



Ed Lauderdale (l) and John McAlister (r) serve hot meals to tornado victims and disaster response workers from the Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief Unit in West Memphis, Ark. The men are part of an Arkansas Brotherhood ministry that responds in times of disaster. A Dec. 14 tornado killed six, injured more than 150, damaged 528 homes, leveled businesses and left 4500 without utilities. Remains of Maddux Elementary School are in the background. Lauderdale is a member of Quitman (Ark.) Baptist Church; McAlister of First Baptist, El Dorado, Ark.

Mill Creek fire puts damper on new year

by Joy Jordan, Staff Writer

Fire destroyed the sanctuary of Mill Creek Baptist Church, Bardstown, late Sunday afternoon, Dec. 20. The fellowship hall, kitchen and educational wing were ruined by water and smoke damage.

Mill Creek's pastor, Rick Fullard, who had graduated from Southern Seminary, Louisville, two days before, described the tragedy as "a total loss," but he was quick to add it had been a "binding together" experience for both the small church and community.

Following the morning service, church members had lingered at a re-

ception until about 2:30 p.m. Around 4 p.m. some passers-by noticed smoke coming from the sanctuary roof. Four fire departments, as well as several individuals including Fullard, struggled for hours to douse the blaze.

Mill Creek's Christmas cantata had been scheduled for the evening service. When it appeared they had done all they could to save the structure, members gathered at nearby Woodlawn Methodist to proceed with the cantata.

"We haven't had a time yet to express our grief," noted Fullard, "but we will—even if we have to meet in a barn."

Mill Creek, one of the oldest Baptist churches in Kentucky, was officially constituted in 1793, but had acted as a church since the early 1700s. The original copy of the constitution and first business meeting were found recently in the attic of a woman who was not even a member of the church.

The remainder of the original records, however, were lost in the 1940s when the secretary's home where they were stored burned.

Fortunately, the parsonage houses some of the older existing records and thus they remain unharmed. Although a few of the more recent records stored in the church may be salvagable, most were ruined.

Wiring in the attic of the sanctuary is assumed to have caused the fire. Built in 1952, the structure was the third to top the original foundation.

Fullard said virtually everything in the sanctuary was destroyed, including the pulpit, the Bible he received at his ordination and the church bell. A clock made of poplar wood from the original Mill Creek Baptist survived the flames but was badly damaged.

"Roots run deep here," Fullard reflected. "Some of these people in their 80s and 90s have been members of this

church all their lives."

Yet, despite "a lot of tears," he noted, "there hasn't been much questioning why or blaming God.... It's just the kind of thing you can't explain."

Describing the spirit as generally "positive," Fullard affirmed, "everyone has been very supportive.... We're pulling together."

Student missions up; ministries wane

Involvement of Southern Baptist students in missions and evangelism increased during the 1986-87 school year, while the number of campus ministries declined, according to a report of student ministry work.

Charles Johnson, director of the National Student Ministries Department at the Baptist Sunday School Board, also cited gains in students involved in prayer emphases, missions and gifts to missions as successes on campus. Growth in the number of churches reporting student emphasis programs indicates involvement in local churches.

The annual report, based on information collected from state directors of student ministries provides an indication of the various programs and emphases of student ministry. The information reported to state student ministry directors by campus ministers is based on their knowledge of student involvement in church programs.

The report indicates 1026 Baptist Student Union weeks of prayer emphases were conducted during the 1986-87 school year, almost doubling the 546 reported the previous year.

There were 12,668 students involved in mission projects sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign mission boards, state Student Depart-

ACTS debut may attract 7 million for Baptist Men

The second annual Baptist Men's teleconference will air Saturday, Jan. 9 at noon Eastern Standard Time and will be simulcast on the American Christian Television System for the first time this year, bringing the message live into private homes.

Previously the teleconference could be viewed through Baptist Telecommunication Network outlets or on a tape-delayed basis from the sources. With the ACTS connection, the program's potential audience will grow by some 7 million cable subscribers.

About 100 BTN sites across the nation are set to carry the teleconference.

In keeping with this year's Brotherhood Commission theme, "Missions Involvement in Daily Life," program guests will be Baptist laymen with a tangible missions ministry both on and off the job.

They include Manuel Galindo, a Harlingen, Tex., educator; Bill Gurley, a Memphis, Tenn., businessman; Don Putnam, a Lexington, Ky., businessman; and Ted Wilson, an Indianapolis attorney. James Smith, Brotherhood Commission president, will host the hour-long program.

