

W. R. Davenport of Campbellsville to step down from 20-year presidency

Campbellsville (Ky.) College president W. R. Davenport has announced plans to retire Dec. 31, 1988.

At the close of his tenure Davenport will have served 20 years as president of the four-year liberal arts college in central Kentucky.

Davenport told trustees his health is a "major consideration" in his retirement. "I want to leave this position while my health and vitality are strong," Davenport told the trustees.

He has suffered from rheumatoid arthritis for over 20 years and said he had noticed some "gradual physical deterioration" over the last two years.

"For the past six months or so the disease has intensified and is becoming significantly more painful and limiting," he said.

However, Davenport said another reason for his early retirement is the "sense of God's leadership." He told the trustees, "I sense that it is now within God's time to let a new leader assume this responsibility and lead the college into the 21st century."

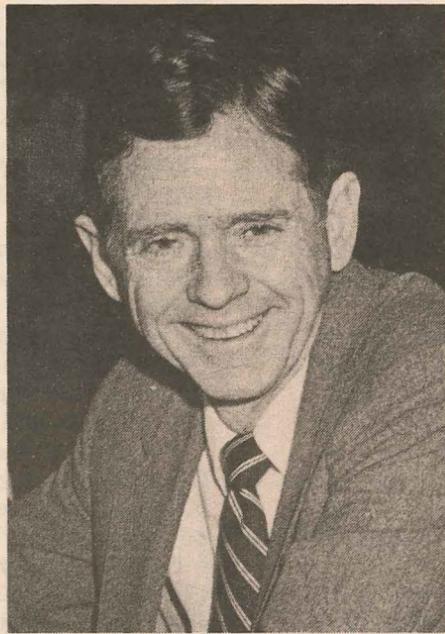
Davenport told the trustees, contingent on the desires of the board and the new president, he would like to serve in some post at Campbellsville College following his presidency. His major interest would be public relations and image enhancement and/or fund raising.

Davenport told the trustees, "It is an honor, and I 'count it all joy' to have had the special privilege of serving this board and this college as its chief executive officer and of working with these dedicated colleagues for 19 years."

He told the board he wanted "my final year" in the presidency to be "as forceful and productive as it is possible for me to make it."

Davenport, who turned 62 Dec. 8, said his retirement could have been postponed until he was 65 or later, but he felt the time was now.

Davenport has been in higher education 40 years as a teacher and educator. He was educated in elementary and secondary schools in Missouri, his native state, and received his AB degree in



W. R. Davenport

chemistry from the University of Louisville.

His MS degree in science education and his EdD in administration and supervision are from the University of Arkansas.

He has been a teacher, principal and professor in Arkansas, Indiana and Missouri. His immediate position before becoming president of Campbellsville College was professor of education and chairman of the Department of Education at the University of Michigan, Flint.

Davenport said many of his plans for Campbellsville College have materialized. He told the board, "Significant among these is reinforcement of a college with strong academic quality possessing the vital margin of an equally strong evangelical Christian orientation and commitment."

Davenport and his wife, Janet, have four children, Liz Wilson, Marty Davenport, Mary Davenport and Susan Stewart. They have seven grandchildren.

ACTS announces 1988 preachers

Four Southern Baptist pastors have been selected as 1988 preachers for programs on the ACTS television satellite network.

Ed Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., was named preacher for the morning edition of "The Baptist Hour." He will replace James Flammig, pastor of First Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

Preacher for the evening "Baptist Hour" will be Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Tex. Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church, was preacher in 1987.

The two "Baptist Hour" speakers also will share responsibilities on "Baptist Hour" radio programs. Gregory will be the radio preacher the first six months, and Young is to be preacher the last six.

Preachers for two other programs will be Frank Pollard and John Bisagno.

Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., replaces Gregory on "Word of Life."

Bisagno continues as speaker for the long-standing "Invitation to Life" evangelistic program. Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., has been preacher on the revival program since it began in 1984.

The changes will be effective Jan. 17. (BP)

West's departure signals finish of Kentucky-Kenya partnership

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

G. Allen West steps down Dec. 15 as assistant coordinator of the Kentucky-Kenya project, the man through whose hands most of the stateside logistics of the far-flung volunteer missions enterprise have passed since early 1985.

With this successful venture behind him which saw more than 700 Kentuckians visit the east African nation since 1985, West is now ready "for the Lord to lead me" in a new direction.

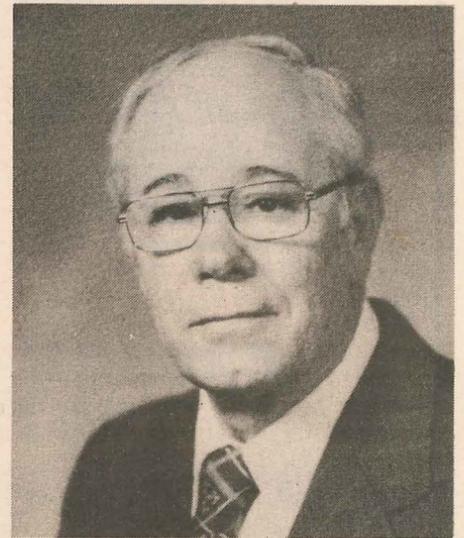
After a brief holiday visit with relatives and friends in Florida, he says he will be available for supply work and interims. He was also reelected last month as assistant secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, a post he has held four previous years.

A graduate of Stetson University, DeLand, in his native Florida, and of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, West served two pastorate—Bagdad, Ky., where he was minister to future governor Martha Layne Collins and family; and Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, a congregation he served for a quarter-century, 1942-67. He capped off the final years of his full time ministry as executive director of Long Run Baptist Association, Louisville. For four years following his retirement he taught part time at Southern Seminary's Boyce Bible School.

One day last week in the office he will soon vacate in the Baptist Building in Middletown, West recollected his experiences in the denomination.

He remembered he went to Southern Seminary in 1936 with a "deep appreciation" for the institution and "for my denomination." That had grown out of some summertime experiences of working with the state mission board in Florida, and having attended a Baptist-supported university.

At age 32 he was offered the chairmanship of the Bible department at Baylor University, but felt led to turn it down. That experience, however, brought him in touch with Austin Crouch, whose wife had recommended West, then a Nashville pastor, to Baylor. Crouch was executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, and West's fellowship with him led him to "an even greater appreciation" for the denomination.



G. Allen West

As time went on, and his circle of friends enlarged, West engaged in regular conversations about Southern Baptists with such denominational stalwarts as Duke McCall and Porter Routh, who followed Crouch; Routh's assistant, Albert McClellan; T. L. Holcomb, executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist Sunday School Board; and James L. Sullivan, Holcomb's successor.

"I could not help but see the bigness of it all," he remembers, fondly. "I dreamed dreams with them. Some of the old-timers wanted Southern Baptists to break out of their provincialism and move out into the world with the gospel."

And how does that translate to the present?

"Today," says West, "I feel so keenly the loss which has come to us as a denomination. The binding bonds and enriching fellowship we knew then is gone. There's no sense of 'oneness' or 'togetherness' any more. We used to laugh a lot, but we haven't heard the sound of laughter in several years."

To what does he credit the changes? Sociological changes in America have had their effects on Southern Baptists, a "microcosm of that society," West believes. He cites the racial situation, youth rebellion and sexual revolution as things "impinging on us from the world as a whole."

The "super church syndrome" has added to Baptists' problems, West believes. He feels many young pastors "want to go to a place where they can grow a super church." He describes some of these churches as "entities in themselves," where they seem to feel "they need nobody to help them."

But with many forces impinging upon churches, including the urbanization of America and secularization of congregations, West thanks God "for what he is doing in and through people." West is grateful for the "great host" of churches "on fire for Christ," which have caught a "fresh vision" of a world in need and supportive "of our world missions enterprise."

Devoted to family, he is close to his children, Janet Dillard, Atlanta, and George West, Nashville; his second wife, Jean, whom he married when their first mates died; her daughter, Lisa, Burnsville, N. C., and son Richard, in the Air Force in Sicily; his children's and stepchildren's mates; and eight grandchildren among the four offspring.

West's hobbies include travel, photography and fishing.

Together...through the COOPERATIVE PROGRAM September-November Gifts

	Month	YTD 3 months
November 87	958,573	3,608,760
November 86	866,680	3,510,111
\$ Change	91,893	98,649
% Change	10.6	2.8
Budget	1,365,053	4,095,158
\$(under)/over	-406,480	-486,398
%(under)/over	-29.8	-11.9

September-November Gifts

Year	over/(under) budget to date	% increase over prv yr
1987-88	-486,398	2.8
1986-87	-390,039	7.1
1985-86	-624,023	-1.0
1984-85	-303,622	7.6
1983-84	-300,290	4.3
1982-83	-24,613	13.6
1981-82	9,829	8.7

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December 8, 1987

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sanford's perspectives



Jack D. Sanford

Will your Christmas be stolen?

Dr. Seuss created the Grinch who stole Christmas and all of us have marveled at the imagination and creativity of this gentle writer. We have also known Dr. Seuss as a man whose insight into the human condition ranked him several notches above the rest of us while he spoke in gentle terms even children could understand.

Now a Baptist pastor has taken Dr. Seuss' Grinch one step further and applied it to the Christian condition in a way all can appreciate.

Joe Thomas, pastor of Dawson Baptist Church, Daviess-McLean Association, wrote in the pastor's column of his December newsletter that Satan is the real Grinch and that Satan can steal Christmas from almost anyone even before he knows the theft has taken place.

Pastor Thomas illustrated what he meant by telling his congregation Satan could steal their Christmas by making them focus on the problems rather than the solutions in life and thus undermine their faith in God.

Another way Satan becomes the Grinch who steals Christmas is by making people keep the Christmas celebration on a superficial level, investing time and resources in busyness and overlooking the real meaning of the season.

Finally, Thomas said the real Grinch steals Christmas by causing Christians to believe they have honored the Lord and his Christ by seasonal efforts at good will.

