

WMU personalities lead celebration at St. Louis meet

Southern Baptist women will look toward the centennial celebration of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union during the organization's 99th annual meeting June 14-15 in St. Louis.

"Celebrate" will be the theme for the national WMU meeting, to be held at the Clarion Hotel. The conference will be a primary event leading up to the celebration of WMU's 100th anniversary, May 13-14, 1988, in Richmond, Va.

A featured guest at the St. Louis meeting will be June Scobee, widow of Dick Scobee, who was killed in the Challenger space shuttle disaster. She will share her experiences of the tragedy and how she depended on WMU prayer support for strength.

National WMU Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford will give an annual report on WMU, encourage participation in the national missions prayer plan and challenge participants to reach WMU's "Vision 88" goal of enrolling two million women, girls and preschoolers in WMU by the end of 1988.

Daily program features will include Bible studies led by former WMU president Dorothy Sample, and sessions on missionary tasks led by WMU president Marjorie McCullough.

Suzanne Moss McMahan, a newscaster from Dallas, will be interviewer dur-



Weatherford

ing three panel discussions about home and foreign missions.

Dramatic meditations will be performed by Laurita Mullins Miller of Vandalia, Ill. She will portray Jesus' follower Mary Magdalene and four WMU leaders from the past.

Meal events held in conjunction with the WMU annual meeting will be a prayer box supper, a Baptist Nursing Fellowship breakfast and a "promotivation" luncheon. All meal functions will be held at the Clarion Hotel.

Music director for the meeting will be Malvie Giles from Magnolia, Ark. Betty Jean Chatham of Shelbyville, Ky., will be pianist, and her daughter, Emily, of Charlotte, N. C., will be violinist. (BP)

Midwestern board taps new chief academician

by Don McGregor

M. Vernon Davis, associate professor of Christian theology at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been elected by the seminary trustees as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty.

He succeeds N. Larry Baker, who was elected executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and assumed the post Mar. 15. Davis, who has been acting dean since Mar. 15, assumed office immediately. He was nominated by seminary president Milton Ferguson and elected by a vote of 21 to 4.

J. Truett Bannon, pastor of Smoke Rise Baptist Church, Stone Mountain, Ga., was elected chairman of the board, succeeding Kermit D. McGregor of Clinton, Miss., public relations director for Mississippi Baptist Children's Village.

Trustees elected Graydon K. Kitchens, of Midmen, La., a district judge, first vice chairman and Kerry Powell of Little Rock, Ark., second vice chairman. Powell is associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Little Rock.

Named as secretary-treasurer was Robert L. Perry of Kansas City. Perry is director of missions for Clay-Platte Association.

In other actions the trustees approved establishment of a fund for supporting religious liberty studies at the seminary and approved the announced intent of the seminary to establish a master's degree program in the field of church music.

The religious liberty studies fund will be known as the G. Hugh Wamble Fund for Religious Liberty Studies. A \$23,000 residue from another church-state separation fund was made available to the seminary and it will be used to initiate the Wamble fund. It was pointed out that no other Southern Baptist seminary has such studies. Wamble is professor of church history at Midwestern seminary.

Trustees heard plans for a regional conference on evangelism Oct. 14 to 16 on the campus. The purpose of the conference would be "to involve students, pastors, laypersons, and denominational workers in a major focus on the needs and resources for evangelism today."

The trustees also heard the details of a cooperative program between the seminary and the Foreign Mission Board that will allow seminary professors to visit mission fields on a short-term basis. Funding for the project was initiated by V. Lavell Seats, professor of missions at the seminary. The fund was named in honor of Seats.

Also, Jo Ann Butler of Kansas City was named visiting professor of music; Dwight A. Honeycutt, missionary to Colombia, was named visiting professor of missions during the 1987-88 academic year; and Robert Canoy, a teaching fellow at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville was named visiting professor in New Testament for 1987-88 and 1988-89. Butler will be employed for a contract period of Feb. 1, 1987 to July 31, 1989.

An increase in the matriculation fee from \$325 to \$350 per student per semester was adopted. Other fees were

increased accordingly.

The budget adopted for 1987-88 projects an income of \$3,346,730 and expenses of \$3,245,163.

Davis' election was preceded by a long discussion, mostly revolving around questions concerning the lack of time available to consider the election following receipt of material on Davis and his involvement earlier on the board of directors of SBC Today, an independent, moderate-oriented newspaper. He resigned his position on the board of the publication in 1986. Trustees received material on Davis the week before the meeting.

Jack Amis, trustee from Hopkinsville, Ky., said he felt trustees should have informational material on major board decisions a month in advance. Kansas City trustee Robert L. Perry countered that in this case the nominee was already on the faculty and was simply being considered for promotion on recommendation by the president.

Sid Peterson of Bakersfield, Cal. noted the vice president would be responsible for proposing other faculty additions, and Doyle Smith of Great Bend, Kan. asked Davis if he would be impartial in his nominations. Davis answered in the affirmative.

Jerry Davenport of Sheffield, Tex. said he wished there could be more time and proposed a substitute motion that would have continued Davis as acting vice president until the next meeting in October, when the vote would be taken. The substitute motion failed 17-5.

CP draws "even keel" in March

After two months on a financial roller coaster, the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program leveled off in March, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee.

March receipts for the SBC's convention-wide missions, evangelism and ministry budget were \$11,523,003, or 14.84 percent over receipts for March of 1986, Bennett said. The March income brought Cooperative Program receipts to \$65.6 million for the first six months of the fiscal year, 4.52 percent ahead of receipts for the same period a year ago.

March followed a record-high \$13.1 million January total and February in-

come of only \$10 million, almost \$1 million behind the February total for the previous year.

Those fluctuations were caused by modifications in the way several state Southern Baptist conventions write their Cooperative Program checks for convention-wide causes, explained Tim A. Hedquist, Executive Committee vice president for business and finance. In January, some state conventions started writing bi-monthly checks to the national Cooperative Program, rather than the monthly checks that eventually would reach the convention-wide level.

But the Cooperative Program reached "an even keel" in March, he added. The new checkwriting procedures had been in place long enough for the Executive Committee, which distributes the funds, to receive a full month's income from each state convention.

Bennett and Hedquist applauded the efforts of state conventions to keep Cooperative Program receipts high at the convention-wide level. (BP)

Leader named for black ministries

Sidney Smith Jr. has been named manager of the Black Church Development Section in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Special Ministries Department.

Smith, 43, has been a consultant for black church development at the board since 1979.

The appointment is a step in the expansion of efforts to reach unchurched people in the black community, said Bill Banks, director of the special ministries department, in announcing the appointment. He said two black church development coordinators will be added to the section.

HMB study shows 200 congregations baptize 11 percent

Eleven percent of Southern Baptist baptisms in 1985 were posted by 200 large evangelistic churches which averaged 100 or more baptisms for the year, a study from the research division of the Baptist Home Mission Board shows.

The 200 churches baptized 38,000 individuals during the 1984-85 church year, up 2000 or 5.3 percent, while the denomination total declined from 372,000 to 351,000, a drop of 5.6 percent. Although they represent only one half of one percent of all SBC congregations, the churches reported enough baptisms to equal the addition of 100 average size SBC churches to the denomination.

The large churches in the study averaged more than 4000 total members with 3000 resident members and 2800 enrolled in Sunday school. The congregations were generally 10 times larger and baptized 20 times more persons than the average SBNC church.

"These churches reach 10 times the number of people the average SBC church reaches, but these churches must be equally concerned about those persons who are flowing out the back door. Many of their losses are persons who transfer to churches in suburban areas, but a surprisingly large number become inactive as evidenced by the net increase in nonresident rolls," said Orrin Morris, director of the HMB's research division.

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Jack D. Sanford

sanford's perspectives

A pastor speaks a true word

Harold S. Mauney is pastor of First Baptist Church, Williamsburg. Every week he writes a column for his church newsletter which appears on the back page of Western Recorder for distribution to the members of his church.

In the Apr. 13 edition of his newsletter Mauney wrote words of such compelling truth we wanted to share them with all Kentucky Baptists. Therefore this guest editorial from the pen of one of Kentucky's outstanding young pastors is presented for your prayerful consideration.

Recently I attended the spring meeting of the Business and Finance Committee of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board. The annual budget recommendations were approved at this meeting.

Usually budget meetings are long and detailed, lasting several hours. With some dread I made the three hour drive from Williamsburg to Louisville.

However, as I sat in the conference something unusual happened to me. I began to have a sense of gratitude and praise for this budget approval process.

As we reviewed the budget items, line by line, our work as Kentucky Baptists became very real

to me. In my mind I could see the institutions and persons affected by the approval of the various allocations.

I saw Cumberland College, scheduled to receive over \$1 million dollars in the new fiscal year, with its strong commitment to Christian education.

I saw our program of child care ministering to hundreds of children.

I saw our work at Oneida, our hospitals, the ministry to the inner cities and mountain regions and our programs of ministries designed to help our churches reach more people.

It occurred to me every dollar is well managed and accounted for! Nothing is hidden, there are no secrets.

What is said of the KBC budget can be said of our local church budget. Every dollar is accounted for and we seek to manage it for the purpose to which it was intended.

With all the publicity that has been going on about TV evangelists and TV ministries, I am glad to be a member of a local church and a state convention that are financially sound and committed to ministry. Both have stood the test of time and will continue until Jesus comes.

Pastors asked to use reasoning powers

In a letter mailed to more than 30,000 Southern Baptist pastors Ralph Langley, William Lumpkin, Paul Powell and Dan Yeary urge pastors to "use their reasoning powers to look at the issues raised" in Southern Baptist life today.