Viewers will be given a toll-free number allowing them to call in questions to Smith and his guests.

Although the entire Brotherhood program will be spotlighted during the broadcast, special emphasis will be given to the 1988 Home Missions Work Projects planned for the Baptist Men, Baptist Young Men and High School Baptist Young Men organizations sponsored by the commission.

Viewers may watch the teleconference at a BTN viewing site, on ACTS in their homes, or through satellite dish connections set to Transponder 11-H, Channel 21, Spacenet 1. Viewers also may request local cable companies without ACTS to broadcast the program on a local-access channel. (BP)

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ments and local BSUs with almost \$1.6 million contributed to the state student missions projects. Those are up from 10,335 students and \$972,262 reported the previous year.

The report also indicated 1590 churches conducted Student Awareness Month programs—up from 1417. Student Awareness Month is an effort by churches to involve students from nearby campuses in their Sunday school and church activities.

Directors reported 395 churches with Crossover programs, for an increase from 227. Crossover is a program to help high school students make a transition to college church and campus programs.

The number of student baptisms registered an increase of 165, with 5758 student baptisms reported in Southern Baptist churches during the 1986-87 academic year, compared to 5593 the previous year.

The number of students involved in student ministries on campuses was 142,839, down from 152,348. The number of students reported in Bible study through Sunday schools in local churches was 106,352, down from 136,518.

The 1987 report indicated that although 53 new campus ministries were started, the total number declined from 1086 to 1042. (BP)

sanford's perspectives



Jack D. Sanford

We have asked H. Garrison Coltharp, pastor of First Baptist Church, Madisonville, and immediate past chairman of the board of directors of Western Recorder, to share his thoughts as his term on our board expires. Gary has given good leadership to the paper and typifies the quality people who serve our Kentucky Baptist institutions.

Guard the freedom of our Baptist paper

These past six years as a director of Western Recorder have enriched my life and expanded my understanding of the vital role our paper has in Kentucky Baptist life. As I come to the end of my term I want to reflect upon those understandings.

How well I remember my first meeting. During that meeting then editor C. R. Daley discussed the importance of safeguarding the freedom of the paper and its editor. Little did I realize how crucial that principle would become to all who value being informed of the kaleidoscopic events in contemporary Baptist life.

Completing my term as a member and chairman of the board, I am an avowed advocate for a free state paper. But in order to be free, the paper and its editor must be responsible. The editor must be free to report the facts. It is his responsibility to address those issues which impact or threaten to undermine historic Baptist principles. The editor must be free to speak the prophetic word as God leads him. He is responsible, not only to Kentucky Baptists, but ultimately to the Lord. The editor must be free to lend his voice on behalf of the minority when appropriate. At times he may need to analyze or even criticize a direction or position taken by our leaders. At all times he must seek to "speak the truth in love," but at no time can we allow him to be manipulated or controlled by anyone or anything less than his responsibility to God, the highest interests of Kentucky Baptists and his pursuit of truth.

The board of directors serves Kentucky Baptists as the essential link between the paper and the

convention. Twelve directors, representing every geographical region of our state and reflecting a broad range of viewpoints characteristic of our constituency, are elected by the convention. During my tenure the board has been comprised of both laypersons and ministers, a healthy combination. It is through these directors that freedom with responsibility is maintained.

As representatives of the convention, directors recognize their responsibility to the convention for giving oversight and guidance to the ministry and management of the paper. Both editor and staff are accountable to Kentucky Baptists through the directors. At the same time, directors must fulfill their responsibility to safeguard the integrity of the paper along with the valued principle of a free Baptist press. This latter responsibility may occasionally require that individual directors rise above their own personal viewpoints or interpretations on certain issues in order to defend and preserve the paper's freedom to report the news honestly and fairly. The process is working well in behalf of Kentucky Baptists.

Serving Western Recorder has been a rewarding and satisfying experience. I am grateful for our editor and each of the fine persons who staff our paper. I am confident directors of Western Recorder will continue representing Kentucky Baptists well in guiding the paper. Above all, I am praying Kentucky Baptists always will have access to relevant, truthful and responsible news and commentary through the ministry of Western Recorder.

Credentials committee has important role

One of the priorities of the Kentucky Baptist Convention is starting new work in areas where Baptists do not have a strong witness.

