

Committee recommends SBC stay with BJCPA

by Dan Martin

The Southern Baptist Convention will continue to be a member of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs if a recommendation of a special fact-finding committee is accepted in June.

A nine-member study committee has recommended that the SBC "continue to relate to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs," a religious liberty-separation of church and state watchdog organization of nine Baptist groups in the United States and Canada.

The study committee, chaired by Gary F. Young, Phoenix, Ariz., has been studying the issue of Southern Baptist participation in the Baptist Joint Committee since September 1986, when it was appointed to look into the relationship between the two groups.

During the 1986 annual meeting of the SBC in Atlanta, a retired Mobile, Ala., layman, M. G. (Dan) Daniels, made a motion "to remove the SBC from participation in the BJCPA and establish an exclusive Southern Baptist presence in Washington for the purpose of more truly reflecting our views."

Daniel's motion was the latest in a series of attacks on SBC participation in the BJCPA. The Baptist Joint Committee and its executive director, James M. Dunn, have been under increasing fire from more conservative Southern Baptists, generally over questions of style and the organization's perceived unresponsiveness to the SBC, particularly the BJCPA's opposition to the school prayer amendment.

Daniel's 1986 motion was referred to the Executive Committee for further study, with instruction that a report be made during the 1987 annual meeting in St. Louis.

The recommendation will be presented to a meeting of the SBC Executive Committee June 15 in advance of the 1987 annual meeting. If the 70-member committee accepts the recommendation, it will be presented to messengers at the annual meeting June 16, who then must vote to accept or reject the recommendation.

Young told Baptist Press the key to the recommendation is acceptance of a proposal to change SBC Bylaw 18, which governs the work and membership of SBC standing committees. The SBC relates to the BJCPA through the Public Affairs Committee, an 18-member standing committee.

In February, the special study committee recommended revision of Bylaw 18 in regard to the Public Affairs Committee. The revision was adopted by the Executive Committee and will be recommended to messengers at the annual meeting.

"The bottom line of our recommendation is that we will stay with the Baptist Joint Committee, but that our relationship with them will be changed because we are changing the makeup and constituency of the Public Affairs Committee," Young told Baptist Press.

A revision of Bylaw 18 was necessitated when the Baptist Joint Committee reorganized in October, creating a 54-member board and increasing SBC

membership from 15 to 18.

Under the old bylaw, the Public Affairs Committee was made up of 15 members, of whom nine served by virtue of office as executives of SBC agencies, leaving only five slots to be filled by at-large members. The SBC president also was a voting member. Until recently, the PAC did not conduct separate meetings, and primarily served as the conduit through which the SBC funded and provided members for the BJCPA.

Under the revision, five agency executives will serve as board members—the chief executives of the Executive Committee, the Home Mission Board, the Foreign Mission Board, the Baptist Sunday School Board and the Annuity Board. The president of the SBC also will be a voting member and the remaining 12 seats will be at-large representatives.

Another change in the bylaw is that it "encourages the Public Affairs Committee to coordinate its work through the BJCPA," but also specifies the group can "take action on motions and resolutions of the SBC upon which the BJCPA cannot agree and/or does not support."

In addition to recommending the relationship between the BJCPA and the SBC be retained through the revised Public Affairs Committee, the fact finding committee also included a recommendation that it "encourages the trustees of the SBC Christian Life Commission to continue the consideration of opening an office in Washington to deal with those appropriate moral and social

concerns within its program statement and consistent with motions and resolutions adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention."

Young said: "We don't have the authority to tell the Christian Life Commission trustees what they should do, and that responsibility was not assigned to us. However, our findings indicated there is a need for a voice in Washington on moral and social concerns and that is why we offered them the encouragement."

"The Baptist Joint Committee deals primarily with religious liberty and separation of church and state matters, and I felt we could not deal with the matter referred to us for study without dealing with who would speak on these moral and social issues."

Young told Baptist Press the committee met eight times, including sessions with the staff of the Baptist Joint Committee and other organizational leaders who relate to the BJCPA, and an open hearing in which 22 persons testified for and against the Baptist Joint Committee.

The nine-member committee also commissioned papers on the history and work of the Baptist Joint Committee, major issues in religious liberty and church-state affairs and an integrated review of correspondence. The group also sent a questionnaire to 1,728 leaders in government and the Southern Baptist Convention concerning the work and image of the Baptist Joint Committee. Of those, he added, 635 were returned and correlated. (BP)

Pressler will oppose BJC defunding efforts

Paul Pressler has promised to oppose any effort to defund the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs if messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention approve a proposed change in SBC bylaws at the annual meeting of the convention.

The Houston appeals court judge, who has been a leader in the effort to turn the SBC in a more conservative direc-

tion, made the remarks to a group of pastors and laypeople in Richmond May 12.

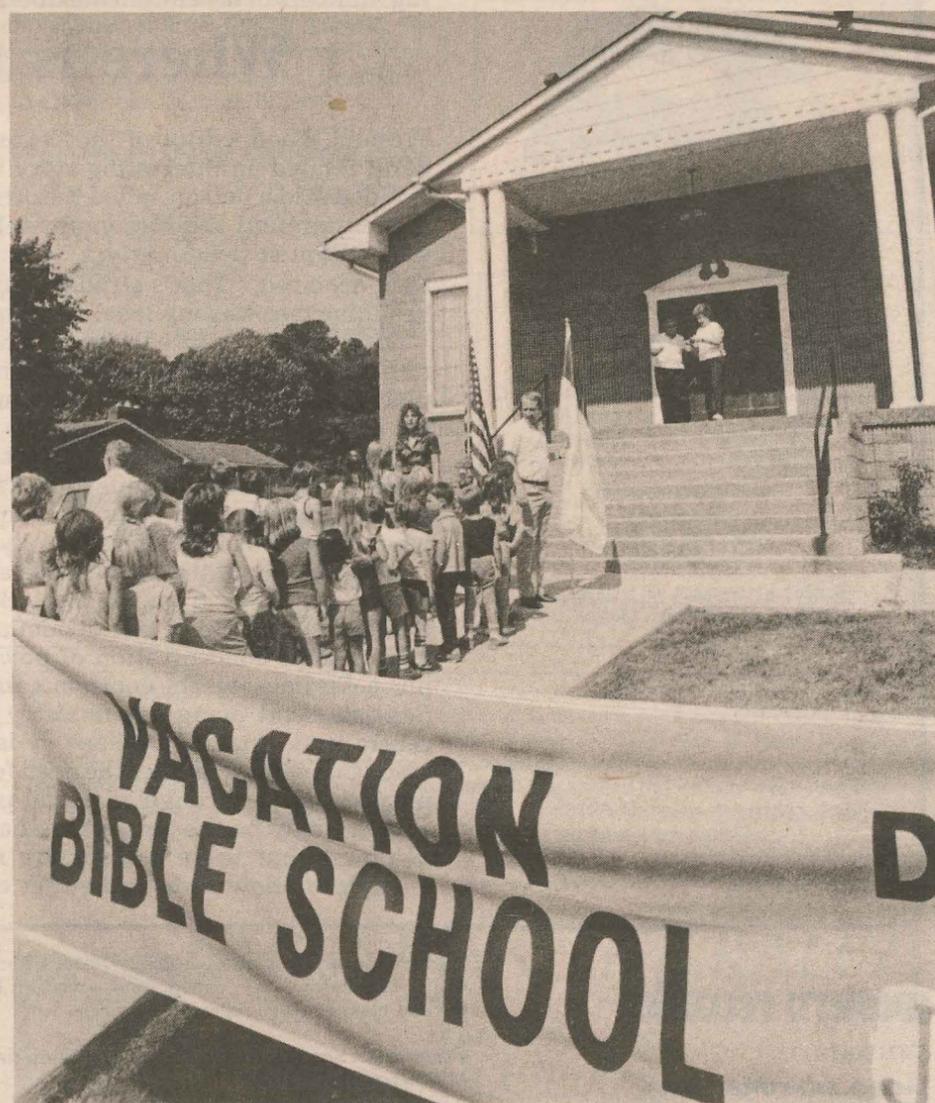
Pressler, who has at times been a vocal critic of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and its executive director, James M. Dunn, was a member of a special nine-person study committee appointed by the SBC Executive Committee in September 1986 to study the relationship between the SBC and the BJCPA.