When I read what pastor Thomas had written for his people I immediately knew the Grinch had been at work on me for years. I suppose many others have also fallen into Satan's trap and thus missed the glory and magnificence of this won-

drous time.

I suggest a New Year's resolution before Christmas. That resolution is that we will not allow the problems of life to control us but will turn life over to the sovereign God who controls all life, even our personal problems.

The resolution would also include a firm resolve to go beyond the tinsel and clamor of routine Christmas celebration and search our soul for some sense of communication with the living God who is in us and with us always.

Finally that New Year's resolution would draw from us a resolve to be Christ-like in every relationship, in every situation, for all the year and not only during the few days of Christmas.

Often in the past I have been a real grump at Christmas because I did have problems which tinsel and artificial decorations could not drive away.

My grumpiness was compounded by irritation because so many things had to be done, so many errands had to be run, so many presents had to be bought and such crowds of pushy people had to be circumvented before I could rest.

The deepest grumpiness came because I knew deep within myself that I was not always Christ like in my relationship to others.

I do not want the Satan-Grinch to steal my Christmas. The only way to be sure it does not happen is to attend to the real things of the Spirit, go beyond the outward trappings of the season and make a fresh commitment to be like Christ in all circumstances.

It will be hard but it is worth the effort if we are to keep the Grinch from stealing another Christmas.

Where will it end, and when?

Last week in two separate yet similar meetings advocates in the battle for control of the Southern Baptist Convention met to plan strategy and gear up for the SBC meeting in San Antonio.

One side candidly admitted the meeting was a gathering of kindred souls who were interested in stopping the other side and electing a president sympathetic to their point of view.

Not so from the opposite camp. That meeting was said to be for fellowship only, not a council for planning the coming confrontation.

The truth seems to be that both sides in what the secular press has called the "Southern Baptist Holy War" met in preparation for another round in the continuing war.

So we must ask, "Where will it end, and when?"

There seems to be no end in sight regardless of who wins what. If the conservatives continue to elect the convention president and he, in turn, continues to appoint only representatives from the conservative camp there will be continued warfare.

If on the other hand the moderates are successful in stopping the conservatives and their president is elected, he will no doubt exercise his power in the same way as the conservative presidents have and there will be continued warfare.

There seems to be no way to root out the suspicion and dislike we see among so-called brothers

in the Lord. All of us seem to have forgotten we are all sinners, all in need of forgiving grace, all less than the Lord demands.

The only solution that makes any sense is to elect a lay person president of the SBC who has no political or theological axe to grind. We need someone who will make appointments to boards and committees on the basis of a person's competence to direct an agency or institution; the degree of commitment to cooperative missions a person has demonstrated through the years; and the person's willingness to give self in service to Christ through the SBC.

One other characteristic of the person who could pull us out of this fratricidal mess is a willingness to tolerate another brother whose point of view is different from his own. This is the achilles heel in the present conflict.

Unless we find someone who can pull us together in something more than superficial ways, we will continue to see our baptismal rate fall, continue to see young people turn away from our churches and continue to see others take the place we could occupy in the mission ministry of Christ.

Where will it end, and when? Only the Lord knows but many Southern Baptists are ready for it to end here and now. We just don't know how to pull it off.

western recorder

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Earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.—Jude 3

baptist forum

Middlesboro church joins Alliance

This letter is to inform you that First Baptist Church, Middlesboro, voted to join the Southern Baptist Alliance.

This action was taken Nov. 11, 1987 in regular business session with approximately 80 people present. The recommendation was presented by the deacons. Only one deacon opposed the recommendation and just three members voted against this action. The membership dues have been paid to the Southern Baptist Alliance.

Please know we will continue to support the Kentucky Baptist Convention. This is becoming increasingly difficult for us because we are not in a local association of Baptists.

Bill Daniel
Middlesboro

Praise for James and Wilma Whaley

I would like to share something with all Kentucky Baptists. God blessed me with the privilege to share Jesus Christ with the people of Kenya. My church, Hopewell Baptist, Caldwell-Lyon Association and the Kentucky Baptist Convention made my mission trip possible. To each of these I say thank you.

I want to share a part of my trip which has been on my heart for some time.

The Nov. 27 issue of Western Recorder told of the arrival of the Whaleys back from Kenya and that stirred my heart once again. I would like to share my personal blessing with each of you.

Our team of four arrived at Nairobi from Mombasa between 11 and 12 one night. The Whaleys were there to meet us. We went to their home at this hour and Mrs. Wilma fixed us some grilled cheese sandwiches. Believe me, they were well received after eating strange food for 17 days.

Whaleys had love in their hearts for us somewhat like parents would have for their kids. This was a welcome I desperately needed after being away from my family for 21 days.

I want to thank James and Wilma Whaley for letting God use them to bless my life. I thank the convention, Brother Allen West and my Lord for making this mission trip possible. I commend all Kentucky Baptists for their prayers and support.

Jimmie Gibbs
Kuttawa

Western Recorder promotes liberals

Within the past several weeks I have experienced both disappointment and anger towards the editor and the many articles which keep appearing in our Western Recorder. In particular the articles and editorials which have a moderate (liberal) nature.

The Peace Committee of our SBC has asked that all parties of our great denomination refrain from inciting any more hostilities or causing any more polarization while it tries to reconcile our divided factions.

Yet Western Recorder has chosen, especially in the past several weeks, to saturate our state Baptist paper with inflammatory articles concerning the support of women pastors, the Southern Baptist Alliance, the resignation of a seminary president and dean, the resignation of a Baptist state editor and so forth.

What really angered me was that during our 150th meeting of Kentucky Baptists Western Recorder in the Nov. 10 issue (an issue which could have been used for promoting peace and harmony) cunningly increased their campaign to attack the conservatives of our denomination.

It has become evident that Western Recorder is continuing its tradition of supporting liberals and others who choose not to believe the word of God as being complete and trustworthy in all areas and not just in the so-called areas of reality.

As pastor of a church I will not at this time ask our church to drop Western Recorder but I will ask that we begin subscribing to another Baptist paper that will give a more accurate picture of what is happening in our convention.

Mike Burnett
Elizabethtown

Elect lay people to offices next year

As we prepare to celebrate "The Year of the Laity" during the 1988-89 convention year, I would like to offer a suggestion for consideration before names begin to circulate as possible candidates for president and vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Why not elect lay persons, men and women, to these three offices next year? This is not likely to happen unless we plan for it to happen, because pastors have far more name recognition among the messengers than do lay persons.

There is no implied criticism here of folks voting for their friends. Three people whom I admire were nominated for the presidency this year and I voted for the one I knew best.

I just think a great way to celebrate "The Year of the Laity" would be to choose our leadership from among the many capable men and women of the laity, who make up about 99 percent of the membership of the churches.

Dick Allison
Georgetown

Western Recorder is practicing war

It doesn't look like you're speaking much peace and brotherly love in your Nov. 24 issue of Western Recorder.

You are preaching peace in your editorial and practicing war in the rest of the paper.

There is a continued bias to moderate reporting. Why didn't Western Recorder include the seven-point statement made by the conservative group which met in

*"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, good will
toward men." Luke 2:14*



Georgia? Western Recorder practices selective reporting.

Is it because the editorial staff of Western Recorder is afraid to present all the news? When Southern Baptists get an objective reporting with all the truth from both sides of the controversy they will make the right decision.

Why is it that letters from conservative writers are held for long periods of time before they are printed? Why is it that other state Baptist papers, even those directed by moderate editors, are fair enough to include complete articles and Western Recorder is not?

Why is it that headlines over articles are often written in such a way to distort the meaning of the article?

All I ask, along with thousands of others, is that Western Recorder be balanced and fair to both conservatives and moderates.

Allen F. Harrod
Bellevue

Editor's note: We would rather not print such negative letters but our desire to be fair to all Baptists compels us to print this letter even though the comments of Mr. Harrod are sufficiently ludicrous as to merit no rebuttal.

Cooperation is the Baptist way

This letter is to share with your readers an example of church cooperation. Two small churches teamed forces to do what is often impossible for only one.

Silas Baptist Church, Elkhorn Association and Garfield Baptist Church, Long Run Association, pooled resources to send Gogo Benson-Jaja to Opobo, Nigeria on a month-long evangelistic tour and to visit family whom he had not seen in five years.

Silas church is a rural congregation lead by Harold Butler and Garfield church is an inner-city congregation led by David Ransdell.

Benson-Jaja is a doctoral student at Southern Seminary and is associate pastor of Garfield church.

He will take 250 copies of the Bible with him as well as song books. These materials will be sent to five Baptist churches which were burned by Moslem extremists in September. If any church has used song books or Bibles you wish to donate you may contact Garfield church at (502) 893-4462.

We also wish to thank First Baptist, Carrollton and Hopewell Baptist, Madison, Ind., and New Albany Methodist as well as friends at the seminary, Salvation Army and Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, for helping provide for the family of Benson-Jaja during his absence at Christmas.

This is one of the finest examples of Christian sharing between small churches, combined with friends from larger churches, that I have ever had the privilege to witness.

We smaller churches must continue to combine efforts to do what we alone find it difficult if not impossible to accomplish.

We at Garfield hope this testimony may give several smaller churches hope for the new year.

David Ransdell
Louisville

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.



Eldred M. Taylor
Executive Director
10801 Shelbyville Road
Middletown, KY 40243

homes for children

His name is wonderful

Almost two thousand years ago, on a night the world has been pleased to call Christmas, a maiden named Mary went down into the mysterious depths of motherhood and came back with a baby boy. This child was given a name—a name that blossoms on the pages of history like the flowers of springtime; a name that echoes down the corridors of time like an anthem sung by a thousand choirs. It is a name that after 1987 years of scrutiny shines in the galaxy of the earth's great souls like the glory of a thousand suns. It is a name more meaningful than all the names of the world put together.

In the midst of all the joy and excitement at this wonderful season of the year, there is a sincere concern on the part of believers. You see, there are so many who have never heard and many who have forgotten all about Jesus Christ, whose birthday we celebrate. Therefore it is important that each of us help give Christmas its true meaning.