New churches, missions and preaching points will be established which will ultimately come into the Kentucky Baptist family as cooperating churches.

In order to help those who are involved in this growth process we offer the following information about the credentials committee of the KBC. This committee is responsible for investigation and recommendation of churches which desire affiliation with the convention.

The committee is composed of seven members and meets as frequently as necessary throughout the year to review requests from churches desiring affiliation with the convention. When a church is ready for affiliation the committee should be contacted so no delays are experienced.

This committee is responsible for registering messengers to the annual meeting of the KBC. Any new Kentucky Baptist church which desires messengers accredited must be aware of the process outlined in the KBC Constitution and Bylaws and Committees of the Convention with Guidelines. These documents spell out exactly what is necessary for messengers to be seated at the annual

meeting.

A church desiring affiliation must present an application to the credentials committee on a form available from the office of the executive secretary. This form and application must be presented to the committee before September 15 prior to the annual meeting. The church constitution and bylaws, a statement of faith and information about the mission and ministry of the church, must be presented to the committee along with the application for acceptance by the KBC.

There is no requirement that a church seeking affiliation with the KBC be affiliated with a local association. However, the credentials committee strongly urges each cooperating church be in fellowship with a local association and that fact is reflected in the committee report each year.

The constitution of the KBC states that affiliation is granted to churches "in friendly cooperation with the convention" and "sympathetic with its purpose and work" and who have been "a bona fide contributor to the convention's work."

It is the task of the credentials committee to determine if each church seeking affiliation meets these basic requirements. Thus the importance of early application so the committee can do its work and make a proper report to the convention.

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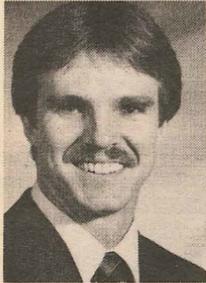
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mountains to the mississippi



Billy Mounce



Julena Mounce



Shauna Lance



Milton Williams

missions

The Foreign Mission Board approved 42 young adults for training as journeymen during its December meeting in Richmond, Va.

Candidates will fill such assignments as school teachers, teachers of missionaries' children, music and student workers, clerical workers and communication workers. The journeymen are scheduled to work in 28 countries.

Those who receive medical clearance and successfully complete a five-week training session at the Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va. will be commissioned Feb. 27.

Kentucky candidates include **Julena Mounce**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard C. Edwards of Somerset, and her husband, **Billy Mounce**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie C. Mounce, also of Somerset. He is assigned as athletic director and she as music teacher in the Leeward Islands.

Shauna Lance, daughter of Phyllis Richards of Bowling Green and the late Robert E. Lance and stepdaughter of Russell Richards of Bowling Green, has been assigned as a missionary child teacher in Guatemala.

Milton C. Williams Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Williams Sr. of Suffolk, will be a missionary child teacher in Santarem, Brazil. Williams is a recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He was BSU president, a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board summer missionary in Alaska and a Foreign Mission Board summer/semester missionary in Brazil.

A work/study team from the Baptist Student Union of Berea College will be spending their January Short Term in Israel. Traveling and working under the leadership of Norman and Martha Lytle, Southern Baptist missionaries, the team does general maintenance on the buildings and help with food services and recreation at the Baptist Village, a conference center and farm near Petah Tiqwa.

The group will do on-site study at many religious and historical locations in Israel prior to their Jan. 27 return. Each student is responsible for transportation, but BSU groups, churches and friends are contributing to defray other expenses.

Team members include **Jim Whitecotton**, **Jonathan King**, **Rosalie Bouchie**, **Lee Ann Matthews**, **Scott Sanderson**, **David Preston** and **Dennis Vance**.

ordinations

Robert N. Bishop and **David Wright** were ordained as deacons by Island Baptist Church, Daviess-McLean Association. Willard L. Brown is pastor.

Trinity Baptist Church, West Union Association, ordained **Steve English** as a deacon. Elmer L. Crouch is pastor.

Tommy Nace, **Gary McElya**, **Lynn Simmons**, **Larson Tilford** and **Brent Warford** were ordained as deacons by Newton Creek Baptist Church, West Union Association. Wilford B. Hunter is pastor.

personnel

Wanda Hutcheison was honored on her 25th anniversary as secretary at Immanuel Baptist Temple, Green Valley Association. Dennis R. Plank is pastor.

Robert E. Kersey was honored for 21 years on the staff of First Baptist Church, Paducah, West Union Association. J. Robert White is pastor.

