

Out of despair came hope

Heaven to be sweeter for family without its sons

by **Kima Jude, State Correspondent**

Christmas holds special reminders, some poignant, bitter and sweet for John Cato, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Mercer Association, and his wife Avis.

It reminds them, of course, of the birth of the Son.

It also reminds them of the death of theirs. Both of them.

The Catos' two sons, Mark and Matt, aged 20 and 18, died four years ago in a car wreck while returning from Tennessee Temple University, where they were students, to their home in Manassas, Va. They had completed their finals for the semester and were traveling home for the Christmas holiday.

Cato, who has pastored in Virginia, Mississippi, Ohio and Kentucky, was then pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Nokesville, Va.

The brothers died upon impact when the rental car Mark was driving crossed the center line on Interstate 81 near

Marion, Va., colliding with a tractor trailer. A third passenger in the car later died from injuries suffered in the accident. A fourth passenger, Matt's girlfriend Sandy Rahilly, was sole survivor.

The brothers had both been valedictorians of their high school classes. "Both were witnesses," according to their father.

The year before he left for college, blond, blue-eyed Mark won 50 persons to the Lord, most of whom his father baptized. "He made me look good," his father recalls.

He had sought permission and founded a Sunday school class for boys aged nine and 10, which he taught. Starting from scratch he recruited members until enrolment grew to 40.

When Mark, who was preparing for the ministry, left for college, his brother took over the boys' class. Brown-haired, brown-eyed Matt also was song director at the church before he left for college himself. He enjoyed music. He sang and played the guitar and sometimes wrote his own hymns. He planned to be a lawyer, but he told his father he would be open to preaching if he ever felt led by the Lord.

They served the Lord with the days of their youth. They were the only days they had.

Consequently, their deaths wrought their influence on their family. The Catos also have two daughters, Marie and Melody, ages 20 and 18. Marie is a student at Liberty University and Melody is a high school senior.

They served the Lord with the days of their youth, the only days they had.

At first numb and then suffering with "indescribable pain," the Catos were "never angry at God."

"I never felt angry," Cato says. "It's a strange thing. I felt the spirit of God, the presence, more strongly than in my life."

They became better ministers, sharp turned by their own loss to others' grief and problems. There was more love, more concern.

In fact, amidst the deluge of mail sent from all over the country to the Catos after an account of the accident appeared in the Washington Post, including condolences from some foreign missionaries and President Reagan, came cries of anguish. The Catos found opportunities to share and talk, even making a special trip to Pennsylvania to see a couple with a similar problem.

"It opened a door to witness—young people as well as old," says Cato, who, after prayer, allowed his sons' deaths to illustrate God's grace and comfort in his sermons.

They attest to the brevity of life. Indeed, Cato's own sense of the brevity of life has been heightened to the extent that, except in the general sense, he no longer makes detailed long range plans or rigid mapped-out goals for his life.

His second son, Matt, had been very goal-oriented. He planned in detail. He

lifted weights on schedule. He read Proverbs by the calendar. One chapter a day, month by month. He made plans for each day. But he didn't know what a day might bring forth.

So Cato has learned to live "day by day—whatever the Lord wants."

It was with this directive in mind that he found himself in Kentucky and pastoring again in Mercer County, where he has served for the past two years. The Catos, who are native Virginians, made the move to Kentucky because they felt a change would be good for them.

Bill Hall, pastor of Gethsemane Baptist, Danville, South District Association, had been Cato's former pastor and friend. "We liked the church, and we liked the people—friendly, kind people."

They felt led to move to Kentucky, where Cato envisioned himself as an "encourager" of the saints, unconfined by a pastorate and free to spend time preaching revivals and doing supply work.

Bethel needed an interim pastor and he agreed to serve. Eventually he agreed to pastor the church.

Recovering from their tragedy has been "moment by moment," according to the Catos. "Because of something like this you survive a day at a time, an hour by hour," Cato says. But they affirm they have survived because "we depended on the Lord. His grace was sufficient."

And, even now, the wistfulness creeps in. Is there some comfort in the fact that two brothers, so close in age, who attended the same schools and served the same Lord, went to be with him together?

"I would have liked to have kept one." Cato admits. Which one didn't matter. "They've always been together, but I'd like to have had one. But it wasn't to be, and I accept that."

Because, ultimately, death has no sting and no victory. "Of course, we missed them, and we still do," Cato says. "But it makes heaven sweeter."



John Cato and his wife Avis experienced God's grace and comfort when their two sons were killed in an automobile accident Dec. 16, 1983.

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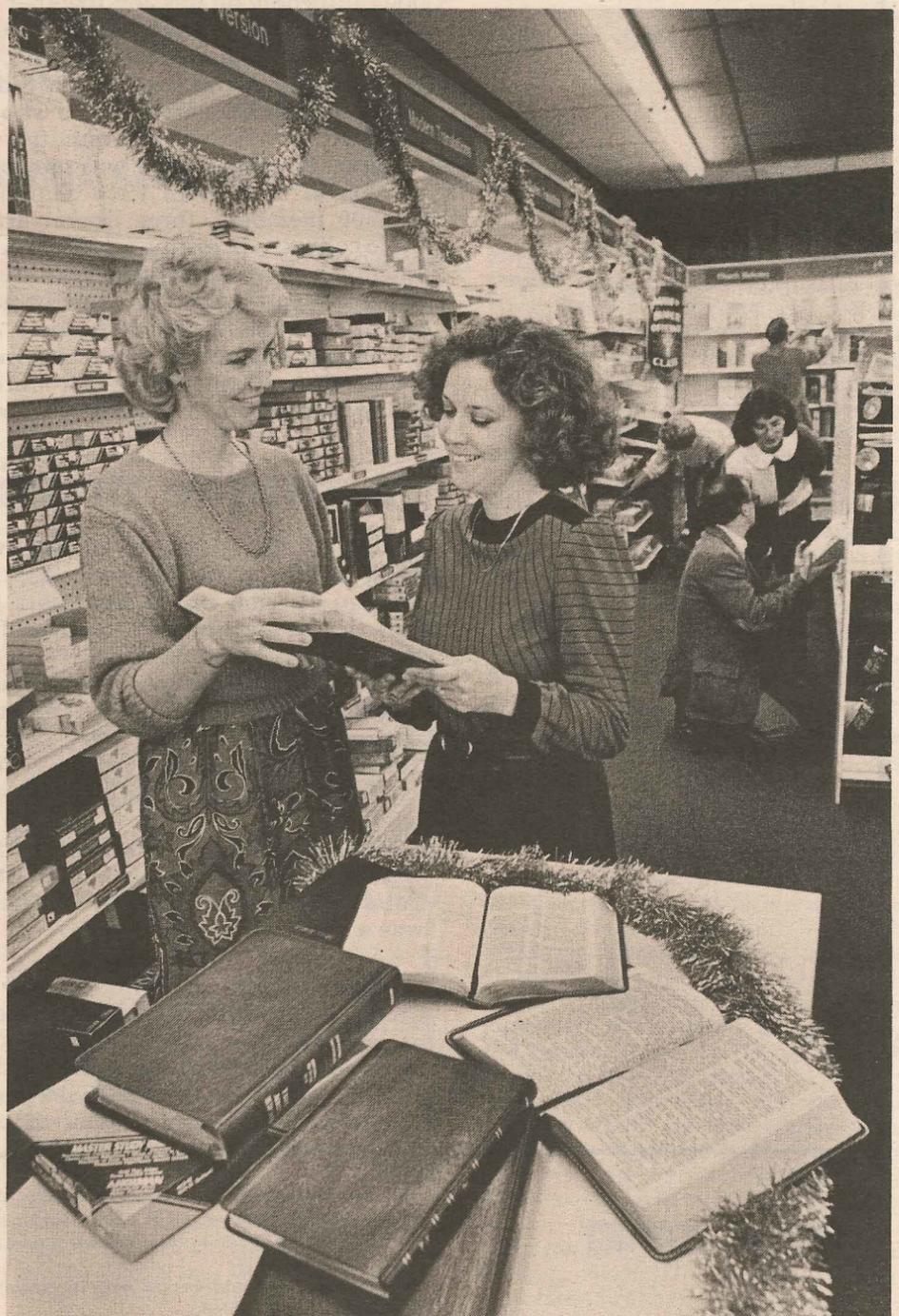
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December 8, 1987

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"...and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh" Matt. 2:11b. Today's Christmas gifts symbolize the wise men's gifts to Jesus. DeLee Isbill, sales counselor in the Owensboro Baptist Book Store, shows customer Debbie Oliver a selection of Bibles available for Christmas gift giving.

sanford's perspectives



Jack D. Sanford

Below is the third in a series of editorials by members of the board of directors of Western Recorder. This opportunity is given these men so they may express to Kentucky Baptists their sense of calling and stewardship in the work they do in supervision of the paper and its staff. Pastors, laymen and church staff people are on the board and all of them have a deep sense of responsibility to do their job in a Christlike manner. Writer this week is Glenn Mollette, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pikeville. He is serving his first term as a director of the paper.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve

Western Recorder was a publication I never saw while growing up. I remember as a teenager hearing fellow church members occasionally say something about an article they had read in Western Recorder. I once asked, "I wonder why I don't receive Western Recorder?"

One man responded to my question, "Our church only adds families to the subscription list, not individuals." Being a lone teenager in that church meant I didn't qualify.

That's the way it was until I was called to pastor a little country church that made sure every member received a copy of Western Recorder.

When I began receiving the paper it seemed as if someone had turned on the light. Every week I could read about what was happening in the life of Kentucky Baptists and other Southern Baptists around the country and world. Needless to say my perspective of Kentucky Baptists began to grow.

I began to visualize who we are, a cooperating body of people on mission together in the Lord's work. I suddenly realized more than ever before that I was not alone in the Lord's work, but in Kentucky alone there were multitudes of preachers and laypersons just like me who were serving the Lord in their own community.