The study committee proposed a change in Bylaw 18, which governs the SBC's Public Affairs Committee, which relates to the BJCPA.

Pressler said the proposed bylaw change "will allow Southern Baptists to express themselves more directly in the affairs of the Baptist Joint Committee. I have pledged myself, and I would urge your support, to adopt this bylaw amendment at the convention."

"I also pledge, if the bylaw is adopted, to do everything I can to keep a motion from being made to defund the Baptist Joint Committee. And if, unfortunately, there is a motion to defund the Baptist Joint Committee—if the bylaw is passed—I will do everything I can to defeat the motion," he added.

Pressler said: "There have been grave concerns voiced by many Southern Baptists about certain matters related to the Baptist Joint Committee. The report indicates there are valid functions which a properly-run Baptist Joint Committee can fulfill. This report will give Southern Baptists more say in the operation of the BJCPA." (BP)



Children at First Baptist Church, Millersburg, Tenn., line up for the traditional vacation Bible school procession. VBS can be a key evangelistic program for churches by providing a means to involve children and their parents. Last year, 51,400 professions of faith were recorded during vacation Bible schools and Backyard Bible Clubs throughout the SBC.

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Jack D. Sanford

sanford's perspectives

How it is in the churches

Spring and summer offer an excellent opportunity for denominational workers to be in the churches more frequently and learn more about what is happening with the people who pay the bills.

Such is the case with the editor. I have opportunity to preach while pastors take vacation time or lead revivals or Bible conferences. I have preached in churches in every section of the state. Some of those churches have had 100 in Sunday school; others have had as many as 1200 in Sunday school. But I have discovered a sameness of sorts about all of them.

I have discovered, or rather, rediscovered, some significant facts about Kentucky Baptists which are encouraging and offer hope for the future of our great people.

First of all, we know Kentucky Baptists love and believe the Bible. Often this love and belief is unencumbered with any of the trappings of academic jargon. The Bible is the Word of God for Kentucky Baptists. Period. They do not complicate that belief with any fancy theories of inspiration, but accept the Bible as the authority by which they try to live. Historical-critical methodologies or theories of inerrancy do not concern most of our people. Whether they worship with 100 or 1200 of their friends the Bible is THE authority for them.

Again, we know our people are concerned with spreading the message of the gospel throughout the world. The record in most every church where I have preached indicates an increase not only in money given to missions through the Cooperative Program and in special emphases, but also growing numbers of lay church members are volunteer-

ing for missions projects in other states and other lands.

The Kentucky-Kenya partnership and the Kentucky-Ohio link has sent hundreds of our people out into different environments to share their faith. The results in increased mission concern and in changed lives are seen in every congregation where volunteers have gone out to serve the Lord. Truly, we are a mission-minded people in both large and small congregations.

Finally, we know Kentucky Baptists want to see lost people saved and enlisted in the life of the local church. Revival meetings this past year have seen increasing numbers of conversions and additions to the churches. Evangelistic interest is high across the state and the prospects for increased baptisms in the years ahead are encouraging.

It is true our people do not do as much personal "soul-winning" as we would like, yet they still rejoice when sinners profess faith and they support and encourage those who do have skills for personal witnessing in face-to-face encounters.

The most joyful aspect of the work of editor is to be able to be in the churches and share personal faith and proclaim the gospel of Christ. From this experience I have renewed my personal and professional commitment to the Lord and have deepened my determination to serve Kentucky Baptists.

The future is bright in our churches as we begin the last half of our Bold Mission Thrust emphasis. All of us must pray no cloud of dissension or controversy will unsettle the relationship we have with each other in our great state.

Where is the power in Baptist life?

Presnell Wood, editor of the Texas Baptist Standard, related an interesting story.

Wood said a person called the offices of the state convention and the person answering the phone said, "Baptist headquarters." The caller paused, then declared, "That's strange; I thought Baptist headquarters was my local church."

Often we do confuse the issue. The state convention office and those of us who work there is the place where the instructions of the headquarters are carried out. The state office is not headquarters, has never been headquarters and hopefully never will become headquarters. The local church is headquarters and calls the tune for all those who are part of the Baptist family.

In recent years the power base among Baptists has shifted away from the local church. Perhaps it is the sheer size of our denomination that demands some concentration of power in a central place. Perhaps it is the enormous amount of money Baptists send along for ministry that demands centralized control. Perhaps it is the diversity among us which clarifies the need for some uniformity available through a central power base.

Those may be the reasons we have seen a shift of power, but those reasons are not compelling enough to allow us to make that change without

hurt to all of us.

The local church is where the gospel is proclaimed, the funds are raised, the leadership trained and provided and the place where we live or die as a denomination. It is the place where the work is done, and if not there then the work will not get done.

Let no one among us ever be guilty of thinking the power in Baptist life is centered in the state offices. It is true the state workers have power to help formulate policies, plan programs and see that information is sent along to the churches. But without the willing cooperation of those churches the state workers are just whistling in the wind.

The power to get the work of Christ done in this world is in the hands of the people in the local church and when we forget that we are headed for real trouble.

If local churches are lethargic, casual or disinterested in what is being done in the state by those whom they have employed, then there will be a shift of power that will lessen the impact of the local church in the larger work of the kingdom.