Elmo Peters has accepted the pastorate of Butler Baptist Church, Union Association.

Russell Heights Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association, has called **James W. DeSpain** as pastor.

Harold Craven has resigned as pastor of Rose Chapel Baptist Church, West Union Association.

Tom Knight has been called as youth director of Elkhorn Baptist Church, Taylor County Association. Robert Randall Smith is pastor.

Lynn Association has called **Lonnie Sheets** as director of missions. He was formerly pastor of Bonnierville Baptist Church, Lynn Association.

Gilbert Larrimore has resigned the pastorate of South Greensburg Baptist



Robert and Joyce Kersey

Church, Russell Creek Association.

Helen R. Duncan has been called as educational director of Lancaster Baptist Church, South District Association. Bob Rush is pastor.

Harrodsfork Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association, has called **Brent T. Gupton** as pastor.

Vernon Ware has been called as pastor of Pikeview Baptist Church, Freedom Association. Ware is a student at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

Marshall E. Sloan Jr. has been called as pastor of Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association.

John E. Batcher has accepted the call as pastor of Mt. Roberts Baptist Church, East Lynn Association.

Jeffersontown Baptist Church, Long Run Association, has called **Joel F. Jones** as pastor.

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



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

homes for children

What in the world is God doing?

Thinking about the events of 1987 and trying to anticipate what to expect in 1988 can be discouraging and frightening. The news media bring disturbing reports: world hunger with thousands starving; fraud, cheating, lying and stealing in high places; mobs; rebellions, uprisings, murders and war; immorality and crime continuing to climb. The whole world cries out for help, only to remain fragmented and bewildered. Do you ever want to ask, "What in the world is God doing?"

To deal with what God is doing in this world, one needs to consider where God is. The psalmist makes it clear that God is everywhere. He is not confined to any one place or part of the universe. One cannot escape God, he is everywhere. The prophet Habakkuk wrote, "God is in his holy temple." God is in the place of worship, and we can meet him in his appointed place. God is in the believer's heart. The gospels reveal that the Lord is within you, for the Holy Spirit enters the believer's heart at the moment of conversion. God is at the door of the sinner's heart. He is a God who seeks sinners that he might save them from their sins.

If this describes where God is, then we may rightly ask what really is he doing in the world. God is at work in the world! He is at work redeeming lost people. He provides an answer we can never provide—his son, crucified, buried, risen with power to redeem sinners, thus repairing the damage of sin and making sinners his sons and daughters.

God is growing and maturing his children. He calls us into sacrificial service; he teaches us patience; he challenges us to walk in faith; and he is shaping us into the likeness of his son, Jesus Christ. God is at work unifying a divided world. His plan is to bring everything together in Christ, for he does not want his world divided. Only the gospel reaching individuals and making men and women new in their hearts can unify a divided world. Then we can lay down our swords and live in peace. When we are reconciled to God, we can be reconciled to one another.

Because of who God is, where he is and what he is doing, Baptist Homes for Children faces 1988 with excitement and hope. Dependent, neglected, abused children can be pointed toward Christ who makes it possible for them to put the broken pieces of life together.



Berea College BSU students who will spend the January Short Term as missionaries in Israel are (front, l-r) **Jim Whitecotton**, **Jonathan King**, **Rosalie Bouchie** and (back, l-r) **Lee Ann Matthews**, **Scott Sanderson**, **David Preston** and **Dennis Vance**.

baptist news in brief



Leon Simpson
President
Clear Creek Bible College
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek comment

A wonderful year

I always thrill at the prospect of a brand new year laid out before me. No matter how the old year may have passed, the prospect of 365 new days lying before me turns me into an incurable optimist and idealist. This buoyant spirit is expressed in Tennyson's immortal words:

*Ring out the old, ring in the new/
Ring, happy bells, across the snow/
The year is going, let him go/Ring
out the false, ring in the true./Ring
out the old shapes of foul disease/
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold/
Ring out the thousand wars of old/
Ring in the thousand years of peace./
Ring in the valiant and free/The
larger heart, the kindlier hand/Ring
out the darkness of the land/Ring
in the Christ that is to be."*

A Christian can afford to be optimistic for 1988 because God has made us a promise: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5). This is God's promise for you in 1988. This promise is emphasized in the New International Version: "Never will I leave you; Never will I forsake you."

