Holy Spirit he would see the Christ before he died he had been anxiously awaiting the Messiah.

One day Simeon went into the temple in Jerusalem. When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the temple Simeon recognized him as the Messiah. Simeon approached Mary and asked for permission to take the child into his arms. Simeon took the babe into his arms and praised God. Now that his hope had been realized, Simeon was satisfied, so there was nothing else which would cause him to desire to live any longer. He breathed a prayer in which he expressed a desire to depart from this world.

His waiting for the fulfillment of the divine promise had a wholesome effect upon the character of Simeon. Waiting and watching for Christ's return will

have a salutary effect upon the children of God.

Luke emphasized that all need salvation and God in and through Christ can and will meet that great need.

Luke 2:33-35 While Mary and Joseph wondered at what Simeon said about Christ, he blessed them and uttered some prophetic words to Mary about her son. He told her many would receive Christ and many more would reject him as saviour and Lord. Mary must have pondered Simeon's words when she stood beholding Christ on the cross.

International series

Suffering savior

Mark 8:27-30 Traveling from one village to another Christ shared his thoughts with his disciples and instructed them as to the nature of his and their mission.

While Christ was sharing his thoughts with his disciples in the region of Caesarea-Philippi, he asked them: "Whom do men say that I am?" Their answer to Christ's question revealed that the people had a variety of opinions—he was John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. Thus all denied his deity.

Christ then asked the pointed question: "Whom say ye that I am?" Peter replied "Thou art the Christ," acknowledging his deity.

Mark 8:31-33 Christ began to tell the purpose of his coming by referring to his approaching suffering, rejection and crucifixion, and the disciples were filled with dismay.

Peter took Christ to one side and began to rebuke him for entertaining such an idea. Christ rebuked him severely for allowing himself to become the mouthpiece of Satan. Satan sometimes uses excellent people to accomplish his purpose.

Mark 8:34-38 After revealing that he expects all his followers to share the privileges and responsibilities which accompany fellowship with him, Christ set forth a threefold requirement for discipleship: self-denial. "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself." We must renounce self-reliance, forego selfish indulgence and place Christ in control of our lives. Self-renunciation. "Take up his cross." "Cross" means something to be taken up voluntarily, not merely to be endured because it is laid upon one. Self-abnegation. "And follow me." Self-abnegation means to accept obediently another person rather than one's self as leader of one's life.



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on mission together

Nostalgia

properly adorned with lights and scores of beautiful decorations. It was in the midst of my task that the attack came...unexpected, and I was caught in an awkward moment for my defenses were not in place.

"I was terribly lonely. There I stood placing balls on hooks and then on carefully selected branches of the tree. A branch without a bit of some splendid color seemed neglected, left out or denied the fulfillment of having a true part in the praise a decorated tree somehow expected to give to the season and to Him who gave reason to the season.

"The most brutal jolt came when I recalled those years when, instead of one, there were from four to 12 doing this same thing...then it was a ritual of joy...now I stand there doing my job. It lacked so much. The very thought got me all choked up I couldn't talk—my eyes got wet—and I was embarrassed.

"It was then that I figured out that nostalgia is not just homesickness for I

For the many of my readers, the following reflection will hit home. The writer is Dr. Charles Standridge, retired Virginia pastor now living near Warrenton (VA).

"It came on suddenly and on the machine that measures earthquakes it would be classified as an acute attack. My job that evening was to get the Christmas tree up...in the stand and

was at home. Nostalgia is a memory with a halo around it. And I've decided not to be embarrassed about it. Rather, I've realized that I am deeply grateful for those many memories that go on enriching my life. Somehow I hope I did something during the season that someone would feel worthy to file under the heading of 'Nostalgia.' Happy New Year!"

While Alice and I have not yet lived long enough to experience precisely the same nostalgia, many of my readers have already or will this season.

As we begin to approach those years, it is my prayer that we will more and more grow to know the deepest meaning of Christmas and that the one who gave us Christmas will be even more present as loved ones, friends, and memories fade.

And when there are no more earthly Christmases to celebrate, I do hope that the Heavenly celebration has even half as much of the joy as I have known in Christmases past.