I grew to understand I was part of a state convention of more than 2200 churches with over 700,000 members, three liberal arts colleges, a Bible college, a boarding school, a children's home and much more. All of these institutions depended upon one publication for Baptist news and that publication was Western Recorder.

Through Western Recorder I developed a love for Kentucky Baptist people from the Big Sandy to the Mississippi. I grew to love our state staff

and the people who serve our institutions. Without Western Recorder where would I be today? I would be very limited in my knowledge and probably in my appreciation for Kentucky Baptists.

In 1985 I was honored when the state nominating committee recommended to the state convention messengers that I be elected a member of the board of directors of Western Recorder. As a state convention-elected member it is my privilege to be a part of the greatest state paper in our Southern Baptist Convention. It is inspirational to work with the staff. It is also a blessing to work with the other members of the board who represent some of the finest people in our state convention.

However not only do I view my service on the board as a privilege but also as a very important responsibility to Kentucky Baptists.

I realize when messengers of the convention placed me in such a position they were exhibiting trust in me to represent them and all other Kentucky Baptists.

I love this paper and the people of the state it serves. As a director my goal is to be of any help I can to this paper and serve Kentucky Baptists responsibly.

Still yet, my desire and hope is that we might serve more of our people. While our subscriptions are more than 50,000, there are still untold thousands of Kentucky Baptists who do not receive the paper.

My awareness, love and devotion to SBC Cooperative Program ministries grew once I began receiving Western Recorder. I hope every church might consider what it might mean to their church and every person in their membership.

A unique mission effort

Under "Global glimpses" in the December 1987 issue of The Commission magazine from the Foreign Mission Board there is a brief glimpse into the unique character and profound miracle of the Lottie Moon offering.

The article compares the annual Christmas foreign mission offering of Southern Baptists to the nationally televised Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon for muscular dystrophy. That event was carried by more than 200 stations in a 21.5-hour telethon.

More than 100 celebrities took part and the total viewing audience was estimated at 100 million. Total money pledged by the end of the telecast was a record \$39 million.

In comparison promotion for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is not nearly as extensive, nor as expensive, nor supported by nationally and internationally known stars. The audience base is 14.6 million people who hold membership in Southern Baptist churches, with perhaps 40-50

percent of them inactive and non-participants in the offering.

The 1986 offering produced \$66.8 million from dedicated men and women who believe in winning the world to Christ and who back up that belief with generous contributions. They also believe in the Baptist way of cooperation to support the work of the Lord. They also believe in the missionaries who are serving Southern Baptists in many nations of the world.

"Global glimpses" closes with this comment, "No wonder some other denominations look with awe at this phenomenon. It's what can happen when voluntary giving grows out of deep commitment."

This year the goal is \$75 million and the opportunity to share in what must surely be the most astounding event in modern Christian missionary support is yours and mine. Let us not fall down but continue to show the love of Christ, not only in what we say, but also in what we do with what is in our purse.

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baptist forum

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

Baptists are in the reformed tradition

It is generally amusing (but sometimes disturbing) to read various claims made by opposing parties in the present SBC debate. Both sides, the fundamentalist and the liberal/moderate, wish to lay claim to a certain measure of antiquity in order to present their opponent as the one who has moved away from historic Southern Baptist belief.

There would be great shock were they both to learn neither are standing where our forefathers stood. The liberal/moderate and fundamentalist alike would be astounded to learn the founder of Southern Seminary and his colleagues were Calvinists in the purest sense of the term. They believed and taught the God-centered doctrines of grace, viz., total depravity, unconditional election, definite atonement, irresistible grace and perseverance of the saints. Our Southern Baptist heritage lies in the mainstream of historic Reformed Protestant Christianity and stood opposed to the man-centered (Arminian) theology so prevalent today.

Although I am not a fundamentalist I grant they have in common with our forefathers an unbending commitment to the authoritative word of God and thus an appeal to the Bible is for them an appeal to absolute truth.

As for the liberal/moderate faction who will not let something like God's word stand in their way of ordaining

women pastors let them note what Boyce said: "It is no hardship to those who teach here to be held up to sign the declaration of their principles; for there are fields of usefulness open elsewhere to every man and none need accept your call who cannot conscientiously sign your formulary."

Robert L. Brown
Louisville

The local association also is autonomous

Many words have been written concerning the recent vote of a local association in Tennessee to expel a church from its membership. The majority of expressions I have read seem to emphasize a precious Baptist principle, the autonomy of the local church, has been under attack. However I have seen little expression concerning another Baptist principle. That is that the local Baptist association is autonomous too.

Few would deny that a local church has the right to call a woman as pastor after having sought the will of God. A church having called a woman as pastor would do so, one would assume, with the conviction it was biblical and within the will of God.

Seemingly other churches and individuals in the same local Baptist association held different convictions. Will we applaud and affirm one autonomous body for standing on their convictions and, at the same time, condemn and

criticize another equally autonomous body for expressing and standing on theirs?

If each of the autonomous bodies in Southern Baptist life should never draw lines in matters of inclusion and exclusion of its members, then every membership committee or credentials committee of each autonomous body should immediately resign, never to be organized again. Some might think this would be a good idea but not this Baptist.

Timothy L. Waits
Glencoe

A note to Gov. Wilkinson

We want to offer our sincerest congratulations to you upon your inauguration to the position of governor of our beloved commonwealth. Our cooperation is with you as we labor together to make ours a better place to live.

An integral part of our quest toward the betterment of the commonwealth of Kentucky is our unequivocal opposition to a statewide lottery. Lotteries amount to little more than regressive taxes on the poor, add deceptively little to state treasuries and exact a high payment in the moral fabric of society.

You may be assured the Freedom Association of Baptists (in Clinton and Cumberland counties), as well as Baptist women and men across our commonwealth, are prepared to spare no ef-

fort to fight this ill conceived proposal with every ounce of conviction we can muster. This you must know.

Please know also that our prayers are with you as you seek to guide our great state into new areas of achievement and growth.

Freedom Association of Baptists

Ministers' Wives retreat a delight

A word of praise and thanks is due the Minister-Church Relations Department and the WMU of the Kentucky Baptist Convention for their splendid foresight and preparation in the Ministers' Wives retreat held at Cedarmore Oct. 30-31. As the wife of a minister to a local congregation I appreciated the sensitivity and awareness of those denominational workers to my own particular needs and perceptions of life and ministry.

The retreat showed careful planning and preparation. Opportunities for spiritual and personal growth were varied to suit many tastes and needs. To reflect on our situations away from our local communities and to share in fellowship with women from similar circumstances was a welcomed respite. It is my hope and desire that this retreat will become an annual event with more and more women across the state coming to participate.

Emily C. Tuck
Louisville

Communication key in Brotherhood success, director discovers

by Todd Deaton, Staff Writer

Robert Y. Simpkins may have only been at his new Kentucky Baptist Convention post one week, but he already realizes the importance of communication in the success of Brotherhood work.

A primary goal for Simpkins, who succeeded William L. Kaufman Dec. 1 as state Brotherhood director, is promoting prayer support among Kentucky Baptist laymen.

"If we can get men involved in an active prayer network, not only will individual organizations grow numerically and spiritually, but the whole church will also flourish," Simpkins stresses.

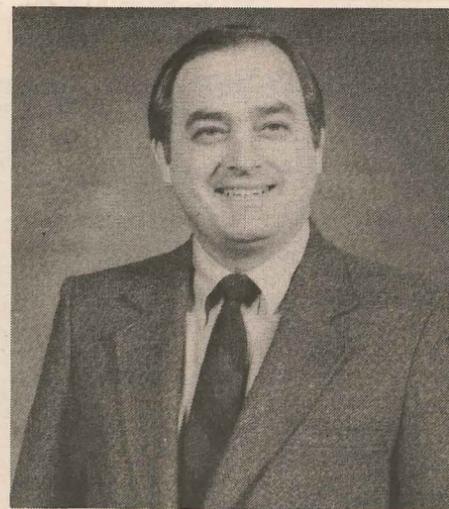
"This belief comes from a pastor's heart that has had a solid group of men who would pray for him and the ministry of Christ's church faithfully and regularly," he confides.

The 41-year-old Paducah native has been a minister 17 years. He was pastor of South Fork Baptist Church, Hodgenville, since 1981. His previous Kentucky pastorates include Lola Baptist, Lola; Sulphur Spring, Mexico; Pleasant Valley, Uno; Knoxes Creek, Linwood; and First, Forest Hills.

Simpkins also wants to foster better communication between church Brotherhood directors, pastors and regional/associational leaders regarding future programming events in all Kentucky Baptist churches.

"A part of this effort includes involving the steering committee of the state Brotherhood convention—comprised of eight regional representatives and the coordinators of the Disaster Relief, Baptist Builders, Missions and Lay Renewal programs—in better communication of programming objectives within the local churches," Simpkins asserts.

To accomplish this objective Simpkins plans to ask each director to communicate on a regular periodical basis with each associational Brotherhood director and director of missions in his region to discover specific needs and



Robert Y. Simpkins

and ministry possibilities.

Simpkins acknowledges the major contributions of former Brotherhood leaders like Forrest Sawyer, KBC Brotherhood Department director 24 years, and Calvin Fields, his associate 16 years. "These two men have provided a beautiful foundation for developing fellowship among men and boys.

"And, Bill Kaufman, department director from 1983-87, did a miraculous work in 4½ years in providing organizational structures through which Brotherhood work can be accomplished more effectively," he affirms.

Simpkins has been active in Brotherhood work in Kentucky as coordinator of the volunteer disaster relief organization, a group he started three years ago. More recently, he has also founded and coordinated the volunteer Kentucky Baptist Builders.

Brotherhood programs have always been an important avenue of ministry for Simpkins. While he was Brotherhood director for Pike Association, the fellowship led the Southern Baptist Convention in Brotherhood organiza-

tion starts. He has also been a regional director for the KBC's Brotherhood Department and served on the state convention's steering committee.

"My feeling regarding Brotherhood work is an attitude about the work of the laity in general," Simpkins comments. "I believe God calls every Christian to be a minister and involved in that calling is the nature of our spiritual gifts.