The four men, all pastors except Lumpkin who is retired, drew up a statement as pastors who claim no affiliation with either faction of the theological/political controversy within the SBC. The plea for peace in the convention centers around historic Baptist understanding of the Bible, not loyalty to any faction nor any faction's interpretation of the Bible.

The document they wrote states belief in the Bible "as supreme and reliable source of authority in all matters of faith and practice."

They further declare "the duty and responsibility of every person to learn the Bible, to interpret the Bible and to obey the Bible."

The document also avows the "Holy Spirit is the true guide in interpreting the Bible" and "Southern Baptists have always gathered around the Bible itself and not around theories about the Bible."

In making the document available to Southern Baptist pastors the writers hope pastors will think for themselves and not accept the theories of scripture put forth by others. It is a call to use the powers God has given his people to think and act upon the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

It has been a hallmark of Baptist life since the 17th century that each believer has an open channel of communication to the heavenly Father and is able to understand scripture for himself.

'The document makes a statement which should cause all Southern Baptists to pause for reflection.

It states the Bible is held "high above all theories, doctrines, creeds, notions and other such purely human inventions which attempt to explain how the Bible works." They go on to say doctrines of biblical inspiration "are only human rationalizations . . . They are not the Bible, and our loyalty must be to the Scriptures and not to human notions about the Scriptures."

This is clearly an effort by pastors who claim no identification with any faction in the SBC. Their motive is to generate a dialog between pulpit and pew which they hope will lower the heat in our convention and cause us to stand upon something more than "party" affiliation. Their aim is to create a climate of peace by returning Baptists to the roots from which we came.

A strong statement notes that an attempt "of the last eight years to impose a human creed is a recent and different approach to Baptist unity. This approach has wrecked the peace of other Baptist fellowships and it has brought Southern Baptists to the brink of division . . . By esteeming the Bible above theories about the Bible, we choose for the Bible and for peace."

It is a noble statement by men respected among Southern Baptists. It is worthy of note and worthy of debate and consideration by all who yearn for peaceful settlement of our current dispute.

Only time will tell if this is the light which will lead us to more cooperation and less squabbling.

Surely all of us welcome honest efforts to find a ground upon which all of us can stand together. Perhaps this is the ground. In any event, we salute those who have made a move to find that ground and we pray the Lord's blessing upon the effort.

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'Unaffiliated' pastors seek peace in SBC

More than 30,000 Southern Baptist pastors have been mailed a two page document calling for peace within their convention.

"A Pastoral Plea for Peace Among Southern Baptists" is subtitled "No Lord but Christ, No Creed but the Bible." It was formulated by four ministers who claim no affiliation with either faction of the theological/political controversy within the Southern Baptist Convention.

They are Ralph Langley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Al.; William Lumpkin, retired pastor of Freemason Street Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va., and former professor of church history at Southern and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminaries; Paul Powell, pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church, Tyler, Tex., and president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; and Dan Yeary, pastor of University Baptist Church, Coral Gables, Fla., and national alumni president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The authors described their document

as "a mainstream rallying point around the Bible," noting it does not include the word "inerrancy," which has become a point of contention between groups within the convention. The four primary points of the pastoral plea are:

—"We hold to the Bible as the supreme and reliable source of authority in all matters of faith and practice, and we hold to the Bible first and foremost.

—"We hold to the duty and responsibility of every person to learn the Bible, to interpret the Bible and to obey the Bible.

—"The Holy Spirit is the true guide in interpreting the Bible to our hearts. The Spirit, and not human theories, is the sole defender of the authority of Scripture.

—"Southern Baptists have always gathered around the Bible itself and not around theories about the Bible. This is the true secret and foundational basis of our unity and cooperation."

"By taking our stand upon the Bible itself, the Bible alone and not upon a human notion about biblical inspiration, Southern Baptists can return to the

basis of unity which gave us peace. By esteeming the Bible above theories about the Bible, and by esteeming the necessity of personal interpretation along with the centrality of the Bible, we choose for the Bible and for peace.

"It is an old statement," Langley said of the pastors' plea. "There is nothing really new in this. It is a classic old statement of the view of scripture Baptists have held since the 17th century."

Powell explained the quartet's reason for sending the document: "We felt like we needed a good, clear, brief statement of what Baptists have always believed about the Bible and the priesthood of the believer. There is nothing inflammatory, nothing political in the statement. It's good for people to know they can affirm a statement like this and be in the mainstream, not only of traditional Baptists, but of current Baptists."

The statement already has been sent to between 30,000 and 34,000 Southern Baptist pastors, and organizers hope to send it to pastors of all the convention's 37,000-plus church. It has been mailed

from several places across the country, including Virginia, Texas and North Carolina, Lumpkin said. The project has been funded by "free-will contributors," Langley added.

"This is not a regional nor partisan move, but rather a plea for pastors especially to employ their reasoning powers to look at the issues raised in the document," Lumpkin stressed. "We think many of our pastors have been oblivious to some of the foundational positions upon which we have stood as a denomination. We just want to review the principles, pull back to our roots and rediscover some unity."

"We hope this is middle-of-the-road," Langley added. "We would like to find harmony instead of cacophony. We hope there would be a building of rapport rather than schism. We hope it (the statement) would stimulate discussion, even from laypeople—a dialogue from pulpit to pew."

"We hope it would eliminate the charge of liberal or non-liberal from anyone who bears the Baptist banner. We hope thousands of people will read it and affirm it as it affirms the scriptures." (BP)

Fields claims SBC's golden age began in 1949, lasted 30 years

by Jim Newton

Describing the 30-year period beginning in 1949 as "golden age of the Southern Baptist Convention," W. C. Fields told SBC communicators the era ended in 1979 when "tragedy" struck the denomination.

Fields, who retired Mar. 31 after 28 years as vice president for public relations for the SBC Executive Committee, lamented the end of the denomination's "golden age" during the keynote address of the Baptist Public Relations Association's annual workshop, in Atlanta.

Fields described the period from 1949 to 1979 as a time when the denomination experienced rapid growth in all directions.

"Those were the boom years following World War II, the explosive growth of the '40s and '50s, coping with a rapidly changing world, and gearing up in the '70s for the most massive and most comprehensive plan in our history—Bold Mission Thrust, a strategic effort to culminate in the year 2000," said Fields.

"Then, tragedy," he noted. "Arising like an evil force right out of the abyss: dissension, discord, disagreement, disruptions, disputations and divisions" struck the denomination in 1979. "Never in our history has the devil won such a clear and sweeping victory," Fields said.

The denomination's Bold Mission Thrust plan to present the gospel to the entire world by 2000 is being "short-circuited by political intrigue," he charged. The denomination's organizations "are being kept in turmoil and disarray by an unrelenting, shameless takeover by a narrowly-partisan political group thinly disguised now and then by pious phraseology."

"May God in his wisdom have mercy on all who have a part in perpetrating this tragedy and on all whose misguided zeal causes it to continue," Fields said.

The former director of the Baptist Press news service said he has never liked the labels "fundamental-conservative" and "moderate-conservative" used by Baptist Press to describe the factions involved in the denominational

controversy. "I really think this is a clash between the iconoclasts and the anti-disestablishmentarians."

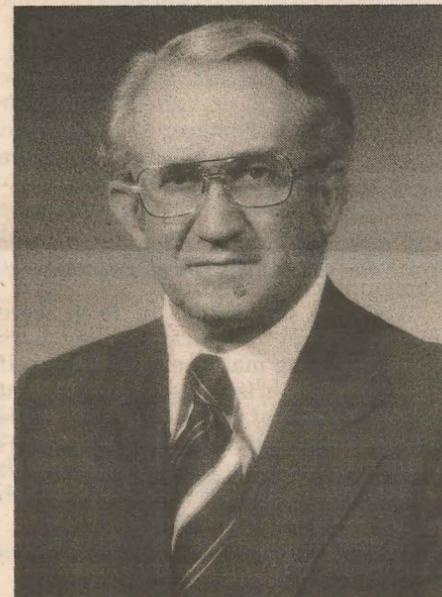
He offered words of advice to Baptist communications professionals attending the workshop on working within the controversy in the SBC.

He urged workshop participants to "hang heavily on your own strong sense of God's will . . ." to "perform at your professional best" rather than always trying to succeed and to maintain "a modicum of modesty and humility about your dogmatism and keep a proper sense of humor about yourselves."

"The most frightening thing about the so-called 'new right,'" he said, "is the absolute humorlessness of their crusade. There is something scary about the crusader who is never for a moment aware of his own shortcomings, the partiality of his insights, the finitudes of his being, the actual narrowness of his angle of vision.

"In all these years of working with all kinds of people, I have learned one thing for sure," he quipped: "You never win an argument with a fool. He never knows when he has lost."

Fields warned against a shallow approach to theology and against those who seem to have "a chatty relationship with God" who tells them what socks



Fields

to wear for the day.

"A shallow and unbiblical theology, as well as a shortage of Baptist and Christian history, can end up trivializing the gospel, and unchecked, can turn the Southern Baptist Convention into a monumental irrelevancy," he said.

Fields urged the Baptist public relations people to be "people of faith and fortitude to carry through with your part of the vision, refusing to be sidetracked on secondary matters."



Hundreds of musicians such as these came together April 7 at Rupp Arena to provide the music for the Foreign Mission Board appointment service.