Because God will not forsake me in 1988, I can face the future unafraid. "The Lord is my helper and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Heb. 13:6).

Because the Lord is with me, I can keep my life free from the love of money and be content with what I have in 1988. Perhaps the greatest sin we committed in the closing days of 1987 was to spend money we did not have for things we did not need to impress people we do not even like! May God deliver us from this sin in 1988.

1988 will also be a wonderful year for Clear Creek. God's presence, his power and his provision are promised to every Christian. These are also promised to this wonderful school. For 61 years God has blessed the ministry at Clear Creek.

For 61 years God has brought preachers to Clear Creek. We have loved them, cared for them and encouraged and equipped them for ministry in the local Baptist churches.

For 61 years Clear Creek has served Kentucky Baptists by training and helping their pastors. D. M. Aldridge served admirably for 32 of these years. For 20 years I have been personally involved in training Kentucky Baptist preachers.

As we begin this new year, we pledge to Kentucky Baptists that we will be faithful in serving those whom God calls to full time ministry. 1988 will be a wonderful year for all of us!

Religion interest surges; ethics plunge

At the same time Americans are experiencing a spiritual hunger and surge of interest in religion, a decline in the level of ethics is taking place, the leader of Southern Baptists' church training program reported during annual planning meetings in Nashville.

Roy Edgemon, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Training Department, said pastors are coming to grips with some contradictory trends in religion in America today and desiring to do something about them.

According to a multi-sourced list of trends compiled by the Church Training Department: "The No. 1 trend of religion in America is the spiritual hunger for depth and meaning in the lives of Christians. But at the same time, the level of ethics is declining. Little difference is found in the ethical views and behaviors of those who go to church and those who don't."

Edgemon said many churches are guilty of lowering the standards of Christianity by not teaching biblical doctrine and Baptist heritage: "We are no longer weighing our values by the word of God, but by trends in society. We must come back to weighing our values by the teaching of the word, and that's the task of church training."

Edgemon said he believes the Church Training Department's annual doctrine study emphasis is increasingly enlightening Baptists as to what their denomination believes. Lay Institute for Equipping courses such as MasterLife, MasterDesign, DecisionTime, Parenting by Grace, Covenant Marriage and PrayerLife (due out this month) encourage Baptists to probe the teachings of the Bible, he added.

The Church Training Department also plans to support the pastor's need for training church members with its back-to-basics curriculum, due out in October, Edgemon said. A Call to Baptist Basics is a three-year plan of study designed to call churches back to a study of the basics of Baptist doctrine and heritage. The units of study include doctrine, history, ethics, polity and discipleship. (BP)

Gordon Hobgood joins SBC Annuity Board staff

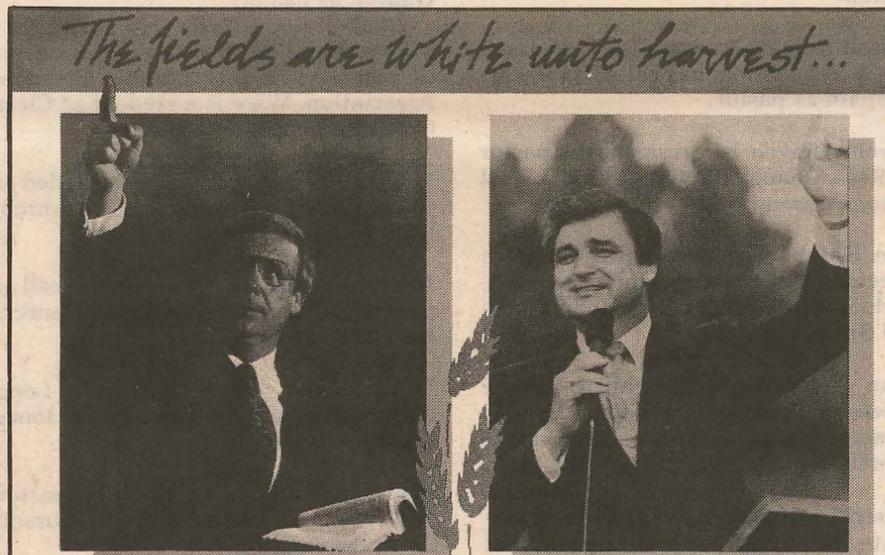
W. Gordon Hobgood Jr. will become executive vice president/chief operating officer of the Annuity board on Jan. 31.