"God aids us by providing us with talents and abilities to perform specific ministry tasks. Because of this conviction, I think Brotherhood organizations should involve men and boys in efforts of reaching people for Christ, utilizing their individual gifts," he explains.

The new KBC Brotherhood Department director looks forward to doing Brotherhood work on three levels—in state, out of state and overseas. He hopes that his department and the Brotherhood organizations of individual churches will be strong in supporting the KBC's Direct Missions Department goal of starting 400 churches in Kentucky by 1990.

"This will require a core group of trained disaster relief personnel and qualified construction crew members," Simpkins admits. "In other areas, we can be more effective with our revival teams and lay renewal teams.

Hopefully, the mission projects of these Brotherhood ministry teams will begin to involve more high school Baptist Young Men groups as well as Royal Ambassador chapters.

Simpkins also wants to see increased support from churches and associations for the KBC's two Royal Ambassador camps, RABRO and Jonathan Creek.

"These camps have much to offer," he states. "So many of our missionaries can go back to RA meetings, counselors and camps where they first felt the call to ministry. We can ill afford to let this ministry decline in any form."

Brotherhood has a strong foundation in its RA program, according to Simp-

kins. He is excited about the concept for Baptist Young Men, an organization for boys grades 9-12 created this year, as well as new literature to support both of these programs. "Perhaps the Baptist Young Men's program can eliminate part of the loss of young men in the age group between Royal Ambassadors and Brotherhood," he anticipates.

This desire reveals another of Simpkins primary goals—to increase all Brotherhood programs by involving more men and boys in working in ways that would be seen as dramatic, spiritual renewal and deepened commitment for missions.

"Men are traditionally more doers than learners," he analyzes. "So, I hope to provide programming that will allow them to be involved actively in doing the work of the kingdom by building churches across the state.

"I would like to see the average layman's attitude about who he is in relation to God improve from the standpoint of understanding his own call to being active in ministering to other people," Simpkins claims.

Married to the former Anita Louis Yates of Kuttawa, Simpkins is the father of two children, Kimberly Lynn, 19, a sophomore at University of Louisville, and Robert Young Jr., 17, a senior at LuRue County High School.

Simpkins was called into ministry while serving in Air Force in Korea in 1969. There, he gained an understanding and a heart for missions that continued to plague him when he returned to the states.

But his wife did not feel led to live in a foreign country. He knew God did not want him to go to the field without her. "Gradually, I came to the awareness that God was more concerned about my availability for ministry than the locality of my service," he recalls.

That conviction is the message Simpkins most hopes to instill in Kentucky Baptist laymen during his tenure as Brotherhood director.

mountains to the mississippi



Leon Simpson
President
Clear Creek Bible College
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek comment

Fulfilling his call

One of our recent graduates, Chris Carroll, was reared in Florida and North Carolina as the oldest of six children. When he was nine years old he accepted Jesus as his savior in a country Baptist church.

God began dealing with Chris about the ministry in 1974 shortly before he married. For four years he told the Lord he was not good enough to preach and pastor. During these years Chris served in the U. S. Air Force.

Finally, on Dec. 17, 1978 in the Sunnyside Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., he gave his life totally to God's service, was licensed and ordained by the Westside Baptist Church, Great Falls, Mont.

Upon being discharged from the Air Force he began searching for a school which could give him preparation for the pastoral ministry. He went to a Baptist liberal arts college but became very discouraged.

Chris states, "At this time in my life and ministry I needed help in the practical aspects of the ministry. Clear Creek provided me with an education that a liberal-arts college was not equipped to do. I did not want to just earn a degree, but prepare for the gospel ministry. As a pastor I was constantly faced with the dilemma of being confronted with many problems and not being trained to handle them. I realized the importance of being specifically trained in the ministry."

Chris graduated from Clear Creek after three years. He was such an outstanding minister I asked him to become our Family Life Center director. He is married to the former Toni Shelton whose grandfather attended Clear Creek many years ago. Toni became my secretary and has served me and our school beautifully and efficiently. They have two sons, Mark, 12, and James, 10.

After one and one-half years of service at Clear Creek, Chris has accepted the call to the pastorate of First Baptist, Belfry, Pike Association. We are all sad because we are losing Chris and Toni. However, we thank God for both of them and their dedication to the Lord.

Clear Creek exists to serve Kentucky Baptists and men like Chris Carroll. All of us at Clear Creek realize we enjoy the fellowship of these men and their families for just a short time. They must go from us to serve the Lord and Christ's church. This is how Chris, and all of our graduates, fulfills his call.

personnel

Roy E. Boatwright, director of missions for Franklin Association, was honored Nov. 22 by Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green, which dedicated its new educational facility as the Boatwright Educational Building.

Boatwright, who was presented a plaque at a Thanksgiving dinner, was the pastor of the church three years after retiring as director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Sunday School Department in 1976. He served the convention 23 years before becoming Living Hope's first pastor.

The 10-year-old church presently has 700 enrolled in Sunday school with an average attendance of 400. It has three Sunday school periods, two worship services and a \$200,000 budget. Bill Compton is the present pastor.

Boatwright's wife, Ella Faye, is a former minister of education in Kentucky and is a children's Sunday school consultant for the KBC. She is a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Seminary.

Pat Brown of Ormsby Heights Baptist Church, Long Run Association, celebrated 36 years as church organist in October. Mrs. Brown began playing the organ for the worship services, revivals, weddings and cantatas at age 15.

She is married to Darrell Brown and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Short of Louisville.

Shirley Boatman has been called as minister of youth at Cove Baptist Church, Long Run Association, where Roger Hodge is pastor. She is a student at Southern Seminary.

Baptist Hospitals Inc. recently announced the promotion of **Charles W. Cox Jr.** to vice president of Baptist Hospitals Foundation. Cox, a native Kentuckian, has been with the corporation two-and-a-half years.

Thomas M. Meinecke resigned as pastor of Faith First Baptist Church, Pike Association, Oct. 18 to pastor a new mission near Morehead. The mission is sponsored by First Baptist Church, Morehead, Bracken Association.

David W. Young has been called as minister of youth at First Baptist Church, Morgantown, Gasper River Association. Young is a junior at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and is from Ames, Iowa. Ken Willoughby is pastor.

Hillsdale Baptist Church, Long Run Association, recognized **Marlene Baird** for 13 years of faithful service as organist.

Timothy Lacey, was called as minister of music Oct. 28 by Northside Baptist Church, Princeton, Caldwell-Lyon Association. David Royalty is pastor.

Eric Lethco has been hired as minister of youth at Parkwood Baptist Church, Long Run Association. He is a student at Southern Seminary. Kenneth Whitehouse is pastor.

Evergreen Baptist Church, Franklin Association, honored **Mrs. Mary W. Strange** in a service at the church. She has taught Sunday school for more than 50 years at Evergreen.

O. S. Murphy, pastor of Barren River Baptist Church, Warren Association, has announced his retirement from the full time pastorate effective Dec. 31.



Boatwright



Watkins

The 63-year-old Russellville native has been a pastor more than 35 years, having been ordained at Fellowship Baptist Church, Clarksville, Tenn., in March 1952.

He has served on numerous associational committees and has been a moderator twice. He has also been on the executive board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Murphy has pastored churches in Illinois and Kentucky. He will reside in Bowling Green and will be available for supply and interim work. He can be reached at 126-B Woodmont Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42101.

Fred E. Richardson retired Nov. 1 after 41 years of ministry in 13 churches. He anticipates serving in revivals, participating in music ministry, holding interim pastorates and teaching seminary extension courses. He now lives at Rt. 2, Box 153-D, Gilbertsville, KY 42044.

James W. Watkins, pastor of Elk Creek Baptist Church, Taylorsville, tendered his resignation effective Dec. 1. He accepted the call of Emory Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga., and began his pastoral duties there Dec. 6.

Watkins and his wife Suzanne and daughters Emily and Elizabeth moved to Spencer County July 7, 1985 from Walnut Grove Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn., where he was both founder and pastor of that congregation.

During his pastorate at Elk Creek Watkins has been vice president of the Spencer County Ministers Association, 1985-86, and was on the budget and promotion committee for Long Run Association, 1986-87. He is founder and chairman of the Kentucky chapter of the Southern Baptist Alliance and is president of SBC Mainline Ministries Inc. He also has gained considerable attention freelancing religious articles to the secular press.

Watkins has served churches in Louisville and in Hanau and Morfelden, West Germany. As a Memphis, Tenn. pastor, he was chairman of Cordova Ministers Association, president of Germantown Ministers Association, chairman of the interfaith committee of Shelby Association, delegate to the 1984 Baptist Peace and Friendship Tour of the Soviet Union and member of the Memphis ACTS board of directors.

A Memphis State University graduate, Watkins attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and received his MDiv from Memphis Theological Seminary.

revivals

Sacramento Baptist Church, Daviess-McLean Association, held a revival Nov. 16-22. There were eight professions of faith and several rededications.

Randall Stallings Sr., who became pastor of the church Oct. 25, preached the revival messages and the music was led by Larry and Mike Neal.

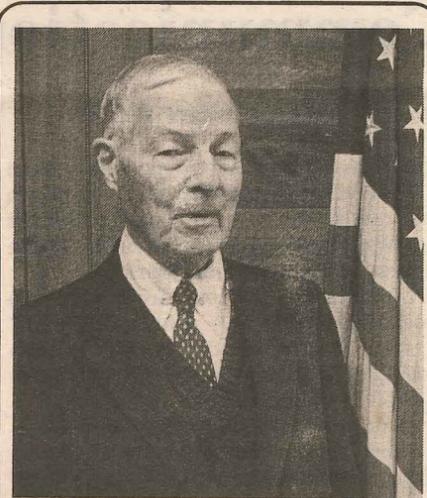
deaths

Robert Bozarth, 69, of Drakesboro died Nov. 2 after a short illness. He was born in Muhlenberg County, was a Baptist minister 37 years and was interim pastor at Epley Baptist Church in Logan County. His Kentucky pastorates included churches in Muhlenberg, Logan, Henderson, Hopkins, Pike and Crittenden counties. He was also a former director of missions for Muhlenberg County.