1990 revival goals set for 175,000

Evangelism leaders of the Baptist Home Mission Board are optimistic that more than a third of the denomination's baptisms for 1990 can be reaped from national simultaneous revivals scheduled for that year.

About 175,000 baptisms, or 35 percent of the denomination's projected 500,000 baptisms, are predicted to come from the revivals, said Richard Harris, director of mass evangelism for the board.

That would be an increase from the 103,000 conversions reported in the 1986 Good News America simultaneous revivals, which were 28 percent of the denomination's total of 364,000 baptisms. The 1986 figure ended a four year decline in baptisms that had seen the totals steadily erode from a high of 411,000 in 1982.

Tied to the 1990 goals will be the first large-scale evangelistic effort among American ethnics and the launching of 1000 new churches in 250 targeted areas of the nation.

Set for March 18-April 29, 1990, the evangelistic emphasis will be promoted as "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You." The theme recently was modified from "Here's Hope. God Cares for You" to present a more direct evangelistic appeal with a Christian flavor.

Nevada will serve as pilot for the meetings, when statewide simultaneous revivals are launched prior to the Southern Baptist convention annual meeting in Las Vegas in 1989.

When the revivals are launched on May 18, 1990, Southern Baptists—armed with up to 15 million complimentary copies of the New Testament—will be involved in the largest attempt to evangelize the nation in their 145-year history, Harris added. (BP)

mountains to the mississippi

ordinations

Darrel Williams was ordained Apr. 12 at Third Baptist Church, Owensboro, Daviess-McLean Association.

Harold Wade was ordained to the ministry by Ghent Baptist Church, White Run Association, Apr. 5. Floyd Baker of Williamson, West Va. delivered the ordination message.

Wade has been called as pastor of Concord Community Church in Switzer County, Ind.

Wendell H. Rone Sr. celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the gospel ministry at Hall Street Baptist Church, Owensboro, Mar. 29. He was ordained at Hall Street Mar. 28, 1937.

During his career he has been pastor of Seven Hills and Bellevue in Owensboro as well as Hopewell, Macedonia, Curdsville, Pleasant Grove and Utica churches in Daviess County. He also was pastor of First Baptist Church, Newport; First Baptist, Middlesboro; Memorial Baptist, Murray and East Baptist, Paducah.

Rone has been active in the Kentucky Baptist Historical Society and has written several books on the history of Kentucky Baptist churches and associations. He is a graduate of Murray State University and Southern Seminary.

David Wade Johnson was ordained to the gospel ministry at Van Buren Baptist Church, Long Run Association, where Joe Diggs is pastor.

Johnson is now pastor of Manly Memorial Baptist Church, Long Run Association.

Jerry Cordel, Harold Shelton and Russell O'Cull were ordained as deacons at Germantown Baptist Church, Bracken Association.

Norman Douglas was ordained to the gospel ministry at Youngers Creek Baptist Church, Severns Valley Association, Apr. 19.

Douglas has accepted the call to Barren Run Baptist Church, Severns Valley Association.

Kenneth Roberts, Terry Sowder and Charles Beighle will be ordained as deacons of Turner Ridge Baptist Church, Crittenden Association, May 24.

revivals

Russell Lievers, new pastor at Horse Cave Baptist Church, Liberty Association, will conduct a revival Apr. 26-May 1. Assisting with music will be Chris Owens, minister of music and youth at Horse Cave, and Elmer Dean Short, a member of the church.

Blue Ball Baptist Church, Severns Valley Association, had revival Apr. 6-11 under the preaching of James Blackerby, evangelist. By Thursday, Apr. 9, 13 professions of faith and 22 rededications were reported.

Fifteen men from **Walnut Street Baptist Church**, Louisville, Long Run Association, conducted a lay-led revival Mar. 27-29 at Trinity Baptist Church, Parma, Oh. The weekend was filled with testimonies from members of both churches sharing how Christ had changed each life and continued to work day by day.

Trinity's pastor, Ken Cademartori, was spending his last weekend at the church, having been called to another pastorate in Baltimore. The weekend gave the members of Trinity a chance to express their concerns over the leaving of their pastor yet at the same time provided a climate where a commitment to keep on with the task of reaching their community was solidified.

While no professions of faith were made, several rededicated their lives and one young man committed himself to full time Christian service. Lay-led revivals is one of the ministries of Walnut Street's Brotherhood. If you are interested in inviting the men to conduct a weekend in your church, contact Bob Bailey at 502-589-5290.

personnel

Kenneth Willoughby has been called as pastor of First Baptist Church, Morgantown, Gasper River Association.

Ray Cummins has resigned the pastorate of Marion Baptist Church, Ohio River Association, to accept the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Franklin, Simpson Association.



A Brotherhood team from Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, conducted a lay-led revival in Parma, Oh. Mar. 27-29.

John Ely Smith has accepted the call to First Baptist Church, Paris, Elkhorn Association, as minister of youth.

Kentucky Baptist Convention staff members honored **Douglas Henry** at a retirement dinner Apr. 13. Henry, along with his wife Anna, has been food service director at Cedarmore since 1973.

Barry Allen, business manager of the KBC, presented the Henrys a color television set, retirement checks and reminded Henry more than 1 million meals have been served at Cedarmore during his long tenure.

John Christian, pastor for the past 16 years at Second Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, Christian County Association, will retire from the active pastorate June 30.

Among his places of service through the years, Christian is currently on the Board of Directors of Western Recorder and is a Kentucky member of the SBC Executive Committee.

He and his wife plan to return to the family farm and not only enjoy God's blessings after a long career of service to Kentucky and Southern Baptists, but also be available for whatever service the Lord may have for them in retirement.

congregations

First Baptist Church, New Haven, Nelson Association, celebrate 100 years of existence Apr. 26. Fred Halbrooks, DOM for Nelson Association, was the main speaker.

Tim Kirby is pastor of the church.

Three former pastors and the widow of founder B. A. Sizemore Jr. are returning May 3 to help **Faith Baptist Church**, Elkhorn Association, celebrate its 25th anniversary.

According to J. Robert Snyder's history of the church, most of the 50 charter members in May 1962 were "members of the Royal Spring Mission of Georgetown Baptist Church. Many of that group were students at Georgetown College."

In June 1963, the church called Sizemore, assistant professor of Bible at Georgetown, as interim pastor. He and Glenn Yarbrough arranged for the church to rent Adams House on East Main Street and furnished it for about 100 worshippers. They established a building fund and a location committee led by Yarbrough found the present site on Pocahontas Trail.

The May 3 program features former pastors Bill Treadwell, senior minister of education at Myers Park Baptist Church, Charlotte, N. C.; Jack Grisham, family counselor, Marietta, Ga.; Roger Lovette, pastor of First Baptist Church, Clemson, S. C.; and Dorothy Sizemore. Present pastor is Steve L. Hadden.



Carl Fields

Glimpses of our heritage

Summer camps

In the post-Civil War period a great effort was given to the importance of education. By 1870 more states were making a grade school education compulsory. A high school education was beginning to be regarded as a birthright. Some attention was given to the need to have training schools for teachers. In 1860 there were 12 such schools and by 1900 the number was 302.

However, the movement left out millions of adults. A proposal at a Methodist Episcopal camp meeting in 1873 led to the beginning of adult education at Chautauqua, N. Y. in 1874. Home study courses were offered, for which 100,000 were enrolled by 1892. The programs at Chautauqua offered members secular and religious instruction and lectures by authors, explorers,

missionaries and political leaders. Somewhat like revival meetings in spirit Chautauquas were attended by thousands each year until 1924.

Beginning at Georgetown in 1908 and continuing until 1932, the Kentucky Assembly program for central and eastern Kentucky contributed much to Baptist life. Chautauqua programs were included as part of the Summer Assembly as the two groups met occasionally at the same time. First known as the Kentucky Baptist Summer Assembly, it was later changed to Kentucky Baptist Assembly.

In the early years such men as E. M. Poteat, V. I. Masters, John R. Sampey and J. M. Frost were among the outstanding speakers. Some of the subjects were: "The Art of Story Telling", "The Twentieth Century Church", and "The Country Church."

At the assembly in 1920, N. O. Carver spoke on "Acts as the Gospel of the Holy Spirit." State leaders such as C. W. Elsey, Maryin Adams, John L. Hill and

C. M. Thompson led presentations of specific interest in Baptist work. R. G. Lee was a featured speaker in 1931. The last session was held in July, 1931. Financial considerations ended the meetings.

In eastern Kentucky a summer assembly program was started in 1924 at Clear Creek. Baptists of southeastern Kentucky purchased 450 acres for the "purpose of developing a summer assembly, vacation Bible schools, boys camps, summer Bible schools for preachers." The preacher schools developed into Clear Creek School.

After 1931 the Clear Creek Summer Assembly was the only state Baptist Assembly—it continued to operate until 1951 when it was moved to the new Baptist assembly at Cedarmore.

A summer assembly started at Dawson Springs in west Kentucky and was moved to Bethel College at Russellville in 1915. A featured speaker in 1921 was J. M. Carroll who delivered his famous sermon, "The Trail of Blood".

baptist forum

Alliance disavows Peace Committee

The so-called "Alliance" has sent its propaganda sheet to pastors and laymen in Kentucky. Its abusive, untrue and hostile attack on Southern Baptist leadership is a deliberate disavowal of the Peace Committee. The Peace Committee asked that all political groups within the SBC disorganize and disband. The conservatives complied immediately. The liberal-moderate faction did not! Who is cooperative? If these propagators of a so-called "Alliance" are the "mainliners" of the SBC why have their frantic efforts to regain the presidency met with repeated failure? Its leaders repeat as if by rote that they do not advocate diverting Cooperative Program funds, but then say, "Send us money!" They say, "The SBA is not in competition with the work of any SBC agency." But the whole idea appears to be the repudiation of policies set by trustees of the agencies. The Peace Committee (our best hope for unity in the SBC) has repeatedly begged the constituency of the SBC to de-politicize the forthcoming meeting in St. Louis. In reaction to this plea the lovely "Alliance" is out drumming up liberal "mainliners" to "march on St. Louis in June 1987. We must field candidates at the SBC Pastor's Conference Monday, June 15, and at the SBC meeting, (June 16-18."