Hobgood, who was chairman of trustees for the Annuity Board, resigned to accept election to the executive staff. The 55-year-old banker is presently managing director for the Trust Line of Business at First RepublicBank Corporation, Dallas.

Darold H. Morgan, Annuity Board president, said, "Gordon Hobgood will provide tremendous new strength to our executive staff. Our growth in assets and members, accompanied by increasing complexity in pension and tax laws, demands precisely his type of expertise. His churchmanship adds that essential extra dimension we expect in our executives."

Hobgood holds academic degrees in accounting and law and is a graduate of the Stonier Graduate School of Banking. He is a deacon at First Baptist Church, Richardson, Tex., and is on the administrative board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Hobgood is also a trustee of the Children's Medical Center of Dallas, a director of the Baptist Foundation of Texas and is on the Advisory board of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. (BP)

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BSSB leader pleads for support and trust

An appeal for trust and support of the Baptist Sunday School Board to enable the church programs and publishing agency to continue and to expand ministries to people and churches has been sounded by president Lloyd Elder.

Support of churches and effective financial management enable the board not only to support itself through the sale of products and services but also to undertake ministries that meet needs but do not pay for themselves, Elder told state Baptist convention leaders Dec. 9 during annual planning and promotion meetings in Nashville.

Seven of the 17 programs assigned to the board by the Southern Baptist Convention cost more money than they generate, he said. These include support of state convention work and the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget.

Also, Elder cited several of the board's new efforts that are expected to break even when they are better established. These include special ministries—work with blacks, language and ethnic groups and handicapped people—and the Baptist Telecommunication Network.

"Any one quarter a church can cut us out of the budget," Elder said, by choosing not to buy literature, since the board receives no Cooperative Program funds.

"The most precious commodity we have is not the authority we have over one another but the trust we have in one another. Let us draw one another to our hearts, not control one another with our minds." (BP)

PAC, CLC talk potential merger

Officers of the Southern Baptist Convention's Public Affairs Committee and its Christian Life Commission met Dec. 12 in Nashville to consider merging the two organizations.

The officer's talks centered on a merger proposal that would expand the CLC program statement to include re-

sponsibility for religious liberty and church-state issues. It would dissolve the PAC and ultimately also dissolve ties between the SBC and the Baptist Joint Committee.

All seven of the PAC/CLC officers who participated in the meeting have been affiliated with the movement to turn the SBC in a more conservative direction.

CLC participants included chairman Fred Lackey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Athens, Ala.; vice chairman Joe Atchison, director of Baptist associational missions in Rogers, Ark.; and secretary Rudolph Yakym Jr., a stockbroker from South Bend, Ind.

All three of the CLC officers spoke in favor of a motion to fire CLC president N. Larry Baker during the commission's meeting in September. The measure failed by a 15-15 vote. Baker had been criticized by conservative commissioners for views on abortion, capital punishment and women in ministry they said were too moderate.

PAC participants included chairman Samuel T. Currin, a Raleigh, N. C. state judge; recording secretary Les Csorba III, executive director of Accuracy in

Academia of Alexandria, Va.; and Richard Land, special assistant to the governor of Texas from Dallas, chairman of the PAC's planning policy subcommittee.

All four of the PAC members voted for the committee's October recommendation to dissolve ties between the SBC and the Baptist Joint Committee. (BP)

High court splits evenly on abortion notification

An equally divided U. S. Supreme Court has affirmed lower decisions striking down an Illinois law requiring underage pregnant women to notify their parents before obtaining abortions.

The 4-4 decision came on the first day of confirmation hearings for federal appeals judge Anthony M. Kennedy, President Reagan's third nominee for the high court vacancy left by the retirement last June of former associate justice Lewis F. Powell Jr., and underscored the division of the court on the subject of abortion.

Although the ruling marks a setback for anti-abortion forces seeking legal restrictions on the practice, it may signal only a temporary defeat, depending on Kennedy's position. During the questioning at his confirmation hearings, the Sacramento, Calif., judge said he has no "fixed view" on abortion and has made no commitments to the White House or individual senators that he would vote to uphold anti-abortion laws. (BP)