Roy Lyons, 81, of Jeffersontown died Oct. 12. He was a native of Breckinridge County and a retired Baptist minister. He was pastor of North Frankfort and Thornhill Baptist churches, Franklin Association; Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Shelby County Association; and Paynesville and Grace Baptist churches, Long Run Association.

Survivors include his wife, the former Velma Corbin; a son, Richard T. Lyons; and four grandchildren.

Walter Hayes, 93, member of Ormsby Heights Baptist Church, Long Run Association died Sept. 25. He was a member of the Louisville church since Mar. 8, 1925 and had been a deacon 53 years. Hayes also served on the executive board of Long Run Association from 1966-81.



Congressman Siler, exBaptist leader, dies

Former congressman Eugene E. Siler Sr., 87, of Williamsburg, died Dec. 5 at his daughter's house in Louisville.

As a Republican, Siler's political career included representing Kentucky's 8th Congressional District, 1954-64; four years on the Kentucky Court of Appeals, 1945-48; and an unsuccessful campaign for governor in 1951 and for U. S. Senator in 1968.

Siler, an eloquent lay preacher and devoted Southern Baptist, was president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention 1952-52—then known as the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

Although he was an early opponent of U. S. involvement in Vietnam, Siler served in the Navy during World War I and was a captain in the Army during World War II. He received both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Kentucky.

Siler is survived by his wife, Lowell Jones Siler; a son; three daughters; a sister; and seven grandchildren.

Retiring Lyons looks toward fulfilling future

by Joy Jordan, Staff Writer

Retirement for some people connotes rest and relaxation—well deserved lazy days of fishing or strolling barefoot down a sunny southern beach—a slowing down of the frantic pace of life.

Not so for Dwight Lyons.

A campus minister for almost 27 years and presently director of metro Louisville campus ministry, Dwight Lyons plans to take early retirement, leaving his office at the Kentucky Baptist Building, Middletown, in mid-January. But by no means is he retiring, or even retreating from his avid interest in other people, particularly students, the arts, travel, education and volunteer church work.

Lyons reflects campus ministry has played a vital role in his life since his college days. As a student at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, he worked as BSU president, a summer missionary and reporter for the state BSU council.

Feeling called to serve God vocationally as a college junior, Lyons pursued the pastoral role, receiving a MDiv from Southern Seminary, Louisville. After pastoring churches in New Albany, Ind. and Jonesboro, Tenn., however, he found his greatest appeal lay more with high school and college students. Lyons went back to Southern to earn his MA with an emphasis in campus ministry and counseling.

For nearly three decades since Lyons has been actively involved in campus ministry: 1961-69, Eastern Kentucky

University; 1969-77, University of Louisville; and 1977-present, director of metro Louisville campus ministry.

In his present position Lyons has focused primarily on seminary student interns who, in turn, work with local campus BSU groups. "There's a lot of fulfillment in working with people so ready to go out in the world and minister," Lyons commented.

At times, he admits, he has missed the day in, day out interaction with campus life. But many of his interns have remained close personal friends who keep him abreast of their development as pastors, campus ministers, foreign missionaries....

The most fulfilling aspect of his job, Lyons avowed, has been "the relationships you build and the joy you see in their reaching out and ministering. It multiplies what one can do."

As he dreams now of how he will spend time after retirement, Lyons projects a busy schedule. Continuing education heads the top of his list, whether for credit or seminars. "Education has to continue throughout life, not just end when you get a degree," he asserts.

A college senior who was a BSU president once came to see him after returning from a job interview in which he was offered a paltry salary.irate, the student fumed, "I have wasted four years of my life! I could have been a truck driver and made twice as much money."

"Where have we missed the mark with you?" Lyons responded. Education should be more than a meal ticket, he

stresses, more than a stepping stone to getting rich.

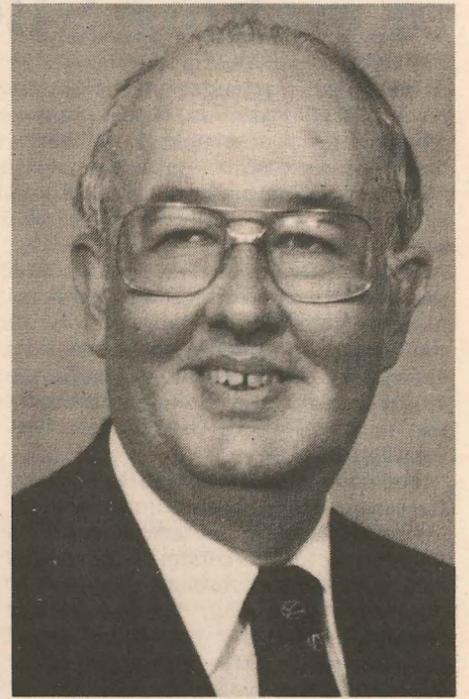
Just as he has tried to make his students more aware of worldwide needs, education remains crucial, too, among everyone in areas such as hunger. Lyons insisted, "We spend so much time piddling over what people believe or don't believe—and let the world pass by."

Volunteer work with church and community also tops Lyons' retirement agenda. Quite "person-oriented" by nature, Lyons plans to continue reaching out and giving of his time and resources. An enthusiastic supporter of the arts, he plans to volunteer at Speed Art Museum, for example. He recognizes "so many ways to contribute to the local church...and so much untapped potential in retired persons."

And he may write a book. Although his favorite authors include Fredrick Buechner and C. S. Lewis, his own book might focus on the subject he knows best. "I got pretty huffy at how little is available for campus ministers," he remembered.

Lyons' eyes sparkled as he disclosed an additional priority for the spare time that will soon be his: travel. In the past he has globetrotted to Scandinavia, Europe, South America, the Caribbean, the MidEast. But Hawaii, Alaska, China and Russia remain on his "must see" list.

Reflecting on his career Lyons af-



Dwight K. Lyons

firmed "all of my experiences in campus ministry in 27 years have been very positive."

One might predict his retirement like his career will be a positive experience—both for himself and others.

Kentuckians follow challenge to Samoa as mission volunteers

by Conda Abott
State Correspondent

Baptists believe Christians are called to proclaim the gospel to all the world. A northern Kentucky couple has taken this calling in the most personal way: they are in one of the most outer parts of the earth.

Harold and Hattie Stephens are on volunteer missions working for the Samoan Baptist Academy, Southern Baptist-sponsored school. The couple was appointed in August 1987 and will serve in Samoa until June 1988.

The Stephenses have been active in the Northern Kentucky Baptist Association over 40 years. Now, their call is to be instructors at the Baptist institution on the Pacific Island.

Harold and Hattie Stephens have five children all of whom have graduated from colleges or universities in our state. Three of the Stephenses' children graduated from Georgetown College.

Harold has been on church committees, representative to Northern Kentucky Association, trustee of Georgetown College and the SBC Annuity Board.

He has experienced serious heart trouble that required open heart surgery. A lifetime dream was fulfilled when he graduated in 1986 with honors from Northern Kentucky University with a degree in geography. He had been an employe of Cincinnati Bell 30 years.

Hattie Stephens is a remarkable Christian woman with many unique traits. She was a teacher's aide in the Ft. Thomas school system for many years. Hattie found time to work in the First Baptist Church, Ft. Thomas, as a preschool teacher in Sunday school and with senior adults. She has been involved in mission trips with her church.

Both she and Harold were part of the Kentucky-Kenya partnership for a two-week trip.

The true uniqueness of this mission work lies in the story of how the Stephenses found out about the need in Samoa. During the summer of 1987 they went to Oklahoma City for an Annuity Board meeting. They decided to go on to Glorieta, N. M. Baptist Conference Center after the meeting. At Glorieta they heard about Samoa. The next morning, they learned about Mission Service Corps. Col. Sam Pearis, a retired Air Force pilot, discussed American Samoa and the desperate need for teachers! At this point, Harold and Hattie Stephens knew God was giving them a direct message.

Under the direction of Jack Comer, Home Mission Board appointed missionary on duty in Samoa, Hattie and Harold have entered a volunteer contract to teach classes for grades seven and eight, which Harold will instruct. Hattie will conduct class for the first grade. They will remain in Samoa until June 1988.

"Now we all know that a contract always has two sides. Both parties make certain commitments. We committed to Dr. Comer our limited skills, our best efforts toward the goals we'll learn more about soon, and about a year of the remainder of our lives. Dr. Comer committed to us a one room apartment with a stove, refrigerator and a bed, for which we provide linens. Most importantly, Dr. Comer has offered to us the opportunity to influence the lives of children and hopefully their parents and families by a Christian witness in the classroom and in the community that they might not otherwise experience. We believe we have a strong advantage in this contract," says Stephens.

ANYTIME
... is a good time to watch ACTS

baptist news in brief

Rogers requests assistance in making SBC nominations

Adrian Rogers, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, is seeking recommendations of people to be nominated for key SBC committees.

As convention president, Rogers will appoint the key committees that will serve during the 1988 annual meeting, June 13-15, in San Antonio. He appoints the committee on committees and resolutions committee "in conference" with the two vice presidents, the credentials committee "in consultation" with the vice presidents and the tellers committee "in consultation" with the SBC registration secretary.

The committee on committees names the committee on nominations, and any other committee not otherwise provided for; the resolutions committee processes and reports all resolutions submitted at the annual meeting; the credentials committee oversees registration; and the tellers committee is responsible for the tabulation of votes taken at the convention.

The president asked that all recommendations be sent to him personally by Feb. 1 at Bellevue Baptist Church, Box 40837, Memphis, TN 38174-0837. The envelope should be marked "SBC Committee Nominations."

Recommendations should include the full name of the nominee, including cor-

rect spelling, the mailing address, including ZIP code, and the home and business telephone numbers, including area code. The recommendations also should include whether the nominee is a pastor or a layperson. If the person is other than a pastor, but is involved in church/denominational work, the title and place of employment should be included. For laypeople, the business or occupation and place of employment should be included.

