



Cobble elected president in historic KBC session signified by celebration, harmony and fellowship

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

Kentucky Baptists in a historic 150th anniversary session proved again last week what they have been proving at consecutive annual meetings for years: there's nothing in this fellowship that would cause them to fight to the point

of seriously dividing the harmony they enjoy.

While three candidates were fielded for president, there was only one nominee for each of the convention's four other elected offices.

While not every vote in the convention was unanimous, many passed without opposition and few questions. In the executive board meeting the day before the KBC opened, there was no opposition to any vote taken.

"These are glorious days for Kentucky Baptists," a long time observer of many such meetings remarked. "May our tranquility prevail forever!"

The convention climaxed with a 2½-hour celebration of its past, present and future, taking note of its 150 years of continuous fellowship. Several thousand persons attended as churches canceled Wednesday night services to increase crowd size. This anniversary observance took place at Louisville's Commonwealth Convention Center.

In a spirited three-way race for the convention presidency, J. Howard Cobble, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church, E'town, easily overtook two challengers. His opponents included Charles Barnes, a Louisville layman, and Princeton First Church pastor Bill Tichenor.

Cobble garnered 59% of the vote in a runoff with Barnes.

Other officers of the convention elected while meeting at Louisville's

Walnut Street Baptist Church were James H. Whaley, Middletown, retired long time convention staffer, first vice president; Delbert L. Butts, Louisville, recently retired executive director of the Kentucky Temperance League, second vice president; Doris Yeiser, KBC archivist, secretary pro tem; and G. Allen West, who retires this month after being assistant coordinator of the Kentucky-Kenya partnership, assistant secretary.

The convention selected J. Robert White, pastor of First Baptist Church, Paducah, to preach its annual sermon in 1988. Harold Greenfield, Princeton, director of missions in Caldwell-Lyon Association, is the alternate preacher.

Next year's session, by previous action, is scheduled at Owensboro's First Baptist Church Nov. 15-17. The following year, it is at Capital Plaza Civic Center, Frankfort, Nov. 14-16.

Messengers to the meeting in Louisville adopted the dates of Nov. 13-15 for the 1990 session and set it at Paducah's First Baptist Church.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention approved a 1988-89 budget of \$19,785,855,

the largest goal in its history. There are three divisions within the budget structure—an operational goal of \$17,035,855, a challenge section of \$1.3 million and a third section including \$1,450,000 in estimated additional income.

The basic and challenge sections of the budget goal are split between SBC and KBC causes with 38.125% going out of state and 61.875% remaining in Kentucky. This is in line with a goal adopted several years ago to move toward a 40/60% SBC/KBC split of convention proceeds by 1990.

The convention's executive board reports and other matters were streamlined in Louisville to crowd them into five business sessions rather than the normal seven sessions as in other years. A sixth session at Louisville climaxed the 150th meeting with the anniversary celebration.

Finding that they could transact all of the business in five sessions, one messenger asked that consideration be given to paring down subsequent three-day sessions to two days. The convention referred the matter for study.

The life of a special committee to study liability, ownership and dissolution provisions of KBC agencies and institutions was extended one more year. The convention agreed that it is not liable for any of its affiliated entities except the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

Four resolutions were adopted in Louisville, none highly controversial.

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KBC ISSUE

sanford's perspectives

Thank God for a peaceful convention



Jack D. Sanford

From the opening word of the executive board meeting to the final amen in the convention center, Kentucky Baptists conducted themselves like the people of God on mission for the Lord.

The Pastor's Conference was a feast of great singing and inspiring, positive preaching with repeated calls for unity and harmony in our common life.

The business sessions of the convention were characterized by courtesy, gentleness and wisdom as we went through the agenda as if we did indeed have love and respect for each other.

The final grand celebration was a thing to remember as we witnessed the dramatic portrayal of our history through pagentry and song.

When one looks for reasons why the Kentucky Baptist Convention seems to be one in spirit, many possibilities come to mind. But one thing seems to come to the fore in every discussion of why we have not fought each other like so many of our brothers and sisters in other states.

That one thing is our glorious experience in Kenya. No other single factor is as significant in assessing the reason for peace in Kentucky as the venture many of our people made to this foreign mission field.

Many Kenya volunteers had their own life changed by the gracious outpouring of God's spirit on them in witnessing efforts and that change has shown itself in the conduct of our people toward one another.

Laymen and pastors alike were turned around in their thinking as they witnessed thousands of professions of faith and as they saw with their own eyes the wonderful way Cooperative Program money is invested on the foreign field.

Experiences of soul winning and church building have a way of making our differences less important. When a person sees his own witness result in many conversions, he suddenly wants to be a witness for the positive word of the gospel and is less concerned with what the other fellow may think about some points of theology.

Of course there were other factors at work to help produce the peaceful convention we have just experienced. One of them was the gracious and Christlike work of the officers of our convention.

Led by convention president A. B. Colvin and reinforced by vice presidents Eugene Siler Jr. and Richard Shields, the convention moved with dispatch and purpose. Good humor and serious purpose worked together to bring high moments of inspiration and information as these good men gave themselves to fair and impartial leadership.

One cannot discount the hundreds of people

from across the state who came to this meeting determined they would not be stampeded or bulldozed into angry confrontation with brothers and sisters in the Lord. The people had a mind to work the work of the Lord and they deserve the praise and gratitude of all of us for preserving what is best in our tradition. Nowhere was this more manifest than in the election by acclamation of four officers—James Whaley, Delbert Butts, Doris Yeiser and G. Allen West.

One more word of commendation is due a man whose tireless efforts helped produce the glorious celebration in Commonwealth Convention Center on Wednesday evening. That man is Vernon Cole, director of resource development for the KBC.

Vernon is the man who was the driving force behind the Wednesday evening meeting. He was responsible for coordinating all the many varied elements of the evening and all went well. Our hat is off to this quiet man who did so much yeoman work in the background and saw the fruit of his labor in the final finished product which inspired the thousands who were present.

It is a sidelight for most of us but the main event for others. That is of course the annual annuitants, luncheon where the retirees of the Kentucky Baptist Convention join together for food and fellowship. This ever growing group of retired church staff and denominational workers is one of the happiest groups in Kentucky.

And that happiness is revealed in the subtle sense of humor which pervades the luncheon atmosphere. For example, Austin Roberts was asked to lead the singing and selected two hymns, "When the Roll is Called up Yonder" and "He Lives." You can only imagine the snickers and quiet laughter when the first hymn was announced, only to be joined with a solemn nod of assurance that we are indeed under the direction of one who lives. To sing "When the Roll is Called up Yonder" by hundreds of retired men and women is to ask them to once again express their faith in the God who saves, keeps and will soon welcome home his people.

I attended my first Kentucky Baptist Convention when I was pastor of Salem Baptist Church, Christian County Association, in 1955. Never have I had such a sense of well being and never have I known Kentucky Baptists to have such a glorious time at the annual meeting.

Thank the Lord for a peaceful convention. May this be only prelude to many, many, many more such happy, peaceful, spirit filled meetings of our great convention.

western recorder

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homes for children

Moved with compassion

The compassion of Jesus shines like a beacon of light all through the gospels. Over and over we read of Jesus: that he had compassion on them, or he was moved with compassion, or being full of compassion, he acted to help.

But what is compassion? Compassion is a feeling of distress because of the ills of others. It is suffering with one who suffers. True compassion quickly moves from just feeling for another to action on behalf of the one who suffers. Therefore, it is to have mercy, show kindness and give help.

Our Lord never looked on the multitudes with compassion and then turned them away. He never had compassion for an individual and then ignored that one. Notice how often the Bible says that Jesus was moved with compassion. Compassion always moved him to action. Compassion moved Jesus to touch, heal and help. How tender were his mercies, how firm his touch, how strong his help!

It was his compassion for us that moved him to die on the cross for our sins. Now the call and challenge is for us to be like him. As he was kind, so we are to be kind. As he was compassionate, so we are to be compassionate. As he moved to help those in need, so we are to be like him and help others.

When you and I hear the cry of a child, our attention turns to see what is wrong. When we hear of children in need, our sense of compassion is aroused. Surely, every true Christian feels compassion toward the multitudes of children who are wounded in our state. Many live in poverty (27%). Many are deprived of stable, safe families. Broken homes and alcoholism render multitudes of children neglected, unwanted, unloved and even abused. Yes, we feel compassion for them. But our compassion must move us to act on their behalf.