Christmas should remind us of the most miraculous event in human history. The coming of Jesus was prophesied centuries before by prophet after prophet. Micah, inspired of God, put his finger on the very village where Jesus would be born centuries later. Isaiah also beautifully predicted his miraculous birth.

Then came a time when prophetic faith became present faith—the promise was fulfilled. One of the greatest sermons ever preached was delivered on that historic occasion. It was preached by the angel who appeared to the shepherds. That was the first Christmas service. It was not conducted in a temple or cathedral but in the great outdoors. The good news of his birth echoed from the skies. And the shepherds, though poor, hear the voice from heaven above the earth's gloom. The message came at night and the world also was wrapped in spiritual and moral night. But the lowly shepherds heard the good news..

For many it is night now in our world. There is hunger, privation, emptiness, sorrow and hurt. However, above the dark storm clouds the light of God is shining. When life breaks down, God will break through the blackness of sin, sorrow and doubt. His name is wonderful!

May you rejoice in the celebration of this wonderful name, Jesus, and may we help others know about this wonderful person, Jesus Christ.

baptist news in brief

Baptisms may dip to record low for 1987

Southern Baptist baptisms for 1987 could plummet to their lowest level in nearly a decade if projections by the Home Mission Board are on target.

The year-end forecast, announced during the annual conference for Southern Baptist state evangelism directors, in Honolulu, predicts baptisms will drop five percent, to 344,000 conversions to faith in Christ. That figure is the lowest since 336,000 baptisms were registered in 1978.

The projections were based on infor-

mation supplied by the directors and will result in a net loss of 19,000 baptisms from the 363,124 reported in 1986, said Clay Price, HMB program research director.

That was the year Southern Baptists conducted national simultaneous revivals and reversed baptisms from a four-year decline. Conversions for 1986 were up four percent, or nearly 13,000, from the 351,071 reported the previous year.

The data is a more optimistic projection than that expected to be released

by the Baptist Sunday School Board, which bases its report on partial analysis of actual reports from local churches, Price said. Based on information from the denomination's 37,000 churches, the Sunday School Board is predicting the drop to be as high as six percent.

If projections are on target, 1987 will be the second-lowest year for baptisms since 1950. That year Southern Baptists broke the 350,000 barrier by reporting 376,000 baptisms. (BP)

Panel meets to set fate of BJCPA funding

A seven-member subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee began a study of convention funding of public affairs during a two-day meeting in early December.

The subcommittee, according to chairman Scott Humphrey of Alexandria, Va., has a "very narrow assignment: To study the details of the funding of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the Southern Baptist Convention Public Affairs Committee.

The question of who oversees the funding came about after messengers to the 1987 annual meeting of the SBC adopted the report of a fact-finding subcommittee that revised the bylaw governing the membership of the PAC, and suggested the group work in conjunction with the BJCPA but also assume added responsibilities.

Since the September meeting of the Executive Committee, when the study to clarify the funding dilemma was ordered, the PAC met again. In October, the PAC voted 8-4 to recommend that the SBC "dissolve its institutional and financial ties" with the BJCPA and requested \$485,200 "to fund and staff" the PAC "as an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention beginning Oct. 1, 1988.

Humphrey said the study subcommittee's responsibility is "to clarify the funding process in light of the action taken by the convention." During its early December meeting, the study group concentrated on the action of the annual meeting rather than focusing on the subsequent events. (BP)

High school young men set rally at Gatlinburg

High school Baptist Young Men from eight states will meet in Gatlinburg, Tenn. Feb. 5-7, 1988 for the first regional high school BYM rally.

The event is targeted to members and leaders in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

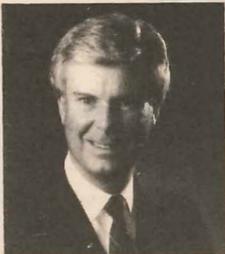
Sessions will be held at River Terrace Hotel and Conference Center.

Information is available from the KBC Brotherhood Department or Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104. (BP)

Evangelism directors elect Nevadan leader

Don Ledbetter, evangelism director for the Nevada Baptist Convention, was elected president of the Southern Baptist Fellowship of State Evangelism Directors during the groups' annual meeting in Honolulu.

Other officers are Jack Parrott, director of evangelism for New York Baptists, vice president, and Dan Agee, evangelism director for Virginia Baptists, secretary-treasurer. (BP)



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Moderates consider SBC events

More than 40 moderate leaders from a dozen states met at Dallas-Ft. Worth Airport Nov. 30-Dec. 1 to review events in the Southern Baptist Convention over the past several weeks and to look "for ways to retrieve our national convention from the hands of the fundamentalists and return it to the mainstream Baptist people."

Norman Cavender, layman from Claxton, Ga., distributed a prepared statement following the two-day meeting and answered questions from the media.

Contrary to what others may think, Cavender said, the meeting was not to discuss plans to elect a president of the SBC, although the presidential election was mentioned briefly and is "the bottom line" in the struggle. He added Arizona pastor Richard Jackson is a likely nominee.

The meeting was closed to the public, although Toby Druin, associate editor of the Texas Baptist Standard, who had learned the meeting was being held, was told he could sit in on the initial session. The offer was refused when he was told that not all of the meeting would be on the record.

The Dallas-Ft. Worth meeting was called by Winfred Moore to discuss "the wrongs being inflicted upon the SBC."

The meeting had been in the planning stage for several weeks, Cavender declared, and was not in response to the Nov. 16 meeting of fundamental leaders in Atlanta.

Both Cavender and James Slatton, pastor of River Road Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., denied their meeting was in conflict with the admonitions of the Peace Committee report, which recommended political meetings be discontinued. "The Peace Committee understands that Baptists are free people who have the right to meet together," Slatton vowed. "We are exercising that right."

Following is the statment released at the conclusion of the meeting:

"Two weeks ago, when leaders of the fundamentalist movement met in Atlanta, they said they were having a 'private fellowship meeting.'"

As reported they also "declined to discuss the purpose of the meeting, who attended, what was discussed or who invited them."

"We are not engaging in this kind of cover-up. We still believe Baptist people are entitled to honesty. Therefore:

"We have met to discuss the wrongs being inflicted upon the SBC, including the wrongs of dishonesty, secrecy and private agendas aimed at giving one faction total control of our convention.

"1. Who invited us? Winfred Moore, by personal letter.

"2. Who attended? Pastors and laypeople from a dozen states who are concerned about what the Pressler/Patterson coalition is doing to our convention and the serious damage we see it inflicting on our agencies and institutions.

"3. What was discussed? We discussed

the results of the recent state conventions, which demonstrated that mainstream Baptist people have rejected political fundamentalism.

"We discussed the recent revelations that the Pressler/Patterson group had installed in Virginia a secret, computerized system of grading the state's pastors on a scale of fundamentalist voting loyalty and for putting fundamentalists in vacant pulpits throughout the state.

"We discussed the open, all-out attacks this same group had launched in Georgia against Mercer University and the editor of the Christian Index.

"We discussed the tragic events at Southeastern Seminary where the fundamentalists now control that board.

"We discussed how the fundamentalists are using the Peace Committee to install a creed throughout the SBC.

"4. What was the purpose of the meeting? To discuss all this. But more, to react for the growing number of Baptist people who are fed up with fundamentalist control of the SBC.

"We are trying to give shape to that grassroots Baptist reaction. We are looking for ways to retrieve our national convention from the hands of the fundamentalists and return it to the mainstream Baptist people.

"In sum, the purpose of the meeting is simple: to resist fundamentalist control of our local churches, our state conventions and our national convention.

"We see a new energy and wisdom among the people. Baptists in the individual states want an end to fundamentalist control. We are working to cooperate with them and coordinate these Baptist efforts."

Below is a list of 25 of those who attended the meeting. Forty-two people were at the various sessions but some left before they were asked to sign the list and others declined to sign.

Texas: W. Dewey Presley, layman, Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas; Charles R. Wade, pastor, First Baptist Church, Arlington; J. Neal Rodgers, editor of Baptist Laity Journal, Dallas; John F. Baugh, layman, Second Baptist Church, Houston; A. David Courtade, layman, Gambrell Street Baptist Church, Ft. Worth; Claudia Barner, layperson, Wilshire Baptist Church, Dallas.

Georgia: Welton Gaddy, Mercer Uni-

versity, Macon; William F. Scarbrough, pastor, National Heights Baptist Church, Fayetteville; L. Blair Trehwhitt, layman, Northside Drive Baptist Church, Atlanta; Jim C. Bruner, Mercer University, Macon; David Sapp, pastor, First Baptist Church, Chamblee; Cavender, Claxton.

Tennessee: Bill Sherman, pastor, Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville; Howard G. Olive, pastor, Monte Vista Baptist Church, Maryville; Andrew J. Prince, pastor, West Hills Baptist Church, Knoxville.

Missouri: Ashli Cartwright Peak, representing Women in Ministry, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Columbia; Jo Ellen Witt, president of Missouri Laymen United, First Baptist Church, Platte City; T. Lee Stephens, pastor, Englewood Baptist Church Kansas City.

Alabama: John Jeffers, retired pastor, Auburn; Philip D. Wise, pastor, Morningview Baptist Church, Montgomery.

Oklahoma: Gerald Adams, layman, First Baptist Church, Shawnee; Joe Brown, pastor, First Baptist Church, Shawnee.

South Carolina: Marian D. Aldridge, pastor, Greenlawn Baptist Church, Columbia.

Louisiana: John S. Harris, pastor, Pineville Park Baptist Church, Pineville.

Maryland: Cindy Johnson, layperson, Taneytown Baptist Church, Taneytown.

Virginia: Jim Slatton, pastor, River Road Baptist Church, Richmond.

Inerrant commentary may have 40 volumes

The first meeting of consulting editors for a new multivolume Bible commentary to be published by the Baptist Sunday School Board was marked by cooperation and eagerness to move the project forward.

Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College, Dallas, and the first editor named to the team by Sunday School Board trustees, called the group "harmonious and creative."