In addition, the recommendations should include the nominee's church affiliation, church mailing address, total church membership, amount the church gave to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program during 1987-88 and the percentage of the church budget the Cooperative Program gifts represented. The nominations should include the number of baptisms in the church in the 1987-88 year, whether the nominee plans to attend the SBC in San Antonio and the state convention in which the nominee lives. People submitting information should include their own name, title, mailing address and home and business phone numbers. (BP)



National Fellowship of Baptist Men associate director M. B. Howard is at the podium with Ron Boswell, Foreign Mission Board director of volunteer enlistment behind him, at the fellowship's first meeting Nov. 20-22 in Memphis, Tenn. The group channels vocational and avocational skills of laymen into missions service.

Alternative seminary plan explored by Alliance

Reacting to recent turmoil at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, the moderate Southern Baptist Alliance has voted to study the feasibility of starting a new Baptist seminary in the southeast.

A task force will study the possibility of using professors now at Southeastern as the core faculty for the new seminary or divinity school, said Alliance president Henry Crouch.

The new institution would be based on the Alliance's founding principles, including inclusiveness for women and minorities and cooperation with other Christian faiths, according to the Alliance's executive committee vote, Crouch reported.

Crouch said he had spoken with Thomas Hearn, president of Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N. C., about creating a divinity school on that campus. He also reported discussions with officials at Mercer University, Macon, Ga.; Stetson University, DeLand, Fla.; and the University of Richmond, Va.

The vacant campus of Tift College, Forsyth, Ga., was mentioned as a temporary home for a "seminary in exile" should faculty and students agree to move from Southeastern to a new location.

The Alliance task force is headed by

Mahan Siler, pastor of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, Raleigh, N. C. The task force is to study the possibilities, with a report scheduled for the Jan. 11 meeting of the Alliance board.

Action by the Alliance followed weeks of conversation about establishing an alternative to Southeastern, which came under control of conservative trustees in October. (BP)

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Southern students, faculty write in support of alienated churches

Pastors of three Southern Baptist churches that were "disfellowshipped" from their associations in October have received letters of encouragement from students and faculty at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

A total of 160 letters were mailed to Nancy Sehested, pastor of Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.; Dale Lewis, pastor of Brushy Mountain Baptist Church, Checotah, Okla.; and Richard Vaughn, pastor of Fletcher Memorial Baptist Church, Lumberton, Tex.

The president of the campus group that sponsored the letter-writing campaign emphasized the letter writers do

Tennessee journalist to edit Home Life

Charlie Warren, associate editor of the Baptist and Reflector, newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, has been named editor of Home Life magazine.

Warren, 40, will assume his new duties in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Family Ministry Department Jan. 1.

"We are looking forward to Charlie helping us move into a better position of communicating with younger families. We must minister to a variety of families, and we hope to reach more young couples," said Gary Hauk, family enrichment section manager.

Warren has been associate editor of the Baptist and Reflector eight years. He previously was associate editor of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission's World Mission Journal.

He was a missionary journeyman in Africa two years and was assigned as publication coordinator for the Baptist Publishing House in Lusaka, Zambia.

Home Life has been published by the Sunday School Board for 40 years and has a monthly circulation of more than 725,000. (BP)

10,000 volunteers to serve in missions?

When Baptists settle their differences and get back to God's business they will have 10,000 lay mission volunteers serving around the world, predicted the former Southern Baptist Convention president who led in launching Mission Service Corps.

Jimmy R. Allen, who was elected SBC president when the convention adopted Mission Service Corps—the army of lay mission volunteers—as a key component of Southern Baptist mission efforts in 1977, spoke at a 10th anniversary breakfast of MSC during the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Ft. Worth.

About 400 current and former MSC volunteers heard Allen say, "I believe that if we hadn't been caught up in controversy in the past few years we would have 10,000 volunteers serving now."

Texas MSC coordinator Sam Pearis said 2198 MSC volunteers have been assigned from 1977 to October 1987, about 40 percent of them from Texas. About 1000 adults of all ages are serving now, he said.

Allen, president of the SBC Radio and Television Commission in Ft. Worth, said MSC volunteers have done the equivalent of about \$1 million in services and support through the American Christian Television Network. (BP)

not necessarily agree with the theological positions of the churches or their pastors but wrote "because of their belief in local church autonomy and the priesthood of the believer."

While reasons for the expulsions varied, all three incidents involved issues of local church autonomy and priesthood of the believer, said Kelley Milstead, a theology student from Rockingham, N. C., and president of the seminary's Women in Ministry organization. "We wanted to show there is a broad base of support (for the pastors)," she said.

Prescott Memorial was disfellowshipped by Shelby Baptist Association because the church called a woman as pastor. Brushy Mountain was excluded from Muskogee Baptist Association because its pastor was divorced and had remarried. Emmanuel Baptist Association refused to seat messengers from Fletcher Memorial because the church had beliefs "not consistent with the Southern Baptist interpretation of Scriptures." Beliefs the association found questionable included healing, casting out demons, speaking in tongues and allowing dual membership. (BP)

Baptists in Zimbabwe undeterred by slaughter

The slaughter of 10 Pentecostal church workers and six children in Zimbabwe Nov. 25 brought sorrow to the entire missionary community, but will not affect Southern Baptist work in the country, according to Foreign Mission Board administrators.

Zeb Moss, associate director for eastern and southern Africa, spoke with Southern Baptist mission personnel in Zimbabwe after 20 antigovernment rebels attacked a Pentecostal agricultural mission in a nighttime raid.

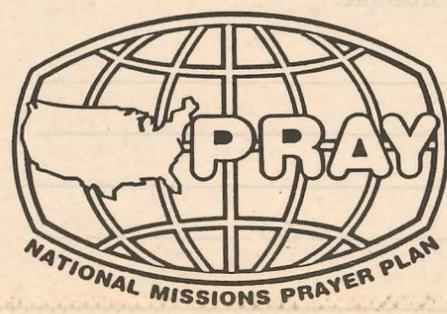
Most of those killed were Zimbabwean citizens, but David Emerson, 35, and Karen Alice Sharon Ivesdahl, 34, were identified as Americans. (BP)

Men's fellowship leader experiences heart attack

Ed Bullock, executive director of the National Fellowship of Baptist Men, suffered a heart attack during the first national meeting of the missions organization in Memphis, Tenn.

Bullock was stricken at home in Memphis in the early morning hours of Nov. 21 following the first sessions of the three-day meeting. He was rushed to Baptist Memorial Hospital East where an emergency angioplasty was performed.

His prognosis is good, doctors said. He is expected to return to work after the new year. (BP)



27-year missionary dispatcher succumbs

Elbert L. "Cotton" Wright, business manager of the Foreign Mission Board from 1953 until his retirement in 1980, died Nov. 27 in Richmond, Va. after a long illness. He was 75.

"May the good Lord—and your luggage—go with you" was the standard farewell the Richmond native gave to some 6000 missionaries during his career at the board. But handling travel, moving and visa arrangements for workers headed overseas was only one of Wright's various responsibilities.

Once the missionaries were in place, Wright supervised the U. S. purchase of equipment and supplies they needed for their homes and for chapels, schools,

hospitals and publishing houses.

During much of his tenure, Wright also supervised office personnel, Foreign Mission Board offices and property, mailing and shipping to missionaries and record keeping. With the growth of the Southern Baptist foreign missions program, his supervisory work today is divided among several full time staffers.

He is survived by his wife, Maxine Wills Wright; two daughters, Mrs. Janice McClendon and Mrs. Susanne Warren, both of Raleigh, N. C.; six grandchildren; two sisters and a brother. (BP)

Retired executive in Penn.-Jersey passes

G. W. Bullard of Spartanburg, S. C., retired executive director of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South New Jersey, died Nov. 29 after an illness of several months. He was 76.

He led the Pennsylvania-South Jersey Convention and was editor of the Penn.-Jersey Baptist from 1972 until his retirement in 1978.

He was the father of George W. Bullard Jr., director of the missions division of South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Bullard was director of missions in Delaware Valley Association, Philadelphia, in 1965-1972. Earlier he was a pastor in North Carolina and Maryland. He was a native of Abbottsburg, N. C.

Survivors include his widow, Mozelle Bridgers Bullard; daughters Carolyn Rock of Baltimore and Judith Longshore of Spartanburg; son George W. Bullard Jr. of Columbia, and eight grandchildren. (BP)

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Seeing the interim pastor in our midst

by Harold B. Kuhnle

Every church at some time or other will be without a pastor. Pastors are called to other pulpits, are away for an extended period of time for various reasons and pulpits become vacant because the Lord has called his servant home. It is usually a trying time for a church to be without a pastor, however the situation can be eased by securing the services of an interim pastor.

This is wisdom for several reasons. An interim pastor eliminates the necessity for a weekly search for someone to conduct services. The scheduled services of

the church will be carried on and the ordinances observed with regularity. To have an experienced hand at the helm gives the congregation a sense of stability and continuity. The church is assured of having someone in whom people can turn and call upon in times of emergency and stress. The sick and the hospitalized will be visited, and when sorrow comes it will not be a complete stranger ministering to the family.

Who is an interim pastor? It is usually a pastor who, having reached the age of retirement, desires to continue his ministry without the larger responsibilities he carried in his younger years. He is not a "has-been" in the sense he can no longer function efficiently. Quite the contrary, in most instances he is a person ripened in experience and at the very peak of his ability to declare the word and give counsel. Over the years he has gained invaluable experience in dealing with people, church issues and distressing circumstances.

Seasoned and mellowed by years and experience the senior interim pastor is in a position to minister and guide a church during a critical period. Happy and fortunate is the church that secures the services of a skillful and dedicated interim pastor.

Where does a church look for an interim pastor? There are several avenues of information regarding someone qualified to act in this capacity. The executive secretary or director of missions of

the local association will know of such men who are available. The state executive secretary will also be in a position to know of available men as will the state representative for the Annuity Board. Churches in the immediate area may have retired ministers in their congregations and individual members may know of some possibilities.