Baptist churches all across Kentucky are now promoting the annual Thanksgiving Offering for your Baptist Children's Homes. This is an excellent opportunity for the wounded children in our care. To know their needs, see their condition, feel their hurt and hear their cries calls us to make a sacrificial offering at this time of Thanksgiving.

These children depend on your Thanksgiving Offering for this year. Please be moved with compassion and make a generous gift.

New KBC leader projects 'ideal' of all members involved in missions

J. Howard Cobble has a dream for Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. He'd like to see every member involved in some kind of missions program every year.

It's a working dream. In the six years he's been pastor, one mission church in town has been constituted as a church. Two mission churches in Ohio have been started, and another in Elizabethtown is beginning to meet. Eleven members have gone to Kenya on a mission trip this year, and others are involved in local ministries.

It's also a dream he'd like to transfer to every Baptist in Kentucky. As Cobble takes over the reins as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, he wants to see Kentucky Baptists more directly involved in missions endeavors.

"There are over a million unchurched Kentuckians of all types," Cobble mused. "We've got to be willing to venture out in new settings. We've got to gear up to opportunities like (the Toyota plant in) Scott County."

He'd like to see the convention's Direct Missions Department "more directly involved across the state."

Cobble, 53, claims to have grown up with a strong interest in missions. Both his mother and sister have been presidents of the Woman's Missionary Union in their states.

He has participated in two preaching mission trips, to Tokyo in 1970 and Australia in 1980.

Severns Valley church has historically had a "strong consciousness" for missions, Cobble noted. For the past 20 years the church has led the state in total Cooperative Program receipts.

But Cobble defers any challenges that a 3000-member church can't be compared to smaller churches by equal sacrifice. "not equal giving but equal sacrificing. We're not in a competitive race with anyone."

The church gives 22½ percent of its total receipts to the Cooperative Program and 10½ percent of all bequests. This year its budget is \$1.25 million.

"It's a matter of willingness to sacrifice," he claims. "Let it express your heart."

While missions is important to Cobble, he says it hasn't been his prime emphasis at Severns Valley church.

He's also focused on developing Sunday school and emphasizing evangelism training.

This past year Severns Valley church garnered the first standard Sunday school achievement award last year for the first time in 30 years. The church also ranked eighth in the state in study course awards.

Evangelism training is one area that is neglected conventionwide, Cobble noted. "People just aren't trained in witnessing anymore."

In his six-year tenure he's also begun a ministry with a Clarksville, Ind. counseling service. A counselor sees church members one day a week and conducts training and retreat opportunities.

The church has also begun a \$2 million effort of Sunday school space and renovation of existing space.

Cobble has been praised by others for his leadership style. Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, pastor Ted Sisk calls him a man of "faith and integrity."

"He did a marvelous job," Sisk lauded, of presiding over the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Com-



mittee. Cobble was chairman until 1981 when he moved to Severns Valley.

Cobble has also been chairman of the SBC capital funds committee and participated in the SBC Development Board study that recently developed the new Church Annuity Plan.

He's been on the executive boards of the Kentucky and Georgia Baptist conventions and is presently on the administrative committee of the Kentucky Baptist Convention executive board.

He's been vice president of the Georgia Baptist Convention and president of the Georgia Baptist Pastor's Conference. Last year he was vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and this year he's been president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastor's Conference.

Before coming to Severns Valley he was pastor of First Baptist Church, Avondale Estates, Ga. and Tabernacle church, Carrolton, Ga.

He has also been director of student activities and assistant president of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., where he received his BA degree. He received his MDiv degree from Southern Seminary in 1959.

Cobble thinks this year's convention was peaceful in contrast with state convention meetings in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina because of "the people."

Kentucky people are basically a God-fearing, Christ-honoring, peace-loving people who are not going to let bickering stand in their way," he explained.

He thought other states might have

messengers "more belligerent in their political stances."

And he credits state denominational employees with "keeping goals in front of us, keeping us working."

Programs like 400 church starts by 1990 "have kept us busy."

Those who know Cobble characterize him as a people-oriented person. A new pastor moving into the Severns Valley Association received a letter welcoming him into the area. He tries to know his members personally.

"He cares about people," said Robby Speer, a recent minister of recreation at Severns Valley church. "He has a tough job, but he does it well. He cares about his people in an enormous way."

"I love my people and my church," he responded. "I know most people and can call them by name. That's important to me."

"I try to equip people to be all God created them to be."

He and his wife, Norma, a fourth-grade teacher, are opera lovers and University of Tennessee fans. On a recent Sunday evening after UT had beaten the University of Kentucky in football, Cobble, a professed stickler for worship structure, wore bright orange socks, Tennessee's colors, on the dais.

"I crossed my legs and pulled my trousers up," he chuckled.

He and his wife have one daughter, Sandra Beal, in Lawrence, Kan.

Cobble said he'd like to see increased financial support for state convention programs in the coming years, and would like to see more institutional support for colleges, hospitals and the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. He is presently a member of the board of directors of Kentucky Baptist Hospitals and a member of the administrative board of Louisville Baptist Hospitals.

He allows it will be difficult to follow in the footsteps of last year's president, A. B. Colvin, "Mr. Kentucky."

"It's an honor to be selected by my peers and an opportunity to have an influence on what Baptists will be doing in the coming years," he stated.

"It will be a challenge to keep up with the job."

—Suzanne Darland



A quartet of Kentucky Baptist Music Association members sing before the convention meeting. Pictured are Roger Cowen, Ken Goforth, Dean Gray and Rick Case.



Leon Simpson
President
Clear Creek Bible College
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek comment

We optimists

Rom. 8:28 is one of my favorite verses "and we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose." This verse teaches me God can take the good, the bad and the ugly in my life and weave into 'something beautiful, something.'

I am an optimist, not by nature, but because I choose to be one and because I am a Christian. The pessimist is down on life, others and himself. He believes that life "is a tale told by an idiot; full of sound and fury, signifying nothing" (Macbeth).

But a Christian optimist has a view God is at work in his life and will work everything out.

"Twist the optimist and pessimist/
The difference is droll;/The optimist sees the doughnut/But the pessimist the hole."

We optimists serve a wonderful Lord. We are sure of his love because he did not withhold his only son. We trust in his providence.

I am optimistic about Southern Baptists and about fulfilling Bold Mission Thrust. In this 150th anniversary year of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, I am optimistic we can begin 400 churches and missions by 1990. And I am always optimistic about Clear Creek. We will continue to prepare preachers and their families for ministry in local Baptist churches until Jesus comes!

The ridiculous optimist

There was once a man who smiled/
Because the day was bright/
Because he slept at night/
Because God gave him sight/
To gaze upon his child/
Because his little one/
Could leap and laugh and run/
Because the distant sun/
Smiled on the earth he smiled/
He smiled because the sky/
Was high above his head/
Because the rose was red/
Because the past was dead!
He never wondered why/
The Lord had blundered so/
That all things have to go/
The wrong way, here below/
The over-arching sky/
He toiled, and still was glad/
Because the air was free/
Because he loved, and she/
That claimed his love and he/
Shared all the joys they had!
Because the grasses grew/
Because the sweet winds blew/
Because that he could hew/
And hammer, he was glad/
Because he lived he smiled/
And did not look ahead/
With bitterness or dread/
But nightly sought his bed/
As calmly as a child/
And people called him mad/
For being always glad/
With such things as he had/
And shook their heads and smiled.

Samuel Ellsworth Kiser

Board elects Brotherhood director, dissolves mandatory retirement age

In one of its more harmonious and shorter pre-convention sessions, in about 45 minutes the KBC executive board dispatched a myriad of business matters without question, comment or opposition.

Observers of several previous board meetings felt providing minutes of executive board administrative and business and finance committees to members of the board well in advance of last week's meeting expedited the procedures.

When it ended the executive board had:

- Elected a new head of Brotherhood work for the state
- Adopted changes proposed by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation for its articles of incorporation
- Complied with a governmental directive related to mandatory retirement
- Revised several other employment policies which apply to executive board staff.

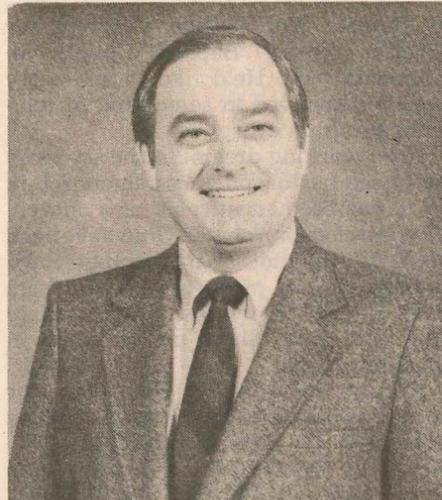
Without debate, the board—upon recommendation of its administrative committee—unanimously elected Robert Y. Simpkins as director of the Brotherhood Department.

