

Bylaw change shuffles membership on BJCPA

A change aimed at increasing "grass-roots" Southern Baptist participation in the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs was approved during the February meeting of the SBC Executive Committee. The change, a revision of SBC Bylaw 18, was recommended by a nine-member committee studying the relationship between the SBC and the BJCPA.

The committee was appointed in September to study a motion made during the 1986 annual meeting of the SBC to withdraw from the BJCPA and establish "an exclusive Southern Baptist presence" in the nation's capitol.

Although the Executive Committee adopted the bylaw revision, study committee chairman Gary F. Young cautioned Southern Baptists to avoid drawing "unintended implications" from the action.

"I have been asked if this means we have decided against defunding or dis-

mangling (of the BJCPA)," Young told Baptist Press, adding he believes the change in the bylaw is needed whether the final recommendation is to continue the relationship, withdraw from BJCPA or continue in a modified relationship.

The change would revise membership on the SBC's Public Affairs Committee. Currently, the PAC is composed of 15 members, seven of whom are permanent members by virtue of office. Included are the chief executive officers of the Executive Committee, Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board, Christian Life Commission, Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union. Two other agency executives also serve rotating terms.

All of the members of the SBC's Public Affairs Committee are members of the board of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The change in the bylaw, which would

be effective immediately if adopted by messengers at the 1987 annual meeting, limits the number of agency executives serving by virtue of office to five: the chief executives of the Executive Committee, Sunday School Board, Annuity Board, Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board. The SBC president also retains a seat on the committee.

The revision specifies there will be 12 at-large members who may serve two four-year terms. Those members, the new bylaw specifies, "shall be selected as far as possible on a basis that will provide representation from the various geographic areas of the United States."

A new category of membership, "ex-officio, non-voting," is created in the bylaw. The chief executive officer of the Christian Life Commission, who currently is a voting member of the PAC and BJCPA, will become an "ex-officio, non-voting" member of the group, if the

bylaw is adopted in St. Louis.

"Several people asked if removing the CLC could be interpreted as censoring them because of the way in which the incoming executive was elected," Young said.

Young said the action to place the Sunday School Board president on the board and the creation of a separate category for the CLC executive "absolutely is not" a censure. "The reason we did it that way is that the CLC is likely to have an office in Washington itself," he said.

Young said the study committee will meet again in Nashville March 27-28 to continue work on devising a plan to resolve the problem of the relationship between the SBC and the BJCPA.

Young added he anticipates being able to release a final report of the committee's recommendations as soon as the decisions are made: "We are not trying to keep anything a secret, and we want to give people time to think about our recommendation, pray about it and even to make suggestions.

"It is our hope that we can successfully come up with a plan most Southern Baptists can support," he added. (BP)

Vestal: coalitions will destroy convention

Political coalitions in the 14.6 million-member Southern Baptist Convention are "inappropriate" and "immoral," and will "destroy" the convention, Peace Committee member Daniel Vestal told a meeting of Baptist journalists.

The Texas pastor, whose church annually leads the SBC in contributions to the Cooperative Program, commented after two journalists—Bob Terry, editor of Word and Way, the Missouri Baptist Convention newsjournal, and Jim Newton, BP bureau chief in Atlanta—had asked about political coalitions and the appropriateness of caucuses by members of boards of trust to set the political agenda for board meetings.

Terry said he had talked with two members of the SBC Executive Committee who told him of a caucus in which strategy was discussed about ways to block the election of Alvin C. Shackelford as vice president of public relations and director of Baptist Press. He also referred to "Firestorm Chats," a tape-recorded interview with Paul Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge and member of the Executive Committee,

which dealt with creation of a political coalition by fundamental-conservatives to change the denomination.

Vestal, who said he was not aware of the Executive Committee caucus, said he has listened to the recording and urges every Baptist editor, every member of the Peace Committee to listen to the "Firestorm Chats," tape and said, "I wish every Southern Baptist would listen to it. It is a clear statement of a reality that has emerged in Southern Baptist life in the last nine years that is going to destroy the Southern Baptist Convention."

After Vestal made his statement, SBC President Adrian Rogers told the journalists he wanted the record clear "that Dan Vestal is speaking for Dan Vestal."

Rogers said: "There is a political drive on the part of conservatives to see that conservative trustees are elected. That is political, but it is being done within the bounds and confines of our constitution. It is being done by conservatives feeling they are using the system that our fathers gave us to correct what they feel is a problem. They don't believe that is an abuse of the system, but a use of the system." (BP)



Jack Swearingen, chairman of deacons at Emmanuel Baptist Church Cassville, Mo.; Ken Mathes, pastor; and Edith Seely pray together during hospital visitation time. The Doctrine of Prayer is the 1987 Baptist Doctrine Study set for April 20-24.

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CP giving exceeds \$13 million mark

Southern Baptists launched 1987 with record-breaking contributions to the Cooperative Program budget.

Cooperative Program contributions totalled \$13,078,303 in January, reported Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

The previous single-month record was set in January 1986, when the program took in almost \$12.8 million. Only three monthly totals have surpassed \$11 million.

This year's strong January showing brought annual Cooperative Program receipts to almost \$44.1 million, four months into the fiscal year, Bennett reported. That total is 5.26 percent ahead of receipts for the same period during the 1985-1986 fiscal year.

Bennett predicted Southern Baptists will increase Cooperative Program receipts from five percent to six percent over the previous budget. An increase on that level would push total receipts to between \$130.4 million and \$131.7 million. Such total would not completely meet the program's \$5.9 million capital needs budget.

The situation leaves budget managers with mixed emotions. "We're delighted for the gains," explained Tim A. Hedquist, Executive Committee vice president for business and finance. "I keep being amazed at the faithfulness of people who are struggling—particularly with the farm and oil crises. Even these strong Cooperative Program figures do not always reflect the faithfulness which makes them possible.

"At the same time, we cannot forget the overwhelming need," he added. "Even if every phase of the budget were met, needs would remain." (BP)



Jack D. Sanford

sanford's perspectives

A refreshing evangelism conference

The evangelism conference last week was blessed with great weather, lively music and a variety of preaching. All of it together made for a time of spiritual refreshment and good fellowship among more than a thousand Kentucky Baptists.

Jay Brown and Hal Poe did a good job organizing the meeting and providing excellent program personalities. These men know the need among us for a time of spiritual feasting and we owe them a word of thanks for the careful work they did to provide just what was needed.

The preachers were varied and the topics timely. Each speaker brought his own perspective to his assigned task, yet there was a unity of thought as all of them centered on the Christ who is indeed Lord of all.

It was especially good to hear from former evangelism directors Hicks Shelton, Eldred Taylor and A. B. Colvin. These men gave leadership to our evangelism efforts when some of us were just getting our feet wet in ministry, and they continue to be an inspiration to us.

Much of the music was deep in the Baptist tradition, but one selection by the Kentucky Baptist Chorale puzzles me yet. "The Saloon Must Go" was part of the Gospel Bard and drew a chuckle or two, but how many of us had heard that particular song before? It was a surprise to me because

I did not know such a song existed.

Perhaps the thing which stirred me most was the renewed consciousness that our major purpose as Christians is to win others to saving faith in Jesus Christ. We are of course responsible for social action, Christian education and a multitude of other worthwhile projects. Yet evangelism is at the heart of our doctrine and at the center of our life-mission.

There has not been a time since I took my first pastorate in 1949 as desperately in need of strong emphasis on evangelism as this day in which we live. Our world is awash in the terrible darkness of sin and we seem to lack the will to focus on the answers found only in Christ.

My prayer is that the evangelism conference has kindled some fires of compassion and concern for lost souls and that those newly kindled fires will burn strongly enough to send us out into the marketplaces of our state to win lost people to Jesus Christ.

We have had a slight improvement in our baptism record this past year, yet we are far short of what we ought to be and what we are capable of doing in evangelism. Perhaps the fire we feel now will carry on and we will do a better job in what is surely our first order of business.

What about the Peace Committee?