As a practical matter, the interim pastor should reside in or near the location of the church since weather and communication can often become an unforeseen problem.

What action should the church take upon locating a possible interim pastor? When someone has been found, conferred with and he has indicated his interest in becoming an interim pastor he should be invited to conduct services on a given Sunday. If all goes well, the responsible group should arrange a conference where a clear understanding is established as to what responsibilities the interim pastor will have. This understanding should also include what he will not be obligated to do. Should he be requested to minister to the church on a full time basis, he should be paid adequately. If he is requested to serve as a part time pastor, compensation should be agreed upon. Ordinarily this would consist of a weekly honorarium plus mileage.

The obligations of a part time pastor should be spelled out. They normally consist of the following:

- conducting Sunday services;
- leading mid week prayer service;
- officiating weddings and funerals;
- hospital visitation;
- working in close cooperation with the pulpit committee; and
- seeking the general welfare of the church.

If both parties are in agreement, the responsible committee should then make a suitable recommendation to the church, which would then take action.

In preparation for his ministry as the interim pastor he should be given the following items and information:

- the church constitution and bylaws;
- a copy of the church budget;
- an up-to-date membership roll;
- a detailed weekly schedule of all church organization meetings; and
- a current listing of hospitalized and homebound church members.

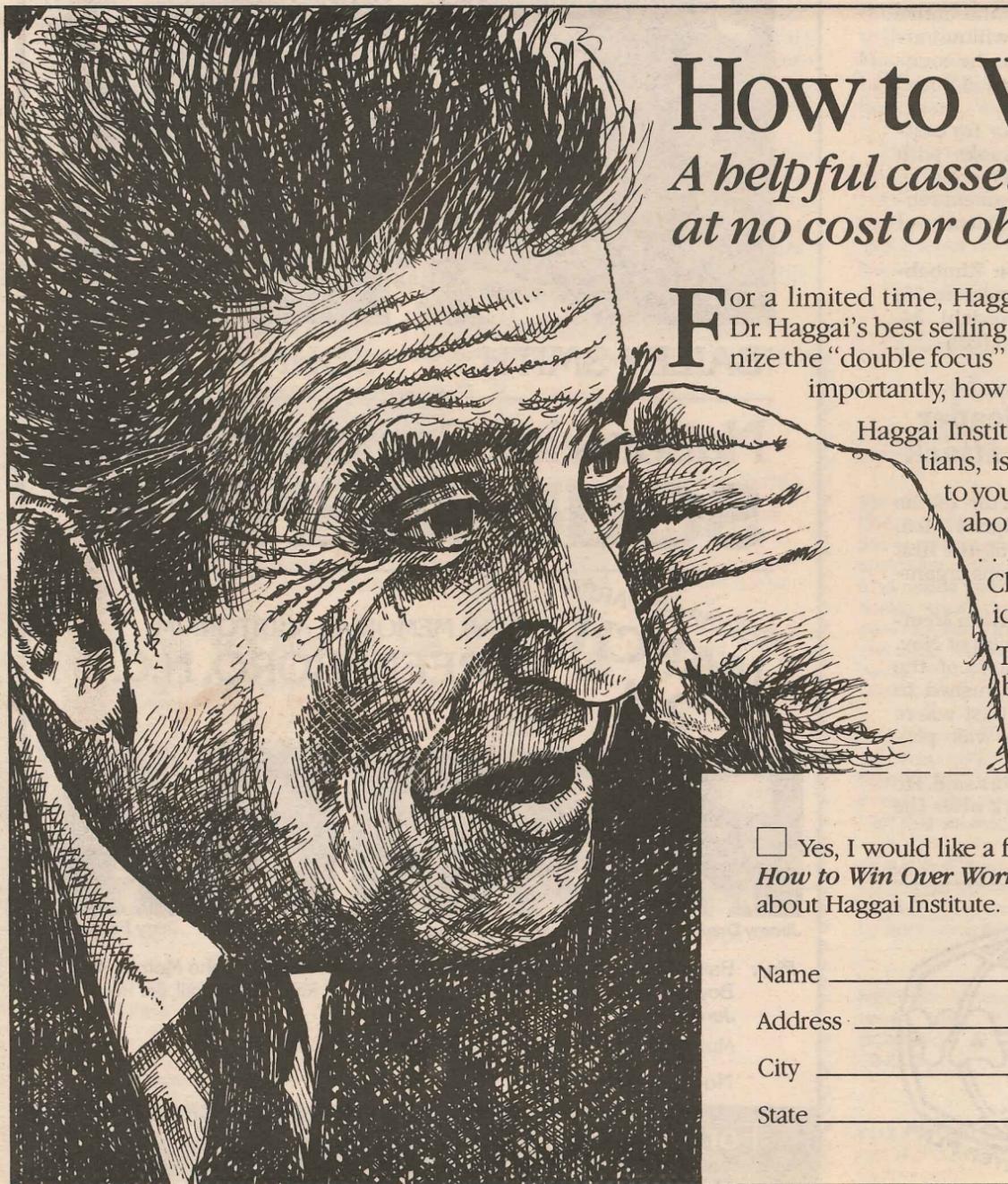
The membership of the church should be notified when an interim pastor has been secured. This is usually done through the weekly newsletter and a news release in the local newspaper. A reception for the interim pastor and his family at the close of his first Sunday evening service is a gracious gesture on the part of any church.

Editor's note: Harold B. Kuhnle, is a well-known Kentucky Baptist minister. After retiring from the pastorate of Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, he has completed 23 interim pastorates.



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Getting ready

Getting ready to make a trip, go to school, attend church, go to work, entertain guests or have a celebration all involve a number of things. First, one must plan and make some decisions. Next, one probably will need to determine the cost, especially if it is a trip or college or entertainment. Then comes the time to decide what purchases must be made, what to wear, and what preparations are necessary for the special occasion.

Now December is here and everywhere one turns there is evidence that people are getting ready for Christmas. As we get close to Dec. 25, the pace of getting ready can become hectic. Have you noticed how much earlier getting ready for Christmas begins now? I can remember when the stores did not put up Christmas decorations and begin the holiday promotions until after Thanksgiving Day. Next, they started promoting Christmas after Halloween. This year I actually noticed Christmas decorations and sales promotion the last week in October.

Right now Baptist Homes for Children is getting ready for Christmas. At Spring Meadows, Glen Dale and the temporary shelters at Dixon and Elizabethtown preparations are in full swing. Staff and children are all involved. Special events are planned. There will be Christmas parties, dinners, skits, nativity scenes, etc. Several weeks ago child care workers (houseparents) and other staff assessed the needs of each youth and made a list of possible presents. Churches and church groups (Sunday school classes and WMU groups) help provide presents for each youth in our care. The Women's Auxiliaries for the homes are a great help in providing presents and helping wrap them.

The cottages are now all decorated and there is an air of joy and excitement in each home. In all of the getting ready for Christmas, our staff has a wonderful opportunity to share the true Christmas story with the children. You see, for many children in our care this is their first opportunity to really learn about the meaning of Christmas. In Baptist Homes for Children these youth are experiencing the joy of getting ready for Christmas where there is Christian love, safety and a spirit of giving.

As you complete your preparation for Christmas, remember to pray for the children in our care. Your support helps them know the meaning of Christmas and the love of Christ.

Beards receive service award

Mr. and Mrs. William R. Beard received Campbellsville College's Distinguished Service Award at the annual Alumni Banquet Friday, Nov. 20 at Homecoming '87.

The Beards were presented their plaque by president W. R. Davenport. Beard is director of missions for Taylor County. Mrs. Beard is a former school teacher.

Davenport said it was a "privilege to recognize someone special in many ways," as he made the presentation, noting the Beards "represent many" who do service for Campbellsville College.



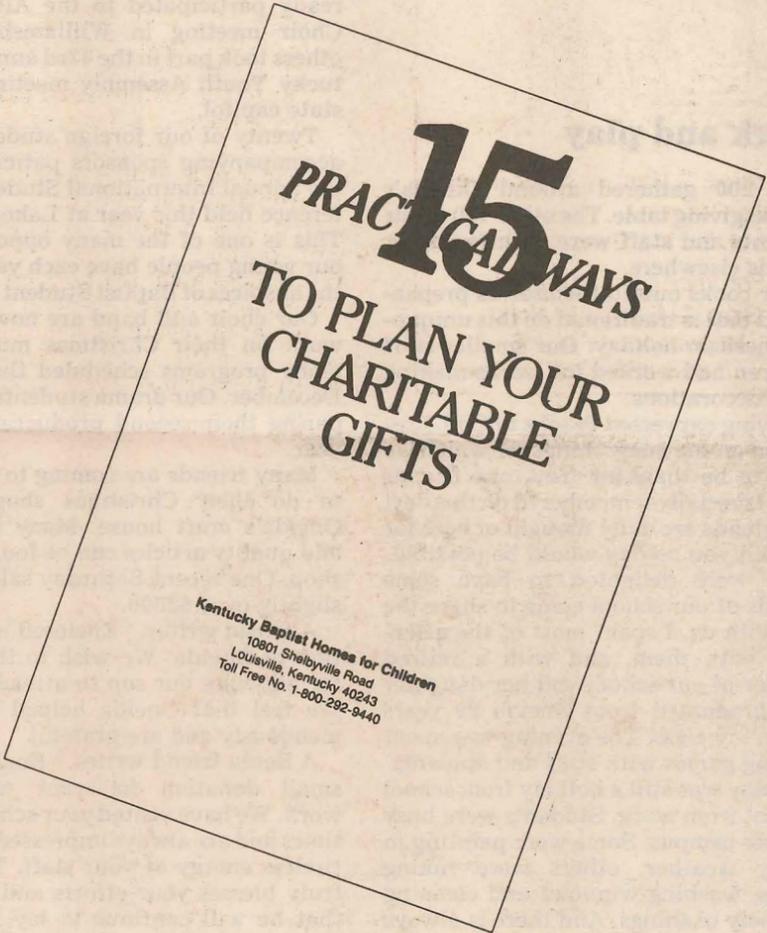
Frances Niceley Beard, left, and her husband, William R. Beard, right, received the Distinguished Service Award from Campbellsville president W. R. Davenport.