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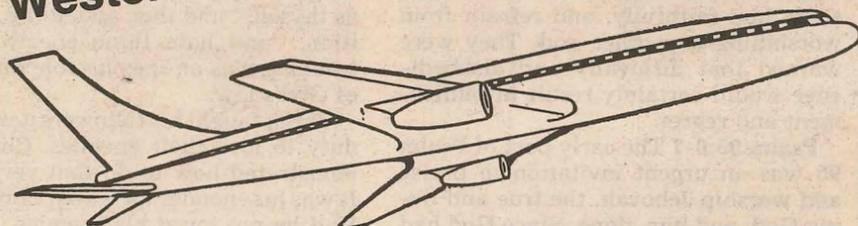
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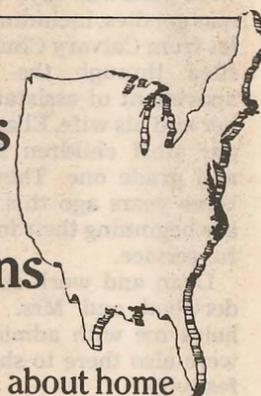
- * Round trip Delta Airfare from Louisville
- * 6-night lodging at San Antonio's Sheraton North
- * Chartered ground transportation to and from convention center daily
- * Travel insurance
- * Limited reservations

CLIP AND MAIL TODAY

- Enclosed is my \$75.00 per person deposit
- Ray, please contact me with additional information

NAME _____ Mail to: _____
 Address _____ Ray Hayes _____
 City, St., Zip _____ Western Recorder _____
 Phone No. _____ Work No. _____ Box 43969 _____
 Church _____ Middletown, KY 40243 _____

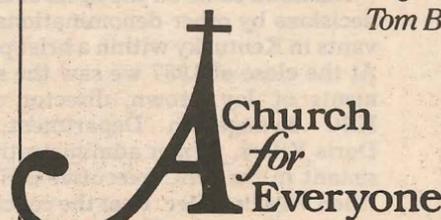
The 1988 Home Missions Teleconference is Your Highway to Home Missions



"Pave" your highway with more knowledge about home missions as you tune in to this year's Home Missions Teleconference. You will meet missionaries who serve in various areas of the United States and see actual footage of them in their work place. You also will meet Southern Baptist missions leaders who will report to you the latest information concerning home missions.

Missionaries you'll meet...

- Vince Inzerillo Seattle, Washington
- James Myers Grangeville, Idaho
- Jim and Cathy Ward Dateland, Arizona
- Bill and Cindy Black Gatlinburg, Tennessee
- Tom Blase St. Louis, Missouri



Monday, Feb. 1, 1988
7-8:30 p.m. (CST)
ACTS or BTN Networks

For more information, write to: WMU, SBC, Communications Group, P.O. Box C-10, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010.



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Hear the song

Dec. 13—The usual three morning services were held in the Oneida Baptist Church, each reminding of the birth so long ago. The Clay County Choir, directed by Oneida's choir director Richard Burns, sang Handel's glorious "The Messiah" in the evening worship service. This has been an annual tradition for some years now.

They sang in Manchester Thursday night. Following the performance, a reception was held for them in historic Anderson Hall. That 14-room house with its great columns has hosted many Christmas events over the past 76 years. Five of our staff live there and up to 10 guests are cared for nightly.

Later in the evening the annual older boys dorm party for the 218 residents of Carnahan and Marvin Wheeler Halls were held. The boys were served Christmas goodies, including homemade cookies from Calvary Church, Berea, as they filed through the newly renovated apartment of assistant dean Joe Buckner and his wife, Elizabeth, who teaches our staff children kindergarten level and grade one. They came to Oneida three years ago this seasons, and thus are beginning their fourth year of faithful service.

Dean and work supervisor Bud Underwood and Mrs. Underwood, who helps me with admissions and guests, were also there to share the Christmas festivity.

Dec. 14—Marlynn Capo, Scott Hoover

and Steve Derryberry led chapel this morning. Their voices blend so beautifully in song. Among our younger staff, each day of their lives is a sermon in love and concern for others. They have a wonderful rapport with our students and everyone.

Another busy day ended with the younger boys of Baker Hall, capacity 112, having their annual Christmas party. The party was held in the smaller of our two dining rooms immediately after the nightly hour of supervised study hall. Each boy ate homemade cookies, received a Christmas gift (as had all the older boys and girls in their previous dorm parties) made possible by the generous provision of Mr. and Mrs. Whitehouse, who owned The Cherry House and are very active in Ballardsville Baptist Church.

Mrs. Judy Lawson, the head dean, and Mrs. Mary Jefferson, her assistant and a registered nurse, make a wonderful team as they and substitute dean Gary Garrett work with those younger children.