Peace would be best Christmas gift, says Dilday

What do you want for Christmas? Preparing for a seasonal feature in the local paper, a reporter called to ask me that question the other day. From childhood Christmases long ago came back memories of mounting anticipation, waiting for that special gift under the tree.

It's that time of year again as we celebrate the coming of the Lord Jesus, God's greatest gift to mankind, and the reporter's question waited for an answer: "What do you want for Christmas?"

While it might not be understood by the readers of the Ft. Worth Star Telegram, my answer will be readily understood by Southern Baptists everywhere. To me the best gift this Christmas would be a healthy and positive resolution of our convention's long controversy. And there are reasons to believe such a gift might be possible.

Since the Glorieta meeting of the Southern Baptist peace committee, so many different letters have come from all sides of our convention constituency. The letters are diverse, but they all carry one theme: "We are on our way now to reconciliation."

For the first time in these past seven turbulent years, there are indications we may be moving through the controversial storm into a day of strength and opportunity. It isn't a matter of winning or losing, it's a matter of can we learn something positive from these confrontations and emerge a stronger denomination than ever? I think we can.

While we may differ on whether or not Southern Baptist were drifting from our conservative foundations, one thing is certain. If we ever were, we are certainly not now. The debate has focused our attention sharply on our distinctive theological ideals and we have been called back again to our conservative, biblical heritage with new appreciation and new commitment. That can only make us stronger.

Since our fellowship and unity have been dangerously threatened, there is emerging now a new appreciation for the God-given genius of cooperation which has made this convention uniquely effective through the years. The cooperative approach to missions and evangelism has built the largest and perhaps most effective mission force in the history of Christendom.

As the dust settles on our debates and we realize how close we may have come to losing it, then we appreciate anew how valuable our cooperative "koinonia" is.

We agree there are theological parameters which define what a Southern Baptist is. There are some things a person must believe in order to be a Southern Baptist. We have also learned how difficult it is to define those parameters to the satisfaction of all Southern Baptists.

Our 1963 statement of faith is being re-discovered as a good statement with which nearly all of us can live. We are discovering we can be Baptist brothers and sisters without being twins. And there is room within the parameters of Baptist faith for differ-

ences of opinions.

Join me in prayer that the momentum toward reconciliation may continue to increase and Southern Baptists will receive the blessed gift of peace this Christmas.

While renewing our commitment to our Baptist beliefs we should also reaffirm our allegiance to the ideals of individualism, freedom of conscience and the priesthood of the believer. In our churches and conventions alike we Southern Baptists have always been able to disagree agreeably, express our convictions, come to resolutions and move on to the future stronger and more unified than ever. In the unforgettable words of Richard Jackson, "That's the Baptist way, and I like it."

Student pastorates still valuable but competition is more intense

Preachers who attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary 30 years ago remember student pastorates as an integral part of their seminary training.

Young preachers at seminary today realize the same need for experience, but often have difficulty getting it.

The laws of supply and demand have changed the means of practical ministerial training. "There are more students looking than there are churches available," said Allen Reasons, associate director of church/minister relations. "In the past year we had 62 requests for pastors and 250 students on file looking for pastorates."

Ed Seale, director of church minister relations, cited two causes for the shift. On the demand side, many rural churches around Ft. Worth have either merged with larger churches, ceased to function or called bivocational pastors, he said.

On the supply side, Southwestern's enrolment has more than doubled in the past 30 years. There are many more students seeking to serve churches in a fixed geographical area, he said.

But the student pastorate itself has not changed, Reasons said. "Churches are still looking for the same thing—someone to go out and care."

David Wheeler is pastor of Corinth Baptist Church in Bonham, Tex. He searched for two years before finding this pastorate. "I never thought I'd drive two and a half hours away," he said.

Like most student pastors, Wheeler travels to his church field on the weekends only. He spends Saturday and Sunday afternoon visiting.

The country setting has been an education for Wheeler, who has always lived in cities. "People there like a different style of preaching," he said. "They like you to hammer something home to them. It's a whole different ballgame than preaching in town."