I know that many of you are concerned about what you can do for Jesus every day of your life. Especially as you approach the celebration of His birthday. This time of year gives one a better perspective of available resources for helping Him.

I would like to help you with your decision-making process. I have available for you a booklet entitled "15 Practical Ways To Plan Your Charitable Gifts." It is free with no obligation on your part.

If, after you have read the booklet, you need further help I will be happy to assist you any way I can. You can call me on our toll free number 1-800-292-9440 and we can set up an appointment.

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Barkley Moore
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oneida journal

Work and play

Over 200 gathered around Oneida's Thanksgiving table. The other 400 of our students and staff were with family or friends elsewhere.

Our cooks outdid themselves preparing all that is traditional on this uniquely American holiday. Our smaller staff children had worked for weeks making table decorations.

Having expressed thanks to God, I reflected on the many things for which we have to be thankful. You, our friends were especially remembered on this day, but friends are daily thought of here for without you no day would be possible.

We were delighted to have some friends of our school come to share the day with us. I spent most of the afternoon with them, and with a retired teacher of our school and her daughter who graduated from Oneida 29 years ago in my class. The evening was spent playing games with staff and students.

Friday was still a holiday from school but not from work. Students were busy all over campus. Some were painting in balmy weather, others were raking leaves, washing windows and cleaning a variety of things. And there is always work to be done on the farm.

Our office is always an active place. Often all four phone lines are busy at

once. A small group of young people came to visit from Aetna Grove near Greensburg. Other guests included a mother and her son from a Paris family that have been friends and active supporters of Oneida through three generations and nearly 70 years. Another group of visitors included the only child of a recently deceased 1931 OBI graduate with her husband and two children. Seven of her aunts and uncles also graduated from Oneida.

Our boys varsity basketball team entered the Thanksgiving season with four wins and one loss. The girls varsity record is 1-1 as is the boys junior varsity and freshman teams. Our boys middle school team has a record of 6-4.

Our swimmers and divers are very hard at practice. Our wrestling team has had several impressive scrimmages and will have the first of 13 meets soon.

Oneida's varsity academic team has a record of 7-5 and the middle school academic team record is 5-2.

Some of our young people have already participated in the All-District Choir meeting in Williamsburg and others took part in the 43rd annual Kentucky Youth Assembly meeting in the state capitol.

Twenty of our foreign students with accompanying sponsors participated in the annual International Students Conference held this year at Lake Barkley. This is one of the many opportunities our young people have each year under the auspices of Baptist Student Union.

Our choir and band are now hard at work on their Christmas music with many programs scheduled throughout December. Our drama students are preparing their second production of the year.

Many friends are coming to visit and to do their Christmas shopping in Oneida's craft house. Many beautiful and quality articles can be found in our shop. One recent Saturday sales netted slightly over \$2000.

A friend writes: "Enclosed is a donation to Oneida. We wish to thank you for allowing our son to attend Oneida. We feel that Oneida helped him tremendously and are grateful."

A Berea friend writes: "Enclosed is a small donation for your wonderful work. We have visited your school many times and are always impressed with the tireless energy of your staff. The Lord truly blesses your efforts and we pray that he will continue to lay it on the hearts of people to support Oneida."

Come see Oneida during this Christmas season.



H. C. Chiles
Clear Creek Bible College
Pineville, KY 40977

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR DEC. 13, 1987

Life and work series

Experiencing joy and peace

Phil. 3:20-21 By the grace of God Christians have been made citizens of heaven with privileges, prospects and joys that infinitely surpass anything which this world has to offer. The realization and appreciation of our heavenly citizenship should cause us to live up to the standards of heaven instead of conforming to the standards of this world.

As citizens of heaven, we have the joy of anticipating the return of Christ, who is coming back to receive us and take us to our eternal abode. There will be a great thrill in seeing Christ appear, as well as an amazing delight at being transformed into his likeness.

Phil. 4:4-9 The admonition to "rejoice in the Lord always" enforces a duty which Christians are prone to neglect. We may not be able to rejoice in ourselves or in our circumstances, but we can and should rejoice in the Lord and in what he is doing.

Anxiety is a disquieting solicitude about the temporal things of life. It is a pernicious sin, which is divinely forbidden. It indicates that one has distrusted God, ignored his love and forgotten his power. If you want to overcome worry, concentrate on the present, have faith in God, talk to him about everything and commit the future to him.

Paul emphasized the tremendous importance of substituting wholesome thoughts for injurious ones. All Christians are urged to cultivate elevating thoughts, or to meditate on those things which are worthy of praise. As one's mind dwells on such clean things he becomes more Christlike.

Phil. 4:12-13 Through divine enablement Paul was able to stand up and take anything that came his way in life. He could overcome the temptations of Satan, endure sufferings, discharge his duties and meet death unafraid. Christ is the source of all power for victorious living and acceptable service.

International series

Jesus' genealogy, birth

Matt. 1:17-19 Joseph and Mary were betrothed, but not married. Among the Jews in that day the tie of betrothal was as sacred as that of marriage and infidelities before marriage were considered as sinful as those following marriage. Death was the punishment.

It was a shock to Joseph when he was informed Mary was to become a mother. Joseph did not know the details of Mary's conduct, but he naturally thought she had been unfaithful to him. But, Mary was conscious of her innocence and the angel had announced to her the cause of her conception. Joseph did not know what to do, but his love for Mary constrained him.

Matt. 1:20-21 An angel appeared to Joseph and proclaimed to him a message from the Lord, namely, "that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." The angel assured Joseph that Mary had not transgressed and his reputation could not be impaired by their marriage. **Matt. 1:22-23** Isaiah's prophecy, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel," had to be fulfilled in God's own time and manner. In the fullness of time, which was also in the hour of man's greatest need, God sent forth his Son. He came for the purpose of bringing eternal life to all who would receive him as their Savior.

Matt. 1:24-25 Joseph was united in marriage with Mary. God's word plainly states that Mary retained her virginity until after the birth of Jesus. Mary was not sinless, but she was chaste and upright. Mary possessed numerous traits which were highly commendable, but it is wrong to attempt to exalt her to the place of a mediator between God and humanity.



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

on mission together

No shoot-out today

For the past several years the question has surfaced following our convention meeting: "Why are we not having the conflict that is so apparent within the Southern Baptist Convention?"

While I make no claim to "all knowing," I will attempt to answer that question.

First, however, a disclaimer. None of us is perfect. Not our institutions or agencies. Not the executive board. Nor the individual churches or associations. Not any of us who have leadership responsibilities within any of the above. Thus, the answer to the question is not because every organization or person operates perfectly.

Even so, one of the answers to the leading question may be: **Kentucky Baptist agencies, institutions and organizations are doing a reasonably good**

job and there are no issues serious enough within them to justify major discontent from a large constituency.

A second reason for "peace among Kentucky Baptists" may be related to the **growing emphasis on involving more Kentucky Baptists in missions and evangelism. The Kentucky-Ohio linkup, the Kentucky-Kenya partnership and Mission Kentucky** have not only helped to keep us on the "main thing" but are involving folks in these cooperative efforts for the first time in their lives. Their testimonies attest to this.

A third reason may be that our state convention seems blessed by **having few, from either side of the SBC division, who seem determined to stir things up.** This is not to say that there are not those who, when there is disagreement, will not stand to propound and defend their position. Or to call our attention to injustice, dishonesty, or a wrong direction. **We need and must continue to affirm that.** However, it appears that Kentucky Baptists have a way of discouraging

those who would seek to disrupt, without just cause, the fellowship of Kentucky Baptists.

A fourth reason may lie within the **clergy.** These are very difficult days for pastors. Contemporary dishonesty and immorality by well known ministers have added a dark shadow over the "called of God." The "electronic church" has created an unrealistic expectation of what all churches "ought" to be, creating greater stress for the minister who "can't live up" to those and other expectations of congregations. Many ministers are just plain tired—too tired and committed to their local churches to spend the necessary energy to become significantly involved in another "cause." There is only so much time and energy. Most ministers simply have all they can "say grace over" in their own churches.

Yes, there is "peace" in Kentucky Baptist life, and whatever the reasons, there are lots of folks who like it that way. I happen to be one of them.

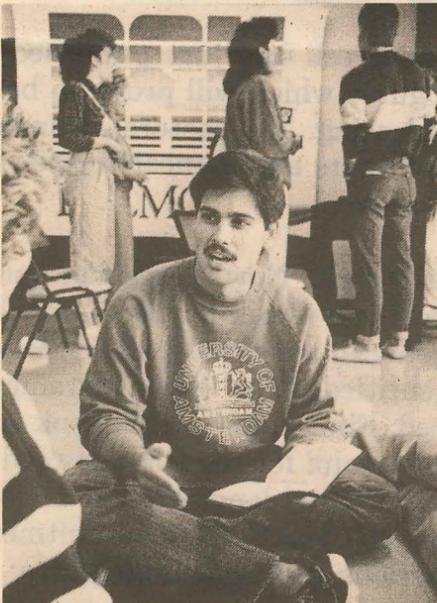
Southern Baptists doing what they do best

"Come, let us adore him..."