Okay now, when does the editorializ-

ing in Western Recorder and other state papers begin? If this group was a conservative group the editorial page would be flaming!

Bill Hall
Danville

Editor's Note: *Western Recorder did editorialize Mar. 31, 1987 and declared the editor's belief that the SBA in Kentucky was absolutely unnecessary. Hall's implication that we flame only over conservative movements is unfair and unsupported by fact.*

God, not man, chooses ministers

In response to the letter by Stan Milby:

I applaud the stance you have taken on I Tim. 3:2-12 and Titus 1:6.

How in the world could some people read the Bible and believe God would call women in the areas of deacons and pastors? Especially when he has set forth very strict requirements for these offices that should be followed to the letter.

Does this mean only married men with children? What of the man who marries a woman biologically incapable of giving birth to children? Does God call them even though these men possibly do not fit the criteria of Timothy?

Has no deacon ever lost his temper, especially at a church business meeting? Have you not noticed their children are

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.

always perfect and obey every word of their father and always listen and pay attention during worship service?

Then I become curious about Peter. We all know he had a quick temper. I'm not at all sure he had a dark three-piece suit to wear at church functions. I wonder if he was manager of the local fisherman's organization?

Do you not find it surprising that God could use Peter's gifts anyway, in spite of his shortcomings.

I am not trying to cast doubt on anyone called of God. I only feel we must look at a larger picture the Bible paints. These revealing pictures God constructs for us, as he calls those he has chosen from all walks of life, then uses those spiritual gifts he has given each individual who loves and desires to serve him.

I will spare you the long list of scripture where God has called those who were not perfect examples of godly men—and yes, also women.

All I would ask is that as you continue in your daily Bible readings, you would allow your minds and hearts to open to the revelations given by the Holy Spirit so as to have a deeper understanding of God's will. Realize God calls those he has chosen, not always those men would choose.

If a Sister or a Brother who is single, divorced or childless feels the hand of God leading them, you will pray for them and yourself to be closer to God.

Perhaps then we will fully understand God's will in our lives. Every Christian will feel free to follow where God leads—no matter what the area of service is to be.

Barbara Haun
Woodlawn

Bible doesn't mention ordination

In response to the letter from the pastor and members of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, I would simply point out that in the "whole Bible" the practice of ordination is never mentioned or mandated. And, since we are all interested in what the "whole Bible" says, let us not forget there are at least eight references to "prophetesses" in the "whole Bible" as well as a reference to a woman who served as Israel's political, military and religious leader.

I have been a member of two churches which actively ordain women deacons. In these churches biblical servanthood is pervasive and those women serving as deacons become models for ministry as it should be practiced. How long are we going to limit the activation of God's redemptive love in a world in desperate need of it by discouraging our female co-laborers? God called me (and ordained me) to work with my sisters in Christ, not against them!

Forrest Corneliuss
SBTS, Louisville

DON'T FORGET!

May 3, 1987 is the Sunday School Charity Fund Special Offering

The monies received will assist patients with their medical expenses.
Will you and your church help?

Baptist Hospitals Foundation Serving

Central Baptist Hospital
Lexington, Kentucky

Baptist Hospital East
Louisville, Kentucky

Baptist Hospital Highlands
Louisville, Kentucky

Western Baptist Hospital
Paducah, Kentucky

Baptist Regional Medical Center
Corbin, Kentucky

Call or write Director, Baptist Hospitals Foundation, 4007 Kresge Way,
Louisville, Kentucky 40207, (502) 896-5003.



Leon Simpson
President
Clear Creek Baptist School
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek comment

Go and tell time

On that Easter morning so long ago the angel said, "He is not here: for He is risen. . . ." (Matt. 28:6). He added, "Go quickly and tell his disciples" (v. 7). When the women met Jesus, he said, "Go tell my brethren" (v. 10). Later in Galilee our Lord commanded, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them . . ." (v. 19).

In Mk. 16:15 Jesus is recorded as saying, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." In Lk. 24:47 he urged "that repentance and remissions of sins should be preached in His name among all nations . . ." And in Acts 1:8 our Lord emphatically stated, "Ye shall be my witnesses!"

A few days ago I was walking across the quadrangle to the business office when one of our fourth year students introduced me to a man who comes to our school regularly to serve various machines. The serviceman then gave a thrilling testimony of how our student, Bob Bowes, had led him to Christ.

Bob will be graduating in a few days and has accepted the call of a church in Michigan. I predict that God will greatly bless his ministry, for Bob takes the Great Commission seriously. He believes that his primary ministry in life is to witness for Christ. Pray for Bob and his wife, Dee, as they launch out in ministry for Christ.

Evangelism is at the heart of all that we do at Clear Creek. It is 'Go and Tell' time! Not only do we teach ministry in classes, we also do ministry out in the world.

Our students report to the Christian Service office on how they minister each month. The Christian Service report for March indicates that our students preached 524 messages and taught 252 classes. They made 1356 visits in jails, hospitals and homes. They fulfilled music responsibilities (leading, playing, specials, etc.) hundreds of times and distributed tracts and witnessed on more than 1000 specific occasions. They traveled a staggering 71,324 miles from our school to places where they could witness, preach and serve.

The results of these evangelistic efforts were tremendous. Our students led 115 people to Christ last month! As you pray for Clear Creek, think of all the good that is done by our students as they go from place to place witnessing for Christ. Every day, every week and every month they are involved in touching and blessing the lives of people for Christ. It's 'go and tell' time for all of us.

christian education

Seminary selects 6 graduates as 1987 Alumni of the Year

Six graduates of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, have been chosen as 1987 Alumni of the Year.

Reidar B. Bjornard, R. Lofton Hudson, Osadolor Imasogie, Mildred McWhorter, John Lee Pelham and Paul W. Strickland will be honored June 17 at the annual Southern Seminary Alumni and Friends reunion during the Southern Baptist Convention, St. Louis, Mo.

Bjornard, professor of counseling, University of Nebraska at Omaha, and adjunct professor, San Francisco

Theological Seminary, is founder of the Midwest Christian Counseling Center, Omaha.

Imasogie, principal of Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomoso, Nigeria, has taught at Simmons Bible College, Louisville, Belmont College, Nashville and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex. He is active in the Nigerian Baptist Convention and the Baptist World Alliance.

Miss McWhorter, home missionary at Baptist Center, Gano Center and Joy Fellowship Center, Houston, previously was home missionary at the Baptist Center in Port Arthur, Tex.

Pelham, vice president for church relations, Stetson University, DeLand, Fla., has been a member of the state board of missions for the Florida Baptist Convention.

Strickland, director of American Baptist Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling Service, National Ministries, American Baptist Churches, USA, is editor of Dialogue, a publication for American Baptist chaplains and pastoral counselors.



Bjornard



Hudson



Imasogie



McWhorter



Pelham



Strickland

Georgetown awards 4 honorary degrees

Georgetown College will award four honorary degrees at its annual commencement exercises Saturday, May 9 at 10 a.m. on the lawn fronting Giddings Hall.

The honorees are: Clyde Franklin Ensor Sr., Louisville businessman; Harold B. Kuhnle, Lexington pastor; Charles Clarence Smith Jr., Louisville physician; and Billy O. Wireman, Charlotte, N. C. college president.

Ensor, president and chairman of Hesco Parts Corporation and All-State Ford Truck Sales, Louisville, will be granted a doctor of laws degree.

Kuhnle, one of the Commonwealth's well known Baptist pastors, will be honored with a doctor of divinity degree.

Smith, a native of Fonde, Ky., is being cited with an honorary doctor of laws degree by his alma mater. He graduated from Georgetown in 1951.

Wireman, president of Queen's College, Charlotte, almost a decade, is being awarded the doctor of letters degree. He graduated from Georgetown in 1954.

Georgetown commencement address features Presidential advisor

Gary Bauer, chief domestic policy advisor to President Ronald Reagan, will address the 158th anniversary commencement exercises at Georgetown College Saturday, May 9 at 10 a.m. on the lawn in front of Giddings Hall, it was announced by W. Morgan Patterson, president.

Bauer, a 1968 graduate of Georgetown, is the highest ranking Kentuckian in the administration.

Before his appointment to this post he was under-secretary of education for two years.

In the new position Bauer is supervising a staff of 28 policy analysts and has responsibility for domestic policy initiatives.

The college's baccalaureate message will be given by Penrose St. Amant, senior professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

The distinguished teacher has also been a major administrative figure and teacher at New Orleans Baptist Seminary and Baptist Seminary, Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The baccalaureate service is scheduled for 8 p.m., May 8, in John L. Hill Chapel.

Georgetown will grant 283 degrees at the ceremony.