The 41-year-old Paducah native has been pastor of South Fork Baptist Church, Hodgenville, since 1981. His previous pastorates, all since 1970, include Lola (Ky.) Baptist; Sulphur Spring, Mexico, Ky.; Pleasant Valley, Uno, Ky.; Knoxes Creek, Linwood, Ky.; and First, Forest Hills, Ky.

Married to the former Anita Lois Yates of Kuttawa, Ky., Simpkins is the father of two children, Kimberly Lynn, 19, and Robert Young Jr., 17.

For several years he has been active in Brotherhood work in Kentucky, having been coordinator of the volunteer Disaster Relief organization. More recently, he has also coordinated the volunteer Kentucky Baptist Builders. He is a current member of the KBC executive board.

Simpkins will accept his new duties Dec. 1 in Middletown. He succeeds Wil-



Robert Y. Simpkins

liam L. Kaufman, who retired last summer.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation's articles of incorporation revisions were recommended to the executive board by the foundation board. Presenting them last week was foundation president Arnold Caddell, of Bowling Green. The revisions bring the articles into compliance with terms of a covenant agreement the executive board had approved at its May 1987 session.

Principal changes in the articles discontinue a provision for "membership," declaring that votes of the majority of convention messengers in annual session are sufficient to alter the articles; that there will now be 11 instead of nine directors elected by the convention, including two non-voting KBC staff officials; and spelling out the offices of the directors.

Regarding mandatory retirement, the executive board removed this provision, set at age 70 several years ago. The vote came on a recommendation by the board's administrative committee, which learned at its Oct. 13 meeting that 1986 amendments to the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) no

longer permitted mandatory retirement on the basis of age.

A revised executive board policy No. 1550 now reads:

Age 55 shall be the earliest date at which a person employed by the executive board, Kentucky Baptist Convention, may retire other than a disability retirement. Age 55 shall be defined as the last day of the calendar month in which a person attains age 55.

Several other policies which affect executive board staff members were revised by the board in its meeting in Louisville the afternoon prior to the opening of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Policy revisions related to interim service, family employment, recognition of career employes, retirement of Cedar-more Assembly employes and termination pay for retiring employes.

In other matters, the executive board approved its printed report to the convention, presented by executive secretary-treasurer William W. Marshall; agreed to refer a request to the appropriate committee for study of road conditions leading to Camp Rabro at Cedar-more Assembly; voted to include photos of the 150th Kentucky Baptist Convention session in the printed annual; and heard glowing reports of recent Cooperative Program receipts from convention business manager Barry G. Allen.

The executive board will meet again Dec. 14-15 at the Baptist Building in Middletown.

—James H. Cox

Changing patterns to require more from religious educators

Gary L. Hardin, design editor of the Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, expounded the theme "Religious Education: Past, Present and Future" before the Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association.

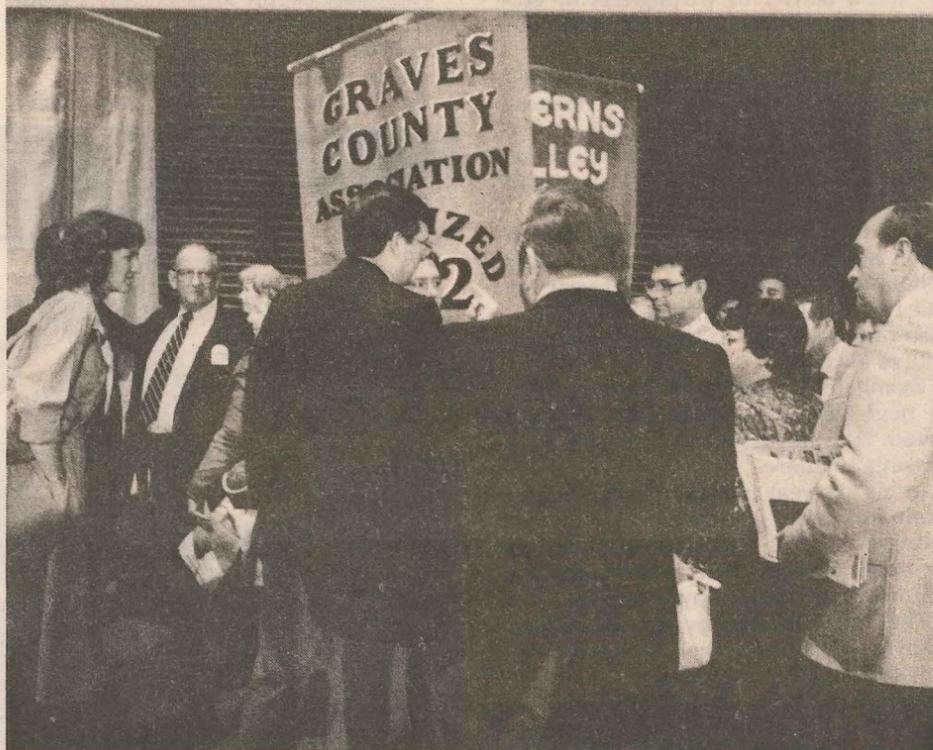
"The past teaches us," asserted Hardin. Delineating six historical "foundations" which should inform the present, he highlighted the importance of family unit, Baptist schools, Sunday school, missions, publishing and writing ministries and improved teacher training.

Churches must consider and plan how to handle a rapidly changing society, Hardin stressed. In the face of technological advances, shifting cultural values, growing pluralism, hectic lifestyles and a changing scenario of the typical American family, educational ministers should be instruments helping churches meet the challenges.

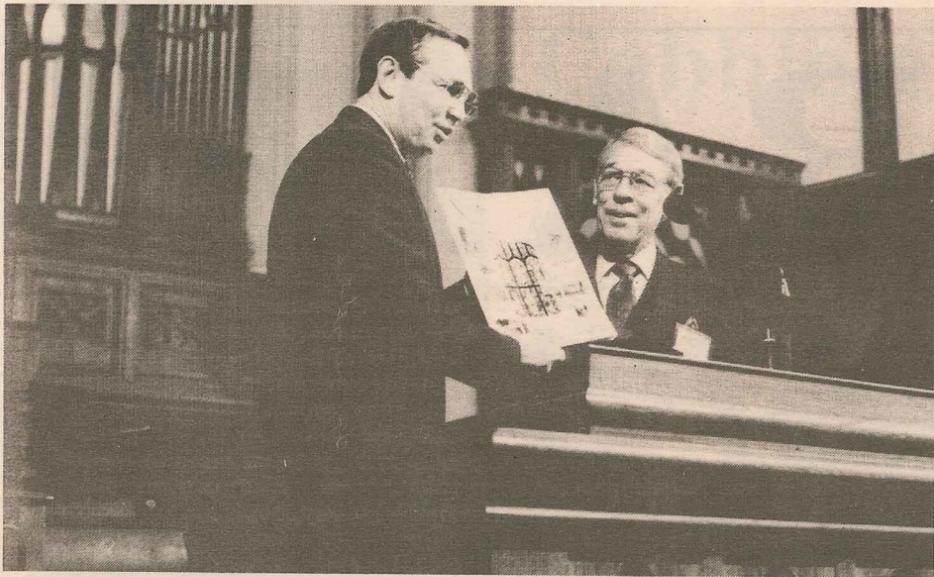
He cited that 50 percent of American children will live in single parent homes by 1990. "How equipped are we?" Hardin asked.

In its business session the KBREA elected Harold Price, minister of education and administration at Farndale Baptist Church, Louisville, president. The group's new vice president is Jim Preston, associate minister of education and administration, First Church, Somerset. Robert White, minister of education and youth at Williamsburg's Main Street Baptist Church, was elected secretary-treasurer.

—Joy L. Jordan



Representatives from each of the 78 associations gather backstage under their respective banners that were a part of the opening processional during the anniversary celebration event.



Jack D. Sanford, editor, presents executive-secretary treasurer William W. Marshall with the first copy of the KBC's 150th anniversary edition published by Western Recorder Nov. 10.