To give up the responsibility and opportunity to shape the future for all Baptists would be a tragedy for the local church. Let it not be so among us.

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baptist news in brief

Tennessean selected as WR staff writer

Joy L. Jordan, Talbot, Tenn., has been appointed to a journalism internship by Western Recorder.



A communication student at Southern Seminary, she will serve on the Recorder staff during the academic year beginning in August 1987.

A native of Washington, D.C., Miss Jordan, 23,

holds the BA degree from Furman University, Greenville, S. C. There she earned several prestigious recognitions, awards and scholarships.

She was coeditor of her high school newspaper, reporter for college paper and class editor of her collegiate alumni newsletter.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Moncrief Jordan. Her father is a minister.

At Western Recorder, she will succeed Cathy Butler, who graduates this spring from Southern Seminary.

Miss Jordan is the 38th Southern Seminary student to join the Recorder staff since the inception of the journalism intern program in 1973.

SBTS annual reunion scheduled in St. Louis

The annual alumni and friends reunion of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has been scheduled June 17 at 1 p.m. in the St. Louis Ballroom of the Adam's Mark Hotel.

Tickets are \$10 if purchased prior to May 30 or \$14 after that date. To purchase tickets, send a self-addressed stamped envelope and check payable to Southern Seminary to: Alumni Relations, Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Rd., Louisville, KY 40280.

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Wayland president resigns under fire

David L. Jester, president of Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, Tex., since 1981, has resigned effective June 30.

A college spokesman said Jester had been "under fire internally" from faculty, students and staff members due to severe financial problems in recent months. In late March the college's trustees cut the school's \$12.5 million 1986-

87 budget by 20 percent or \$2.5 million. Cutbacks included reducing present faculty and staff by 30 and eliminating some academic programs.

In addition to Jester, three of the college's vice presidents have resigned during the past month. Ron Mooney, development vice president, and Paul Butler, student development vice president, accepted similar positions at different Baptist colleges—Mooney at Hannibal-LaGrange College, Hannibal, Mo., and Butler at Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Tex.

Fred Teague, academic vice president, resigned to become dean of graduate studies at Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo.

Reports circulating in area media before a special called meeting of the trustees May 9 said Jester would be asked to resign. All parties denied those reports.

Jerry Dawson, director of the Christian Education Coordinating Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas, said he felt Wayland's problems were directly related to the crisis faced by the oil and gas industry in Texas.

Jester, 57, was director of the graduate program and professor of education at Georgetown College before assuming the Wayland presidency. The son of Southern Baptist missionaries, Jester served 13 years as a missionary in various educational capacities in schools and universities in Nigeria. He holds degrees from Georgetown College, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Columbia University. (BP)

Home Mission Board elects two staffers

The Executive Committee of the Home Mission Board elected two staff members and appointed 27 missionaries during their May meeting.

Bill Graham, who has been associate director of the missionary personnel department since 1983, was promoted to director of the department. He will be responsible for recruitment, screening and orientation of all candidates for missionary appointment by the board.

Before coming to the board, Graham was pastor of Middletown Baptist Church, Middletown, R. I. Previously, he had been pastor of churches in Manitowoc and Sheboygan, Wisc., and Paris, Tex.

Jerry Carl Wolverton, Nashville, was elected to the new position of associate director of marketing services. Wolverton, former sales promotion supervisor for the SBC Sunday School Board, will assist with development of marketing strategy for the board's products and programs.

He has been a general contractor for the past two years, and is former director of the Donelson Christian Academy, Nashville, former minister of music and education for Woodcock Baptist Church, Nashville, and former regional sales manager for a company in Los Angeles. (BP)

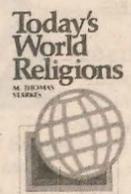
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Chairman requests early resolutions

The chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Resolutions Committee has appealed to messengers to send drafts of proposed resolutions to him prior to the annual meeting of the SBC June 16-18 in Cervantes Convention Center, St. Louis.

Tom Melzoni, committee chairman and pastor of Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, Tenn., said having advance copies of resolutions messengers intend to submit to the convention will enable his 10-member committee to do more preliminary work before convention sessions begin.

The committee has set an orientation and work session Saturday morning, June 13, in St. Louis. He said all committee meetings will be open sessions.

Drafts of proposed resolutions should be sent to Melzoni in care of the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce, Nashville, TN 37203.

Melzoni emphasized that messengers who send proposed resolutions to the committee before the convention also must submit official copies for introduction at the convention. Messengers may submit the resolutions at a table to the side of the main platform during miscellaneous business sessions on the first day of the annual meeting.

"We will attempt to follow the leadership of the Lord and send forth a positive, affirming message of the Baptist Faith and Message of our institutions," Melzoni said. "We want to say to the world we are evangelical Christians who love God and love each other." (BP)



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While these nineteen graduates are experiencing the joy of accomplishment and the sadness of parting from friends and helpers, they also are looking ahead. Three of them will be going to vocational school, one has a job waiting, one will enter the Marines and fourteen plan to enter college this fall.

The schools our children have their eyes on include all three of our Kentucky Baptist Colleges: Campbellsville, Cumberland and Georgetown. These colleges are most cooperative with us in helping find scholarships and aids to assist these young people. Other schools under consideration by our graduates are Paducah Community College, Sullivan Business College, Baylor University, University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville. Needless to say, we are proud of these nineteen graduates. And our interest does not stop with graduation. Baptist Homes will follow them to bring encouragement and assistance as they continue their pilgrimage.

While our staff have worked faithfully and hard to prepare these young people for graduation, many of you have made it possible through prayer and financial support. Several churches and groups have provided money for senior rings and other graduation expenses. This is a happy time for youth in our care.

It is all the better because many of these graduates accepted Christ while living with us. They now go from us with far more than a high school diploma. Everyone involved in helping these young people to reach this goal and pass this milestone deserves a word of gratitude. Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, and congratulations to our graduates. Well done!

Congregation blessed by purchase from sister church

by **Kima Jude, State Correspondent**

On Easter Sunday morning members of Unity Baptist Church, Richmond, Tate's Creek Association, celebrated more than the resurrection of their savior.

In a sense they also celebrated the resurrection of the local church.

That was the morning parishioners viewed the new church furniture recently purchased by the fledgling church, which first met in 1982 and then organized in 1983. The event marked another milestone in the struggle to plant their congregation.

Obtaining used furniture from another church which closed its doors also meant that, in a way, the seed planted by Mt. Liberty Baptist Church near Calhoun, Daviess-McLean Association, also had been preserved.

Obtaining a houseful of furniture fit for God's house for a mere \$2000 was a blessing the church couldn't otherwise have afforded.