Pendergraph Conference

July 13-15, 1987

Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly

Workshops to Strengthen Ministry

Inspirational Messages

Bible Study (Malachi)



LANDRUM LEAVELL
President
New Orleans Baptist Seminary



TAL BONHAM
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Phone: (502) 354-8355

For Conference Information:

Minister/Church Relations Dept.
Kentucky Baptist Convention
P. O. Box 43433
Middletown, KY 40243-0433
Phone: (502) 245-4101

Western Kentucky DOMs meet at Mid-Continent

Directors of missions and field supervisors in Western Kentucky and Northwestern Tennessee met at Mid-Continent Baptist College, Mayfield, Apr. 13 for an all day conference on in-service guidance. The conference was led by Russell Bennett, Louisville, and William Neptune of the Home Mission Board.

Mid-Continent is launching a program of in-service guidance for new pastors and church staff with support groups organized within each association as well as on the college campus. Those who have recently entered the ministry are invited to participate.

Those interested in obtaining more information may contact Mid-Continent Bible College, Highway 45 N., Mayfield, KY 40266, (502) 247-8521.



Mrs. Meskimen

Campbellsville starts piano scholarship

The Cecile Conaway Meskimen Piano Scholarship Fund has been established at Campbellsville College.

The first award of the scholarship will be in the fall 1987 semester. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a Campbellsville student with a major emphasis in piano.

The scholarship is in honor of Cecile Conaway Meskimen of Campbellsville who taught piano for almost 50 years. She taught in Texas for many years and was designated "Teacher of the Year" in 1979 by the Texas Music Teachers Association.

Mrs. Meskimen was dean of fine arts and piano instructor at Montezuma Baptist College, Las Vegas, N. M. from 1927 to 1928. She also was a piano instructor from 1941 to 1948 at Texas Tech University.

She was an independent piano and theory teacher in Colorado City and Abilene in addition to her 45 years in Lubbock, Tex.

Mrs. Meskimen organized the National Guild Auditions in Lubbock in 1944 with about 50 students. Under her leadership the group has grown to about 600 students, the third largest in Texas and 16th largest in the United States.

For her involvement in music, Mrs. Meskimen is listed in "Who's Who of American Women" and "Music and Dance in the Southwest." She is now retired.

SBTS student writes video for Georgetown

Kevin Borders, Randolph, Vt., has developed a video production featuring Georgetown College, now in its 159th year in its central Kentucky setting.

The creation has been used as a successful tool to tell the college's story on national and local television. It has also doubled as a counseling piece employing the VHS format.

The tightly written script by Borders has allowed for its development into a number of 30 second spot announcements that have been given television play throughout the region.

Borders, a seminary student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is on loan at Georgetown College where he is interning in media work and admissions counseling.

The video production, according to Borders, was "shepherded" through 15 revisions enroute to the final product.

Borders is also assisting Georgetown College as a special occasion photographer.

Cumberland student receives scholarship

Lillian Dodson Norris, a Cumberland College junior from McKee majoring in elementary education, has been selected to receive a Congressional Teacher Scholarship from the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.

The purpose of the scholarship is to encourage outstanding high school graduates to pursue teaching careers in education at the pre-school, elementary

or secondary school levels and to obtain initial certification.

Recipients are generally required to teach two years on a full time basis for each year they receive a scholarship.

Recipients were selected on the basis of cumulative high school grade point average, American College Test composite score, level of communication skills, and intent to teach in a critical shortage area.

Awards may be renewed annually for a maximum of three additional academic years. Students must maintain full time enrolment with a GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Lillian, the daughter of Noel and Della Dodson, McKee, is a graduate of Jackson County High School. She is married to Billie Ray Norris.

Art club tours Chicago over 'break'

The Campbellsville College Art Club toured points of interest in the Chicago area during the college's Spring break Mar. 14-19.

The group visited the Field Museum of Natural History and the Shedd Aquarium. They saw the Monadnock Building, Tribune Building, Science and Industry Building and the Sears Tower, the world's tallest building.

They visited the Chicago Art Institute Museum where they saw post-impressionist and twentieth century art, as well as Egyptian and Assyrian mummies and Persian sculptures at the University of Chicago's Oriental Museum.

The 14 members of the group were hosted by First Southern Baptist Church, Hammond, Ind. Tommy Clark and Linda Cundiff, assistant professors of art, accompanied the group.

Shorter appoints admissions director

Kevin L. King has been named director of admissions for Shorter College, according to Wayne Dempsey, college vice president for administrative affairs.

As director of admissions, King will be responsible for the recruitment and admission of students to the four-year, liberal arts-oriented college located in west Rome, Ga.

King, 27, comes to Shorter following two and a half years as assistant director of admissions at Palm Beach Atlantic College in West Palm Beach, Fla. He served one year as an admissions counselor before he was promoted to the assistant directorship. While at Palm Beach Atlantic, King served as an officer for the college's fund-raising campaign "Decade of Challenge."

He is a 1982 graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., where he earned the bachelor of business administration degree with an emphasis in management. While at Baylor, King was a member of Sigma Iota Epsilon national honorary management society, Phi Beta Lambda business fraternity and Pi Kappa Alpha social service fraternity. He was consistently named to the University Dean's List.

King and his wife Belinda are Louisville natives. Mrs. King is a registered nurse.

Golden Gate to host St. Louis luncheon

Tickets may now be ordered for the 1987 Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni and Friends Luncheon to be held June 17 during the 130th session of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Mo.

The event will begin at 1 p.m. in the Promenade Ballroom of the Adam's Mark Hotel, at Fourth and Chestnut Streets, six blocks from the Cervantes Convention Center where the SBC will meet.

Advance tickets for the luncheon are \$14 each if ordered by May 29. Tickets purchased at the seminary exhibit during the SBC will be \$17 each. To order tickets in advance, send a check or money order to the Alumni Office, Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, CA 94941-3197. Checks should be made payable to the Golden Gate Seminary Alumni Association.

William O. Crews, president of Golden Gate, will be the featured speaker. In addition, the "Alumnus of the Year" and "Meritorious Service Award" commendations will be presented.

Tickets should be ordered as early as possible since seating is limited to 200 people. Additional information about the luncheon may be obtained by calling the Alumni office at (415) 388-8080.

Mid-Continent holds commencement May 1

James Williams, executive vice president of the Baptist Sunday School Board will bring the commencement address May 1 at Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College, Mayfield, Ky.

The commencement program includes music by the Mid-Continent Chorus and the valedictorian address by Karen Daniels. Commencement will begin at 8 p.m.



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

homes for children

Fifty years and more

It was revival week at the Bruners Chapel Baptist Church, five miles west of Harrodsburg. The pastor, Bob White, had promoted family night, urging families to be present and sit together. He also had planned to recognize the couple most recently married and the couple married the longest time. It promised to be a happy evening in the revival.

At the appropriate time the pastor asked all to stand who had been married 50 years or more. There were about 150 people present, and I was amazed when six couples stood. One couple had been married 55 years and the others over 50. I also was pleased to find that several other couples had been married over 40 years.

One might conclude Bruners Chapel must be made up of older people. However, that is not the case. There is a very healthy number of young people, young adults and middle adults in the church family.

We hear much about broken homes and disintegrating families. But we need to remember that there still are many marriages that last and provide stable homes for children. I rejoiced in the strength and stability of the Bruners Chapel Baptist Church. I believe strong marriages and families that stay together through good times and hard times have much to do with making a church and community stable.

Your Baptist Homes for Children works daily with children who are the products of neglect, broken and shattered families, and often even abuse. It is indeed sad that so many dependent children have no where to turn. My heart is burdened that children need Baptist Homes for Children, but I am grateful you make it possible for us to be here for them.

Christian Homes are so very important. Throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, Christian Home Emphasis will be from Mother's Day to Father's Day. I urge all of our churches and families to participate in those things that will strengthen marriages and homes. Let us do all we can to provide safe, loving homes for children. May we have more couples whose marriages last until broken by death.

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SBC Convention - June 13-18

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baptist news in brief

Radio-TV Commission to sell time on ACTS

The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission has reversed a long-standing policy against sale of time on the American Christian Television System network to individual churches. The change was made during a two day retreat and board meeting in Pottsboro, Tex.

The commission also adopted revisions in budgets for the remainder of 1987 and 1988, elected officers and approved a committee to explore ways to develop advertising revenue for the ACTS satellite network. Trustees agreed to continue the long-standing network policy of not asking for money on the air, even as trustees seek other methods of funding the national television service.

Officers elected for the coming year are Jewell Morris, shopping center developer from Hot Springs, Ark., chairman; Len B. Turner, pastor, First Baptist Church, Merritt Island, Fla., first vice chairman; Harold Brundage, a Martin, Tenn., attorney, second vice chairman; and Laverne Butler, pastor, Ninth and O Baptist Church, Louisville, secretary.

Trustees also considered ways to increase income from network advertising. A special committee of commission and staff members was appointed to recommend possible methods for increasing advertising income. Gary Jossa, a Newburgh, Ind. advertising executive, was appointed chairman.

In the face of revenue shortfalls for the current year, the commission approved a staff-recommended reduced

operating budget for the remainder of the current fiscal year and lowered income and expense projections for 1987-88. The current year's budget was reduced from \$8.9 million to \$8.1 million. The projection for 1987-88 calls for combined income of \$9.6 million.

Income from development sources was projected to be \$350,000 less than the original 1986-87 budget. A further reduction of \$190,000 in development income was projected for the 1987-88 fiscal year. Commission president Jimmy R. Allen reported staff members are continuing to experiment with various fund-raising methods in hope of finding strategies that fit the peculiar needs of the agency. (BP)



Allen

Smith named editor of inerrantist commentary

The general editor for a new multi-volume commentary to be published by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman division will be Michael A. Smith, chief editor of general religious books in the Broadman products department.