"I've always been enthusiastic about the project," Patterson said. "If our editors' group does its work properly, this commentary will have a profound influence and impact on the denomination for years to come."

Discussion in the two-day meeting Nov. 23-24 was wide ranging. The group looked at format, potential writers, publication dates and audiences who might benefit or be interested.

The commentary, to be written by biblical inerrantists, was approved by trustees in February. The first volume expected to be released in 1991.

One of the format suggestions from the consulting editors was that the commentary have about 40 volumes, to allow adequate space for writers and to be able to include the biblical text. They also recommended the volumes be 5½ by 8-inch hardback books that can be as long as 400 pages, depending on space needed to deal with a particular book or books of the Bible. Broadman officials approved these recommendations. (BP)

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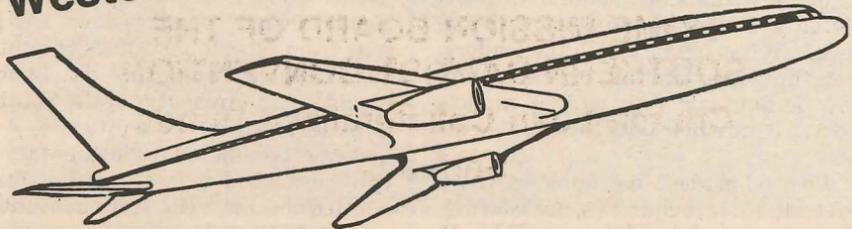
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baptist news in brief

High court to rule on Catholic refusal to turn over documents

The U. S. Supreme Court has agreed to decide if the U. S. Catholic Church may be forced to turn over documents related to its anti-abortion activities in legal proceedings aimed at stripping the nation's largest religious group of its tax exemption.

The church, with more than 52 million members, had asked the court's justices to review a federal district court ruling last year that held it in contempt for refusing on church-state grounds to hand over the subpoenaed documents. That court first imposed, then stayed a \$100,000 a day fine on the church until it complies. A federal appeals panel later affirmed the lower decision on a divided vote.

In its announcement that it has agreed to review the lower rulings, the high court also accepted a friend-of-court brief submitted in October by a coalition of church bodies supporting the Catholic Church's refusal to comply with the

subpoena. The brief was submitted by the National Council of Churches of Christ, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, Christian Legal Society, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and National Association of Evangelicals.

Behind the interest and virtual unanimity within the larger religious community is the view of church-state experts that resolution of the case will affect every religious group's ability to address public issues from a moral perspective. Were the pro-abortion groups to succeed eventually in stripping the Catholic Church's tax exemption, these experts have warned, no church in the future could address controversial issues in the political arena without risking loss of its own tax-exempt status.

One such authority, Baptist Joint Committee General Counsel Oliver S. Thomas, described the potential ramifications: "It's hard to overstate the implications of this case. If the decision is allowed to stand, groups that disagree with a church's position on controversial issues will be able to attack its exempt status even though the IRS says the church is in perfect compliance with the law. Obviously, this could become a key element in a group's overall strategy on a hotly contested issue." (BP)

Greatest need? 'soul-winning' pastors

The three greatest needs of the Southern Baptist Convention are soul-winners, church planters and spiritual awakening, the president of the Home Mission Board told state evangelism directors meeting in Honolulu.

Larry Lewis' comments followed a report that SBC baptisms for 1987 will drop five percent, to their lowest level in nearly a decade.

"There is no greater need in the Southern Baptist Convention than for soul-winning pastors," Lewis said. "We need to pray that God will raise up a group of witnessing pastors, deacons and laity. But it has to start with the pastor... it has to start with the leaders. Everything rises and falls on leadership, those individuals who will be models and will equip their laity to be soul-winners."

"We need modern-day apostles, those sent forth to start churches, ministering, witnessing and winning people to Christ. Pray that we will have the human and financial resources to start 1000 new churches each year toward our goal of 50,000 churches by the year 2000," he said. (BP)

Cooperative Program takes November dip

Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program unified budget took a dip in November, due to Thanksgiving.

The Cooperative Program received \$9,505,026 in November, down 1.73 percent from November 1986's receipts of \$9,672,612, reported Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

Bennett predicted the momentary lull will be short-lived: "I am not disappointed, because the state conventions expressed strong support for world missions through the Cooperative Program during their annual meetings this fall. I have observed more and more church leaders expressing interest in the Cooperative Program." (BP)



The executive director search of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children met for the first time Dec. 3 in Middletown. Shown with Curtis Warf, KBHC board president are (l to r): Terry Freeman, Lexington; Dorthy Bailey, Bowling Green; Herbert Booth, Union; Warf; Beverly Kennedy, Hawesville; Harold Skaggs, Cadiz; and Lindsey Horn who will be chairman, Owensboro. Eldred Taylor, KBHC executive director since 1981, has announced his retirement effective June 30, 1988.

FMB identifies Bold targets

A set of goals aimed at accelerating the pace of world evangelization was outlined Dec. 9 for members of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Almost a year after the board began a major reorganization to equip it better for global outreach, president R. Keith Parks said the board's Global Strategy Group has zeroed in on specific 1988 priority concerns and goals.

The goals will help move Southern Baptists along the road toward their Bold Mission Thrust goal of sharing the gospel with all people by the year 2000, Parks said.

For its part, the board has set several 1988 goals:

- Work with 50 missions, the organizations of missionaries, and national conventions to find ways to reach groups of neglected people in these mission fields who have not yet heard the gospel.

- In partnership with overseas Baptist conventions that also have foreign missions outreach, establish a witness among 25 unevangelized people groups. In some instances, Baptists from these overseas conventions may be able to live and work in countries that would not admit American missionaries.

- Identify and deploy 25 non-residential missionaries. These would be missionaries best suited to help evangelize nations or people groups where living among them is impossible.

- Share a model of international prayer strategy and seek to secure participation of 25 conventions and unions overseas.

- Plan and start strategies of evangelism for six limited-access countries.

One of the 1988 goals calls for the board to work with each mission to develop a 10-year plan through which at least 70 percent of the mission force will be involved directly in outreach and church planting. The goal is based on continued involvement of all missionaries in personal evangelism but will require redeployment of some missionaries now working in institutions or denominational roles.

Another goal will ask missions to identify all positions now occupied by missionaries that should be filled by nationals. By Aug. 31 they will be asked to report on steps taken to prepare national Baptists for these positions and on how the missionaries involved will be redeployed.

The 1988 goals "force us to look spec-

ifically at those positions that missionaries now occupy in institutions or denominational responsibilities that ultimately are to be filled by nationals and develop a plan to get there," Parks explained.

In other actions, the board appointed 30 missionaries to work in 14 countries and approved 40 young adults for training as journeymen, a two-year program for Baptists just out of college. With these additions, the board has added 407 people to its overseas force in 1987. The missionary force now stands at 3843.

The board added its 112th country with assignment of personnel to Vanuatu, an island group in the South Pacific. Trustees also approved opening work in the Comoro Islands, in the Indian Ocean between Mozambique and Madagascar. (BP)

Virginians study divinity possibility

The Virginia Baptist general board has named a committee to study the possibility of establishing a divinity school at a Virginia Baptist college or university.

The action was taken in response to a motion passed by the Baptist General Association of Virginia during its annual meeting Nov. 10-11, asking the board to consider the feasibility of supporting such an institution.

Recent changes at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., which some Virginians fear might diminish the quality of theological education there, and changes at the other five Southern Baptist Convention seminaries apparently sparked the motion.

The Virginia board approved nominations of chairman Neal T. Jones and Randal T. Almarode, chairman of its education committee, to a five-member panel that will present a preliminary report to the board in April and a final report next October.

Instructions to the study committee also asked it to focus on four questions: Are any of the colleges or universities interested in such a program? What financial commitments would be required to operate such a program? What would be the source of funding? How would such a divinity school differ from the six existing Southern Baptist seminaries? (BP)



Standing beside Jack Sanford, far right, are the 1987-88 elected officers of the board of directors of Western Recorder: Pictured are (l to r) Robert DeFoor, chairman, Harrodsburg; Denzel Dukes, vice chairman, Owensboro; and Glenn Mollette, secretary, Pikeville.

Holcomb elected BSSB head after trustee impasse

by James L. Sullivan

As much as T. L. Holcomb appreciated the Baptist Sunday School Board, he never aspired to be head of the institution.

He was first and foremost a pastor, and even after 18 years (1935-53) at the board, he still yearned for the pastorate. He felt that when one stepped out of the pastor's role to take any other position, regardless of what it was, he was stepping down.



Holcomb's interest through the years in the board's work led him to election as a trustee from Oklahoma, where he was pastor of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City.

In 1934 the move was on to select the

successor to the aging I. J. Van Ness, who had led the board since 1916. Two names of possible leaders emerged. Supporters for each candidate stood firm, and they were about evenly divided. Debates, and even arguments, continued. But the impasse seemingly could not be broken.

Holcomb did not get to attend that important trustee meeting in March 1935 in Nashville. He had started out by car with this wife driving. He never drove a car himself. In Memphis, they had a wreck and Mrs. Holcomb was hospitalized because of injuries. Holcomb, of course, remained with her.

Without his knowledge or consent, another board member proposed Holcomb's name as a "dark horse" in an effort to break the impasse. His approach worked. Holcomb was elected and the presiding officer sent a wire to notify him.

Holcomb was flabbergasted. In fact, he was so shocked by the action of the board that he turned to a nurse to say, "Roll in another bed for me. I'm in worse shape than my wife is."

He had never dreamed of such a responsibility but he was a godsend for the hour. At age 52, he was at the right age with experiences in churches both East and West, and he was acceptable to persons in both geographic areas. He was inclined at first to reject the offer, but seeing the strategic denominational responsibility placed on him and after much prayer, he could not decline.

The problems Holcomb faced immediately were staggering. The South, where major Southern Baptist strength had been from the first, was changing from an agricultural to an industrial base. The transition was shattering. Community schools were being changed into consolidated ones, breaking up thousands of community centers where Baptist churches were located.