Southern Baptist state paper editors and other members of the Baptist press family met with the 22-member Peace Committee in Nashville a few days ago and looked for some sign that strong peace initiatives would come from the efforts of this group.

No such sign was apparent in the brief meeting we had with the committee. On the contrary, the impression we carried away from the meeting is that the Peace Committee is divided as equally as the convention at large is divided.

This impression was strengthened when Dan Vestal decried the manipulation by certain "political coalitions" at work in the convention. He said they were "immoral" and would "destroy" the convention.

Adrian Rogers reminded us "that Dan Vestal is speaking for Dan Vestal." He went on to say, "We found no political malfeasance of any group; no gerrymandering, no ballot-stuffing." And the question which jumped into my mind must be considered: how can this committee bring peace to our convention when these two members are so divided on what is basic to the conflict?

Again the impression of a lack of unity was felt when Charles Fuller, chairman of the committee, said there "were various feelings about the Glorieta Statement" and that he felt the seminary presidents had not "caved in."

However, another member of the Peace Committee, Jerry Vines, admitted the Glorieta Statement "was a very fine statement," but he added, "two of the presidents have backtracked from it."

Once again, two members at great distance from each other on a critical matter.

Unless the things I have cited are so considered then there is nothing concrete, nothing specific, nothing which was overtly declared to be a division, but the impression was strong that the Peace Committee is not in agreement on any agenda which will help Southern Baptists stop the warfare which has crippled us for several years.

I pray my impressions are wrong. I pray my sense of the meeting is wrong. I pray my feeling of doubt comes from inexperience in such high circles. I want to be wrong on this more than I have ever wanted to be right on anything.

I want the Peace Committee to be just that, a peace committee. I want the fighting to stop, the name calling to desist, the doubt and distrust to go away. I want Southern Baptists to join hands as brothers and sisters and do Bold Mission Thrust. I want the Peace Committee to show us the way to this sort of conclusion.

But the impressions are there, the feelings persist and there is no visible sign available to dispel them. I hate these negative feelings and I have prayed, as thousands of other Southern Baptists have prayed, that God would provide the light.

Since the ways of God are not the ways of man, and since the time limitations of man are not imposed on God, He may do a miracle yet. That is our only hope and we must cling to it in spite of the lack of evidence that our brothers have any answers for us.

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baptist forum

Letters for baptist forum: maximum length, 300 words. Longer letters will be edited for space or returned for revision. Writer's signature, address, phone number and church affiliation required. No form letters will be printed. Letters must deal with issues and not make personal attacks.

HMB: your resolution supports Bible

Your spiritual courage has encouraged me tremendously. Your decision not to support ordained women pastors has been misrepresented and attacked, even by those within the camp. However, I thank God for those of you who made this decision because you felt you must as faithful stewards of the Lord.

I support your decision because it was the ethical thing to do. Resolutions and surveys show most Southern Baptists do not believe it is scriptural for women to be ordained and serve as pastors. For an agency of the SBC to ignore that is neither responsible nor reasonable.

This action does not violate local church autonomy. If a group wishes to call a woman as pastor they can still do so. Since your recent decision we who have convictions against such actions are not asked to support these ministries which are inconsistent with sound biblical exegesis and historical Baptist practice.

Above all your decision is based on biblical principles and is honoring to God and his word. The Holy Spirit will never lead anyone to violate scriptural principles. Society may reject God's standards but we Baptists must never knowingly do so. It is not for us to select from scripture, rather we are to boldly stand upon "thus saith the Lord" and boldly declare "all the counsel of God."

Phillip Potter, pastor
Oakland Avenue Baptist Church
Catlettsburg

Commends Sunday School Board

I read Western Recorder each week and very much appreciate the articles and information included in your publication. In many notes pastors and other concerned Christians have an axe to grind or an issue to expound. Maybe I too will do that at some point in time, but not now.

I am writing a note of praise. On Feb. 9, 1987 Green Valley Association held a Sunday school-evangelism rally at First Baptist Church, Henderson. The speaker was Neil Jackson, a growth consultant with the Baptist Sunday School Board. My praise is not only for the excellent job he did motivating and inspiring us to be more committed to Christ and more involved in reaching people. My praise is for the excellent work of our Sunday School Board.

I am pastor of Zion Baptist Church, Henderson. We have been to Ridgecrest the past two summers and have had three people from the Sunday School Board in our church for training activities. The quality of leadership in every instance was excellent.

I am proud to be part of a denomination that has such well-trained and well-informed leaders. Praise the Lord for people like Neil Jackson who give their life and talents to Christ and his church. May his tribe increase.

Dan Garland
Henderson

Praise for a job well done

I want to thank you for the great job you did on the interviews with KBC personnel. They were full of insight and humor.

Some of the people had always been just faces in the crowd. You gave them likes and dislikes and helped us see why they love their work.

The interviews were like visits with old friends. Thank you for your mirror

that revealed them to others as we have always known them.

Kentucky Baptists have much to be proud of in the quality people they employ. May God continue to bless your great state.

Mrs. David Hardison
Washington, Vt.

'Thank God for Baptist laymen'

In a recent issue of the Recorder I noticed with sorrow the death of William E. Boswell of Cynthiana. Boswell was a loan officer of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Cynthiana where I sought help in acquiring a house in Georgetown. I shall never forget how forceful and encouraging Boswell was to me. I talked with him in his office one Monday . . . the next Monday he called me to say our loan had been approved. I thank the Lord for Baptist laymen who encourage ministers to own their own homes. For nine years of a 13 year ministry in Georgetown my family lived in a house they could call their own. It meant a lot to my wife and me and our daughters. As we return to foreign missions in Brazil we thank God for the peace of mind that comes in knowing he has prepared a nice place for us here as well as a nicer place up there.

Darrell Cruse

Dismantling CLC is urgent need

The election of Larry Baker to the top Christian Life Commission spot on a 16-13 vote provides little of significance about Baker or the CLC itself. The election and the comments of the trustees does point up an unmistakable need: the dismantling of the CLC as an agency of the SBC.

With regard to the divisiveness which plagues Southern Baptists, or rather Southern Baptist preachers, the CLC is a microcosm of the convention. As such it is a reminder that consensus is absolutely impossible within the SBC on 90 percent of all social questions and most theological issues. Thus neither Baker nor any other person including the SBC president should arrogate to himself the right to speak for the convention on any issue.

Ludicrous beyond belief is the notion that either an individual or an agency comprised of a handful of diverse and highly opinionated would-be policy makers can presume to speak for 14 million Southern Baptists on highly volatile matters such as abortion, women's ministry, Contra aid, capital punishment, war, euthanasia, contraceptives, birth control, school prayer, welfare, homosexuality, AIDS, etc.

As a Southern Baptist who is likely to disagree with 50 percent of my fellow Southern Baptists on most issues, I resent the very concept of a denominational spokesperson or agency-enunciated policy. Let individuals and individual churches form and inculcate their convictions. Let the denomination be silent.

Jim Clark
Danville

'Disappointed' with Commission

A Baptist Press release concerning the Genesis Commission has just arrived. As a career missionary and staff member for 32 years under the Foreign Mission Board, I am keenly disappointed there are pastors and the president of a Baptist college who apparently cannot work

within the framework of the FMB's missionary effort, an effort which has church planting at its heart.

The Baptist Convention of Mexico has a goal to organize 2000 new churches by the year 2000. In one of the local associations in Mexico City four new churches already have been organized. Another church was organized here in January 1987. Five local churches have indicated they will organize nine churches this year. With the help of volunteers from Baptist churches in Oklahoma, we will open 12 works in one sector of the city during August. Many of the other 60 churches in this city plan to organize new churches this year.

Before the start of this major thrust for 1987, Mexican Baptist congregations organized more than 75 new churches last year.

Darnell states, "We have targeted all the theological schools in Mexico . . . and will visit with the administrative staffs and get some of their best graduates . . ." This puts the Genesis Commission in competition with churches in our convention and associations and with their missions philosophy. We do not have enough pastors for our churches, much less for all the new churches we are organizing.