Smith will oversee editing of the commentary with the first volume expected to be released in 1991, said James W. Clark, senior vice president for publishing and distribution.

Smith, 33, board employe since 1985,

holds the MDiv and PhD from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The commentary will use writers who are biblical inerrantists.

The "Baptist Faith and Message" will be the doctrinal guideline for editing the commentary, as it is for all other Broadman books, Clark said. The "Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy," developed by the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy, will be the guideline for defining inerrancy, he said. (BP)



Mrs. Joe Cross, a Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children trustee, spoke at the agency's Beyond This Time endowment campaign banquet in March in Louisville. The campaign is designed to undergird Kentucky Baptists' ministry to children. More than \$1,000,000 has been given or pledged toward a \$3,000,000 goal.

Baptists must declare war on gambling

Successful efforts by the gambling industry to legalize lotteries in five states during 1986 and new gambling victories in four states in 1987 signal a critical time in Southern Baptists' fight against gambling, an anti-gambling expert warns.

Larry Braidfoot, general counsel and director of Christian citizenship development for the Christian Life Commission, said, "Gambling proponents are dramatically increasing their efforts for further legalization of gambling in numerous states, and the battle against these efforts in the days ahead calls for our very best efforts."

In Mississippi, one of only four states previously without any form of legalized gambling, the legislature enacted a charitable bingo bill which became law when the governor failed to veto it.

"This loss was particularly painful for Mississippi Baptists who had battled pari-mutuel and lottery efforts successfully for the past several years," Braidfoot said.

The action leaves only Indiana, Hawaii and Utah without legalized gambling at present.

"Indiana, however, may soon fall from the ranks of states without legalized gambling," Braidfoot said. "The Indiana legislature has authorized a referendum which would change the constitution to allow lottery and may open the door for pari-mutuel gambling."

"Unless we want our states to assume the role of godfathers who run gambling rackets, Southern Baptists and other anti-gambling forces must act now." (BP)

Arsonists target Acre Baptist Center

by David Smith

Extremists praising a rabbi well known in Israel as anti-Arab are suspected of setting fire to the Baptist center in Acre in the early morning hours of Apr. 12. Investigators found graffiti inside the church extolling Rabbi Meir Kahane, a member of Israel's Parliament, as "our example" and "messiah."

A neighbor, noting light inside the church, then smoke outside, called the police at 1 a.m. The witness, a Muslim who occasionally had visited the congregation, reported she saw no unusual activity before the fire.

The congregation's 35 worshippers do not own the building. The Anglican church property suffered only partial damage, since few of the building materials were flammable.

Other graffiti scribbled on the walls in Hebrew included: "Arab Christians go home to Islamic countries," "Death to terrorists," "Death to missionaries," "Death to (Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir) Arafat," "Death to PLO," and "Death to the Pope."

Ibrahim Sim'an, pastor of Haifa Baptist Church as well as Acre Baptist Center, described the extremists as "sick."

"They give the sickness a theological and religious name," he said. "I don't think they are less dangerous to the state of Israel than the severest enemy from outside." (BP)

DOMs explore ways to reach America

Southern Baptist associational missions directors will examine how their local organizations help churches reach America for Christ during their annual meeting June 14-15 in St. Louis.

"The Association Assisting Churches on Mission" will be the theme for the 26th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions, to be held at the St. Louis Park Terrace Airport Hilton.

"We will study how the association (a local organization of Southern Baptist churches) does in fact strengthen the churches for their work," said Carl J. Duck, president of the conference and executive director of Nashville Baptist Association.

About 400 associational directors of missions are expected for the conference, to be held immediately prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, also in St. Louis, Duck said. (BP)

classifieds

Do you need a room and/or transportation to St. Louis for the SBC? We still have a few spaces available. Call today: 502-245-4101, ext. 273.

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baptist forum

Forgive others; do not judge

I confess I am old. I confess I am single. I confess I am female. I confess I am a sinner (saved by the grace of God through our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ). I confess to having read Western Recorder for over 40 years. I confess to having personal opinions. I confess my own unworthiness to address such august contributors as those included in these pages. I confess I have never been ordained by man.

I confess it bothers me to read continually of the disagreements and disparagements and defamatory declarations of preachers, professors and proclaimers of the ongoing "battle" or Holy War between the inerrantists and the moderates. I confess I feel discriminated against because of the gender of my birth. I confess I am not a submissive housewife who slaved over the stove, the washing machine, the ironing board, the diapering stage of babies (I had none), the demands and expectations of a husband (I had none). So it would not surprise me if my letter never appears in this paper. Before the days of the present editor my letters were categorically rejected so regularly that I stopped submitting them. This to the vast relief of most who believe females ought to keep their mouths shut and stay at home barefoot and pregnant.

There is one point I should like to make. When all is said and done today

or any other day, it will be the last word ever heard by those who pass from this life before another issue is published, or any more sermons are heard, or further letters are printed. Let my last word read by Western Recorder recipients be, like Karl Barth, "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so." In Christian love, I care about you. Is there anyone left to say, "Judge not, that ye be not judged?" Or "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us?" Thank you, and thanks be to God, Who "doeth all things well."

Edith G. Oldham
Louisville

Reader losing patience

Once again I am losing sleep and patience with the currently prevailing mindset within our convention. The letter in the Apr. 14 Western Recorder is a prime example.

The writer is understandably content that his feelings, rights and opinions have been looked after. He is, after all, on the stronger side of the issue. Unfortunately, he is also content that the views and the feelings of a weaker group have not been attended. The lady who wrote in earlier expressed a pathetic hurt and frustration to her fellow Baptists in our state; however, she was advised to "repent" of her language and to submit to the "prayerfully considered decisions" of the HMB's trustees

who had sought to respond to some churches which might "stop supporting the Cooperative Program." Surely that has made the "dear sister" feel better and resolved her problem.

There is so much wrong with the logic and ethic of this view I hardly know where to begin. It elevates the importance of power or money or theory over the importance of brothers (and sisters) in Christ. It describes a "coercive" program rather than a cooperative program. It describes a convention which is a police force of orthodoxy rather than an instrument of the church for missions. Worst of all, it gives the man-made convention power and influence over the Lord's church and individual Christians. It is a reversal of what has been the convention's role for 142 years.

James W. Hall
Louisville

Minister appreciates musicians

I want to express my deepest appreciation to all the Kentucky Baptist musicians who participated in the Foreign Mission Board appointment service Tuesday, Apr. 7, 1987, at Rupp Arena in Lexington.

There were 2000 singers who registered to sing in the choir and 237 instrumentalists who registered to play in the orchestra. These musicians represented 119 churches, our three be-

loved Baptist colleges and our seminary. Not quite all of them made it to the service, but there were a lot more there than most newspaper reports acknowledged. I feel certain there were 1750 singers in the choir and 215 instrumentalists in the orchestra. Such a tremendous response came about because the Lord put it into the hearts of these musicians to do a great thing for Him and for the cause of missions. There are not enough words in our language to express my gratitude to all who participated. It surely was one of the greatest privileges of my life to conduct such a beautiful and responsive group of musicians.

My highest compliments and my deepest gratitude go to everyone who participated.

Bill Williams
Lexington



ARE YOU READY

for the Sunday School Charity Fund Special Offering?

May 3, 1987

The monies received are used to assist patients with their medical expenses.
Will you and your church help?

Baptist Hospitals Foundation Serving

Western Baptist Hospital
Paducah, Kentucky

Baptist Regional Medical Center
Corbin, Kentucky

Baptist Hospital Highlands
Louisville, Kentucky

Baptist Hospital East
Louisville, Kentucky

Central Baptist Hospital
Lexington, Kentucky

Call or write Director, Baptist Hospitals Foundation, 4007 Kresge Way,
Louisville, Kentucky 40207, (502) 896-5003.



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Everybody loves a parade!

Recently the Oneida Marching Mountaineer Band, 68 strong, marched through downtown Knoxville in the annual two-day "Dogwood Festival." Our group was one of 367 bands in the parade from six different states. We marched a short distance behind the parade Grand Marshall Willard Scott, NBC "Today Show" weatherman.

This was only our second competition public parade. It was the first time for our 12 girl flagbearers.

About half way through the parade route, I heard my name called. Two men were there watching for me. They knew our band was marching and said they figured I would be close by. They wanted to talk to me about accepting a young man into Oneida. I agreed to do so, standing there on the sidewalk in Knoxville with the parade passing by.

It was a half-mile walk from the end of the parade route to where our Greyhound was parked. We packed all 76 on that bus, instruments in the luggage compartment, and drove to where the parade had started and our other bus was parked.

Bob and Pat Key of Central City, whose son is an 8th grader in our band, had followed our caravan the day before to Tennessee. They met us soon after the parade with food from a nearby eatery. Our students found restrooms, changed from their hot uniforms into sports clothes, and ate. Then we were off to Oak Ridge and a very educational trip to the museum there.

In early evening we went to a pizza restaurant. Knowing we were coming, the restaurant owners had sent a cameraman into Knoxville that morning and had filmed our band marching down the street. While the kids were eating, they got to watch themselves on a huge TV screen. We were later given the film.

Then it was back to Knoxville and the evening program of concerts and awards. We arrived back in Oneida at 4 a.m. Saturday morning.

Having left Oneida at 1:30 p.m. Thursday afternoon, we had a wonderful picnic supper in Cove Park about 40 miles outside Knoxville. Then we headed on to Knoxville where our band was to perform at 8 p.m.