600 look forward, back at KBC Pastor's Conference

Pastors at the 1987 Kentucky Baptist Pastor's Conference looked to the future and the past with a seminary student and an 82-year-old retired minister among five speakers.

With the theme of "Hitherto...Henceforth," about 600 persons were told God had provided for man's salvation even before creation and Christ's coming again is imminent.

James K. Pierce, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington, noted that Isaiah 53's reference to the coming Messiah in the past tense was because "the cross was in the mind of God before creation."

Jon Stubblefield, pastor of Walnut Street, Louisville, host church for the conference, pointed out that Revelation's prediction of Christ's second coming was also written as if it had already occurred.

The pastors elected last year's vice president, James Jones, pastor of Campbellsville (Ky.) Baptist Church, president for next term. William Messer, who lost a bid for president, was elected vice president by acclamation. He is pastor of First Church, Ashland. James F. Gentry, pastor of Lewis Lane Church, Owensboro, was named secretary.

Retired pastor E. Keevil Judy, 82, brought a message from his experience, urging pastors to preach a "positive gospel."

"There's a lot of unrest today, not just in our churches, but everywhere," Judy told the group. "The unrest in the world is reflected in the churches."

Speaking specifically to pastors, he noted they were "key men."

"If you fail, all fails. If you miss it, we all miss it."

"I like to go to conventions," he went on. "We'll have a good time tomorrow. But the kingdom of God is not built here. It's back in the churches."

He urged pastors to follow I Timothy's admonition to be "husband of one wife" by "not marrying a woman if you're going to be married to the church. It's not fair to her or the children."

As a contrast to Judy's afternoon message about God's call, Tim McCoy, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, pointed out that I Peter is an "epistle of hope that propels us into the future of Christ."

"It's not an easy optimism. That kind of hope is easily dissipated and easily

gone," he exclaimed.

"But it's a living hope in who God is. God is on the throne. He is in control."

Asking if any pastors there were "weary," he told a story of running a 10 kilometer race with his brothers. As he neared the halfway mark, exhausted, he heard the announcer welcome the winner at the finish line.

He challenged pastors to "live in vision."

"Help me not to live a vision of the past, but give me a vision of the future," he added. "I don't want to live on another generation's vision, do you?"

Pierce's afternoon address traced the cross of salvation from before creation through the courtship of Adam and Eve and examples of sacrifice in the Old Testament.

Amid chuckles, he also suggested there was a "need for someone to write a book to bring Christian theology in line with the scriptures."

He pointed out that in Old Testament times the high priest would announce "It is finished" after his annual sacrifice for the atonement of Israel's sins.

"Christianity is the only religion in the world where God himself provides the sacrifice," he declared.

Stubblefield's closing sermon, focusing on the second coming of Christ, noted that from the perspective of the writer of Revelation, the coming of Christ had already happened. He is the "ever coming one."

"After you've taken pre-, post- and a-millennialism, it's still an abiding truth that God is on his throne," he exclaimed.

He traced the "visible presence of the invisible God" from the cloud and pillar of fire guiding the wandering Israelites through Jesus Christ's personification of God's glory.

Then he declared that Christians are now "visible expressions of God's glory" on earth.

"We have some serious troubles in our own Southern Baptist Convention not unlike the Corinthian church," warned J. Robert White, pastor of First Church, Paducah.

"Too much, I think, we want to hear our name. Too much, I think, we want to be in the spotlight."

"We're redirecting the spotlight on us that needs to be directed on Jesus Christ on the cross."

—Suzanne Darland

Music ministers set northeast tour, approve youth choir

The Kentucky Baptist Music Association gave its approval in Louisville to launching an All-State Youth Baptist Choir in conjunction with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Church Music Department.

The choir will begin next summer for youth active in a youth choir of a Kentucky Baptist church who have completed school grades 9-12, according to steering committee chairman Dick Ham, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Richmond.

"Plans now include spending eight days together during the summer, beginning at Cedarmore, Jonathan Creek, a college campus.... They would gather on Sunday afternoon with rehearsals lasting from Sunday evening until approximately noon on Wednesday," Ham said. "From Wednesday evening through Sunday morning they would tour the state, giving concerts in churches and in other locations... Kentucky Kingdom, King's Island or a state park."

Auditions are anticipated at a minimum of 20 sites statewide and will be held on two to three Sundays in February and early March. There will be a \$5 audition fee.

Bruce Richardson, of Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, Danville, reported 25 musicians have signed already to go on a "Musicians on Mission" trip to Boston and New York next May.

"Chorale members will attend a three-day conference in Boston before leading music workshops in churches throughout New England," Jim Cordell, associate in the KBC's Church Music Department, explained. "We will finish the tour by joining the American Symphony Orchestra and other combined choirs for a concert in Carnegie Hall in New York."

About 75 KBMA members attended a banquet at which retiring Church Music Department director Eugene F. Quinn was presented a set of golf clubs.

New officers of the KBMA, elected in Louisville, include:

Ken Goforth, Scottsville (Ky.) Baptist Church, president; Dick Ham, First Baptist Church, Richmond, vice president and president elect; and Gary Belcher, Versailles (Ky.) Baptist Church, secretary-treasurer.

—Todd Deaton

Youth ministers constitute KBYMA

Bylaws and constitution were approved for a new organization of youth ministers during last week's pre-convention meetings in Louisville.

To be known as the Kentucky Baptist Youth Ministers Association, charter members voted to "maintain friendly relations" with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, although theirs would be a "financially independent entity."

Elected as the KBYMA's initial officers were these youth ministers: Jeff Story, First, Bowling Green, president; Tony Rodgers, Ormsby Heights, Louisville, vice president; Ed Pavy, First, Williamsburg, secretary-treasurer; and Mike James, Immanuel, Lexington, editor.

The group plans to meet at least twice each year, including a fall business session and a spring pleasure weekend. A 1988 retreat is tentatively set Feb. 19-20.

—Joy L. Jordan



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

Convention sidelights

Fascination information: One of the more interesting diversions in the convention exhibit hall came at the Stewardship Department booth. For the price of naming your church and association a visitor could receive a computer print-out of not only what his church gave to the Cooperative Program in the last fiscal year but how those dollars were divided. The breakdown indicated how much a church contributed to the KBC's executive office, as well as to Oneida Institute, Baptist Hospitals, seminaries, home and foreign missions and other agencies, commissions, institutions and entities. This well received picture of where our offering plate dollars go was available through a KBC Computer Services Department program created by Doug Hayes.

A funny thing happened: Following a theme interpretation feature by Wendell Rone of Owensboro at a time other than when the printed program indicated, presiding officer A. B. Colvin said: "That really wouldn't have been any better if it had been given at its regular time." A few snickers across the auditorium dissolved into chuckles, finally erupting into thunderous laughter. Added Colvin: "I really didn't intend for that to be funny." With that, the jubilant house literally fell apart.... When making a nominating speech for president, T. Hicks Shelton of Princeton spelled out the last name of his favorite candidate several times. His speech ran so long, in fact, Colvin had difficulty calling a halt to it. He didn't stop Shelton, however, before Shelton had articulately spelled the nominee's name one more time. The three presidential nominees were then called to the platform by Colvin, who proceeded to spell each one's last name very distinctly. The crowd again responded to Colvin's wit with gales of laughter.

A sweet, sweet spirit: The SBC family may be in hot water, but in our opinion—so far, at least—the Kentucky Baptist family feels no such threat and will not tolerate disunity in its fellowship. Case in point: A generous spirited, well respected retired minister with conservative leanings had been widely rumored as a presidential candidate for months. When his name was not presented and the balloting had taken place, he got up from his seat and started for the door. Passing this reporter on his way out, he extended a hand and flashed a big smile. "You fooled a lot of people today," I said. He laughed uproariously. What did that say? To me, sweet-spirited messengers on both sides of the aisle want to continue the harmony that has characterized Kentucky Baptists in recent years, even if it means failing to reach personal goals. In this environment, God is working miracles!

CELEBRATE!

by Joy Jordan, Staff Writer

Celebrate, Kentucky Baptists!

Celebrate your colorful heritage and your thriving present. Celebrate the inner city soup kitchens, the homeless children you have embraced, the hands you have extended to Ohio, the love and time and talent you have shared in Kenya.

But celebrate too, Kentucky Baptists, what more you can do and give and become.

The sesquicentennial celebration Nov. 11 at Louisville's Commonwealth Convention Center did just that.