Cooper learned about the furniture through an ad in Western Recorder and visited the church to view it. He recognized immediately his church could use it and the arrangement would suit the other church, which preferred the furniture to be sold as a unit.

"Here's a church dying because the people have moved away. They had no option but to close," said Cooper.

The pain was reflected by the two trustees Cooper dealt with in the transaction of the sale. "I've never seen men so taken with grief in my life. I've seen people grieve over a lot of things... You could see pain in their eyes and tears from time to time as they went through the sale of the property."

But on the Richmond end there was joy.

"There was excitement about it." When members gathered on Easter for worship they "oohed and aahed" and exclaimed in wonder at their good fortune. "It's a miracle," some said.

The furniture is being used at the congregation's present worship site, a couple of retail store facilities located in Killarney Square shopping center in Richmond.

The congregation is in the midst of building a permanent facility about a half-mile away.

The building site, part of a 52-acre farm, was originally too costly for the church to afford when it began negotiations in 1985. However, the American Lutheran Church (ALC) purchased it with the agreement Unity would then buy 12 acres from it at \$5000 an acre and ALC would provide the financing. When construction is completed, Unity will have a local Lutheran congregation right next door.

The project is being financed by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, which is lending the church \$163,000. Architects had estimated the total cost at \$340,000, according to Cooper.

However, some of those expenses will be defrayed with the help of Kentucky Baptist Builders, who will arrive in Richmond June 7 and stay till June 13 to erect the building in a single week.

"We have to depend on Baptist volunteers in order to get this building built," Cooper says.

The church was first formed when Ashland Oil transferred a part of its corporation and a number of its employees from Ashland to Lexington. A number of them settled in Richmond.

Meantime, Cooper, then director of missions for the area under the direct missions department of the KBC, had completed a survey and discovered that section of Richmond had a real need for a Southern Baptist church.

The two groups were brought together and formed a church, first meeting in homes, then in the borrowed facilities of White Oak Ponds Christian Church before moving into its shopping center site.

Unity was initially sponsored by Rose Hills Baptist Church, Ashland, from whence many of its members came. The associational missions committee became its local sponsor.

The church searched for a pastor without success.

"This group had nothing to offer except dreams."

The pastor of First Baptist, Richmond, who had recently resigned his position, became interim for a short period.

When he moved on, Cooper resigned his own position to take the post.

"I was not originally open to being pastor," he says. However, unwilling to see the church fail and because, ultimately, he felt it to be God's will, he accepted the job.

It has been a costly personal sacrifice. Cooper took a significant salary loss from which he still hasn't recovered.

However, the KBC and direct missions department pay a portion of his salary. "Had they not been able to do that, I would not have been able to accept the position either," Cooper says.

Indeed, Cooper credits Kentucky Baptists at every angle. "This whole story is tied up with Kentucky Baptists," he says. "It's Kentucky Baptists every time you open your mouth."

It seems they've picked a worthy cause. Like Cooper, perhaps they recognized the church's potential.

Last year Unity was in the top 10 contributors per capita to the Home Mission Board. It also ranked 112th per capita among Kentucky Baptist churches in baptisms.

The church includes 87 members with 98 enrolled in Sunday school. It averages an attendance of 60. Its youth class has grown so large it meets separately in another store owned by a member.

Once in its permanent facilities, situated right next to a subdivision of mostly blue-collar workers with a nearby subdivision of business and professional people and a new subdivision in the offing, the church's fields appear to be ripe unto harvest.

And reaping has already been scheduled. The Kentucky Baptist Builders will conduct backyard Bible clubs for children in the next-door subdivision during their week in Richmond. And a team of workers from Pride Baptist Church, Ohio Valley Association, will be in Richmond July 6-10 to conduct vacation Bible school and take a survey.

When the congregation makes its move to its facility this summer Cooper reckons they will have a dedication service for the building, which will seat 244, and dedicate it and its contents to service there for the Lord.

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deaths

Jack Woods, a retired minister, died March 20 after a long illness. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Chapel, Berea, Bates Creek Association, where his son Bill Woods is pastor.

Mrs. Katherine Ballard Jackson, 75, died May 5 at Humana Hospital-Suburban following a short illness.

Mrs. Jackson had been an employe of Spring Meadows Children's Home since 1967, when she was hired as campus nurse. In 1972 she became dining room supervisor, and in 1975 campus receptionist. She was named resident supervisor in 1985.

Eldred Taylor, executive director of Baptist Homes, said, "Mrs. Jackson was a very dedicated, humble, kind and considerate person who will be deeply missed by many."

Survivors include a son, Mark W. Jackson, and a sister, Mrs. Ann Herndon, both of Louisville; a brother, Clyde Ballard of Arizona; and several nieces and nephews.

The family asks that expressions of sympathy be made to the memorial fund at Spring Meadows Children's Home.

Funeral services were May 7 at White-Ballard Funeral Home, Middletown. Burial followed at Fairview Cemetery, Bowling Green.

congregations

First Baptist Church, Danville, South District Association, held a reception May 17 in honor of pastor Albert Gislser's 10th year at the church.

First Baptist Church, Owensboro, Daviess-McLean Association, honored minister of music Grover Waller and family on his 25th anniversary with the church.

David Nelson is pastor.

Unity Baptist Church, Greenup Association, is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

The church was started by some of the earliest settlers to the Ashland area, including John Young, John Kelley and John Howell.



Mrs. Jackson



Armstrong

During its prestigious history, Unity has struggled through the temperance movement and the challenges of several building programs.

The current pastor, Harold Cathey, is the successor to several long-tenured pastors. Since his coming to Unity, the church has begun a bus ministry, sponsored two mission trips to Africa, and been recognized by the Cooperative Program for outstanding missions giving. A family life center was constructed in 1980 and a television ministry begun in 1983.

Cathey has been pastor since 1975.

Manchester Baptist Church, Booneville Association, surprised their pastor, Roger Williams, with a birthday party and a gift of \$1165 to help fund his trip to Kenya this fall.

Williams, pastor there since 1982, said, "I am very honored that they want to send me to preach the gospel in Kenya. They are a special people and I love them very much."

Beaver Dam Baptist Church, Ohio County Association, honored pastor Glenn Armstrong on his 20th anniversary as pastor. Due to schedule demands the celebrating occurred May 10. Armstrong's anniversary was May 21.

The church gave Armstrong \$1400. During Armstrong's pastorate 411 persons have been baptized at the church, and 559 joined by letter. Total offerings were \$3,656,775.

Union City Baptist Church, Bates Creek Association, celebrated their 175th anniversary April 12. Several former pastors and church members returned to help celebrate.

Harlan Baptist Church, Upper Cumberland Association, held revival recently and reported 12 professions of faith, 65 rededications and one letter.

personnel

Mark Long has been called as minister of youth at First Baptist Church, Paducah, West Union Association.