The Great Depression was still in full swing and unemployment was rampant. All over America, PhDs were driving taxicabs for want of better employment. Banks had been closed with assets frozen until the government could control the financial condition of the country.

Then World War II began and with it came the disbursement of choice Baptist youth to the defense of the country. Technically trained board employees were conscribed, and work had to be carried on in certain areas with inexperienced workers. In addition, paper shortages were so acute that some publications had to be issued without cover jackets. But Holcomb's health was good,

his faith unflinching and his patience enduring. Baptist work under his leadership grew rapidly, against all odds and reason.

It was Holcomb's humor which saw him through the most tensed moments. He was a person who could laugh at himself, and he did so often.

I remember his telling about the time he went to speak at the Baptist assembly in Virginia. He had checked into his room before going on to the meeting.

Soon after, C. Oscar Johnson, long-time pastor of Third Baptist Church, St. Louis, was assigned to the same room and had wondered who his small roommate was. Johnson, whose weight neared 250 pounds, began the opening message at the meeting by saying, "I don't know who my roommate is, but when I looked at his coat hanging in the closet beside mine, I concluded he must be a Boy Scout." No one laughed at that comment any more than Holcomb did.

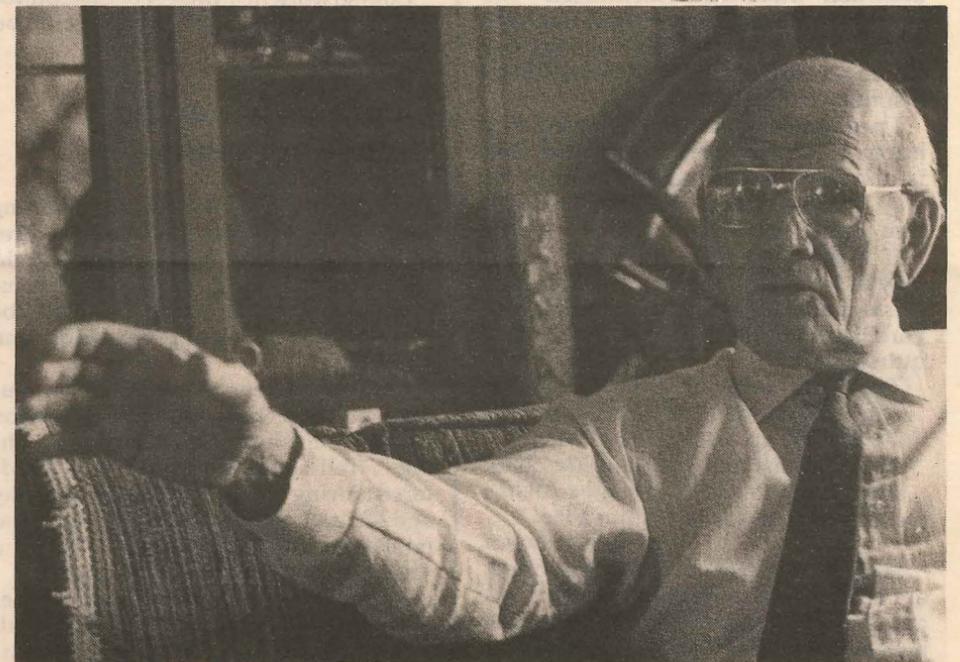
On another occasion I saw Holcomb break the tension of the moment by telling of one of his own mistakes when he

was a pastor performing a wedding.

His wife had fussed at him because he always wrote out the names of the bride and groom and carried a reminder note with him into the ceremony. She felt he ought to memorize them, so he decided he would try. He was concentrating so much on the name of the bride, a Miss Legg, that in the ceremony he asked the groom, "Will you take this woman you now hold by the leg to be your lawfully wedded wife?" The tensions of the moment vanished as the crowd burst into laughter, and Holcomb had accomplished his purpose by laughing at himself with them.

T. L. Holcomb was a giant of a man who lived in a very small body. But he led Southern Baptists to giant steps forward and upward in his day.

Editor's note: James L. Sullivan became the fifth president of the Baptist Sunday School Board in 1953 and served until his retirement in 1975. He succeeded T. L. Holcomb who headed the institution 1935-53.



James L. Sullivan

FMB permits foreign citizenship

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board approved a policy in its December meeting allowing missionaries to voluntarily become citizens of certain countries where foreign missionary access is restricted.

The new policy is the latest in a series of steps to place personnel in countries that have placed limits on missionaries. Of the 235 countries in the world, 44 are closed to missionaries or extremely difficult for them to enter, and only limited missionary access is possible in another 52.

Bill Wakefield, vice president for Asia and the Pacific, told board members, "The number of countries where (becoming citizens) would be a real possibility will be limited to selected cases where the missionary could have an effective ministry."

He mentioned Indonesia, India and Malaysia as possible countries where the program could be implemented. He noted, for example, that Catholic priests in India and Indonesia have taken citizenship in those countries to continue ministries there. Indonesian immigration officials even encouraged Southern Baptist missionaries to consider such a move.

The unanimous vote to allow missionaries to take foreign citizenship came after discussion about protecting those missionaries who choose this route.

Missionaries who take foreign citizenship will need to have immediate family who are U.S. citizens to gain permission to travel to the United States for furlough or to regain their U.S. citizenship after retirement or resignation.

For married couples, only one spouse will take foreign citizenship, with the other spouse maintaining U.S. citizenship. Children, who are U.S. citizens, will further help the missionary gain access to the United States. In the case of a single missionary, parents or siblings with U.S. citizenship will provide the basis for re-entry into the United States.

Wakefield reminded board members missionaries who become citizens of another country cannot participate in the U.S. Social Security system or the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board retirement plan. Therefore, the board will need to provide supplemental funds to bring the income of these missionaries to the level it would have been had they been allowed to participate in these two programs. (BP)

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Leon Simpson
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clear creek comment

I will not hurry

By nature I am an impatient man. The Christmas season only accelerates my pace. So I often take time to preach to myself. Rom. 15:5 recently caught my attention when Paul mentioned "the God of patience." The writer of Hebrews reminded his readers they needed patience (10:36) and I feel at times I need a similar exhortation.

I need to be reminded God is not in a hurry. It is his universe and world. God is in control and doing his work in his way. It is not for me to judge or doubt him, but to trust him.

If God is not in a hurry and I am, maybe I should change. The Christian life is more like a marathon than a 100-yard dash. Patience (or endurance) is required.

*I will not hurry through this day;
I will take time to think and pray;
I will look up into the sky, /Where
fleecy clouds and swallows fly; /And
somewhere in the day, maybe I will
catch whispers, Lord, from thee!"*

R. S. Cushman

Most of our students at Clear Creek are older. God has moved in their lives and they are zealous to plunge into the harvest field. They sometimes chafe at the three (or four) years of training at Clear Creek. Their families are under extreme financial hardship and Christmas may serve only to remind them of their dire need.

They need to be reminded of the patience of God. It will encourage them to continue with the Lord slowly when they are impatient.

*"To talk with God/No breath is lost/
Talk on!/To walk with God/No
strength is lost/Walk on!/To wait on
God/No time is lost/Wait on!"*

We feel very strongly that God calls men and their families to Clear Creek. He knows exactly what he is doing in their lives and he never make mistakes. He is never shaken or surprised and the Lord is never in a hurry.

Most of us need to learn more about God's patience and learn from his example. All of us can learn to say, "I will not hurry—God is in control!"

"Prayer for peace"

*"Keep me quiet, master, /Patient day by
day/When I would go faster, /Teach me
thy delay. /Restless, oft I borrow/From
the future care. /Teach me that tomor-
row/ Shall its burden bear. /From thy full
provision/ Daily richly fed/ by thy
clearer vision/ Ever safely led/ Let me to
my brothers/ Turn a face serene/ Sharing
thus with others/ Peace from the un-
seen."*

William Adams Brown

christian education

Georgetown offers foreign study

Georgetown will offer up to six hours of course work in London, England, in July-August 1988, according to E. Eugene Hall, associate dean for undergraduate studies.

The college has become part of an academic collegium cosponsored by the University of Southern Mississippi, East Texas State University, the University of South Alabama, Memphis State University and Phi Theta Kappa honor society. The collegium's purpose is to afford students a residential learning experience in Great Britain. Dates for the sessions this summer are July 6-Aug. 8; July 15-Aug. 17; and an accelerated three-week session beginning July 6.

"While all international programs offer students the opportunity to study in a setting away from the home campus, this program adds to that advantage the opportunity to participate in discussions led by eminent British scholars, artists, business leaders and government officials," Hall explained.

Faculty members from sponsoring schools are facilitators and reactors with students to the lectures and visits to sites connected with the study.

Course work in a variety of disciplines will be offered. All credit will be

Georgetown adds preaching course

During the spring semester, beginning Jan. 18, Georgetown College will offer "Communication for Ministers" taught by E. Eugene Hall, professor of communication arts. Emphasis will be placed upon sermon preparation and delivery.

"My objective is to introduce the student minister to a number of sermon forms to encourage variety in preaching," Hall said. The course will be offered during the afternoon on Tuesday and Thursday to make it early for local ministers who may be interested in a "refresher" course on preaching.

Prior to becoming chairman of the Department of Communication Arts, Hall was professor of preaching and communications at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. His teaching responsibilities during a five-year period involved courses in preaching, worship planning and leadership as well as communications.

The course will be available for credit or for audit. Hall said auditors will be asked to participate fully in the class during preaching assignments. He said, "To get the most from the experience, I am eager for all the students to preach and benefit from the discussions of sermons."

Further information is available from the Office of Academic Affairs at Georgetown, (502) 863-8033.

Boyce school overseers elect Shumate secretary

Norman Shumate, a layman from Vine Grove, has been elected secretary of the Boyce Bible School Board of Overseers.

The board also elected Dorothy Sample, of Flint, Mich., immediate past president of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, as chairman and Quinn Pugh, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New York, as vice chairman.