A few miles from Knoxville, our band director suddenly realized he did not have his folder with all the music that was to be played. He had left it at the reception center on the Kentucky-Tennessee state line!

Fortunately the Keys were following behind our buses in their van. They immediately headed back toward the Kentucky line. They stopped at the park where we had eaten and telephoned the welcome station. Soon the music was in the hands of a perfect stranger and he was speeding it toward the Keys. It was then transferred to the Keys' van and they arrived in Knoxville at the concert site 30 minutes before the band was due to perform.

That evening we were all comfortably housed in a dorm at Chilhowee Academy, our sister Baptist boarding school in Tennessee and a delicious breakfast there the next morning before going to downtown Knoxville for the parade.

Band director Richard Burns has done a superb job with our first year marching band. They have worked hundreds of hours and given pleasure to thousands in their performances.



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR MAY 3, 1987

Life and work series

The church challenged

Acts 1:3-5 After Christ's resurrection he reported himself to his disciples on 10 repeated occasions within 40 days. Christ commanded the disciples to tarry in Jerusalem and await the arrival of the Holy Spirit, whose endowment would prepare them for the task of world-wide evangelization.

Acts 1:6-8 When the disciples asked Christ if he would restore political independence to Israel immediately, he replied that this matter was not of paramount importance. He stressed that instead of peering into the future and counting days, they were to be busy in witnessing for him with their lips and their lives. Christ has commissioned all Christians to proclaim the gospel to everybody.

Acts 1:9 It must have been a thrilling and awe-inspiring sight for the disciples to behold their Lord gradually ascending until he had disappeared. What deep and sober thoughts must have occupied their minds as he left them!

Acts 1:10-11 As the awe-stricken disciples gazed into heaven, two messengers stood by them and informed them it was not the Lord's will for them to remain there gazing into heaven. They

reminded the disciples they had an important task to perform, and they should get busy at it. These messengers comforted the disciples with the assurance of the return of Christ. As to the time of his return we do not know, but according to God's Word, he will come personally, visibly and gloriously.

International series

Hosea Marries Gomer

The prevailing social conditions in Hosea's day made him heartsick. People had drifted thoughtlessly into ease, extravagance and oppression. The kingdom was reeking with sensuality. Regard for the sanctity of marriage and the home had been lost. False worship had broken down the standards of morality.

Hosea 1:2-9 While dreaming of a happy home with a wife whom he could love and trust, and who in turn would love and comfort him, Hosea met a young woman whose name was Gomer, fell in love with and married her. In due time Gomer presented the poet-preacher their son, to whom Hosea gave a name which was symbolic of the evil times, "Jezebel," which meant "vengeance" or "God scatters."

Gomer did not share the noble purposes of her patriotic and religious husband. This pleasure-loving woman gave herself more and more to gaiety. Gomer soon became entangled in the web of immorality and became an adulteress.

Gomer gave birth to a girl, who was named "Loruhamah," meaning "unpitied" or "unloved," symbolizing the time when God's mercy would be withdrawn. Later, Gomer gave birth to a son, who was named "Loammi," meaning "no-kin-of-mine," symbolizing the spiritual adultery of God's people.

One day Hosea came home and discovered Gomer had left with a paramour and had become his slave-concubine. His heart was broken. Hosea prepared a meal for the hungry little ones. When the children fell asleep, Hosea prayed and received a vision of the love of God for his people.

Hosea 1:10-2:1 Parallel to the unfaithfulness of Gomer to Hosea was the increasing unfaithfulness of the Israelites to God, and from them God withheld his blessings for an extended period. Restoration was predicted for the Israelites upon their forsaking their practices and their proper identification with God.



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on mission together

Not all good times are in the past

In the historical life of every church, there have been unusual periods of spiritual and/or numerical growth.

Some church old-timers may hearken back to a revival, years ago, when a large number of persons were saved, including a well-known reprobate. Or, another old-timer might recall the years of a particular pastor when the church broke all records in church and Sunday school attendance before and since. Another might reflect upon those several years when the congregation worked so hard

together to build a new sanctuary or educational unit.

To some degree, the same could be reflected in the life of religious institutions and agencies; of associations and state conventions. They, too, have "body life" and are sensitive to the leadership of God. They, too, have their "golden ages."

Among the joys I am privileged to experience is the awareness of the many churches in Kentucky Baptist life who are currently experiencing a good time in their "body life"; a time to which others in the future may point with positive remembrance.

One such church is the **Eastwood Baptist Church** in Bowling Green. With the leadership of their pastor, James Haskell, this congregation has entered upon a **15 year plan for developing ministries and facilities.**

With an average Sunday school attendance of about 450, it is in their plan to begin **three new mission works** and the **erection of three new buildings** on their

present site.

At the same time they have accepted a \$1.2 million construction bid for a new 1200 seat sanctuary, they have formed a **Missions Investigation Committee** to work with the Warren Association on the possibility of sponsoring a mission church on the north side of town.

Their WMU will promote a **double-double** for the Eliza Broadus State Missions offering goal, doubling it for each of the next two years. Their 1986 goal was \$600; 1987 is \$1200 and 1988 will be \$2400.

They will continue to provide 14 percent through the Cooperative Program, 2 percent to the Warren Association, and 5 percent to the BSU of Western Kentucky.

Five of their present church members are in seminary and two members serve as foreign missionaries. People are being won to Christ, nurtured and encouraged. The church is growing.

It's a good time in the life of Eastwood Baptist Church.

Maston: New Testament attaches little importance to ordination practices

by T. B. Maston

I was converted a few days before my 17th birthday. Shortly after that, I felt the Lord was calling me to preach. But for some reason I could not understand, I had a deepening impression our Father did not want me to be the pastor of a church.

I can visualize exactly where my daddy and I were leaning on our hoe handles where we were chopping corn. He had been at the church service when I was converted and also when I announced to the church that I felt called to preach.

When I shared with him my deepening feeling that the Lord did not want me to be pastor of a church, his statement to me was, "My boy, as long as you feel that way about it, don't be ordained. We have too many ordained preachers in these hills of East Tennessee who don't preach."

As far as I can tell, the fact I have not been ordained except as a deacon has not handicapped my ministry.

That statement, I am sure, explains more than anything else the fact that I have never been ordained except as a deacon.

I struggled a number of years to find out what the Lord wanted me to do. There was never any question, however, about the fact that he had called me to full time service for him.

At the time I was struggling with what the Lord wanted me to do, there were only two types of full time Christian ministry recognized. Those were the pastoral ministry and foreign missionary service. I certainly was not ready for the latter.

I decided many years ago that our gracious heavenly father adjusted himself to my limitations. The only call that I could comprehend and respond to was to preach.

As far as I can tell, the fact I have not

been ordained except as a deacon has not handicapped my ministry.

I taught for 41 years at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. I started teaching at the school of religious education but later taught in the school of theology. As far as I could tell, I was accepted by my colleagues who were ordained to the ministry.

There was one older faculty member who had a strange perspective concerning the preaching ministry. He did not even think an unordained person should stand behind the pulpit. At the best, he should stand at the side. This man did not fully comprehend the type of ministry I was having. This individual, in spite of his interpretation of the call to the ministry, was a good personal friend.

I had the privilege through the years of many engagements in the church, and also at Ridgecrest and Glorieta. I was privileged to have a part in the training sessions for the Journeymen and career

missionaries sent out by the Foreign Mission Board. Through the years I spoke rather frequently in churches, supplying pulpits and in other engagements in local churches and denominational meetings.

I could enumerate other types of engagements, such as chaplains' retreats. Let me simply repeat that I do not think the fact that I have never been ordained except as a deacon has been a handicap to me.

In the original language, the word for "ordain" or "ordination" is not found in the New Testament. It is true that several words are translated "ordain" or "ordination" in some versions of the New Testament. There is very little attention in the entire New Testament to the matter of ordination which we have tended to make very important.

Jesus, after praying all night, chose

the 12 but there is no indication of an ordination (Lk. 6:12-13). John's gospel reveals that the risen Lord said to the disciples he had chosen, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so, I send you." Then the record continues, "And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'" (Jn. 20:21-22). There is no suggestion or hint of any type of ordination.

Also, there is no mention of ordination when Matthias was chosen to take the place of Judas. He was simply numbered or "enrolled with the eleven apostles" (Acts 1:26).

The closest thing to contemporary ordination founds in the New Testament is the occasion when Barnabas and Paul were set apart to the work to which the Holy Spirit had called them. The record says, "Then after fasting and praying, they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia. . ." (Acts 13:3-4). That sounds very much like the general practice we follow in ordaining someone to the ministry in our churches.

If ordination is recognition of a special call of the Lord to a particular individual for a particular task, then it seems logical to believe one could be ordained or set apart more than one time since the will or purpose of the Lord seems to change or vary for some individuals from time to time.

It even seems at times that one call may be preparatory to another. For example, many and possibly most teachers in our theological seminaries

... for some of us ordination tends to be interpreted as giving us rights and privileges rather than duties and responsibilities.

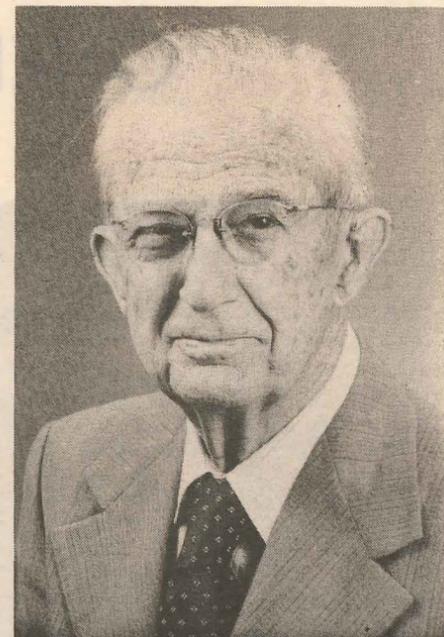
originally felt the call to serve as pastors and later felt the call to be professors. Why not "set them apart" by ordaining them to their new call or task?