Our convention and associations are working hard to teach stewardship and self-support to our churches and to get them to start new churches that are self-supporting from the beginning. Now a group of Baptists comes in from the outside and undercuts this effort. Yes, brethren, I am disappointed in you. Let me request you to abandon this Lone Ranger philosophy and work through our tried-and-proven FMB to witness to our world in this our generation.

Ervin E. Hastey
Mission Service Corps Volunteer

Family ministry Workshop praised

Being a parent is one task where each of us could use some help. Many people recently found some of that help in a workshop called "Parenting by Grace" held at Cedarmore.

The workshop was under the leadership of John Lepper, director of the Family Ministry and Church Administration Department of the KBC.

I would like to thank John Lepper and his wife Connie, as well as others, for a job very well done. Kentucky Baptists are blessed to have Lepper as one of our state leaders.

David Livingston Jr.
Harrods Creek Baptist Church

Committee compiles obituary list

The Obituary Committee of the Kentucky Baptist Convention requests your help!

It is our sincere desire to honor those deceased Kentucky Baptists who have made a significant contribution to Kentucky Baptist life by having an accurate and complete obituary list for the period of August 1, 1986 through July 31, 1987. If you have information regarding the passing of such individuals during this time span, please submit it to the committee chairman:

D. Gene Crowder
P. O. Box 448
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Thank you, in advance, for helping us honor these faithful Baptists in the manner which they so richly deserve.

D. Gene Crowder
Elkhorn City



Eldred M. Taylor
Executive Director
10501 Shelbyville Road
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homes for children

On Purpose

God has a special concern for the poor and those in need. This special concern shows itself early in the Old Testament and continues to surface throughout the entire Bible. In Leviticus 19:9-10 the Lord spoke through Moses saying, "Thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of the field . . . thou shalt leave them for the poor and the stranger. I am the Lord your God."

This scripture is saying that the landowners were not to harvest every particle of grain. Rather, they were to plan or purposely leave grain in the corners so the poor could harvest it. In the book of Ruth, Boaz instructed his reapers not only to leave the grain in the corners, but to let fall some "handfuls of purpose" for Ruth to glean.

I have discovered that giving on purpose is both more rewarding and more generous than giving without purpose. For many years my wife and I have tithed on purpose. We are committed to the tithe as a minimum; therefore, it comes out first. In addition to our tithe to our church budget, we do some other giving on purpose. On purpose we give above the tithe to the building debt retirement of our church. On purpose we set aside something regularly for the special offerings such as the Annie Armstrong offering for home missions, the Eliza Broadus offering for state missions, the Thanksgiving Offering for the children's homes and the Lottie Moon offering for foreign missions. By planning on purpose to give to these offerings we are able to give far more than if we did it on the spur of the moment without a purpose. And by the way, it is a lot more fun to do it on purpose.

It is obvious that God wants us to help others on purpose. Many children who are dependent and neglected are crying for help. It is important that we purposely help them. This means that we need to give some of what we have on purpose so they can have the necessities of life and a chance to put the pieces of life together.

Baptist Homes for Children, through the Beyond This Time endowment campaign, is offering you an unusual opportunity to give on purpose to help care for children. I call on you to decide now to invest in the endowment for children. Do it on purpose and receive an abundant blessing. Jesus loves children and so do we.

baptist news in brief

Rogers predicts trouble without viable plan

If the Southern Baptist Peace Committee does not come up with a "good, strong statement and a viable plan" for healing the strife-torn denomination, there will be "serious trouble in St. Louis," SBC president Adrian Rogers told the SBC Executive Committee. The Peace Committee will bring a final report to the SBC when the convention meets in annual session June 16-18 in St. Louis.

"The problem in the Southern Baptist Convention is basically a theological problem," Rogers told the SBC Executive Committee during its February meeting. While it has "political overtones," the problem nonetheless is "theological at the core," he explained.

Likewise, the denomination's unity is doctrinal in nature," he said. It is not the way the convention works together that brings unity, he said. Rather, "we work together because of that unity." Cooperation is not "the basis of our unity," he insisted. "It is the outgrowth of our unity."

The controversy that has plagued the convention in recent years calls Southern Baptists to ask the question, "How diverse can we be and still stay together?" Rogers said.

Southern Baptists also need to realize the convention is not unified around missions, Rogers said, noting, "We are unified around Jesus and the word. (BP)



Miss Weatherford

Women strengthen cause of SBC missions efforts

When the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union was organized in 1888, little did those founders know they would be the influence behind what is now one of the world's largest evangelical organizations for women.

"Back then ordination was not an issue," said Carolyn Weatherford, WMU national executive director. She recently spoke and answered questions at the State Student Directors Association annual meeting at the WMU office, Birmingham.

As times changed, women were allowed more "say" in the denomination, Weatherford said, noting they won that privilege after they organized and demonstrated they would stand on the side of missions, no matter what.

"The iron in our spine has given us cause to act," Weatherford asserted. The now "invisible" women have more opportunities to be leaders, but are often criticized when they speak out, she added. "If we discuss women in ministry, we're branded to say we should ordain women preachers and are called 'flaming liberals' if we speak up for ourselves," she said.

What is more important to her, she said, is to demonstrate that women today are knowledgeable, action-oriented and well-informed of missions needs. "Southern Baptist missions efforts have strengthened because of women's work," she said. (BP)

Guenther predicts victory in Crowder suit against SBC

The attorney who has represented the Southern Baptist Convention in a lawsuit against it told the body's Executive Committee Feb. 16 he expects final victory in the case but expressed regret at what the dispute has cost.

James P. Guenther of the Nashville firm of Guenther and Jordan reported developments in the suit, brought against the SBC by Robert S. and Julia Crowder, Birmingham, and other plaintiffs. His report came after the Executive Committee heard an impassioned plea for unity from the denomination's top foreign missions executive.

Guenther, appearing at the podium immediately following the appeal from SBC Foreign Mission Board president R. Keith Parks, described his report as a "ridiculous irrelevance" in light of Parks' appeal for prayer for beleaguered Southern Baptist missionaries still serving in strife-torn Lebanon. Parks had concluded his report by noting Southern Baptists are in danger of losing an historic opportunity to extend their evangelistic witness to the world by expending their energies and resources in the ongoing battle for control of the SBC.

Alluding to the estimated \$200,000 which defense of the Crowder suit has cost the SBC thus far, Guenther reviewed earlier developments in the case, including a decision last year by U.S. District Judge Robert Hall of Atlanta that his court lacked jurisdiction because the dispute centered on church polity. Hall's decision cited the constitutional doctrine of separation of church and state in rejecting the Crowder complaint.

The complaint centered on alleged parliamentary irregularities during the 1985 annual meeting of the convention in Dallas. Named as one of the defendants was former SBC president Charles

F. Stanley, Atlanta, who according to the lawsuit violated denominational bylaws and standard parliamentary procedure by refusing to allow a challenge to a slate of his nominees.

Guenther told the Executive Committee that whether Southern Baptists agree with Stanley's parliamentary decisions in Dallas or not, "we would all abhor the idea of a federal judge serving as parliamentarian of the Southern Baptist Convention" or the notion that federal marshalls be present at annual meetings to enforce a judge's orders.

At stake in the case, he said, is the freedom of a church body to conduct its own business without interference from the state, a right rooted in the free exercise clause of the First Amendment. (BP)

McBeth: denomination is best mission support

Denominational support for missions endeavors is more effective than an independent approach, and Southern Baptist churches should continue to cooperate in their missions efforts, a church historian claimed.

Although Southern Baptist missions traditionally have been backed by local churches working through their convention, an "independent society" method is making a comeback, said Leon McBeth, chairman of the church history department at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.,

Baptists dating back to the 17th century have formed independent societies to raise money and send missionaries, McBeth said. He cited the Genesis Commission as one example.