Boyce Bible School, a division of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, provides ministerial training for persons who have been unable to acquire a college education.

awarded through the University of Southern Mississippi and transferred to the home campus.

The program is open to students of Georgetown College and others. Additional information and a catalog for the summer sessions in the British studies program will be available in early spring. Interested persons may contact dean Hall in the Office of Academic Affairs at Georgetown.

Samford exceeds goal by \$14 million

Samford University's \$28 million fund raising campaign has been called to a halt after only 18 months because gifts and pledges have hit \$42.7 million, with \$30 million in cash already received.

"Samford Commitment," the school's most successful development effort, enabled the Alabama Baptist university to underwrite a \$2.2 million intramural

Financial director named at Campbellsville

Melvin Hampton of Paintsville has been hired as the new director of financial development at Campbellsville College.

Hampton was a revenue officer with the Internal Revenue Service, 1974-87. He has also been a case worker for Lake County Department of Public Welfare, Gary, Ind., 1971-74. Prior to 1971 he held pastorates in Arkansas and Indiana.

Campbellsville College garners \$175,000 grant

Campbellsville College president W. R. Davenport has announced a \$175,000 faculty development grant from Pew Charitable Trusts, Philadelphia, Penn.

Davenport said the five-year grant expands opportunities for professional faculty development. The college is to match the grant 3-1, with the matching funds forming an endowment for continuing faculty development.

athletic facility, a 450-student residential village, a \$3.6 million home for the School of Nursing, six endowed chairs of instruction, a \$5 million plan to purchase computers for five computer labs and build a computer center and an improvement program for the School of Pharmacy.

The campaign helped raise the university's endowment to more than \$30 million, up from \$7 just four years ago.

Wesley M. Patillo, formerly of Louisville, vice president for university relations, said the campaign, which was launched in April 1986, is by far the largest fund raising effort ever attempted by the Birmingham school. "But it is certainly not the last. Enrollment is growing and our opportunities are expanding. We are already preparing a \$4.5 million drive for Cumberland School of Law, and other phases of our capital and endowment program will follow."

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ordinations

Alan J. Holden of Walhalla, S. C., a third year theology student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was ordained to the ministry Oct. 4 by First Baptist Church, Carrollton, Ky. Alan is minister of music and youth at the church. J. W. Farmer is pastor.

David Bishop was ordained to the ministry by Georgetown Baptist Church, Elkhorn Association. Dick Allison is pastor.

Merle Wells was ordained a deacon by Southside Baptist Church, Long Run Association. Richard L. Hutchens is pastor.

Monte G. McElfresh and **James Roseberry Jr.** were ordained as deacons by Second Twelve Mile Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association. James E. Conrad is pastor.

Harry Brigance, Spencer Hawkins, Kent Price and **Dennis Thomas** were ordained as deacons of First Baptist Church, Paducah, West Union Association. J. Robert White is pastor.

Jim Coln and **Wayne Hicks** were ordained deacons by Twelfth Street Baptist Church, West Union Association. David Wilkerson is pastor.

Robert Gentry and **Michael Ray** were ordained as deacons of First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, Sept. 6. Bob C. Jones is pastor of the church.

Thomas E. Hughes was ordained deacon at New Friendship Baptist Church, Logan Association. Grant L. Minton is pastor.

congregations

West End Baptist Church, Louisville, will honor Rev. and Mrs. Lincoln N. Bingham's 36th wedding anniversary. The date is also a celebration for the start of his broadened missions ministry.

Bingham will be elevated to full time status as cooperative ministry consul-

tant of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Jan. 1. He will continue his work as superintendent of missions for the General Association.

A banquet is planned at Masterson's Food and Drink Dec. 27 at 2 p.m. Bruce Cox of Miami, Fla., a former member of West End, will be keynote speaker. Tickets for this program are \$12 and may be obtained by contacting West End's church office, (502) 778-3369, or the state missions office, (502) 583-6939, before Dec. 23.

First Baptist Church, Hazard, Three Forks Association, is planning to renovate its educational building and sanctuary during the next five months. The church contracted Balis Campbell Inc. to do the work for about \$250,000.

When completed the plans will provide additional space for a growing Sunday school, including one new adult department. It will also include rest rooms on all floors, centralization of offices, heating and air conditioning throughout, a ramp for handicapped, media center, chapel and fireproof stairways.

Hazard First voted to raise \$200,000 before beginning the project. That goal has been surpassed and the work is underway. Ben A. Beard is pastor.

personnel

Clay Scott Jr. has been called as pastor of New Salem Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association.

Eddie Smith resigned as pastor of Dyer Hill Baptist Church, Ohio River Association.

John Sowder was called as pastor of New Life Baptist Church, Long Run Association.

Larry Williams has accepted the call as pastor of Cane Valley Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association.

Glenn Courtney has been called as pastor of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church, Warren Association. Courtney has held pastorates in Kentucky, Alabama and Florida.

Kevin Jones has been called as youth minister by First Baptist Church, Ludlow, Northern Kentucky Association.

Arnold Moon is pastor.

Barry Greenlee is the new minister of music and youth at Briensburg Baptist Church, Blood River Association. Charles C. Brasher Jr. is pastor.

Mike Morris has resigned as pastor of Cane Creek Baptist Church, West Union Association.

Sam Bell has resigned as pastor of Minors Lane Baptist Church, Long Run Association.

Robert E. Phillips retired from the pastorate of Elsmere Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association. He is available for pulpit supply, revival services and Bible studies.

Ray Wilson resigned as pastor of East Pittsburg Baptist Church, Laurel River Association.

Walter Robinson accepted the call to pastor Good Hope Baptist Church, Tates Creek Association.

Curtis Keith was called as pastor of King Bee Baptist Church, Pulaski Association.

C. W. Turner is the new pastor of Callo-way Baptist Church, Bell Association.

Thomas Moore has been called to the pastorate of Island Creek Baptist Mission, Pike Association.

Jeff Brown has begun duties as pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, South Union Association.

Dennis Engle was called to pastor Slate Lick Baptist Church, Laurel River Association.

Bill Miller resigned as pastor of Sinking Valley Baptist Church, Pulaski Association.

Parcel Flannery retired as pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Pulaski Association.

Bennie Ingram has accepted the pastorate of Kettle Island Baptist Church, Bell Association.

Gordon Brown has been called to the pastorate of Pine Grove Baptist Church, Laurel River Association. He is a former director of missions for Bell Association.

Bill Tober resigned the pastorate of Stanton Baptist Church, Red River Association.

Clyde Eversole accepted the pastorate of Hazel Patch Baptist Church, Laurel River Association.

Phillip Ronk is the new pastor of Northside Baptist Church, Boone's Creek Association.

Layton Bullock has been called as pastor of Acorn Baptist Church, Pulaski Association.

Cecil Mullins accepted the call to be pastor of East Bend Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association.

Joel Samuels accepted the position of minister of youth at First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, Anderson Association. Bob C. Jones is pastor.

Samuels is a native of Alabama, a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, and is enrolled in the School of Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

A new twist

Doris Yeiser can trace her destiny back to a barnyard cow.

The story begins during the depression era in Daviess County. Worried his two daughters might not receive the formal education he was denied, a poor but industrious farmer assigned one of his few calves to each girl to assure their future training.

But times were tough, and they grew tougher.

The little family eventually found itself struggling for its very survival, the odds stacked decidedly against them. Only then did the father reclaim the calf he had given his second daughter, Doris, to be sold so they would have food on the table.

With the sale of that calf, Doris' hopes for a college education, and the possibility of spending her life on the foreign mission field, evaporated.

But spirited fighters don't quit. She landed a \$3-a-week receptionist job for a rural physician. She worked in a local factory for eight years and completed a business course. In 1947, at 27, she was hired on the office staff of First Baptist Church, Owensboro.

Eventually Doris came to terms with her perceived call to foreign missions, facing two undeniable obstacles: there was no money to prepare for it, and the time to do it had passed.

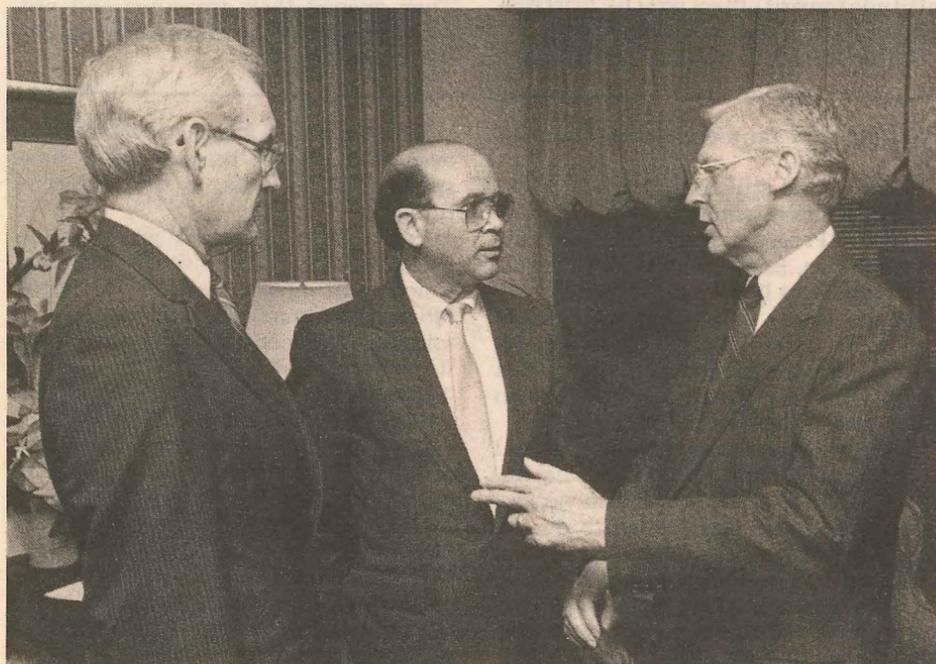
In 1951 Eldred M. Taylor, director of missions in Daviess-McLean Association, and friend of Doris, was elected to direct missions and evangelism for the state convention. He would need a secretary, and invited Doris to consider. She was impressed that here was an open door to greater service. July 6, 1951 she went to work at the Baptist Building in downtown Louisville.