"It can be frustrating because there's not a lot of movement in the services," Wheeler said. "But when there is a decision, it is really sincere. When ol' Joe gets saved, the whole community rejoices."

Stan Albright admits he had an easier time finding student pastorates, but also knows the difficulties they can bring. Albright, now in his last semester of classes, is full time pastor of Rolling Hills Baptist Church in Weatherford, Tex.

Before that he served a small country church in Fairview, Tex. "If you're willing to relocate, the opportunities (for pastorates) greatly multiply," he said.

While at Fairview, Albright and his family lived on the field. He drove in for classes every day and worked the early morning shift at United Parcel Service.

Such a load is not uncommon for students with a burning desire to exercise their callings while studying. "I was willing to do it (be a pastor) wherever I could," Albright said.

Seale's concern for helping students get practical experience led him to start the "Adopt an Associate" program at Southwestern.

Through this program, Seale and Reasons help students find positions as associates in churches of all sizes. The church is required to pay a minimal salary and must assign the associate specific duties.

The church gains additional staff, and the student gets needed experience.

But for those who find God's will in serving a small country church, things really are much the same as 30 years ago. Wheeler recalled walking into the parsonage on one of their first weeks at Bonham and finding a 3 pound catfish swimming in the bathtub.

"Debbie came screaming out of the bathroom," he said.

But they passed the initiation. The next week the bathtub held a 20 pound watermelon.



Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, says reconciliation within the convention would be the best Christmas gift possible. He sees peace within the SBC as a realistic hope for the future.

Author of James commentary says January Bible study is directed to laymen of the 80's, not scholars

All scripture is relevant but the book of James is "concrete and specific" in relating to contemporary human needs, according to the author of the 1987 adult January Bible Study text.

Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Tex., and author of *James: Faith Works!*, said the five-chapter book offers the rare possibility of teaching a chapter each session to complete January Bible Study in one week.

The relevance of the book of James offered natural possibilities for contemporary illustrations, Gregory said. He spent much of his time preparing the study text developing contemporary illustrations because excellent commentaries on James already existed.

The study text title, *Faith Works!*, is a simple way to state the theme of James, Gregory said.

He used the Bible study text for a Bible exposition during a Sunday school leadership conference last summer. He said faith makes the difference in how Christians and non-Christians handle trials.

"Contrary to some current theology, James says we will have trials. The difference is Christians can rely on

faith during trials," he said.

"Faith is an inward sense of trust. It's an invisible quality of Christians and can only be seen in actions. A worthy faith demonstrates itself in deeds," Gregory said.

During the year he spent working on the text, Gregory did a word-by-word study of James using comparative translations and commentaries.

Rather than writing another commentary on James, Gregory chose to write with the Baptist layman in mind. "It's not written for scholars or pastors. It's for the lay person of the 80s," he said.

Part of the process of writing the book was to preach through it. Several sermons from the book helped Gregory focus on the material which eventually was to find its way into print.

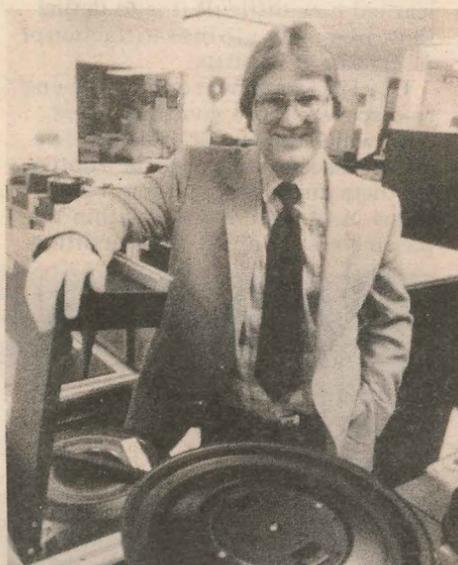
Because James does not deal with some of the more difficult points of theology, Gregory said the book will be easy for Bible study leaders to teach.

The youth January Bible study deals with I Peter. Studies for other age groups will be on places of worship for older children, ways to worship God for younger children, and studies on families for older and younger preschoolers.