"The society method diffuses and dilutes any sense of Baptist identity, and it tends to make denominational cooperation optional," he said. "History confirms that cooperative churches have raised more money, sent more missionaries, established more churches and won more converts by far than all the societies that have ever existed. I, for one, hope we will not succumb to the lure of the society method." (BP)

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Come hear them tell how God led them to become missionaries. Share the tears, laughter and joy as the Foreign Mission Board appoints dozens as missionaries to serve around the world.



Congregation reconciles with fired teacher

When Linda Hoskinson lost her job, she lost more than just her means of financial support. She also lost the support of her church.

Hoskinson's firing by Dayton Christian Schools eventually led her, the private school system and the Ohio Civil Rights Commission to the U. S. Supreme Court, which held she could challenge her dismissal before the state civil rights panel without violating the school's First Amendment rights. It also led to a request from her church—75 percent of whose members, by Hoskinson's estimate, had some connection with Dayton Christian Schools—to seek a new church home.

After she was dismissed from her teaching position and asked to leave her church, Hoskinson met Kenneth L. Mahanes, pastor of Far Hills Baptist Church, Dayton, Ohio.

Mahanes says Hoskinson found a warm, non-judgmental environment at Far Hills. "Not all of our members may have agreed with her, but they opened their arms to her," he recalls.

"Through the affirmation she received from the people, her Christian faith was strengthened," Mahanes notes. "She discovered that Southern Baptists are not mean-spirited people. This situation has shown Southern Baptists at our best—a group of people committed to the Bible but open in mood and spirit."

Hoskinson recently decided to withdraw the complaint she had filed with

the Ohio Civil Rights Commission against Dayton Christian Schools. Mahanes reports a process of reconciliation has begun between Hoskinson and the school system.

"Linda felt a lot of hurt in the early days," Mahanes says. "It was a frightening experience for her. But recently I have seen some spiritual therapy taking place—a heightening of love, understanding and openness."

Baptists take part in Holiday Inn boycott

The executive board of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California has approved a boycott of the Holiday Inn chain, following the lead of the National Federation for Decency, an anti-pornography organization.

The boycott was approved at the February meeting of the state executive board after the group's denominational relations committee recommended boycotting the chain "until such time as Holiday Corporation (the chain's parent company) discontinues its policy of promoting pornography by offering pornographic movies."

Drew Allen, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Santa Clara, Calif., who brought the action to the floor of the board meeting, said the action was prompted by a call for a nationwide boycott from the NFD, a Mississippi-based organization which says it is devoted to "the biblical ethic of decency in American society with primary emphasis on TV and other media."

During discussion, Allen was asked if the motion encourages California Baptist churches to boycott the chain. "That is implicit in the motion," Allen said. (BP)

Colegrove named head of Hargrave Academy

Michael B. Colegrove has been elected president of Hargrave Military Academy, the school's board of trustees announced Feb. 9.

Colegrove, dean of educational services and registrar at Cumberland College in Williamsburg, will assume duties as president on July 1. He succeeds Vernon T. Lankford, who is retiring following 17 years as president of the academy, which is affiliated with the Baptist General Association of Virginia. (BP)

Wagner named interim at Ruschlikon seminary

Guenter Wagner, professor of New Testament at Ruschlikon Baptist Theological Seminary, has been named interim president of the institution.

J. Altus Newell, president of the seminary the past two years, will leave the post March 10 to become pastor of Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.

Wagner joined the Ruschlikon faculty in 1958 and has served as interim president on two prior occasions.

Ruschlikon has "a record of seven presidents over the past 10 years," Wagner said, noting he hopes appropriate changes can be made during the interim period to make the seminary president's workload more manageable. Such changes might allow the president to tackle "the constructive day-to-day work" yet "still see tomorrow." (BP)

Foundation boosts college endowment

Campbellsville College has received \$100,000 from the James Graham Brown Foundation in Louisville, according to an announcement from Campbellsville College president W. R. Davenport.

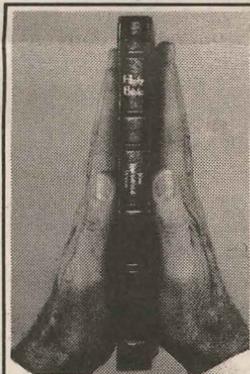
The money will be used for general endowment for the College, according to Jay Orr, director of development. He explained the principal will always be intact, with the income from the investment being used to provide funds for

Campbellsville College.

"This is a tremendous boost to the endowment of Campbellsville College. Endowment has been a major emphasis over the last three years," Orr said.

Orr said the James Graham Brown Foundation's support for private, higher education in Kentucky is "one of the best things that has happened to higher education in Kentucky. Their support is constant and continual."

The Brown Foundation was established in Kentucky in 1943 and incorporated in 1954. The principal donors to the foundation were the late James Graham Brown, a Louisville hotel owner and holder of vast timber lands, and his sister, the late Alice Brown Duggan.



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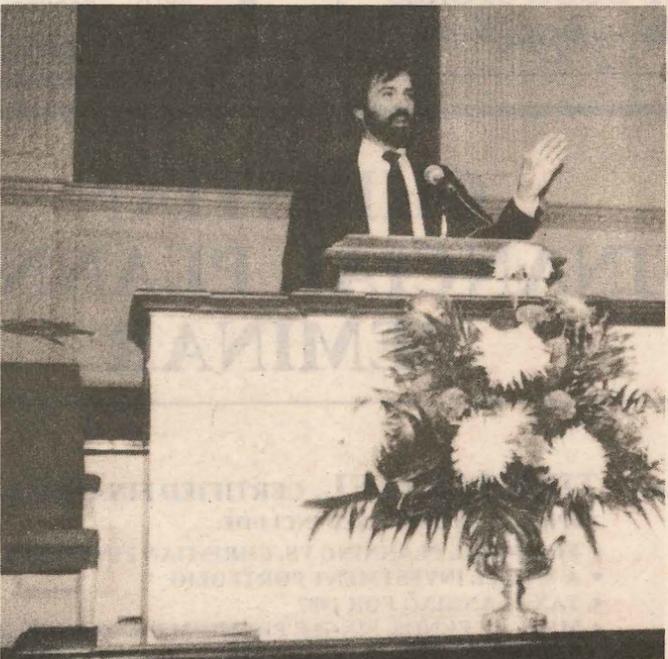
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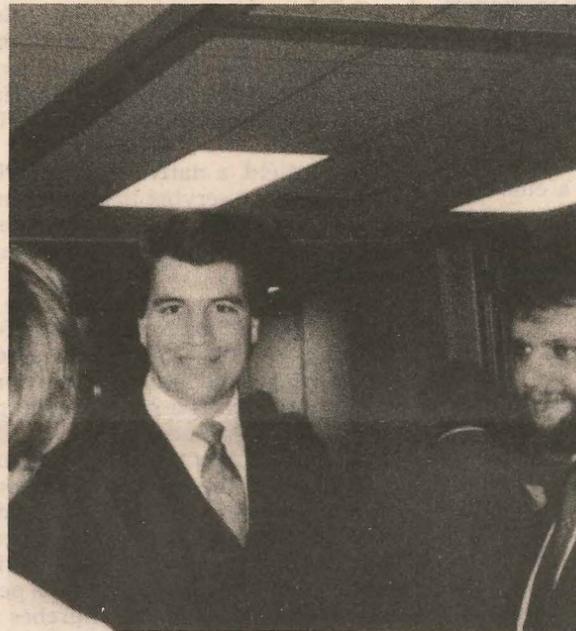
Jenny Tanner Nolen (top), Hanceville, Ala., sings "How Great Thou Art" in the Monday evening session. Hal Poe (bottom), associate in the KBC Evangelism Department, delivers an historic message Monday afternoon. Poe dramatized the spiritual revivals in Kentucky since the 1700s.



Scenes from state Evangelism Conference Severns Valley Baptist Church, E'town February 23-24



About 1000 pastors from around the state gathered for the 40th annual Evangelism Conference at Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown Feb. 23-24. The pastors' revival featured sermons, historical presentations and special music.