One could write a book about the accomplishments of Doris Yeiser in the years since. We included some of them in "The First Lady of the Baptist Building" (Western Recorder, Mar. 19, 1985).

She has been an assistant to the last four Kentucky Baptist executive secretaries, is the convention's first archivist, is its secretary pro tem and was elected by her peers to head several distinguished professional women's organizations.

Her retirement takes place Dec. 31, after 36½ years of KBC service. Not one to be idle, however, she will continue fulfilling her dream of organizing the archives, perhaps three days a week.

The calf was sold, and Doris' life took a new twist. She may have missed the formal training, but every Kentucky Baptist congregation has benefited by the knowledge she gained and shared from the school of experience.



Vernon Cole of the KBC participated in the Directions 2000 Consultation in Nashville. The consultation brought leaders from throughout the SBC together to discuss the 1990-95 emphases for Bold Mission Thrust. Cole discusses the future of the SBC with **Ellis M. Bush** (r), Bold Mission Thrust promotion coordinator, and **Ernest E. Mosley** (l), executive vice president of the SBC Executive Committee.



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Eight buses out

I have just watched the Oneida Marching Mountaineer Band on television in the Lexington Christmas Parade. This is the second year for our young people to have marched in that annual event. The students looked super in their white uniforms with blue and gold trim and their hats which they did not have last year. Also we had our Flag Corps marching ahead of the band this year. As impressive as their looks was the sound. Playing a medley of traditional Christmas music, they were right on the beat of the drums. Their gold waist sashes and the flags flapping in the breeze added to the spectacle.

The 70-member Band was up early this morning, and had breakfast in our dining room at 5:30 a.m. The cooks are always up early! Shortly after 6:00 a.m. the two bus loads were off to Lexington.

Tomorrow our Band performs in the annual Manchester Christmas parade in our own Clay County.

Then on Tuesday they will march, representing our county, in the Inaugural Parade for the new Governor. The folks of First Baptist, Frankfort, have been preparing for days to host our band members and six accompanying adults

in their homes on Monday evening before the parade. We must leave Oneida early in the evening for the overnight stay at Frankfort. The Band members must be in position early for the parade beginning several hours later.

Three major performances in four days in below freezing temperatures is quite a workout. But Oneida young people always rise to such challenges. They very seldom disappoint us.

With the two band buses off at 6:00 a.m., the next bus to roll out was at 6:30 a.m. loaded with students taking the SAT exam being given at Berea College. That test is a "must" for every student anticipating going to college.

At 7:30 a.m. a fourth bus loaded with wrestlers started for a five-team tournament at Versailles.

The swim and diving team left at 9:30 a.m. filling a bus and a van. They were off to spend the day in competition at Eastern Kentucky. Many schools participated from eastern and central Kentucky.

A seventh bus rolled from our campus at noon taking our girls' varsity basketball team to Bryan Station, Lexington, for a game at 3:30 p.m.

The eighth bus left at 2:30 p.m. with the boys' varsity basketball team for the third night of competition in a round-robin tournament at Bell County.

Imagine all that is involved in preparing so many differing buses, teachers and other staff members, driving and chaperoning all day and into the evening on a Saturday when most folks have the day "off." There is no additional pay for such extra work. Also consider all the effort, practice, discipline and energy involved with the several hundred of our young people who actively performed in such a variety of events. That sort of thing is going on every day here, not just on Saturdays. There is never a dull day!

In the meantime, hundreds of others were about normal routines on the campus of work, play, studying and maybe a nap. Also a campus movie in the evening.

Twenty of our husky boys worked all morning in the Big Dan Branch, three miles from our main campus. Supervised by Dean Bud Underwood, we are clearing 80 acres of school owned bottom land in the varying coves and hollows. We already have three units of staff housing there. The boys love such a challenge. Digging out stumps, bush-hogging, sawing with a crosscut, using an ax, swinging a sickle blade is better than lifting weights! Hot chocolate hits the spot also on a nippy day!



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR DEC. 20, 1987

Life and work series

Jesus Christ: humble servant

Luke 2:7 Without the presence of a physician in the hour of her great need, Mary "brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." What foreboding in the words "there was no room for them in the inn!"

Luke 2:8-11 When the angel of the Lord visited them, the shepherds were frightened. Seeking to calm them, the heavenly messenger revealed intimate knowledge and announced the most wonderful news that was ever given to man. Instantly the heavenly hosts sang the praises of God because of the wondrous gift of the prince of peace who had come to bring peace to the hearts and minds of the people

Philippians 2:5-8 Paul challenged the Philippians to imitate Christ in their way of thinking. He said: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." "Mind" here has in it the idea of disposition. Christians should be disposed to think, to speak and to act as Christ did, since they are his followers. It is their privilege and duty to have the attitude toward others which Christ displayed throughout his earthly life.

Philippians 2:9-11 After Christ volun-

tarily emptied himself and accomplished the work which he came to do, God saw to it that he was exalted to the highest place, welcomed into the glory which he had shared with him before the world was and gave him a name which is above every name. Of all names his stands alone, unique and supreme. Blessed be that name!

International series

Visit of the wise men

Matthew 2:1-12 The promise that the Messiah would come found fulfillment in the birth of the Lord Jesus. At least forty days after his birth at Bethlehem, the wise men appeared on the stage for one brief scene and then disappeared forever.

Matthew 2:1-2 The scriptures do not disclose their number, their names, or the particular country from whence they came. Representing the very best of the old world civilization, these men of rank, wealth and influence revealed their earnestness of purpose by their long and dangerous journey to the city of Jerusalem in search of a heavenly king.

Matthew 2:3-6 When Herod inquired of the chief priests and the scribes where Christ should be born, they knew exactly where to turn for the correct answer to his question. That had been made perfectly clear seven centuries earlier, according to Micah 5:2.

Matthew 2:7-8 The heart of Herod quailed with alarm and fear upon hearing the news that a king had been born, whom he naturally suspected of being his own rival. Feigning respect and love for the newborn king, Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem with instructions to locate him, and then to return and inform him as to his whereabouts. Pretending that he wanted to go and worship Christ, his real desire was to put him to death, but God thwarted his evil

Matthew 2:9-10 As the wise men left the presence of Herod and started to Bethlehem, the star which they had seen in the East again appeared to them, and led them to the very spot where Christ Jesus was.

Matthew 2:11-12 When they stood in the presence of Jesus and Mary, the wise men were filled with joy. Recognizing the Christ, they acknowledged his deity by falling down and worshipping him. They opened their treasures and presented to him their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.



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

on mission together

Not forgetting the source

A few days ago I had a call from Dr. Keith Parks, who for Southern Baptists heads the largest nonCatholic foreign missions organization in the world. Frequent contact keeps our longstanding friendship alive.

I could picture him in his office. Simple furnishings; nothing ostentatious about the entire complex where more than 400 persons work. His home and family lifestyle are similar—modest.

I also remembered Rogers Smith, now deceased. He frequently reminded all of us that many of the people who provided the funds for us to do our work were poor people—whose homes, food and

clothing were far more modest than our own.

That fact is still true. Many of those who support missions through the Cooperative Program, from which we draw our salaries, have more modest means with which to live.

Most pastors know that while there are those in their churches with significantly greater financial means than they, there are numerous others who have less—often much less.

It isn't that pastors or denominational folks don't deserve reasonable salaries. It's just that because of **whose** we are, and what we've been called to do, we feel more responsible for **how we spend what we receive**. And we fail sometimes.

It's Christmas time again and that means many things to many people. For the thoughtful Christian, one remembers the humble circumstances of the one whose birth we celebrate; whose only possessions, apparently, were what he wore. He would have been at home with the street people.

We'll exchange gifts and when it's all over, the Marshall family will have spent a lot for gifts, food and special things.

Yet, I think the most joyful things which Alice and I now do at Christmas time is writing our check for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missions. In recent years we have made it more than what we considered a "satisfactory" gift (by whose standards, I don't know). Now we try to give a "satisfying" gift—one which comes out of our pockets through our hearts. But even then, I know that many others of more modest means would proportionately make our gift seem selfish.

When Keith and I had finished our telephone conversation, I thought again about how grateful I am to have him as our foreign missions leader.

His lifestyle demonstrates he knows the humble savior and that he remembers the humility of the gifts from so many Southern Baptists with very limited resources.

Fite recalls Caudill, Cuban mission crisis

by Elizabeth Watson

The recent death of missionary Herbert Caudill has prompted David Fite to reminisce about how he suffered with his in-laws.

Most families joke about tolerating in-laws, but as a young missionary Fite learned to rely upon his father-in-law to tolerate unjust imprisonment. Fite, director of continuing education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, knew Caudill not only as his father-in-law but also as his cell mate in a Cuban prison.

Caudill, one of Southern Baptists' missionary heroes, died Sept. 29 at age 84.

The Caudills and Fites were Southern Baptist home missionaries in Cuba when Fidel Castro seized power in 1959. From the beginning of that revolution, both Fite and Caudill knew Castro would not be able to stop the spread of the gospel in Cuba.

But neither knew the persecution that awaited them in defending the gospel.

"My father-in-law was a model for me," Fite said. "He was not a spectacular person—just a man you could count on being there and doing the job God called him to do. He was always faithful to God and trusted him wholly, especially during his imprisonment."

Twenty-four years later, Fite vividly remembers the knock in the middle of the night which awoke him to a four-year nightmare. Four men rushed into the house, holding Fite at gunpoint and searching the house for evidence to use against him in court.

"All they could find was a piggy bank full of Indian-head nickels which they submitted as proof of trafficking in foreign currency," Fite said.

Cuban federal investigation officials indicted Fite and Caudill on spy and il-

legal currency exchange charges. Accused of being a spy ring leader, Caudill was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Fite received a six-year sentence.

"My biggest initial concern was for my family," Fite said. "Margaret had been left with the responsibility of our three small children and her mother."