To the clear, heralding notes of a trumpet, a rainbow of 77 handmade banners paraded before a crowd of 3000. Liberty Association's quilted masterpiece, Elkhorn's shimmering gold and blue boasting the earliest beginnings (1785)...reds and blues and greens, glitter and tassels, silhouettes of the state and crosses and doves, they proudly lined up on either side of the stage in an impressive show of Kentucky creativity.

Throughout the evening Darryl Adams, Christian folk artist, strolled across the stage bard-like, linking the program's chain of presentations with witty, provocative musical narratives. Answering "What is happening in Kentucky Baptist churches?" Dramatically, Adams wandered among 11 tableaux representing hospital care, prison ministry, baptism, soup kitchens, a gospel quartet, a fiddler, Bible study, sign language class, construction, preaching and a violinist.

Of the 29 living former KBC presidents, 18 were presented and applauded for their contributions.

Adams reappeared to reflect upon history. "Baptists in them days wasn't as tame as now," he mused, grinning. People of "fervent independence," they caused "a whole ton of controversy, more'n I've got time to tell ya." But amazingly even out of the conflict grew a profound commitment to missions, "a

Leading singing at Kentucky Baptists 150th love feast, surrounded by former presidents, is Don Blaylock, director of the KBC Student Department. Below, U of L students portray our heritage in a specially scripted drama.



testimony to their dedication—and to the grace of God."

Depicting "our romance with home missions," A. B. Colvin related the stellar example set by Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, in its early years. Deeply concerned about the "paramount importance" of "domestic" missions, they gave \$300 to the German population of their city, \$189 to work among the Indians—and pledged to home missions 25 cents—per year!

A Kentuckian, Isaac Taylor Tichner led the Home Mission Board for 17 years and "virtually saved the Southern Baptist Convention." Today, Colvin announced, 141 Kentuckians work in 32 states as home missionaries.

Executive secretary-treasurer William W. Marshall reminded the crowd that foreign missions as well was a foundational element of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The call for support of foreign missions has "rung through the hollows and hills and plains of Kentucky." Responding to the mandate in Matt. 28:18-20, 141 Kentuckians are

also currently foreign missionaries: nine in Central America, 31 in South America, 18 in Europe and the Near East, 41 in Africa and 42 in Asia.

Cynthia Clawson, contemporary Christian musician, of Louisville's Crescent Hill Baptist Church, added her well known voice to the chorus of celebration. "My faith has found a resting place," she sang impassionately, echoing a baptist doctrinal battle cry, "not in device or creed...It is enough that Jesus died and that he died for me."

Reviewing the six-year Kentucky-Ohio partnership, Bill Jagers, associate, KBC Direct Missions, with the help of Arthur Walker, director of Ohio Baptists' missions work, speaking from a giant video screen, praised Kentucky Baptists for their work.

"If the Baptist churches of Ohio could write you a letter," Walker declared, "it would begin 'Dear Mom'—and a good 'Mom' you have been...giving your time, money, talents, preaching and teaching...."

Jagers, relating latest Mission Kentucky statistics, urged Kentucky Baptists to persist in their enthusiastic response to needs. Areas of special concern include Kentucky's mountains, mobile home parks, low rent housing and language groups.

Davis Saunders, regional Foreign Mission Board vice president for western and southern Africa, recapped some of the results of Kentucky's link with Kenya. Participants such as Doug York, James and Wilma Whaley and Doug Strader shared their enthusiasm via videotape. Strader, director of the KBC Church Training and Special Ministries Department, described his experience as "life-changing."

"It was one of the most exciting things I've ever done in my life....The needs are so great. The people are so open."

Saunders reported Kenya has seen the birth of 1098 churches, products of Kentucky Baptists' concern for and eagerness to participate in the partnership.

But Saunders tempered his lavish praise with challenges to continue in tangible expressions of commitment to missions, adopting a lifestyle that "gives evidence of emotional and spiritual identity with those in Kenya who are much less well off—for their sake and for the sake of the gospel."

With the accompaniment of his guitar, the bard, too, preached—every bit as powerfully—for transformation of

hearts and lives. "Jesus looked up from his pulpit," Darryl Adams sang, and seeing the multitudes said, "They're your flock to feed." And "five loaves and two fishes are more than enough" if only we're willing to share. The overwhelming troubles of this world can "melt our courage and turn our hearts to stone." But "manna from the marketplace, sweatdrops from my brow, tears I cried for problems I hardly understand and prayers of solidarity—all poor gifts, I'm sure...become bread for the world" in God's hand.

The evening ended with a potent message through the medium of drama, "Epistles," written by Ragan Courtney and John Styron, of Crescent Hill Baptist Church, and performed by BSU students of the University of Louisville.

"In the beginning was the word, and the word became flesh and the flesh longed to communicate with the world," the players intimated. Entertaining the audience with imitations of "just an unlearned country preacher" and tauntings of "We've got the keys," the actors suddenly sobered: "In the beginning was the word...and the flesh gave us the power to become the children of God—but sometimes we were just children."

Heart-rending scenes sketching the traumas of "the war to end all wars" and of Lottie Moon's death (who, overwrought with the suffering caused by the famine that ravaged China, refused to eat and starved to death), stirred and inspired the crowd.

"It's the same word," the actors attested. "Incarnation. Carved into the flesh of our hearts...."

Celebrate, Kentucky Baptists. Celebrate the incarnation of our Lord. Celebrate your responsibility to incarnate his love for all persons. Your five loaves and two fishes, your sweat, your tears, your prayers can "be more than enough—in his hand."

Baptists need to hear cries of people for God, says foreign missionary

No matter what the circumstances may be, Christians can be on mission for God, if the word lives in them, a Southern Baptist missionary told Kentucky convention messengers.

Stating that through the ages man has wanted and needed to see God, Jim McKinley, foreign missionary to Bangladesh, stressed that God, through Jesus, stepped onto the pages of history, taking steps that can never be obliterated. "We can see what God is like because of Jesus," he proclaimed.

"Our Lord has never been lazy or negligent, but busy and alert to the needs of mankind," continued McKinley, who is presently on furlough. He reminded pastors that preaching is "in vain unless we show the savior and reveal the father."

He urged Baptists to hear the cries of people around the world who are longing to see God. McKinley concluded, "God keeps on plugging away, never forsaking, never forgetting us. Help is always available as long as we are on Christ's mission in the world."

Messengers resolve for religious freedom

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's one-year moratorium on resolutions ended when J. Robert White, resolutions committee chairman, presented his report Nov. 11.

Convention messengers adopted each of four resolutions presented by the committee including:

- Appreciation for the life of the late Porter Routh, former executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

- Affirmation of the faculty and administration of Southern Baptist

Theological Seminary, Louisville, and gratitude for the institution's contribution to the work of Southern Baptists.

- Reaffirmation of the denomination's belief in and support of religious freedom and expression.

- Appreciation to the members of Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, and pastor Jon Stubblefield for their hospitality during the 150th annual convention and to KBC president A. B. Colvin and executive secretary-treasurer William W. Marshall for their leadership.



Eugene I. Enlow, pastor of Beechmont Baptist Church, Louisville, praises Miss Doris Yeiser for her lengthy denominational service.

Doris Yeiser honored for 36 years with KBC

Doris Yeiser, Kentucky Baptist Convention archivist and consultant to the executive and communications offices, was honored for her more than 36 years of convention service last week in Louisville.

Presenting a plaque to Miss Yeiser, Bill Marshall, KBC executive secretary-treasurer, expressed appreciation for her service to Kentucky Baptists during the terms of four executive secretaries.

Marshall added that the executive board and convention office staff members will honor Miss Yeiser in December. He also said she will continue as archivist after her official retirement begins Jan. 1.

—Robin Oldham

Sebastian named DOM of the year

Meeting at Louisville's Fourth Avenue Baptist Church Nov. 9, Kentucky's Directors of Missions Fellowship named Janus Jones, Mt. Zion and Union Associations, as the organization's new president.

Leslie M. Huff, Green Valley Association, was elected vice president and president elect. Richard Robbins, Blackford and Breckinridge associations, was chosen secretary-treasurer. Harold Greenfield, Caldwell Lyon Association, was selected editor of Vita/

Cobble claims KBC flagship in race for convention office

Capturing about a 20 percent margin of votes over his closest challengers in both the primary and the runoff elections, J. Howard Cobble, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, for seven years was appointed "commander of the flagship of the Kentucky Baptist fleet" for 1988.