Brad Johnson (top), pastor of Springfield Baptist Church, visits with friends in the book store area. Ruby Gisler (bottom) draws attention to her daughter's first album. Dana Gisler Davidson, Lexington, presented special music at the Tuesday afternoon session.



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The first of several and reports
 about the different and
 important and news of conference
 published in the conference
 general association that was
 held. At its eighteenth meeting on
 Oct. 21-22, 1977, the association
 voted to fund the new Central
 Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

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Wendell Rone

Glimpses of our heritage

Struggling to Recover 1825-1837

To stem the tide of anti-missions and Campbellism, unify the denomination and recover lost momentum in supporting the foreign mission enterprise, Kentucky Baptists did three things:

- 1) George Waller and Spencer Clack began publishing the Baptist Register on Dec. 15, 1825.
- 2) The Kentucky Baptist Education Society's trustees accepted a charter in January 1829, after being incorporated, and founded Georgetown College.
- 3) They organized the Kentucky Baptist Convention at Bardstown on March 29, 1832.

Kentucky Baptists were literally fighting for survival.

About 1830, the Baptist Recorder was succeeded by Uriel B. Chambers' Baptist Chronicle and Literary Register, published at Georgetown. It succumbed to hard times in 1832 and he published the Baptist Chronicle in Frankfort thereafter. John L. Waller edited and published the Baptist Banner in 1834 and after. It was begun at Shelbyville and published in Louisville after Nov. 29, 1836.

At the first meeting of the trustees of Georgetown College, Sept. 2, 1829, William Staughton, Philadelphia, was elected unanimously as president. He accepted, but died while on his way to Kentucky. Joel Smith Bacon, Newton Center, Mass. was the first president to be installed. But, when the Campbellite-Baptist separation took place in 1829-1830 and theological battle lines were drawn, the trustees became divided between the two factions.

President Bacon resigned in July 1832, and T. F. Johnson, a Campbellite, began as president of the faculty in 1834. Baptists ceased supporting the school. Baptist interest in the school revived, however, and in June 1836, the trustees and representative Baptists, with Johnson agreeing, appointed a Baptist president—B. F. Farnsworth, of New Hampton Institute, Mass.

On December 11, 1831, the Frankfort Association, Auxiliary to the Kentucky Baptist Convention (expected later) was formed with 153 members. Appeal was made for a state organization. It was effected on March 29, 1832, as 34 delegates, representing three auxiliary associations and nine churches, met at Bardstown and organized the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

But lack of interest and support caused by doctrinal differences, anti-missionism and fears of centralized authority defeated the convention. So, the general association plan was recommended. At its eighth (final) meeting on Oct. 21-23, 1837, the convention transferred its funds to the new General Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

Greenfield named Kentucky DOM of 1986

by Pauline Stegall,
State Correspondent

What qualifications do 60 Baptist Directors of Missions look for when selecting an outstanding person from their peers?

To choose a DOM of the Year the group first considers characteristics: deep spirituality and love for the church; creativity, motivational and administrative skills. Then they look for someone who goes the extra mile.

This year when the Director of Missions Fellowship met at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, nominations were accepted from various DOMs, then a committee met to finalize the selection. After careful consideration, Harold Greenfield, Caldwell/Lyon DOM, was chosen.

Greenfield takes his place with six other DOMs who have been selected since 1980-81, the second year of the organization. The men previously honored were Ross Figart, R. G. Shelton; Harold Polk, J. V. Case, George Stack and Louis Shepherd.

Greenfield, a native of White Plains, Ky., has been serving in his present capacity since 1972. Previously, he had served for 15 years as pastor of various churches.

Caldwell/Lyon was one of the first rural associations to become self-supporting. Ten years ago it purchased five acres of ground and a home for the DOM. An attractive office building was built on the grounds.

Greenfield has taken the lead in reconstructing the association according to the plan set forth in J. C. Bradley's book, *A Baptist Association: Churches on Mission Together*. The main thrust of the plan is to increase mission performance programs in the churches from four to 10, and putting them on equal footing. There is zero based budgeting every year.

Instead of printing yearly associational minutes in the conventional form, Caldwell/Lyon Association publishes a yearbook, *The Reel and the Plow*, an attractive book richly illustrated with pictures.

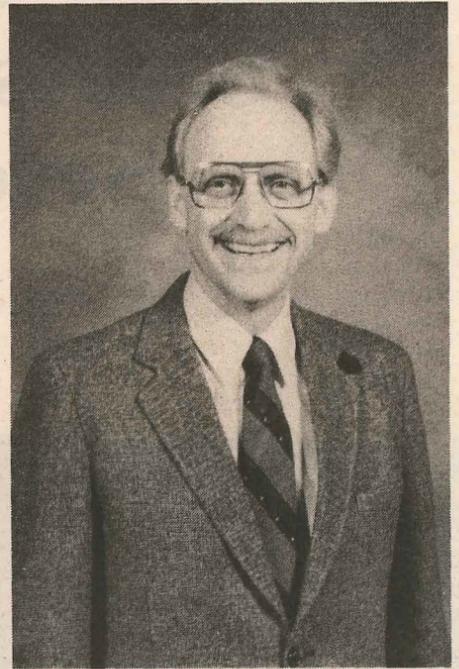
A unique ministry is the disaster relief mobile unit funded by the association. It was originally a project of the Brotherhood, with help from the WMU. It can provide a work crew and clean-up facilities for natural disasters, mine explosions, or train derailments.

The most outstanding facet of Greenfield's ministry is his leadership in missions. In 10 years, the per capita giving has gone from \$18 to \$45, and total associational receipts have almost tripled.

He organized a group of 25, mostly laymen, in 1979 for a trip to Wyoming as part of Bold Mission Thrust. In 1984 he led a crew of church builders to Guatemala, where he also held revivals. He was a short term missionary to Kenya in 1985, and led the association to give support to a team of 12 men going to Mombasa, Kenya, a trip that had astounding results.

Curtis Harrell, pastor of Suwanee Furnace Baptist Church, Lyon County, and associational moderator, speaks of Greenfield as "busy, on top of everything, cooperative, and a pastor's pastor."

He is a good organizer, a good associational leader, but concerned about individuals," Harrell continued. "He is a strong promoter of missions, and in addition to all this, he is a good family man. He finds time to be a good father and husband, and is one of the few people who has found 25 hours in the



Greenfield

day." Greenfield received a plaque on which is engraved a reference to Romans 10:14-15.

It is a fitting passage, because it ends, "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things."

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personnel

Tommy Brown has resigned the pastorate of Hampton Baptist Church, Ohio River Association, to accept the pastorate of Olive Baptist Church, Blood River Association.

Steve Alford has been called as pastor of Clover Bottom Baptist Church, Elkhorn Association.

Phillip Barbour has resigned the pastorate of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Tates Creek Association, to accept a call to First Baptist, West Liberty.

Walter Robinson resigned as pastor of Galilee Baptist Church, Tates Creek Association.

Claude Harp has resigned as pastor of Buffalo Baptist Church, Mt. Zion Association.

Dan Hunt resigned as pastor of Greenup Baptist Church, Greenup Association.

Ray Wilson has been called as pastor of East Pittsburg Baptist Church, Laurel River Association.

Danny McCowan has accepted the pastorate of Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church, Laurel River Association.

Carlton Francis has accepted the pastorate of Tiline Baptist Church, Ohio River Association.

Jerry D. Lowrie marked his tenth anniversary as pastor of Main Street Baptist Church, Williamsburg, Mt. Zion Association.

Lowrie is a graduate of Cumberland College, Carson-Newman College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored churches in Mississippi, Texas, Ohio and Kentucky. He has also been moderator of Mt. Zion Association and a member of the 1986 Credentials Committee for the Southern Baptist Convention.

Lowrie is presently a member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Committee on Committees.

During the past 10 years, Main Street has received 931 people into its membership, 244 of these were by baptism. The church has also seen the birth of a television ministry, a new parsonage built, the renovation of the sanctuary and the completion of an educational building.