Richard Kremer resigned the pastorate of Stewart's Creek Baptist Church, Taylor County Association.

Mrs. Mary Perry was honored by First Baptist Church, Richmond, Bates Creek Association, for her outstanding record as a Sunday school teacher.

Dan Bruce, minister of education, presented her with a plaque and reported she had prepared 3588 lessons, spending probably 14,352 hours in preparation.

Mrs. Perry taught Sunday school at Richmond for 41 years. She came there with her husband, Ernest, who was called to the pastorate there. She had previously taught Sunday school at other churches.

Mrs. Perry had taught Sunday school since age 13, and continued 69 years. She has also been a teacher in the public school system.

Lloyd Turner resigned as pastor of Brush Grove Baptist Church, Taylor County Association.

John Dodson has accepted the pastorate of Knob Lick Baptist Church, Bates Creek Association.

Jack Wren resigned the pastorate of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Rockcastle Association, to go to Brooksville Baptist Church, Union Association.

Brad Burch has accepted the position of youth minister at Red House Baptist Church, Bates Creek Association.

missions

Leslie and Edna Smith, missionaries to Indonesia, have completed furlough and returned to the field (Tromolpos 77, Jakarta 1002, Indonesia).

He is a native of Gatesville, Tex. and she is the former Edna Broadly of Hebardsville, Ky. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1958.

Norman and Martha Lytle, Baptist representatives to Israel, have completed

furlough and returned to the field (Baptist Village, Mobile Post, Central Sharon, Israel).

He was born in Akron, Oh. She is the former Martha Yocum of Louisville. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1964.

Justion Shults, journeyman to Guam, has arrived on the field to begin his two-year term as a church youth director (P.O. Box 6576, Tamuning, Guam 96911). Son of Southern Baptist missionaries, he was born in Louisville and considers Feira de Santana, North Brazil, his home town. He is a graduate of Murray State University.

Michelle Sauer, journeyman to Japan, has arrived on the field to begin her two-year term as a Christian program assistant (Tagai Heights 501, 3-6-6 Ohttsuka, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112, Japan).

A native of Indianapolis, Ind., she was development associate at Actors Theatre of Louisville before being employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1987.

Kurt and Judy Lawrence, missionaries to Thailand, have completed furlough and returned to the field (P.O. Box 24, Sakaao Prachinburi 25170, Thailand).

He is from Portland, Ore. and she is the former Judy Johnson of Lexington, Ky. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1981.

Hugh and Norma Young, missionaries to Japan, report a change of furlough address (Samuels Missionary Apt., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Rd., Louisville, KY 40280).

He was born in Cartersville, Ga. and she is the former Norma Lucas of Louisville.

They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1968.

associations

Thomas Hicks Shelton, former director of evangelism for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, recently celebrated his 56th anniversary of preaching by returning to the area where he preached his first sermon.

In 1931 he preached in Crutchfield, West Kentucky Association. In April 1987 he preached the inspirational sermon at the semiannual meeting of West Kentucky Association. He had been director of missions there after his retirement from KBC work.



Leon Simpson
President
Clear Creek Baptist School
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek comment

A memorial before God

Memorial Day (or Decoration Day) is a patriotic holiday set aside to honor American servicemen who gave their lives for their country. According to tradition, it originated during the Civil War when some Southern women chose May 30 to decorate soldiers' graves.

Memorial Day always reminds me of the amazing faculty called memory. Someone has said memory is the only thing we really own. It is the library of the mind. James Barrie says, "It is what God gave us so that we might have roses in December."

Memory affords a better perspective on past events in our lives. Someone has

said that hindsight (looking back) gives one 20/20 vision and Thomas Fuller reminds us, "That which is bitter to endure may be sweet to remember."

Oft in the stilly night, / Ere slumber's chain has bound me, / Fond memory brings the light, / Of other days around me: / The smiles, the tears, / Of boyhood's years, / The words of love then spoken, / The eyes that shone / Now dimm'd and gone, / The cheerful hearts now broken!

Thomas Moore

The Bible speaks of memorials. The first grave stone is mentioned in Genesis 35 when Jacob set up "the pillar of Rachel's grave" (v. 20). Joshua set up 12 stones in the Jordan as a monument to God's grace and power in bringing Israel into the Promised Land (Joshua 4:9). Samuel celebrated a great victory the Lord gave Israel over the Philistines by setting up Ebenezer ('stone of help'), as recorded in I Samuel 7.

Jesus complimented an obscure, unknown woman who poured precious

ointment on his head with the words, "This also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her" (Mark 14:9). And Cornelius was told (in Acts 10:4), "Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God."

Most people remember that Joyce Kilmer wrote "Trees." However, few would know that he was killed, serving with the American Army in World War I. He once wrote regarding Memorial Day,

Above their wreath-strewn graves we kneel, / They kept the faith and fought the fight, / Through flying lead and crimson steel / They plunged for Freedom and the Right. / May we, their grateful children, learn / Their strength, who lie beneath this sod, / Who went through fire and death to earn / At last the accolade of God. / In shining rank on rank arrayed / They march, the legions of the Lord, / He is their Captain unafraid, / The Prince of Peace... Who brought a sword.



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Doing it the Oneida way!

Graduation is over and what a tremendous week it has been! Our graduation is not just one service, but a series of events where students are honored leading to a climactic Commencement service itself. For example, approximately 10 hours had been spent in recognizing and honoring individual seniors and upperclassmen before our outside guests ever arrived for the final ceremonies.

Besides formal award ceremonies, our seniors were honored in those final days with a tremendous banquet and also a half-day cookout in Levi Jackson State Park. Two months before all this our graduating seniors were taken on the 39th annual trip to Washington which also includes two days at Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown and Jefferson's home, Monticello. I'm sure there is no school in America that does more for its graduates, works harder to provide opportunities for them, or spends more time in individual recognition.

There were six public performances of "Snoopy," this year's graduation play, an end-of-year Band concert, and a two-day art exhibition displaying student work.

The final events of Commencement week included a 1½ hour dedication service of the J. B. Henson Agricultural Center. Our Choir, with a large number of graduating seniors, was featured for one hour in a tremendous concert.

J. B. Henson, nearly 96 years young, was given a standing ovation. Earlier in

the day he had taken a vigorous two hour tour of the school's farm. After the ceremony he took a number of his friends who had arrived from Danville back to see the farm and the new building. Four years short of having lived a century, he is remarkably alert mentally and agile physically. Our students were delighted with him, and all of our farm boys were awed as they shook his hand.

Saturday evening over eighty guests dined at a special dinner in Oneida's oldest building. The classes of 1917, 1927 and 1937, with accompanying family members, were the honored guests.