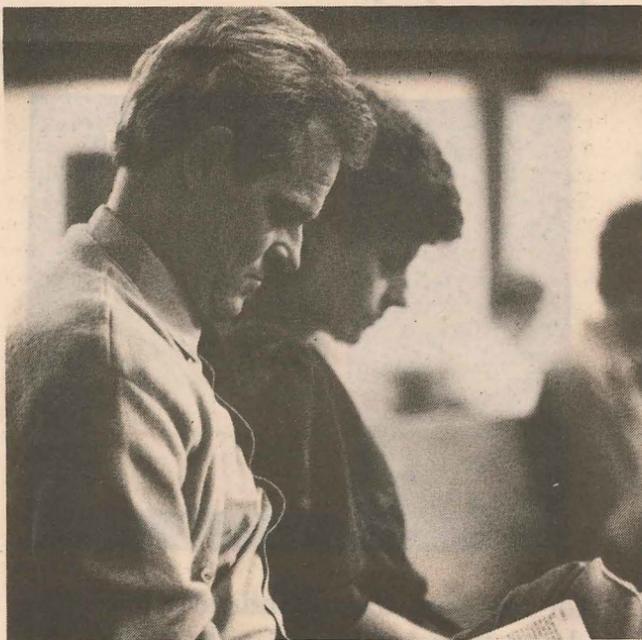


Left—Children's choir members accompany themselves with rhythm blocks during a Wednesday night service at First Baptist Church, Clinton, Miss.

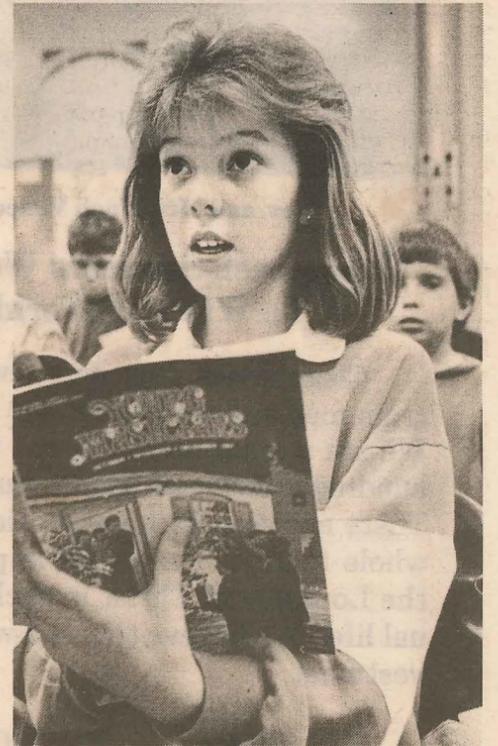
Above—Mary Beth Hanbery and adult choir members at First Baptist, Clinton, Miss. rehearse their Christmas music.



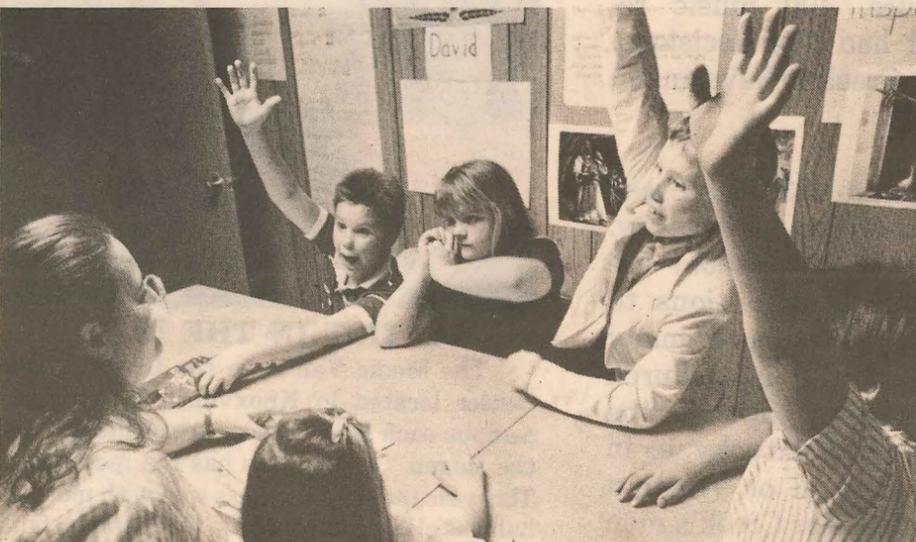
Mark Slaughter, a native of Owensboro, Ky., and Baptist Student Union president at Belmont College in Nashville, is minister of music at Gladeville, Tenn. Baptist Church.



Kenneth Cantrell prays during a Sunday night worship service at Whorton Springs Baptist Church, Smithville, Tenn.



Emily Glaze of Clinton, Miss., sings with fellow choir members during a youth choir rehearsal.



Trae Silliman, Tavia Keith and Anthony Walters are participants in a church training group at Whorton Springs Baptist Church.



Members of the adult church training group at Whorton Springs Baptist Church, Smithville, Tenn., close their Sunday night session in a prayer circle.



CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE



Rev. and Mrs. Hugh Vancel

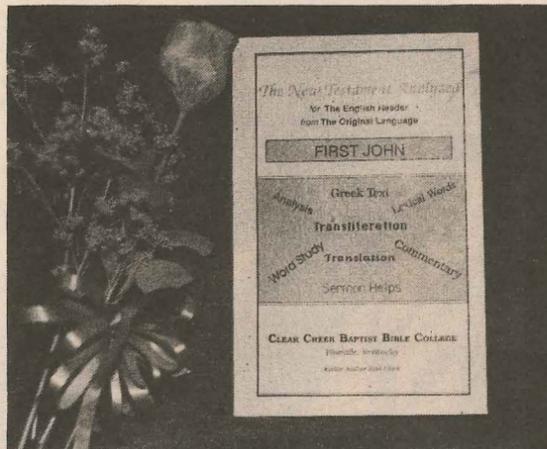
A Look At An Alumnus

The Rev. Hugh Vancel preached in chapel recently at Clear Creek. He attended Clear Creek in 1933. God's ministry has led him into 17 states. He has organized 44 churches over the past 56 years in Tennessee, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Virginia, Illinois, and Kentucky. According to Rev. Vancel, he is now retired at age 81. However, he marries an average of 5 couples per week, officiates 3 to 4 funerals per week, serves as guest speaker somewhere almost every weekend. He also hosts a one-hour religious radio broadcast each Sunday afternoon. Clear Creek recognized Rev. and Mrs. Vancel with an appreciation plaque on the "Hugh Vancel Day" in chapel.

Clear Creek Students Working To Win The World

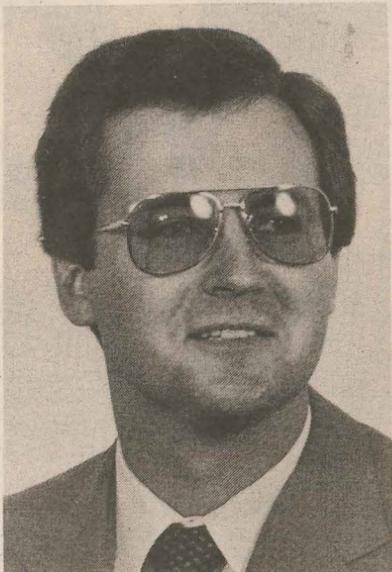
Clear Creek has and always will train men and women for the ministry. We are a family institution. Over six-hundred individuals live on our campus. There are year-round activities for the whole family. Emphasis is placed on the Lordship of Christ in each individual life. We believe this is a worthy investment.

Our students at Clear Creek are ministering to the needs of people each week. The Christian Service Report

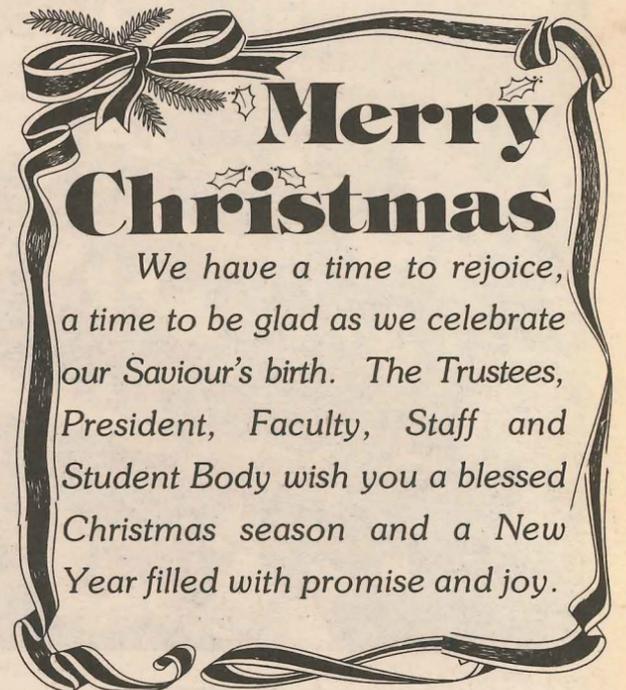


for the past month indicates our students traveled 55,046 miles, delivered 989 messages, taught 635 classes, made 1,097 visits, distributed over 1,100 pieces of literature, 400 music responsibilities and had 174 decisions. God is using Clear Creek to have an impact on our world.

Presently, there are 423 Clear Creek Alumni pastoring churches in Kentucky. The graduates from our school are making tremendous contributions to Kentucky Baptists, as well as in many other states. Whether it is a church in a small coal mining town in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky, or in the heart of the Central or Western Kentucky flatlands, Clear Creek's men and women are there ministering to the needs.



SCOTTIE SUMNER
President of the Student Body



We have a time to rejoice, a time to be glad as we celebrate our Saviour's birth. The Trustees, President, Faculty, Staff and Student Body wish you a blessed Christmas season and a New Year filled with promise and joy.

Clear Creek has just published a helpful guide which will prove to be a great blessing to pastors, Sunday school teachers and earnest laymen in years to come.

Earl Clark, New Testament professor at Clear Creek for 15 years, has just produced a helpful tool for Bible study entitled "The New Testament Analyzed, First John". This book is a study of I John for the English reader from the original language. It is consistent with Clear Creek's commitment to the serious study of the scripture.



BAPTIST IN THE BLOOD!

The Medic Van from the Regional Blood Center located in Knoxville, TN arrives on campus each fall. Classes are challenged with the slogan "which class has the most heart." This year the 4th year class won with more than half the class giving blood. Our campus family participates and helps others in need of the "Gift of Life" both physically and spiritually!