Tim Whipple has been called as youth

minister by First Baptist Church, Owensboro, Daviess-McLean Association. Whipple is a recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He was minister of recreation and assistant minister of youth on a part time basis at Lyndon Baptist Church.

His wife, Donna, was the receptionist at the Kentucky Baptist Convention building in Middletown.

Ruben K. Swint resigned as minister of administration at St. Matthews Baptist Church, Long Run Association, Feb. 28. Swint has accepted the position of staff consultant in the Endowment and Capital Funding Division of the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. He began there Mar. 1.

Tom Hughes, former pastor of Rose Chapel Baptist Church, West Union Association has resigned his commission with the Kentucky State Police to accept the full time pastorate of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Cunningham, West Kentucky Association. Hughes is already on the field.

James Franks, a Tennessean, has accepted the full time pastorate of the Sasfras Ridge Baptist Church, Fulton Association.

correction

Tim Adams was incorrectly identified in the Feb. 17 issue as pastor of First Baptist Church, Cumberland Association. He is pastor of Cumberland Baptist Church, Pine Mountain Association.

congregations

Walton Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association, awarded Wayne Rice a pin for 41 years of perfect attendance. Kenneth R. Cole is pastor.

Harlan Baptist Church, Harlan, held a Prove the Tithes Day Feb. 15 to promote good stewardship.

First Baptist Church, Pikeville, Pike Association, will air prime time editions of their television program, "The Hour of Discovery," at 7 p.m. on Feb. 26, Mar. 23 and Apr. 16.

The programs will be aired over the local CBS affiliate, WYMT, Hazard. The station estimates the viewing audience for the programs to be over 100,000 since WYMT covers 21 counties in eastern Kentucky.

The half-hour broadcasts will feature the First Baptist choir, orchestra, selected solos and a 20 minute message from pastor Glenn Mollette. Trained telephone counselors will also take calls for prayer and spiritual guidance.

Smithfield Baptist Church, Henry County Association, had Liz Curtis Higg, radio personality and WHAS disc jockey, as guest speaker Feb. 8. The Baptist Woman's Missionary Societies were in charge of all services that Sunday.

First Baptist Church, Lewisport, Blackford Association, paid special recognition to its missions organizations Feb. 15 in a Sunday night service. Over the past five years the missions meetings have blossomed from a handful of RAs and GAs to more than 40 youth involved in mission studies.

According to pastor Randy Stallings, the missions organizations recognized were Mission Friends, with one new member; Girls in Action, with four new members and one receiving an advance-

ment badge; the Acteens, with a new leader; Royal Ambassadors, with four new members and several boys earning shields.

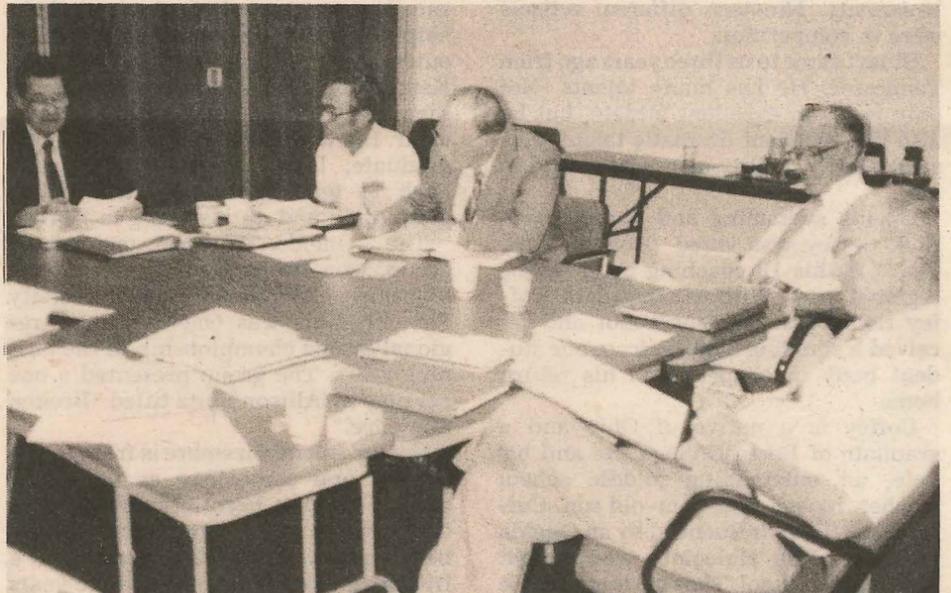
A representative of the state Brotherhood Department, Mike Melloan, presented a certificate to Randy Stallings Jr. for 150 hours work in his Ambassador Service book and to Jeff Hays for 300 hours work. Both of these young men have acknowledged a call to the ministry.

deaths

Everett L. Branham, 82, died Jan. 28 at United Medical Center, Shelbyville. He pastored several churches, including Stamping Ground Baptist Church, Elkhorn Association.

He is survived by his widow, Magdalene Wright Varney Branham; two daughters, Mrs. Nancy Johnson, Damascus, Md. and Mrs. Patricia Bradshaw, Silver Springs, Md.; two sons, Robert E. Branham, Chicago, Ill. and Richard McKay Branham, Washington, D. C.; four stepdaughters, Mrs. Kay Waldrige and Mrs. Ruby Chambers, Shelbyville; Mrs. Joann Hopkins, Mt. Orab, Oh. and Mrs. Nita Morgan, Danville; 10 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren.

Burial was in Ridge Lawn Memorial Park, Huntington, W. Va.



Benton Williams, director of the Missions/Church Services Division, recently held a training session for the four church starter strategists in Kentucky: **Jim Watt**, northeastern region; **D. M. Aldridge**, southeastern region; **Harold Wainscott**, metro areas; and **J. Bill Jones**, western-central areas. These men are assisting local pastors and directors of missions in church planting.

Christians in Conflict

We recently hosted a workshop at Clear Creek on "Conflict in the Church" featuring John Wallace, pastor of Parkway Baptist Church, Lexington, who is the author of *Control in Conflict*. Wallace has pastored Parkway 37 years and has a keen insight into the causes and cure of conflict in a church.

Conflict is a part of human nature. Matt. 10:35 mentions "a man at variance against his father. . . ." The history of the human race could be written from the perspective of some people against other people. "Wars and rumors of wars" (Mark 13:7) seem to be inevitable (however, it may be noted that a warring spirit among God's people was condemned by James 4:1ff.).

Any Christian who tries to serve the Lord will have enemies.

A second thought is that the battles of life often appear to be unequal. The appearance of Goliath as compared to

David, a mere 'stripling', as recorded in I. Sam. 17, would lead the bookies of Las Vegas to give astronomical odds.

No Enemies

*You have no enemies, you say?
Alas, my friend, the boast is poor—
He who has mingled in the fray
Of duty, that the brave endure,
Must have made foes!
If you have none,
Small is the work that you have done;
You've hit no traitor on the hip;
You've dashed no cup from perjured lip;
You've never turned the wrong to right—
You've been a coward in the fight!*

Charles Mackay

The conflict of life can cause Christians to become discouraged. Elijah said, "I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life to take it away" (I Kings 19:14).

It is important to realize that we may at times lose in the battles of life. Robert

Service, in a poem entitled "Carry On", penned these words:

*"And so in the strife of the battle of life
It's easy to fight when you're winning;
It's easy to slave, and starve and be
brave,
When the dawn of success is beginning
But the man who can meet despair and
defeat
With a cheer, there's a man of God's
choosing;
The man who can fight to Heaven's own
height
Is the man who can fight when he's
losing."*

In the conflicts of life we should not fight people. Our enemies are not those whom God has created, our fellow human beings. Paul said "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against . . . rulers of the darkness of this world" (Eph. 6:12). It is interesting to note L. C. Kelly, Clear Creek's first president, always showed respect for his opponents. He stood firm on issues, but he didn't fight people!



Leon Simpson
President
Clear Creek Baptist School
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek comment



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Oneida Wins Three Regional Championships

In the past week Oneida students have won three regional championships in diving, wrestling and drama. Also one of our coaches has been voted "Coach of the Year."