Cleo Hatton Coyle, a retired registered nurse living at Berea, was the oldest alumnus back. Nearly 89 she graduated 70 years ago and has been a monthly donor to the school for many years.

There are nine living members of our 1927 class, and every one of them was back for their 60th anniversary of graduation! They were accompanied by differing brothers and sisters who had also attended Oneida. Of the full group associated with this class, eight ranged in age from 82 to 88! Half the class of 1937 was back for their 50th anniversary.

Rather than having the traditional Commencement speaker for 30-40 minutes, it is our tradition to honor these Old Guard alumni of our school each year. Just because they have been graduated 50, 60, or 70 years does not mean they are forgotten. Their participation always provides a special spark and dimension to an Oneida graduation that most schools do not have.

Rev. Harold Holderman, Elizabethtown, former Oneida teacher and principal 1960-72, preached the Baccalaureate sermon Sunday morning. He pointed our graduates to the future in that service. He and Mrs. Holderman were then honored at the afternoon Commencement, as was Hugh L. Spurlock for his 15 years as principal 1932-47. Mr. Spurlock was manager of East Kentucky Rural Electric for 29 years and the multi-million dollar electric plant at Maysville is named in his honor.

Of the 76 graduates, 31 received our Advanced diploma, having done an extra year of math and science; two years of a foreign language; a required year of drama, music or art; in addition to all State Board of Education requirements and Oneida's requirements of a year of Bible and computer literacy.

Most Oneidians must like our traditional three-hour ceremony! We do it the same way every year and the crowd grows larger!



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR MAY 31, 1987

Life and Work Series

Philip, zealous witness

Acts 8:4-8 Following the martyrdom of Stephen, the enemies of Christ launched a campaign to exterminate all Christians. God permitted them to be persecuted that the precious seed of his word might be sown more widely.

Conspicuous among those Christians scattered by persecution was Philip, who fled and found refuge in the city of Samaria. He was the first foreign missionary, and Samaria was the first foreign mission field. Many believed on Christ, were saved, and were baptized into the fellowship of the church.

Acts 8:26-30, 35, 40 Just when Philip's soulwinning efforts were most successful and the prospects for the future looked most promising, an angel of the Lord commanded him to abandon his work in the city and go to a desert where there was not any prospect of success. Philip promptly obeyed the command. Philip saw a chariot approaching, and the Holy Spirit told him to join himself to it. In that chariot was an Ethiopian eunuch. While wending his way homeward, this man of distinction was reading aloud Isaiah 53. Philip asked the eunuch if he understood what he was reading, whereupon he confessed that he did not. Beginning with the passage the man was reading, Philip preached Christ to him, whereupon he received Christ the first time he heard the gospel.

Philip taught the eunuch that it was the duty of every child of God to follow Christ in baptism. He requested Philip to baptize him, and he did so. When Philip and the eunuch came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, and the eunuch did not see him again, but he went on his way rejoicing greatly. Great joy continued to fill his soul as he anticipated becoming involved in witnessing to others about the possibility of their salvation and of informing them what Christ could and would do for them if they would receive him as their saviour.

International series

Promise of restoration

Hosea 14:1-3 In these verses God entreated the Israelites to repent of their sins and return to him. Backsliding is that condition in which communion with God is broken, love for him is diminished, and joy has departed. The Israelites were bent on backsliding and prone to leaving the God whom they had loved. Consequently, they were unhappy and miserable, as is the case with all backsliders.

When God's children backslide, they have less serious views of sin, fall into sinful ways, are less willing to receive reproof for their sins, cultivate a censorious spirit, lose their usefulness in God's service, subject themselves to divine chastening, and bring upon themselves remorse of conscience.

Here, as elsewhere in the scriptures, God appeals to backsliders to come back to him and to have fellowship with him. If you have backslidden and lost the joy of the Lord from your life, then heed the call of God to come back to him, confess your sins to him, tell him you are sorry you did wrong, and then ask him to forgive you and cleanse you and restore you to joyous fellowship with him. Unless the children of God in penitence turn from their wicked ways, they will suffer divine chastisement in some form, as certainly as night follows day.

Hosea 14:4-8 Hosea assured the Israelites that God was merciful, gracious and compassionate as was indicated by his willingness to forgive those who would repent of their sins. Hosea sought to convince the Israelites that man's only hope is in right relationship with God and conformity to his will.

Hosea 14:9 Inasmuch as all of the Lord's ways are right, the righteous should live in accordance therewith and walk therein, and joyous fellowship with God awaits his obedient children.



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

on mission together

Deeper trouble ahead?

From the Home Mission Board, this disconcerting information:

"In a recent report by the Federal Reserve Board of Atlanta, additional information regarding the extent of the farm crisis has been provided. Data from the General Accounting Office regarding the Farm Home Administration loans reveal a 40-fold increase in farm loan delinquencies between 1976-86. The total amount of delinquent loans grew from \$164 million in 1976 to \$6.8 billion in 1986. Ten years ago a mere three percent of the FmHA farm loans were delin-

quent. The delinquency rate now stands at 29%. About one-fourth of the FmHA's 270,000 farm borrowers are delinquent.

"During the past 10 years we have witnessed a variety of factors that have contributed to the increase in farm loans: commodity market prices have been soft, much injurious legislation has occurred, and farmers have been willing to borrow heavily—especially in the late 1970s. Banking regulations and severe farm recession in the 1980s are also factors contributing to the farm loan increase. This growth in farm loans and resulting delinquencies is especially troublesome now that "balancing the Federal budget is a national priority."

"The states with the largest dollar amounts of delinquent farm loans are in the South and Southwest. This seems to reflect the role that FmHA has assumed as a lender for agriculture in those regions in the late 1970s. It is particularly alarming to note that three states, Georgia, Mississippi and Texas

account for nearly one-third of all farm loan delinquencies. (Kentucky is not among the top ten in delinquencies.)

"Implications:

"1. Of the top 10 states with larger loan delinquencies, eight are located in strong Southern Baptist states.

"2. It is highly likely that a rash of foreclosures and bank closings will occur in the next two to three years that exceeds the high rates observed in 1986.

"3. Foreclosures, bank closings and other types of bankruptcy will have a significant, detrimental impact on many Southern Baptist churches.

"4. Though a degree of euphoria has accompanied the recent winter rains, the ending of the drought of 1986 will have little to do with preventing the imminent flood of foreclosures and bankruptcies."

"Kentucky Baptists should remain both sensitive to and prayerful for our brothers and sisters whose economic well-being is agriculturally dependent. Ultimately, it impacts **all of us.**"

baptist news in brief

Mission Board logs 5000 phone calls

The number of telephone calls in one week to the Baptist Foreign Mission Board's PrayerLine topped 5000 for the first time during the first week of May.