Mrs. Fite sold wedding gifts for money to buy food for the family until the Home Mission Board could send money.

When granted family visiting privileges, Fite communicated important messages with his family in code language. During visits they were not allowed to speak in private or in English.

"Margaret and I happened to be reading Letters and Papers from Prison by Dietrich Bonhoeffer the week before the arrest. My brother had a son named Carl Deitrich, so I would tell her I had been thinking about my nephew a lot these days," Fite said. "She would know I was experiencing many of the same things Bonhoeffer had gone through."

"Solitary confinement during my first weeks of arrest was very difficult," he said. "I would sing, walk around the cell and keep track of how many times I had walked around the cell on an abacus I made."

Fite imagined walking down his neighborhood street and recreating conversations with neighbors. He wrote Greek on the wall—limiting himself to 10 words a day so he could "prime" himself for new words for the next day.

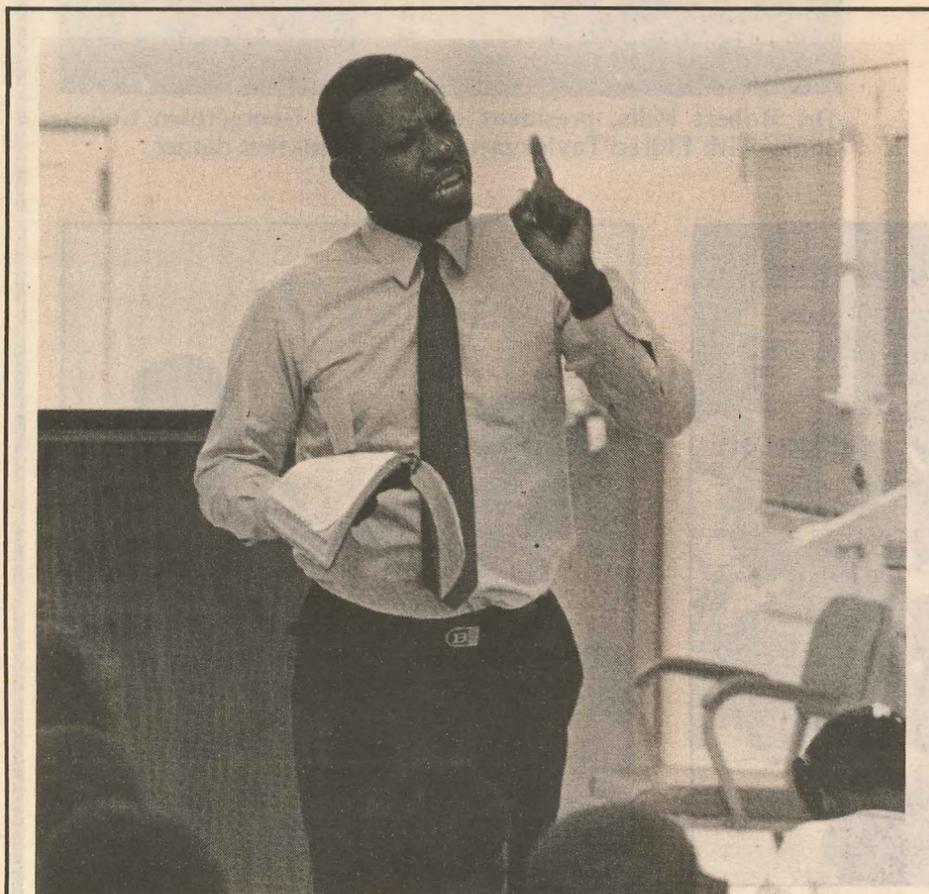
After their "trial," Fite and Caudill were taken to the old Spanish fortress La Cabana, which had been converted into a huge prison. They were placed in a ward with 200 men.

Fite calculated there was only one square yard per person. "It was a mass of humanity. There was little water, food and space."

Despite bout of hepatitis and other



David and Margaret Fite display the leather sachel Fite made in 1975 for his father-in-law, Herbert Caudill, commemorating Caudill's 40 years of missionary service in Cuba.



Carl Burns, a doctor of education student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., preaches to his congregation at Brighter Hope Mission in the Butler Housing Project. The mission, begun by two seminary students and sponsored by the Tarrant Baptist Association and a local church, ministers to residents of the city's poorest and most crime-ridden neighborhood.

serious illnesses, Fite, Caudill and other pastors regularly held "clandestine" worship services. Many prisoners came to know Christ through the testimony of the imprisoned Baptists.

"One of our pastors led so many men to Christ the warden placed him in solitary confinement. But when he led his guard to Christ, they gave up and put him back in the ward," Fite said.

"The communists began to see that they couldn't get rid of religion. The persecuted Cuban Christians believed in something that could outlast Fidel," Fite said. "That is why we were able to bear up under what one would consider unbearable circumstances."

Several times Fite asked God "why?"

"I never got an answer," he said. "But God reassured me he would be with me each day. The same God who led me to stay in Cuba was with me in prison."

Pressure exerted from Third World Baptists and Fite's parents helped gain Fite's release from prison on Dec. 16, 1968. The Fites had to wait nine months before they were allowed to leave Cuba.

Then Fite's family began a new life in Ft. Worth, where he enrolled in Southwestern's doctoral program. Fite joined the Southwestern staff as director of continuing education in 1971.

"No matter where you are, each day is an opportunity to further the kingdom of God," Fite said. "We can make our plans but we must be accepting of the changes God allows in our plans."

"The morning after my arrest, Margaret reminded our boys of Paul's imprisonment and suffering as a servant of Christ. She told them it was our turn

now to suffer for Christ."

"Whenever their Cuban classmates would ask them about their father, they would throw back their shoulders and tell them their father was suffering for Christ," Fite said.

"Our faith must be strong enough to withstand and bear up against the sinful world for Christ, or our faith isn't any good at all."

Thank You



For Your
COOPERATIVE
PROGRAM
Support

Homes for Children story told across the state during year-long campaign

Photos by Darrell Monroe and Kevin Borders

The year-long \$3,000,000 endowment campaign for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children was concluded October 22 in Murray, Ky. The fourth and final phase of the campaign covered the southwestern and western regions of the state. More than 1100 persons attended dinners in seven cities during the campaign's final phase.

As of mid-November, more than \$2,700,000 had been given or pledged towards the \$3,000,000 goal.

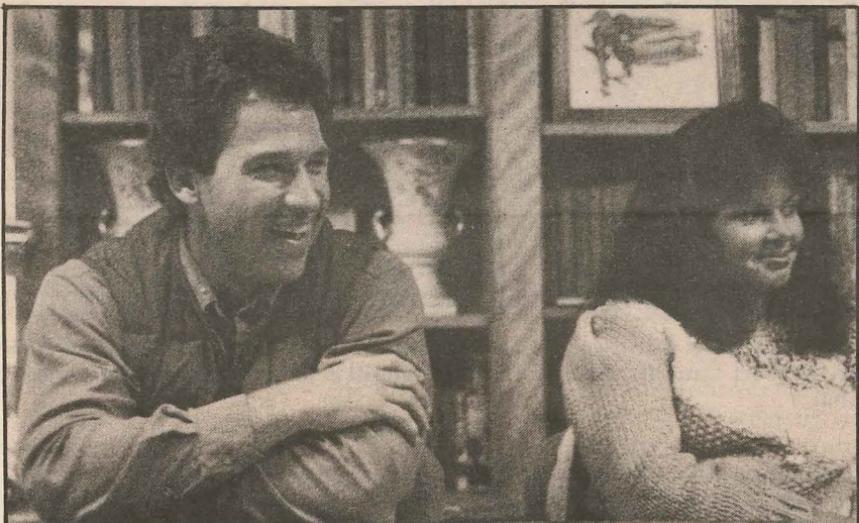
While volunteer organization, enlistment and training of workers, and campaign dinners have ended, followup work continues.

The start of the Beyond This Time campaign was announced November 11, 1986 during the meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The campaign was designed to build a strong endowment to ensure that Baptist Homes for Children may continue to meet the needs of hurting children. Nearly 2,700 people attended 31 banquets across Kentucky during the year-long campaign.

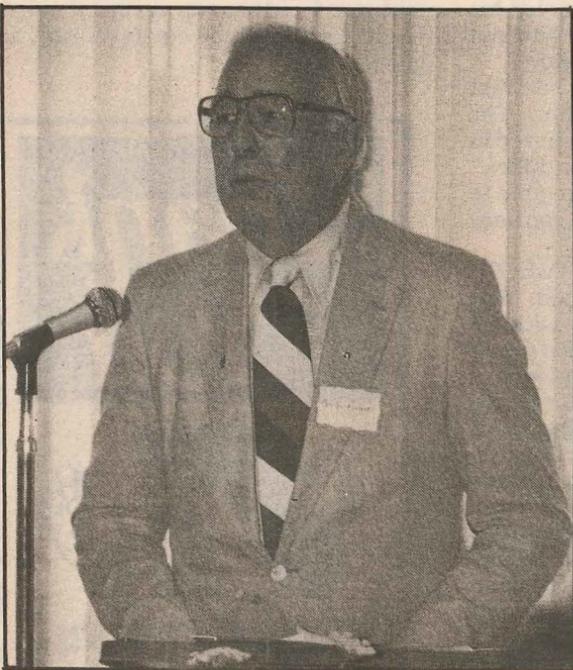
Mike Bryant, a Florence insurance agent and member of Florence Baptist Church, served as statewide chairman of the campaign.



Dr. Robert Mills, president emeritus of Georgetown College, spoke with Eldred Taylor prior to the Frankfort dinner.



Former professional baseball star Doug Flynn and his wife, Olga, served as leaders in the Lexington area campaign.



Charles Redmon served as area director of the Bowling Green campaign. He spoke to guests at the July 20 Bowling Green dinner.



KBHC trustee Mrs. Joe Cross spoke at the first campaign dinner on March 3 in Louisville.



Mrs. Eldred Taylor played a significant role in The Beyond This Time campaign. She is shown here talking with Mike Bryant, statewide chairman of the campaign.