Senior Stuart Brice won the diving championship in regional competition held in the pool of Eastern Kentucky University. Nineteen different schools were in competition.

Stuart came to us three years ago from Tennessee. He has many talents. Not only is he an excellent athlete, but he also has excellent dramatic talent, musical ability, ability as a writer, and in art.

Oneida swimming and diving coach Rick Coffey was voted "Coach of the Year" by his 18 coaching peers at the regional meet. With us nine years, Coffey richly deserves this honor and received a standing ovation from our student body in chapel upon his return home.

Coffey is a native of Ohio and a graduate of Berea College. He and his wife, an outstanding middle school teacher, have a four-year-old son. Coffey was greatly influenced by an Oneida graduate, Bob Halcomb, who taught him in high school. That led him to come to Oneida and full time Christian service after college graduation. He teaches biology, coaches track in the spring, and supervises our swimming pool year round, a major task in itself.

Senior Debra Thomas came in third

in girls diving. This four-year student from Ashland has been a governor's scholar and was recently invited to speak at the governor's mansion at a special dinner. She has been selected as our 1987 yearbook queen. Aside from swimming, she has achieved in discus and shotput.

Our boys 400-yard freestyle relay team came in second. Sophomore Mark Deering, who also came in second of 70 swimmers in the 50-yard freestyle, came to us from Louisville. Aupree Vanapruk also came in third of 55 swimmers in the backstroke. He is from Thailand as is senior Anut, both excellent scholars as well as soccer players. The fourth man in the 400-yard relay was freshman Jeff Jackson of Corbin.

With 16 teams competing in the Regional wrestling meet held at Henry Clay, Lexington, Oneida's Paul Brewer, a senior from London, won the championship in the 145-pound class. He defeated opponents from Western Hills, Frankfort, Woodford County, and Henry Clay, Lexington.

Brewer then advanced to the sectional held at Conner High School in Boone County. There, again, he won the 145-pound championship—qualifying for the state tournament to be held at Atherton in Louisville. In doing so he defeated Louisville's Waggoner, Kenton County's Simon Kenton, and pinned his man from Henry Clay in a time of 4:27.

Paul is not just drawn. He is also an excellent speaker who had a key role in helping Oneida's team be voted "Most outstanding Delegation" in the 1986 Kentucky Youth Assembly meeting in the state capitol. He is also active in choir. His wrestling coach is a 1979 OBI graduate, Daryl Hensley, who came back to teach with us after college graduation and duty serving in Korea.

The "Oneida Players," our drama group, won the regional drama championship at Morehead State University Feb. 21. This was Oneida's sixth regional drama championship in the past nine years. The group presented a one act play by Allison Spitz titled "Broken Sentence."

Senior Jolena Sizemore is from Leslie County and came here as an eighth grader. She has been in many plays in the past four years. Amy Burkhead has been equally active since coming as a freshman from Georgetown three years ago. Kim Carpenter, Louisville, and Ledra Bierman, Bowling Green, ninth and 12th graders, respectively, were other award winners.

Tom Jenkin is our drama coach as well as soccer and baseball coach.



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR MARCH 8, 1987

Life and Work Series

Our Priorities . . . God's Provision

Luke 12:22-34 Two things harass people—*anxiety about food and clothing for today, and fear about uncertainties of tomorrow.* Christ did not teach that forethought and industry are not good and proper, but he did warn against worrying. Christ taught trust in God is an adequate antidote to worry. Worry is due to one's thinking God is either incapable of supplying his needs, or that he will forget and fail to do so. Regardless of what concern one has about material needs, they can be provided only in accordance with God's directive or permissive will. Since the spiritual is worth immeasurably more than the physical, things should be our servants and never our master.

In his attempt to get his followers to live without undue anxiety, Christ pointed us to nature for some splendid examples. Just as God provides food for the ravens, he provides raiment for the lilies. Submissive to the will of God, they appropriate what God provides and then share it with others.

Since God cares for the least of his creatures, he certainly will care for those who trust him.

Many of us put last things first, and frequently neglect the primary things because of absorption in things which are secondary. Unless his command to keep on seeking the kingdom of God and his righteousness is obeyed, the promise that all these things shall be added unto you will not be fulfilled. If you will give God his rightful place in your life, he will see to it that all of these things will be added.

International series

Teaching in the Temple

At the beginning of his ministry, Christ cleansed the temple of those who defiled it by avaricious practices.

Luke 19:47-48 Now that the people again disregarded the intended purpose of the temple at the close of his ministry our Lord deemed it necessary to cleanse it again. Greedy traffickers turned it into a marketplace, profaning holy things for financial gain. Our Lord cleansed the temple. By denouncing the hypocrisy of these leaders, Christ incurred their animosity. The authorities used deceitful methods to destroy Christ lest they should bring down the wrath of an excited populace. Rejection of Christ brings ruin and prevents admission of individuals who reject him into the family of God and the heavenly home. Escaping the snares, Christ proclaimed daily.

This incident teaches us not to use a place for secular matters that has been dedicated to the worship of God.

Luke 20:9-19 In this parable Jesus introduced an absentee landlord who owned a sizeable tract of land far from where he resided. The landlord rented it to tenants. The landlord commissioned one of his servants to collect his portion of the vintage. The tenants refused to execute their part of the contract and subjected the servant to violent treatment. When the owner sent another servant, he received similar abuse. The landlord sent a third servant, and he was abused and thrown out of the vineyard. Finally, the landlord sent his son whereupon the tenants seized him, cast him out of the vineyard and murdered him.

This is a reminder God sent his prophets to minister to Israel, but they were rejected. God then sent his beloved son, but they crucified him. All who reject God's son do themselves irreparable injury.



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

on mission together

Three Carnations on a Rainy Sunday Afternoon

I was alone on a Sunday afternoon two weeks ago. A cold rain was falling, having begun just after my return from preaching in my home town.

Alice had gone to Louisville for a wedding shower; Shawn was out with friends.

The wood fire in our buck-stove danced warmly to the peaceful music of "Winter Solstice," a gift from my family on my birthday three days before.

Attempting to read and respond to some mail, my mind was still reviewing the fact that I had three days before reached the age of 55. Perhaps unwisely, I had chosen to drive the long way home, going by all the familiar landmarks in Frankfort—the post office where Daddy had worked; the streets I delivered as a paper boy; the Old Capitol; Grandad's grocery; the "singing" bridge; the homeplace. I had even diverted to some side

streets to see what other sleeping memories I could awaken.

Whatever melancholia visited with me that afternoon, I had obviously invited.

In the midst of my melancholia, the door bell rang. On the stoop stood a young teenager, his black hair dripping with rain.

"Would you like to buy a flower, sir?" he asked, uncovering a cardboard box in which were plastic carnations of various colors.

"Who are you selling for?" I asked. "For my aunt, she makes them." "I'm not sure I really need any," I said, remembering how more frequently now vendors and people looking for work come to our door.

His countenance dropped as he continued, "I haven't sold any today, sir. Sure wish you would buy one. She wanted me to try to get forty cents each, but I'll take a quarter."

Something happened between him and me. Some other voice than his was

heard from within me.

"Come on inside while I get some money," I replied.

He stepped inside on the small carpet and waited.

Returning to the hall, I said, "I'd like three—one for each of us who lives here." I put the money into his hand, still red from the cold.

"Come on in by the fire and have some cookies," I said.

"No thanks. I've got to get on and try to sell these flowers."

As he walked out in his wet jacket, I watched as he crossed the driveway and was out of sight.

Walking back into the warmer room, I held the three plastic carnations—one pink, one white, and one blue—each yielding a sweet fragrance that had been sprayed on.

I placed the flowers in a vase and set them before me at the desk. And I pondered what it would be like to make plastic flowers or to sell them door to door on a rainy Sunday afternoon.

SWBTS alumnus gives miraculous talents to God

by Elizabeth Watson

Gospel saxophonist Vernard Johnson holds notes so long some people think he has a third lung.