In the only race for a convention office, Cobble received 434 of 980 votes, surpassing Charles Barnes, Louisville layman and member of East Baptist Church, who netted 310 votes, and Bill Tichenor, pastor of First Baptist Church, Princeton, trailing with 236 ballots. Cobble failed to reach the 491 votes (50.1 percent) necessary for election in the first try.

The runoff for president saw Cobble receive 59 percent of the votes cast, or 472 of 808 ballots. Barnes posted 336 votes in the second tally.

With a spirit of harmony and good will, the convention messengers elected the first and second vice presidents, secretary pro tem and assistant secretary by acclamation.

James Whaley, returning field coordinator for the Kentucky-Kenya partnership and member of Woodland Baptist Church, Middletown, was acclaimed first vice president.

Whaley, who received a standing ovation for his service to Kentucky Baptists, was director of the state's Church Training Department 20 years and director of the KBC's Church Service Division 12 years before his retirement in 1984.

Retiring director of the Kentucky Temperance League Delbert Butts was named to the second seat in a move Kentucky Baptist pastors hope will send a

message to state officials that they do not want a state lottery.

Doris Yeiser and G. Allen West were reaffirmed as secretary pro tem and assistant secretary, respectively.

Miss Yeiser may not serve as secretary because convention bylaws prevent an

employe from serving as an officer of that body.

West, former executive director of Long Run Association, is associate director of the Kentucky-Kenya partnership which concludes this month.

—Todd Deaton



KBC vice presidents, elected last week in Louisville, flank new president J. Howard Cobble, seated, of Elizabethtown. They are Delbert L. Butts, at left, of Louisville, second VP, and James H. Whaley, of Middletown, first VP.

Pastors' wives recognize vital role

If missionary Adoniram Judson's wife Ann had not purchased the tickets, packed clothes and arranged schedules for her husband in 1812, "the Far East might still be waiting," ministers' wives were told at a dinner at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Bethlehem Baptist Church, Louisville, member LaVerne Mitchell wrote a monolog commending pastors' wives for their role in ministry at the Fellowship of Ministers' wives annual meeting.

Mrs. Diane Davidson, a Louisville high school teacher who is preparing for a Foreign Mission Board appointment, told the group of about 100 ladies that

God is making women into "portraits of Christ."

Brenda Ticka, Bethlehem Baptist, passed the president's gavel to next year's president Kathy Welch, Third Baptist, Owensboro.

Other officers elected were also from Owensboro, site of the 1988 Kentucky Baptist Convention meeting. They include Rita Tiemann, Buena Vista, vice president; Kay Bevil, Walnut Street, secretary-treasurer; Donna Whipple, First, program chairman; and Cindy Smith, Seven Hills, publicity chairman.

—Suzanne Darland

Convention not liable for fraternal groups

Covenants with Campbellsville, Cumberland and Georgetown colleges, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, Baptist Hospitals, Oneida Baptist Institute and Clear Creek Baptist Bible College have been signed and notarized as approved by the 1986 convention.

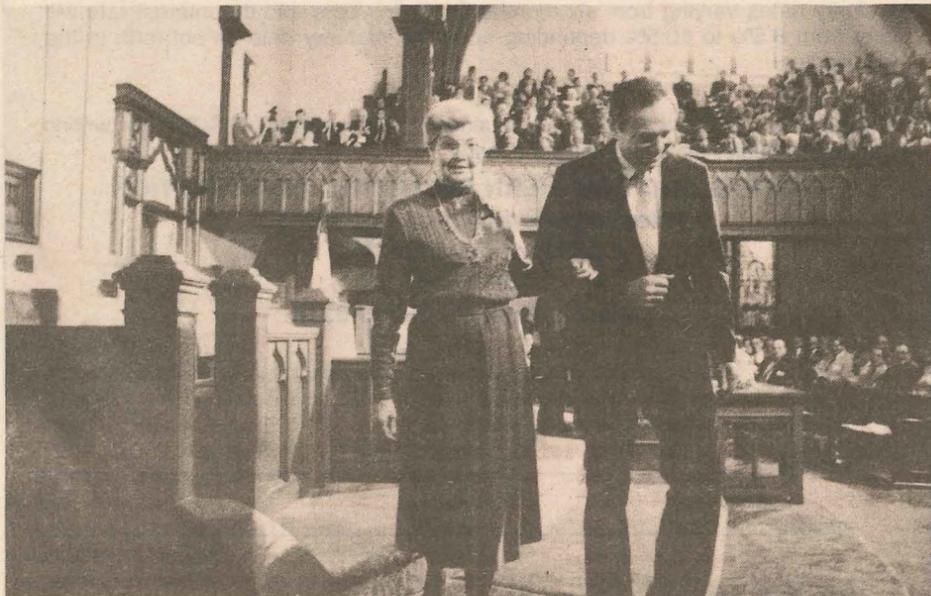
This report was given by Willis W. Henson, Paducah, chairman of a special convention committee on ascending-descending liability.

Because the Kentucky Baptist Convention exercises no authority over friendly and fraternal organizations the convention is not liable for these organizations, the convention decided.

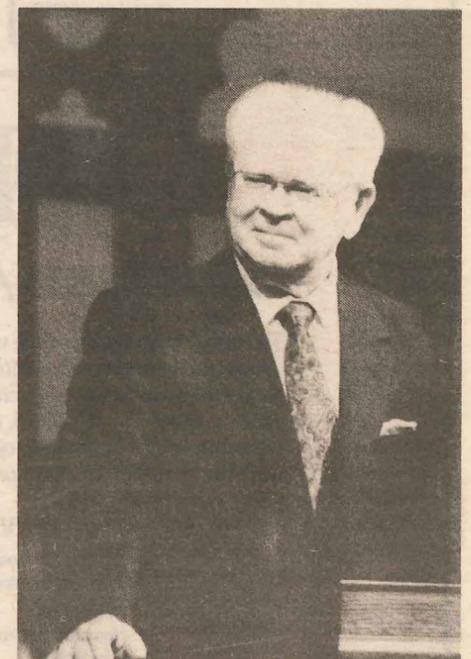
The committee moved that since the Kentucky Baptist Foundation is part of the convention, the convention is liable for its operations.

The committee then asked that it be given an extension through the 1988 annual session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention for the purpose of completing the Western Recorder covenant and remaining tasks relative to its assignment, which was approved.

—Virginia Flanagan



Mrs. Irene Colvin, wife of KBC president A. B. Colvin, walks off platform arm-in-arm with executive secretary-treasurer William W. Marshall, after being honored for allowing her husband to be away often during the past year. Colvin met a personal goal of visiting in all 78 associations.



A. B. Colvin, retired convention official who presided over KBC activities, was identified as "Mr. Kentucky Baptist," and may be recognized by more people in more churches today than any other person.

Women in Ministry draws 40 persons

About 40 persons attended the fourth meeting of Kentucky Women in Ministry Nov. 10 at Walnut Street Baptist Church.

The program consisted of music by Christi Rippetto and Deborah Lambeth, students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Mrs. Wyndee Holbrook, campus minister at Cumberland College, offered a dramatic interpretation. Mrs. Jewell Nelson, associate in the Sunday School Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, led the group in sharing praise for events of the year just ended. The program was hosted by Mrs. Lela Hendrix, minister of students at Walnut Street Baptist Church.

A report of recommended guidelines from the 1985-86 steering committee and activities in 1986-87 was distributed. Carolyn Hale, dean of student life at Georgetown (Ky.) College, and Marsha Hopper, Fern Creek Baptist Church, Louisville, were named to the steering committee to replace Carol Noffsinger, Louisville, and Jo Garnett, Danville, rotating off the committee.

A retreat was planned for March at Otter Creek Park.

—Virginia Flanagan

'Your funds are still safe,' annuity official tells retirees

"Your income is safe," about 250 Kentucky Baptist retirees of church staffs and denominational service were told at their annual luncheon last week in Louisville.

Speaking at Walnut Street Baptist Church during the Kentucky Baptist Convention meeting, a Dallas, Tex. Annuity Board official assured his listeners the board's assets were "safe."

Very few, if any, of the board's thousands of annuitants could be expected to experience any financial loss, said Mac Perkins, director of insurance services for the board.

Robert Mills, former president of Georgetown (Ky.) College, presided at this year's luncheon. His wife, Millie, accompanied her own singing as entertainment.

State annuitants welcomed 49 persons retiring in the past year to their ranks and honored 20 persons who had died during the year.