When I participated in the missionary orientation of our Foreign Mission Board, I asked on several occasions how many of the missionaries had had or would have a service when they would be dedicated by their local church to the missionary task. I specified that by that type of service I meant they would be kneeling or standing at the front and members of the congregation would come by and lay hands on their heads and possibly pray a special prayer for them. Numbers of these missionaries had had such a service or would have it before they went to their field of ministry.

My word to them was and is to you that that was clearly akin to if not identical with New Testament ordination. They were set apart by their church to the task to which God had previously set them apart or called them.

In light of what is found or not found in the New Testament, we may conclude we do not have the support of the New Testament for some of the ways we use ordination and what it tends to do for some who have been ordained.

It may be that close examination would reveal that for some of us ordination tends to be interpreted as giving us rights and privileges rather than duties



Maston

and responsibilities.

It seems the present would be a logical time for our churches and for us as individuals to examine our policies and practices regarding ordination. One reason for such a study is the increasing number of young people who are called by the Lord to some type of vocational Christian service other than the pastorate. Also, we have more large churches that seem to need multiple members of the church staff to care for the needs of the members.

At least it may be wise for many churches to have a special committee to study the whole matter of ordination and to bring recommendations to the church. The committee would be primarily concerned with ordination to the "ministry."

There may be some need in some churches for a more or less formal stan-

dard for deacons. It is also possible that some churches need to determine the number of deacons the church will have. Some may decide that the church has too many. This may contribute to a lack of a sense of personal responsibility on the part of some.

Those who are approved for ordination by the church should be examined by the ordination committee. This examination should include their theological beliefs but also some attention should be given to their opinions and convictions regarding some contemporary moral issues. The report to the church should also include marital status and family. The ordination committee should suggest how the ordination service would be performed, including those who would participate if a regular procedure has not been established.

The laying on of hands has possibly been restricted too exclusively to those who have been previously ordained themselves. In some churches it might create some problems if the members of the church in general came and laid their hands on those to be ordained. Do we not agree, however, that the logical and ideal thing would be to have the laying on of hands by the members of the church? After all, it is the church that is setting aside the individual to the work of the Lord and not those who have been previously ordained.

Courses open doors for ethnic leaders

A new door is opening for the leaders of some ethnic congregations.

The Sunday School Board's Seminary Extension Department has released its course, "Understanding the Bible," in the Korean and Laotian languages. These are available for immediate use in Seminary Extension centers across the country. Plans call for a Cambodian edition to be added within the next few weeks.

New resources for ethnic ministry training meet a pressing need within the convention, according to Raymond M. Rigdon, department director. "Southern Baptist ethnic congregations have multiplied significantly within the past decade, but educationally sound training materials have been hard to find," he says.

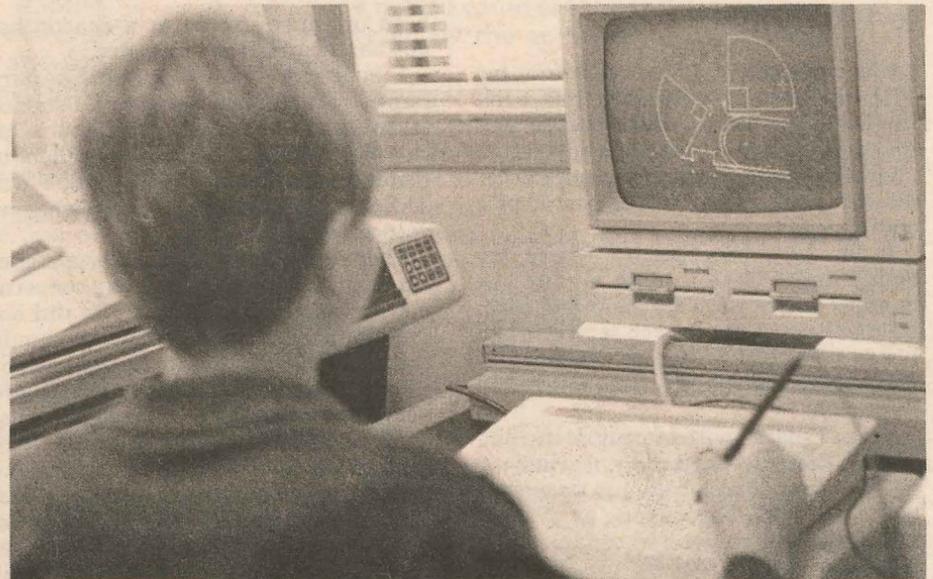
Ambitious plans for the remainder of 1987 include the publication of three additional courses in the three

languages in April, July and October.

The breakthrough came as a result of Texas Baptist plans to start new churches, including ethnic congregations. Representatives of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary agreed to develop ethnic ministry training materials and promote their use throughout the state. They selected Seminary Extension's series of pre-college courses as the core curriculum. Eleven of the courses in the series have been available in Spanish translations for several years.

Rigdon says the courses may be used by associations, state conventions, or other groups throughout the U. S. He notes that even when ethnic ministers are bilingual, they say it is more meaningful for them to learn in their native tongue.

ONEIDA'S VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS AT WORK



The range of equipment in Oneida's shop makes it probably the most advanced car repair shop in the local area.

There is a hydraulic car lift to work under cars on exhaust systems, handy for the removal and repair of transmissions, the replacement of steering parts, drive-line work, and for the rapid diagnosis of fluid leaks.

The power cooling system flush machine uses a pressurized chemical to clean cooling systems.

The brake drum and rotor lathe is used in the repair of drums and rotors for brake jobs.

A Sun Diagnostic Computer is invaluable in diagnosing ignition and internal engine problems. A Sun Vat-40 is used for diagnosing electrical system problems.

A two-ton engine hoist makes removing and installing engines much easier along with the accompanying engine stands.

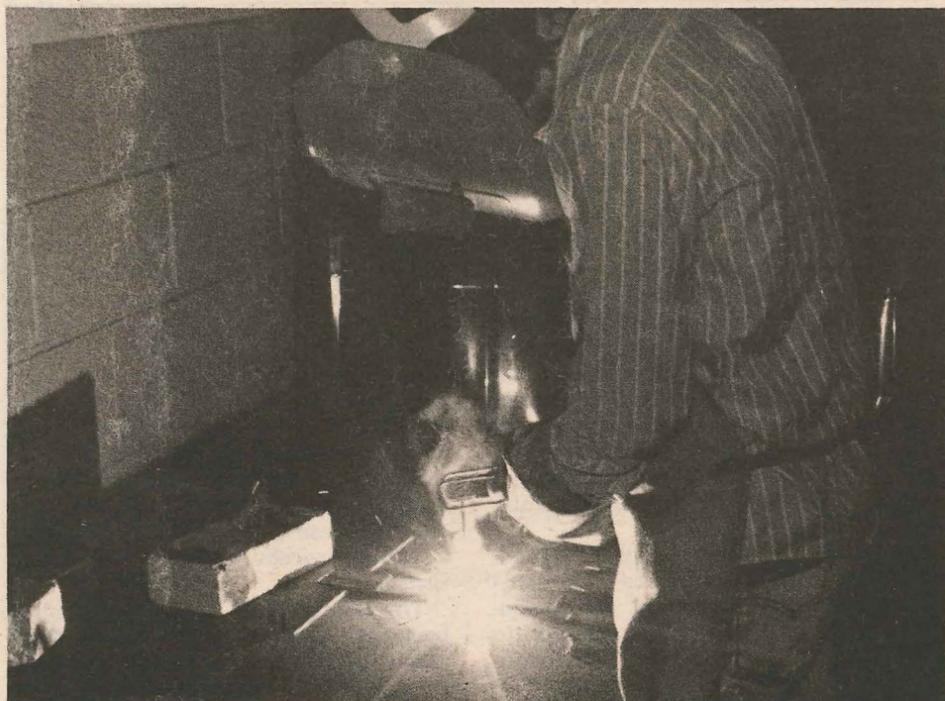
An air-conditioner recharge station is also in use.

A valve grinder and refacer to repair cylinder heads, a hydraulic press for pressing bearing and various machine presses on autos, numerous jacks and jackstands, and a variety of other equipment all provide comprehensive training to Oneida's young automotive technicians.

In addition to manual drafting techniques, students can learn highly advanced computer assisted drafting in Oneida's program.



Freshman Bill Music of Prestonsburg is Oneida's top auto mechanics student. Steve Kademoglou is a sophomore from Chicago. Besides working on cars in the auto mechanics shop, Steve loves to play baseball on Oneida's winning team.



WELDING PROGRAM ADVANCES

In the on-campus welding program, five new welding booths equipped with ventilation systems are in use.

Three electric arc welders and three ox-acetylene torch outfits are necessary equipment for teaching the students.

A power metal band saw and other equipment meet daily needs.



Oneida boys are all smiles as they look at a crate of the 2500 bushel of potatoes raised on the Oneida Farm last year, and in anticipation of another large crop this year. From l. to r: Bill East, Columbus, IN; junior Loren Bratton, Lexington; sophomore David Davidson, London; and seventh grader Gary Capito of Jeffersontown.