But the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary alumnus says his second wind comes from God.

That he can even play the saxophone is a miracle, Johnson said. As a child and teen-ager he suffered chronic asthma. "I used to gasp for breath every night, sometimes wondering if that breath might be my last," Johnson said.

Johnson wanted to shed his sickly image, so he decided to play the saxophone in the school band when he was 12 years old.

"I knew it would be a monumental task for me to blow a horn, but I desperately wanted to make my parents proud," Johnson said. "So I struggled, blowing one note and gasping for air as I learned to play."

Johnson soon began playing his saxophone in his Kansas City, Kan., church.

By age 17 Johnson was playing with the "Modern Jazz Prophets" band, still suffering with asthma. He was "empty and lonely" in search of 'soul satisfaction.' "Thank God one day someone walked up to me and said, 'Vernard, I know someone who sits high but looks low, who will hold your hand through the storm and rain. His name is Jesus, and you need to try him.'"

Two weeks later, Johnson did. Walking along a downtown Kansas City street, he looked up and told God, "I've heard you are a doctor in the sick room. If you are truly real, heal my lungs and I will play for you the rest of my life."

"While walking down that street God began to convict me," Johnson said. "He told me if I would give him my life he would do more than touch my lungs—he would touch my whole life."

"I decided to put my horn down and please Jesus. But God spoke to my heart saying, 'Vernard, don't put your horn down. Just change your song.'"

"Tears began to roll down my face right there on the street I accepted Christ as my savior," Johnson said.

"A few days later I decided to put my horn down and please Jesus. But God spoke to my heart saying, 'Vernard, don't put your horn down. Just change your song.'"

So Johnson traded tunes like "My Amazing Love" for "Amazing Grace." Before Johnson's 18th birthday, his asthma attacks completely stopped.

Johnson earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Kansas State Teacher's College. A professor there encouraged him to study at Southwestern.

Frank Stovall, former professor of voice, ran into Johnson the day he visited Southwestern for the first time. Johnson said that encounter changed his life.

"Can I help you?" Stovall asked Johnson.

"Yes, sir," Johnson said. "What will your major be?"

"Gospel saxophone," Johnson said. "What?" Stovall asked. "I've never heard of that major before. Can you sing? Play the piano?"

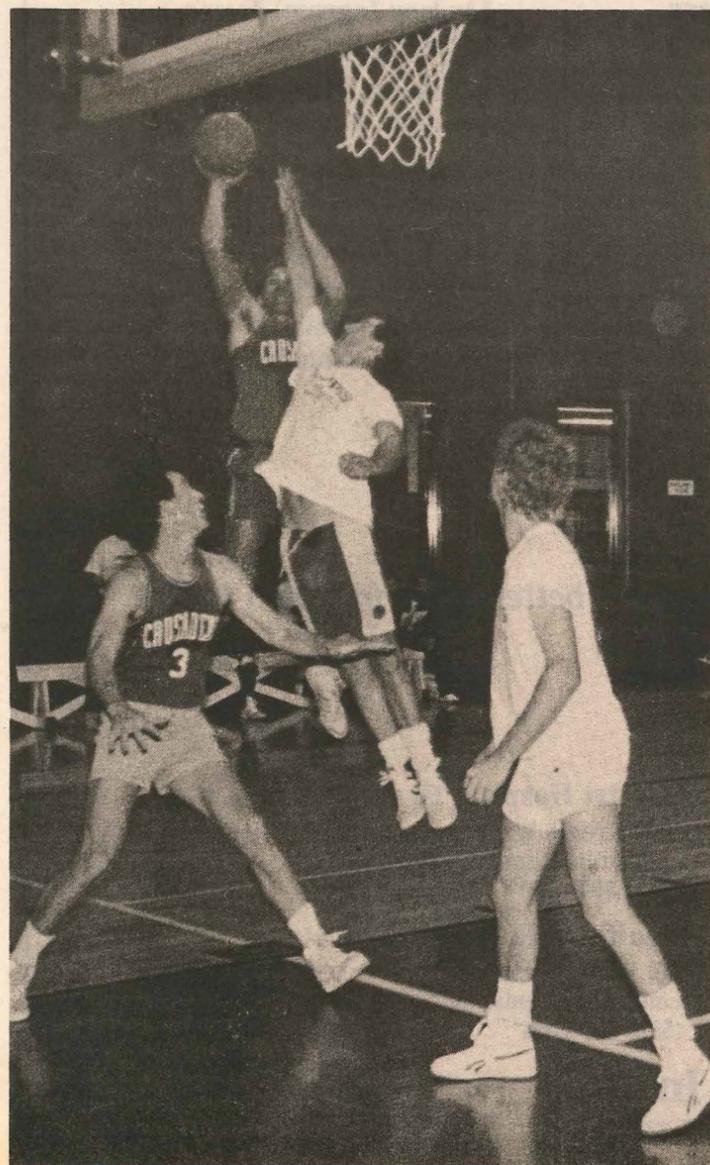
"No, I just play the saxophone," Johnson said.

"Well, you come back in the fall and we'll set you up. Don't you worry," Stovall told Johnson.

Johnson took the professor at his word and came back to Southwestern—twice. The first time he earned the master of music in church music degree in 1973. The second time he earned the doctor of musical arts in church music in 1979, becoming the first black to receive the DMA at Southwestern.

Today Johnson shares the gospel in more than 200 "soul-winning concerts" each year. Last year more than 17,000 decisions for Christ were made as a result of his ministry. He has played his saxophone for presidents of the United States, Billy Graham and other dignitaries around the world.

"God told me if I would stop playing for the world and play for him, he would allow me to play before kings and queens," Johnson said. "I still haven't had the privilege to play before kings and queens. But I know I will someday because God hasn't let me down on any of his promises yet."



by
Scott
Collins

Crusaders Scott Corwin (3) and James Boulware (4) play against a team in the Ft. Worth City League. The team of mostly Southwestern Seminary students puts evangelism above winning the game.

Crusaders score points, win kids with basketball

Winning people to Jesus is more important than winning games for the Texas Crusaders basketball team.

However, the crusaders have been successful at both.

The team of mostly Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary students plays in the Ft. Worth Commercial League. Texas Baptist Men sponsor the team, which has won the league championship or placed second several times.

Student Kevin Lee, a 6-foot-3-inch guard, uses the crusaders to help his youth ministry at Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church. Lee played college basketball at Langston University.

He takes a van-load of teen-agers to crusader games and then out for pizza on Friday nights. "The kids see us as a Christian example," Lee said.

But the team's witness extends beyond the youths. After losing the championship game of the state tournament two years ago, crusaders witnessed to the winning team. The most valuable player from the other team accepted Christ.

"As a result of the city league, we develop friendships with guys on other teams and can take a stand for Christ and witness," said team member Scott Corwin.

"Most people think we (Christians) are wimps," Lee said. But it's strange that "we have a team everyone wants to be on."

Crusaders extend their witness

through sports clinics. They instruct Royal Ambassador teams and play exhibition games against church teams.

The crusaders also travel abroad to play, most recently in Mexico in 1984. On the road, team members speak in churches and witness to individuals.

"We took advantage of a fanatical interest in sports," said Steve Caver, a Southwestern graduate. The Mexico trip "was a tremendous opportunity because the people were so interested in basketball. Most of what we did was in personal evangelism."

Caver is now minister of missions and recreation at Plymouth Park Baptist Church in Irving, Texas. He is organizing similar teams on a high school level there and hopes to take a team overseas in 1987.

Another former crusader who is continuing his basketball ministry is 6-foot-11-inch Paul Renfro. He now plays on the Athletes In Action team against major college teams and even the Russian National Team.

Renfro doubles as a seminary student, attending Southwestern during spring semesters.

Editor's Note: Sports evangelism may be the next addition to Kentucky ministry teams if two state ministers of activities have their wishes. Robby Spears, Severns Valley Baptist Church, and Larry Pursiful, Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church, met Jan. 16 with KBC officials to discuss the possibility.

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