They named E. Keevil Judy, of Henderson, as chairman for the 1988 luncheon during the KBC at Owensboro. Others comprising the luncheon planning committee for next year include Hughlan Richey, James Watt and Archie Oliver.

Don Spencer, Middletown, KBC Annuity Department director, announced that a fellowship luncheon for all annuitants in the state will be held Apr. 11, 1988 at Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.

—James H. Cox

—classified ads—

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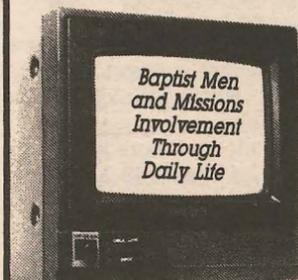
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The sound of helicopters

A helicopter just hovered over our farm pond and lifted up a large amount of water to fight fire which is nearby. The air has been filled with smoke for days. Often the sun appears a blood red through the hazy smoke which appears as a fog. Our students have been mildly alarmed and several have asked if we are going to evacuate them. But they are in no real danger surrounded as we are by three rivers. The condition of the woods is the worst I have ever seen. It is so dry everything is a tinderbox.

But over the noise of the helicopters can be heard our chimes playing. Our souls are refreshed three times daily by their sound echoing across our valley and bouncing back from the surrounding hills.

"God will take care of you Thro every day, O'er all the way, he will take care of you. Thro days of toil when heart doth fail, When dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you. All you may need, he will provide. Nothing you ask will be denied."

We had the nephew of a jet airplane pilot with us some years ago. We tried very hard but made no notable progress with that young man. We finally had to

ask him to leave. But his guardian, the pilot, became a fast friend and a generous financial supporter of our work through it all. He continues so today. Some months ago he and his wife and two teenage children came and pitched in for a week of volunteer work. The pilot spent the week in the hayfield and doing other manual labor. He and the whole family seemed to have the time of their lives. He wrote later:

"Since this was the first time my wife and I have been to work, I would like to share something you know but I have just discovered. Like giving gifts, volunteer service to the Lord's work certainly returns more than is ever given. Count on seeing us more frequently in the future."

Another who knows the joys of volunteer service recently sent a gift from Florida: "I spent the summer of 1975 on the OBI campus as one of the Appalachia Service Project staff members. I was so very impressed by the operation of the school and the wonderful opportunity Oneida provides so many young people. I am working full time with Youth and Education at the Lakewood United Methodist Church and speak often of OBI and the many Kentucky friends I made. I hope to help more substantially in the future."

A friend from Williamsburg, VA writes: "I know of no one who gets more out of a dollar than you folks. Would love to walk that new swinging bridge!"

A generous donation came with this letter: "When I visited your school four years ago I was much impressed and continue to be amazed at the things you do to give your students a well-rounded education. Your former students are making names for themselves in the outside world."

A mother writes: "I told my mom several years ago that if anything should happen to my husband and me at the same time, and we would be unable to care any longer for our children, I want my children to go to Oneida. I sent an offering some years ago because I believed in your God-given ministry. Now I enclose another because you are ministering to my dear niece who had some very troubled relationships. Praise God you were there when a part of my very own family needed your ministry."

A Louisville lawyer writes: "I enjoyed our recent visit and was sincerely impressed with the quality, quantity and achievements of your students. Your school plant is outstanding. This old Baptist deacon congratulates you. P. S. Wish I had more of that watermelon!"



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LESSONS FOR NOV. 22, 1987

Life and work series

Fellowship in a shared ministry

Philippians 1:3-5 Paul's noble sense of appreciation of what the Philippians had done for him revealed the state of grace in which he was living. Through his extended period of imprisonment and suffering they had never faltered in their love for and devotion to him, so Paul held them in his memory, thoughts and affections. For these who had afforded Paul such joyous satisfaction this grateful pastor poured out his soul in earnest prayer.

Philippians 1:6-8 Because of the excellent quality of their fellowship, Paul had absolute confidence in the ultimate completion of the work of grace which God had begun and had continued in the Philippians. However, Paul's confidence was not in the Philippians themselves, but rather in the faithfulness and consistency of God in the work which he had started and was continuing.

Philippians 4:14-16 Time and again the Philippian Christians had contributed voluntarily, generously and cheerfully to the Lord's work in which Paul was engaged, not only when he was in their midst but also when he had gone elsewhere and ministered in other churches. Again and again they had ministered to Paul's temporal needs. He

rejoiced in their spiritual state which prompted them to think of him and his needs.

Philippians 4:17-18 Fully appreciating the actions of the Philippians in revealing their love for Christ through their gifts, Paul informed them that cheerful giving on the part of God's children is always acceptable and well pleasing to him.

International series

Joseph, deliver of people

Genesis 41:38-44 Perplexed about the meaning of two disturbing dreams or visions, Pharaoh summoned the magicians and requested them to interpret them. Unable to interpret visions which came from God, whom he did not know, the butler told Pharaoh about Joseph. Pharaoh sent for Joseph, anxious to ascertain if he could do what the Egyptian wise men were unable to do.

As soon as Pharaoh recounted his strange dreams, Joseph informed him that they were God's way of revealing to him what was about to take place. He told him that the fat cattle and full heads of grain represented seven years of plenty in Egypt, whereas the lean cattle and thin heads of grain represented seven years of famine, and that the latter would follow the former immediately. Joseph advised the King to select a competent administrator to organize the forces to gather and store the grain during the oncoming years of plenty and to supervise its distribution during the years of famine.

Genesis 41:46-49 Pharaoh promoted Joseph to the position of prime minister of Egypt, which office was second only to his own. When he was elevated to that high office, Joseph became the object of the adoration and affections of the people. Through distressing circumstances and bitter experiences, he had been receiving the training for the position to which he had been exalted. Joseph revealed his wisdom by proceeding to prepare for the seven years of famine which God had revealed to him were certain to come.

Genesis 41:50-52 From among the Gentiles, Joseph took unto himself a wife. To this union two sons were born. The name of the first was Manasseh, meaning "God hath enabled me to forget." The name of the second son was Ephraim, meaning "double fruitfulness." Joseph was occupied with the present blessings of God rather than with past injuries.



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

on mission together

Ministering to ministers

This recent letter from an "involuntarily terminated" pastor makes evident the value of our ministry to this special group in behalf of the larger Kentucky Baptist family.

Dear Dr. Marshall: "My wife and I were privileged to participate in the recent conference for those involuntarily terminated by churches. We cannot tell you how much the conference meant to us in terms of healing, encouragement and just plain acceptance. As I am sure you understand, the felt rejection after such an experience is almost overpowering. Your very able and caring staff spoke to our need for love and acceptance by sharing with us hope, by pro-

viding tools for improvement and self-understanding and by treating us as persons of real worth.

"Kentucky was our home while in seminary at Southern but as you can see we are residing presently in another state. By all rights we should not have been privy to such a conference at all, let alone have had our expenses paid to enable us to attend. A special man, Charles Blair, of Clinton, Kentucky, himself a Director of Missions, sought our invitation. We shall be always grateful to him for his sensitivity and to you and all Kentucky Baptists for ministering to us just because you saw our need. May we one day have opportunity to return this kindness to Kentucky Baptists.

"We are thankful for Guy and his sensitive sharing and leading; for Jim and his help in understanding the personality profile; for Bill's input on family concerns and relationships; for Don's practical information on finances and annuity, and last but not least, for John and his sensitive sharing and wonderful

sense of humor. I am sure you are well aware of these fine men's gifts and abilities."

There is a growing number of serious conflicts and an increasing level of anxiety among ministers and churches.

Those of us in denominational life may be accused of "siding" with the ministers. I, for one, have seen too much in 32 years to believe that it is a one-sided problem. Some ministers have created, often unwittingly, serious conflict! And some churches have the reputation of chewing up their ministers. And most churches probably have a few persons who are consistent creators of conflict.

However, our "system" leaves the minister and his family more vulnerable than the church when the outcome of a conflict results in the forced termination of a minister.

Thus, it seems right that Kentucky Baptists have a ministry to help soften the economic, social, spiritual and emotional blow of a "forced termination."