The previous one-week record was 4100 during the first week of February when PrayerLine began, primarily to promote a "Concert of Prayer" among Southern Baptist churches for world missions.

PrayerLine is toll-free from 49 states. The number is 1-800-ALL-SEEK (1-800-255-7335). In Virginia, a toll call is needed, 1-804-355-6581.

Texas professor leads church growth center

A professor of missions and world religions in Texas is accepting a new challenge—directing the new Institute of World Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Earl Martin, a 26-year veteran of missions in East Africa who has taught at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., since 1982, is expected to be reappointed as a Southern Baptist missionary May 19 in Richmond.

He is scheduled to assume his duties at the institute in September.

The institute's initial programs should begin in early 1988, said Isam Ballenger, Foreign Mission Board vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

"There's a great deal of optimism toward this new work," Ballenger said. The institute will offer evangelistic training to pastors and laypeople from Western and Eastern Europe. Programs also may be designed in cooperation with the directors of European foreign missions agencies.

Martin's nomination was by Gunter Wagner, a longtime faculty member and current interim president of International Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon.(BP)

Clinic trains workers in evangelism skills

For Reece Lightell, sharing the gospel with a friend in a Mississippi River delta home was a new experience.

Lightell and about 20 other church workers from City Price Baptist Church learned how to witness to others and put their new skills into practice during the New Orleans Witness Training Clinic.

Clinic sessions trained Sunday school workers in finding prospects, sharing testimonies and the gospel with prospects and preparing Sunday school sessions with an evangelistic emphasis.

This is the second phase of an effort to train "the largest standing army for evangelism ever," according to Roy Edgemon, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Training Department.

Edgemon, along with Harry Piland, director of the Sunday School Department, and Robert Hamblin, director of the Home Mission Board's Evangelism Section, developed the plan which was unveiled in May 1985 with a goal of training one million Sunday school workers in evangelism by 1990.(BP)

One reason for the one-week record may be that pastors and other church leaders were calling to learn of the specific prayer emphasis for the May Concert of Prayer. This emphasis is on the first Sunday of every month in worship services and other church activities. Also, PrayerLine was promoted in late April during the first Baptist Senior Adult Conference in Ft. Worth, Tex.

More than 3500 of the calls came during the weekend when missions news is reported. Since its start, PrayerLine has received more than 40,000 calls.

"We are grateful for the dramatic response to our missionaries' pleas for concerted, extraordinary prayer," said Minette Drumwright, director of the board's Office of International Prayer Strategy. "The Concert of Prayer and PrayerLine are providing timely, direct access to specific prayer needs.

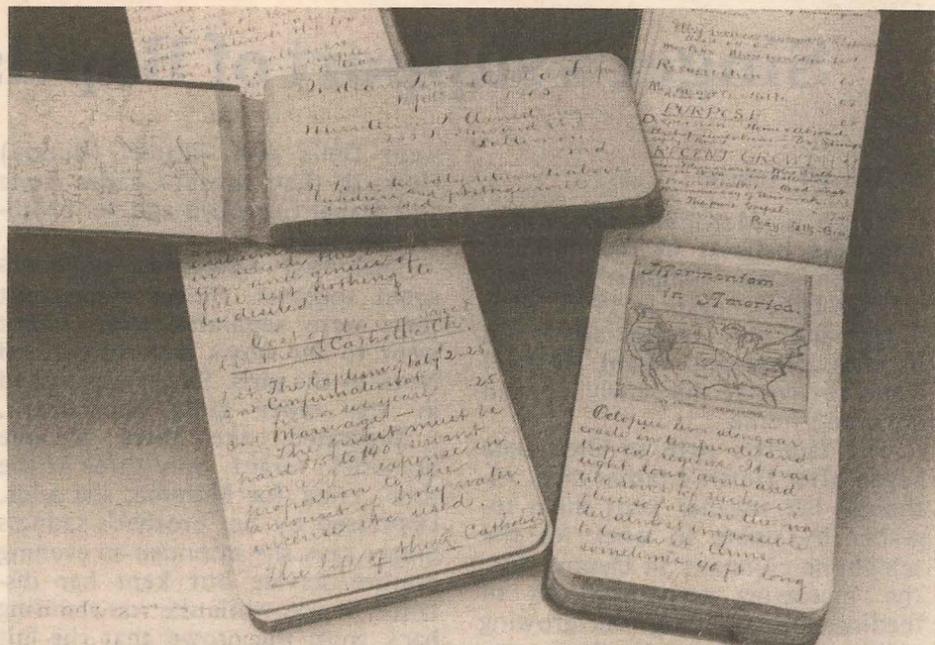
PrayerLine is open around the clock, seven days a week. Anyone who experiences difficulty dialing PrayerLine is asked to alert the Foreign Mission Board during its regular office hours.(BP)

NOBTS alumni hold luncheon June 17

The annual national luncheon for alumni and friends of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary will be held at 12:45 p.m. Wednesday, June 17, at the Clarion Hotel in St. Louis, Mo.

Seminary president Landrum P. Leavell II will speak at the luncheon, which is during the Southern Baptist Convention. Grady C. Cothen, alumni association president, will be luncheon moderator.

Tickets are \$15 per person, \$12 if purchased by mail before June 1. For more information, contact the National Alumni Office, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126, or call 504-282-4455.(BP)



The national Woman's Missionary Union recently gained possession of 14 notebooks belonging to Annie Armstrong, first WMU executive secretary. The notebooks had been preserved at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., and were given to WMU by seminary officials.

Televangelist ministries scant compared to CP

Six of the leading television evangelists last year had a combined income equivalent to the missions giving of 14.6 million Southern Baptists.

Southern Baptists in 1986 gave slightly more than \$635 million for missions causes, somewhat less than the combined incomes of six of the top televangelists featured in the April 6 *U. S. News and World Report*.

Five of the televangelists and their 1986 gross incomes, according to *U. S. News*, are: Pat Robertson, \$176 million; Jim Bakker, \$172 million; Jimmy Swaggart, \$142 million; Jerry Falwell, \$100 million and Robert Schuller, \$36 million. Also included is Oral Roberts, whose income was listed at \$58 million in 1985.

Between them, the six TV evangelists, in addition to their television programs, supported four schools, a hospital, three churches, two ministries to needy chil-

dren, a home for unwed mothers, and a ministry to the needy, the magazine reported.

Meanwhile, Southern Baptist state conventions supported 67 colleges and universities with more than 200,000 students and dozens of children's homes, hospitals and homes for aged.

Also through the Cooperative Program in 1986, Southern Baptists supported six seminaries. One of every five seminary students in the United States is enrolled in a Southern Baptist seminary.(BP)

CLC takes initiative in abortion issue

The Baptist Christian Life Commission has taken two initiatives designed to give "urgent attention to the abortion issue," announced N. Larry Baker, executive director of the moral concerns agency.