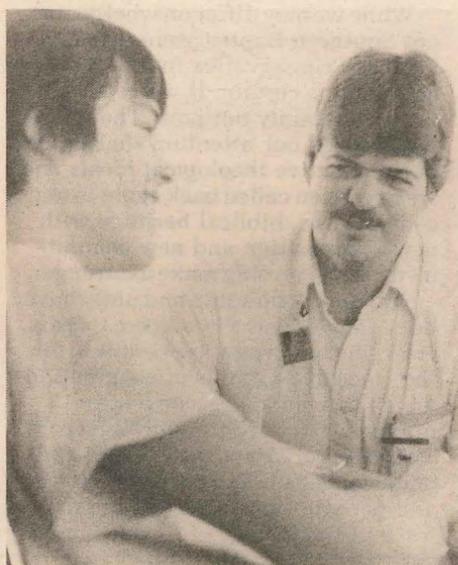
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Corporate Counsel
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Louisville, Kentucky*



*Jim Boyd
Staff Computer Operator
Health Data Network
Louisville, Kentucky*



*Kenny Kimball
Orderly
Baptist Regional Medical Center
Corbin, Kentucky*



*Margaret W. Richardson
Volunteer
Baptist Hospital Highlands
Louisville, Kentucky*

Mr. C H Richardson, Jr. has been affiliated with Baptist Hospitals, Inc. for over 23 years serving in the capacity of Director of Louisville Baptist Hospitals, and Director and Corporate Counsel for Baptist Hospitals, Inc.

"When I reflect on my involvement with Baptist Hospitals, Inc., I savor the personal relationships that have been established in pursuit of the Lord's great commission. To witness Directors from every corner of Kentucky coming together to glorify God through participation in the Baptist Hospitals' projects and patient care, has been very fulfilling for me and my family.

"Everyone should have a cause that will help his fellowman. One of the causes my family and I have chosen is Baptist Hospitals, Inc.; we have been supportive through time and resources and have been proud to do so. I would encourage you to find your cause in life and vigorously participate in it."

Jim Boyd, a staff computer operator, has been at Health Data Network for 5 years. "About 90% of all reports processing is performed for the hospitals on my midnight to 8:30 am shift. Each hospital requests reports that it needs and we're able to have that report for them first thing the next morning.

"For example, lab results will be posted on a patient's chart by 6:00 am in time for doctor's rounds, compared to when it used to take several hours to prepare them manually. We then save all of the files every night so that a back-up is readily available if needed. The result is that the reports, which include financials, have all been run and the OCOM system is ready to print tickets for nursing orders to the ancillaries.

"Because of the Health Data Network system, the hospitals are able to operate more efficiently and thus, patients receive quality care as fast as technology can bring it to them."

As an Orderly at Baptist Regional Medical Center, Kenny Kimball is an integral part of the healing team. "I really enjoy helping people. Patients receive good medical attention here and I try to encourage them to respond to that care. I try to make them smile and be as happy as possible.

"The visitors are almost as important as the patients and I'm continually reminding them that we are taking good care of their family member and not to worry, 'I'll watch out for them and make it just like if they were at home.'

"Baptist Regional Medical Center will be larger and even though we will have better equipment, the patients couldn't possibly receive any better care because the team here is the best.

"We want patients to leave saying, 'They were so nice to me.' I guess you can tell that I'm really sold on Corbin's Baptist Regional Medical Center.

Auxiliary members (Volunteers) represent a special group of people that provide invaluable services to each of the BHI hospitals. One such volunteer for over 20 years at Baptist Hospital Highlands is Peg Richardson. "We're the first and often the last person a patient or visitor sees. Our attitude and demeanor help set the tone for the patient's stay.

"Our Volunteers take pride in their work; we really enjoy helping the patients because most of us have been a patient or had a family member as a patient before. We know how important it is to provide the volunteer services and the gentle touch. The patients really seem to appreciate our help.

"Our dues, gift shops and fund raising efforts throughout the years have helped offset some of the costs of running the hospitals and that is a very pleasant feeling to experience. We love people and look forward to coming to our jobs."

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