KBC: Celebrating heritage and hope

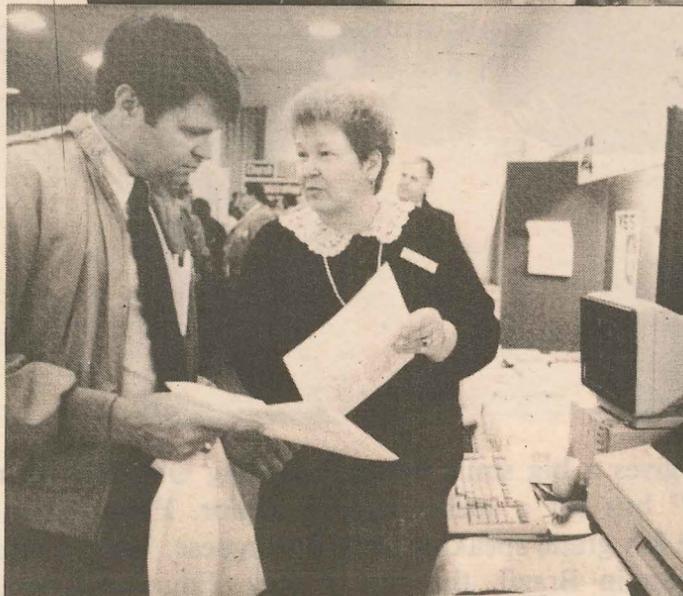


Top L: College BSU and Southern Seminary students performed "Epistles," a presentation of Kentucky Baptist history, at Wednesday's celebration event.

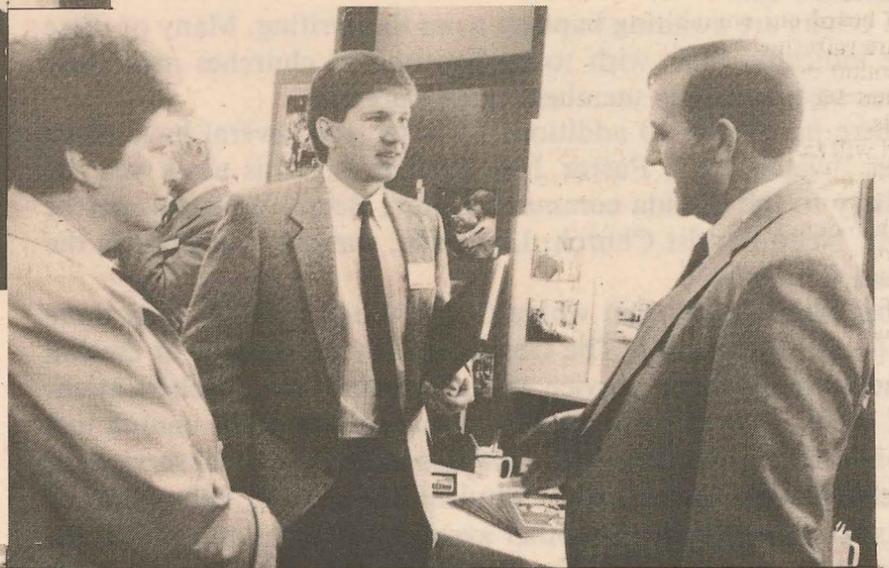
Top R: Timothy McCoy, Southern Seminary student from Tupelo, Miss., preaches from the word at the Pastor's Conference.

Left: Mrs. Anna Mary Byrdwell (l), consultant for Woman's Missionary Union, talks with WMU centennial chairman Mrs. Jane Allison of Georgetown.

Below: the exhibit hall was a popular spot where messengers gathered to renew acquaintances and share interests.



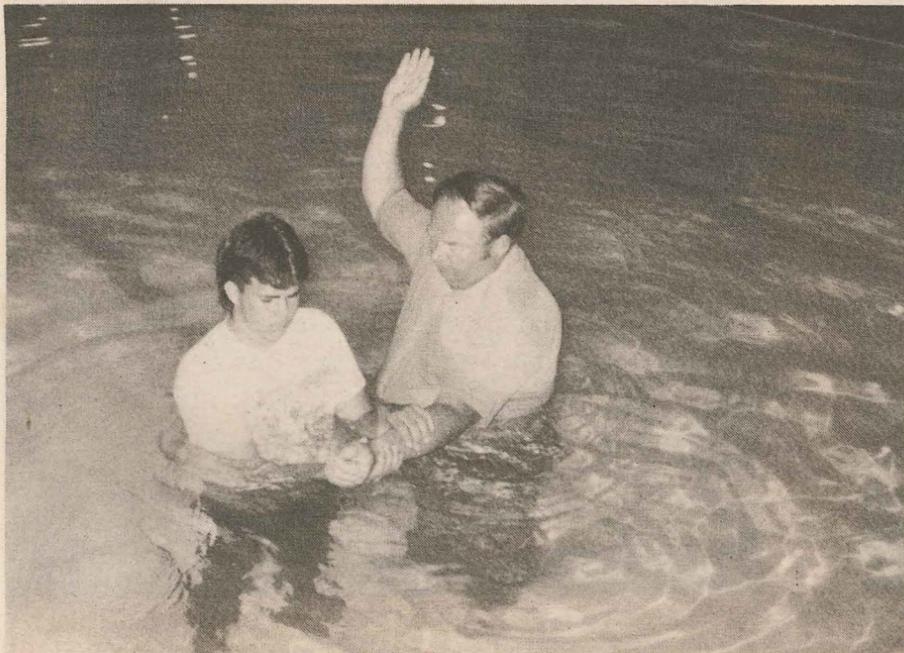
Above: Relying on a computer form, Mrs. Wanda Eaton, KBC Stewardship Department, tells a messenger how his church appropriated its Cooperative Program last year.



Right: Kentucky pastors chat with friends while browsing through the Baptist Bookstore exhibit.



Oneida Rejoices With 133 Accepting Christ In Three Months



Freshman Claude Crider & Pastor Joel Rackley

133 of Oneida's young people have accepted Christ as their personal Savior since August.

88 have followed with baptism and are now members of the Oneida Baptist Church. Many of these were baptized in the swimming pool of the school while the church's baptistry was being rebuilt. One seldom hears of a church wearing out its baptistry but it happened at Oneida! The baptistry was first used in November, 1949. Prior to that baptismal candidates were immersed in the river where the South Fork of the Kentucky River begins with the mingling of the waters of Goose Creek, Red Bird Creek, and Bullskin Creek.

45 others are awaiting baptism as of this writing. Many of these have indicated their wish to be baptized in churches near their homes so that family members can be present.

There have been 10 additions by letter and several have come under "watchcare". Pastor Joel Rackley is in his ninth year of ministry to the Oneida community. Rev. Benny Williams, pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, Louisville, was the evangelist in the annual fall revival.

The Bible teaches that where God's Word is proclaimed there will be spiritual results. The Gospel is daily proclaimed at Oneida in the morning chapel service with all students and teachers attending. Each evening there is a devotional service at the church just before bedtime. Students and staff also attend the usual services of the church. An active Baptist Student Union, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes are also other avenues of Christian growth. Bible is taught as a subject in the Oneida academic curriculum, every student having at least one year prior to graduation.



BSU President Eric Rigney leading a nightly devotion during the Kentucky Baptist Student Union Convention at the Galt House, Louisville, in September.

Eric enrolled at Oneida as a sixth grader and is now a sophomore. He is an Honor Roll student. His hometown is Lexington.

During his five years at Oneida, Eric has been very active in the touring choir traveling thousands of miles in concert. He plays the trumpet in the Oneida band.

Eric has had a number of memorable roles in Oneida's drama group during the past five years. In the three night performance of "The Sound of Music" he portrayed the youngest Von Trapp son. He had the role of "Linus" in both "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" and also in the musical-comedy "Snoopy" a year later.

With his many talents, and varied activities, Eric has found time to be an excellent student. Still a very young man, his faithfulness and maturity as a Christian was recognized this year with his selection as BSU president, one of the youngest ever. Basically BSU is a college and university student organization, but was organized at the high school level at Oneida in 1950. Each summer one or two students serve as summer missionaries somewhere in the United States. BSU sponsors many worthwhile activities while raising money for Christian missions.



Elmer Lessa gives a big smile before boarding Oneida's former "Greyhound" bus for a soccer trip. A senior, Elmer came to Oneida in the 8th grade speaking only Portuguese. He is a native of the Amazon in Brazil, the son of Rev. Eduardo Lessa, a Brazilian Baptist pastor. Elmer is an excellent student as well as an outstanding athlete. He will be remembered most of all for his genuine Christian witness on the Oneida campus. His sister, Ethel, graduated from Oneida in 1982 and after graduation from Cumberland College returned to assist her father and mother in their Brazilian work which includes a thousand student school in addition to the church.