The initiatives include the assignment of the abortion issue as a major staff responsibility and a national consultation on abortion May 28-29 in St. Louis.

"Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the commission since January 1985, has assumed staff responsibility for the abortion issue," Baker said. "Elevating the abortion issue to a major program assignment is the first step in the Christian Life Commission's commitment to provide additional help for Southern Baptists."(BP)

BSSB offers writers sixth annual workshop

The Baptist Sunday School Board is offering the 1987 Writers Workshop July 13-17 at the board's church program training center.

Bob Hastings, editor emeritus of *The Illinois Baptist* and a freelance writer, will be the visiting specialist for the sixth consecutive summer.

A registration fee of \$55 should be sent to Church Program Training Center, P. O. Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37203, or call 615-251-2294 for more information.



New officers elected at the recent annual meeting of the Historical Commission, SBC, April 20 in Birmingham, Al., are (l-r) Waldo P. Harris, III, retired director of missions for the Georgia Baptist Association, Ga., vice chairman; Ronald F. Deering, librarian, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, chairman; Marlene Hunt Rikard, professor of history, Samford University, recording secretary; and Lynn E. May Jr., executive director of the commission, treasurer.

Ever since 1915

Singer's support of Baptist Homes long-lived

by Darrell Monroe

Hettie B. McKinney Singer is a long-time believer in the ministry of Glen Dale Children's Home.

That belief began in 1915 when Singer and her younger sister and brother, Nora and Grant (Buster) went to live at the newly opened children's home.

The family's path to Glen Dale began after Hettie's father died. Although her mother kept them together by going to work for the telephone company in Depoy, Ky., the increasing responsibilities of feeding and watching four growing children proved practically impossible as she worked longer hours.

The family's pastor, G. H. Lawrence, of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Muhlenburg County, told Mrs. McKinney a Baptist children's home was being opened at Glendale Ky. on the former Lynnwood College campus. Although her mother disliked the idea of being separated from her children, Singer notes job pressures and lack of time to supervise the children prompted her to accept Lawrence's advice. Only their older brother, Murphy, remained with their mother.

Years later, Singer recalls her mother asked if she had felt abandoned by sending her to Glen Dale. "I told her, 'Momma, you know you couldn't take care of all of us. I was glad to be sent into the home'."

It was Bro. Lawrence who saw the three board the train for Glen Dale on July 13, 1915. Singer explains that they were scheduled originally to arrive on campus the day it opened, June 23, 1915, but an illness delayed them.

The day the three left, Singer says her mother wept and wouldn't let them go. "The train conductor had to force her off the train when it came time to leave," she adds.

The train ride was long and hot. As evening fell, the group arrived in Glendale where they were met by five children and a matron from the home. Later, she learned this was a custom practiced by children at the home. "Anytime incoming children got off the train, we'd run to meet them and ask their names." The five meeting Singer and her siblings

were Delia and Thaniel (Buddy) Howard, their cousin Charles Rone and Mabel Crawford and her brother, she recalls.

Their first night at the home was spent together, Singer states, but they were separated later. Grant went to the boy's department and Nora to the girls. Singer was placed in the older girl's department.

Separated, the three became homesick. Grant, only three at the time, cried for Momma, she adds. Depressed by her brother's sadness Singer says she attended an evening bonfire service but kept her distance. It was while she was standing back from the crowd that she felt someone's arms go around her neck.

"It was Bro. (A.B.) Gardner (Glen Dale superintendent, 1915-16). He slipped a golden chain and locket around my neck and gave me a big hug. I still remember it clearly," she says.

After that evening, Singer says she grew content living at Glen Dale. The Home was filling up with hardly a day passing that children were not welcomed at the train depot. While memories of her 10 years are many, highlights include the time she made her profession of faith sitting on Bro. Gardner's lap. She was baptized in Nolin River and presented for membership in Gilead Baptist Church.

After Gardner resigned, J. W. Vallandigham became superintendent, a role he held until 1919. George M. (Daddy) Moore filled the position next, until 1929.

"Daddy Moore had us attend public school for the first time," she recalls. The opening day, the children dressed in uniforms made from material left over from WWI. There was much teasing, she adds but after "Daddy" Moore reprimanded the community and the uniforms were left at home, Glen Dale residents became accepted in school. "We proved ourselves in academics and made friends with children in town," Singer notes.

Every child at Glen Dale had chores, Singer says. At first she was helping with bed babies but later had charge of the younger boys where she spent time mending worn out or torn clothes.

"I'd get up in time to make sure the boys were up and dressed for school before sending them to breakfast," she states. She'd then get ready herself. When she returned home, she spent her afternoons sewing and mending. "I patched every day 'til my eyes got so I couldn't see. But the boys were always properly dressed and off to school."

As Hettie entered her senior year of high school, her sister and brother decided to return to their mother's home. They were older now



Hettie and J.W. Singer

and able to look after themselves better. Given the choice, Singer decided to remain at Glen Dale, knowing she wouldn't finish high school otherwise.

Determined to make it, she says her days were long and busy. To find time to study after caring for the boys' department and going to school, Singer says she frequently waited until the matron was asleep so she could tiptoe to the restroom where a light was always on. She'd read for a few hours before slipping back to bed, she adds.

Having been influenced by her teachers who had attended Georgetown College, Singer says she left Glen Dale after graduation in 1925 to attend school there. "I prayed and prayed for the opportunity to go," she recalls.

A graduate of Georgetown who owned a coal mine made possible a scholarship for her. At college, the treasurer, W.E. Browning, took an interest in her and allowed her to live with his family.

During college, there wasn't any money for dressing stylishly. But, the dean of women took an interest in Singer and introduced her to a friend from Lexington. "She purchased a new wardrobe every year from Europe. I went to see her and she gave me all of last year's ward-

robe. I didn't have to buy any new clothes while I was in college," she says. Today, her granddaughter wears one of the dresses given her.

It was also during college that Singer met her future husband, J.W. Singer, now owner of Singer Gardens, Stamping Ground, Ky. "We were introduced during my senior year and talked and talked." After she heard he voted for her to be Belle of the Blue, Singer laughs that she never went with anyone else again.

Singer graduated from college and took a teaching job until her marriage. Since, she has helped with the family business and raised her three children.

In addition, she has kept in touch with Glen Dale, regularly attending the annual homecoming celebration and contributing in various ways to the program there. At her 25th college class reunion, she was introduced to another Glen Dale youth, Buckley Carlin, now director at Glen Dale. Carlin spent some time living with the Singers before completing undergraduate work at Georgetown.

Mrs. Singer recently attended the Lexington dinner for the Beyond This Time endowment campaign and enjoys recalling her experiences while seeing the care of Kentucky Baptists for children continue.