Dec. 15—Mrs. Schmittendorf and her choir led the chapel service today. The staff children, kindergarten through grade five, are so cute as are our sixth, seventh and eighth graders. They sang contemporary Christian songs of Christmas. Tonight several score of our 4-H members had their Christmas party on Little Bullskin Creek in the home of Mike and Debbie Winters. He runs our student grill and she is the principal's secretary. They are hard workers and do a wonderful job with 4-H.

Dec. 16—Tim, the middle of the Mallard sons, and his fiancée are home from New York on the holidays. They are fine musicians. Their chapel program was another Christmas spiritual treat. Even the oldest of our staff felt something of a child again looking at our beautiful chapel Christmas tree.

Dec. 18—Exams and the semester over, we assembled for our annual service in the chapel and listened as our Oneida choir sang so beautifully the wonderful carols of Christmas. Many parents and other school friends present to pick up students for the holidays shared in this always special service. It climaxed weeks of Christmas activity. Amid much hustle and bustle, each heads for home. Happy, noisy, cheerful youth in their prime and glory. Happy birthday, Lord Jesus!

"Savior, make us to remember, other children near and far, who should see the Christmas star, hear the song and love the light, of thy birthday fair and bright."



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR JAN. 10, 1987

Life and work series

Worship God

Exodus 20:1-3 The First Commandment makes it clear the matter of greatest importance in life is being in right relationship with God the creator and sustainer. Unless man is rightly related to God, he will never be able to live correctly before others.

Deuteronomy 6:13-15 God wanted the people to know that defiance of his will would result in the withholding of his favor and blessings. In order to prevent them from forgetting God after he had brought them into the promised land, God had Moses urge them to rever him, serve him faithfully, and refrain from worshipping any other god. They were warned that disloyalty and disobedience would certainly result in punishment and regret.

Psalms 95:6-7 The early part of Psalm 95 was an urgent invitation to praise and worship Jehovah, the true and living God, and him alone. Since God had created, sustained, cared for and protected them, they were obligated to render unto him true praise and submissive obedience. God's children must hear and heed the divine summons to worship and praise him while they have the opportunity for none of them knows what

tomorrow may bring.

Matthew 4:8-10 Having failed to get Christ to yield to temptation in the realm of appetite and of adventure, Satan turned to the realm of ambition. He boldly sought to get Christ to render to him that worship which rightfully belonged to God alone. In each of his victories over temptation and Satan, Christ used the threefold method of all triumph over the tempter: absolute dependence on God, absolute faith in God and strict obedience to God.

International series

Old and new in religion

Matthew 5:21-26 After a passing reference to the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," Christ traced the sin of murder to its root. He made the person who thinks murderous thoughts or possesses murderous wrath as guilty as the one who commits a murderous deed. Anger not only causes one to harm others, but it also has a very injurious effect upon one's own life.

"Raca," which is an expression of contempt, implies someone has a mental deficiency and indicates a desire to injure another's reputation. "Thou fool," which is an expression of condemnation, implies someone has a moral deficiency and indicates a desire to injure another's character. God loves everyone whom he has created and he does not want anyone to be injured physically, mentally, morally, emotionally, or spiritually.

Matthew 5:38-48 In ancient times revenge was not only practiced, but it was considered to be right. To refuse to take vengeance upon one's enemies was regarded not only as cowardly, but also as a moral weakness. Whereas the Mosaic law sanctioned "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth," Christ taught the rightfulness and necessity of forgiveness. Certain Jewish rabbis taught, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," and then added the admonition, "and hate thine enemy." Such teaching was an inexcusable distortion of God's law.

Christ taught his followers it was their duty to love their enemies. Christ demonstrated how to do that very thing. It was his enemies for whom Christ died. Had he not loved his enemies, none of us would have received salvation.

Christ wants us to love enemies in such a way that even the most casual observers will recognize and know that we are the children of God. Furthermore love for enemies will bring a reward to all of those who truly exercise it.



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

As time goes by

The announcement by W. R. Davenport that he intends to step down as president of Campbellsville College at the close of 1988 was a sobering reminder to me that time surely has a way of catching up with us all.

His news came on the heels of similar decisions by other denominational servants in Kentucky within a brief period. At the close of 1987 we saw the retirements of Jay Brown, director of the KBC Evangelism Department, and Doris Yeiser, former administrative assistant in the KBC executive office. G. Allen West left Dec. 15 at the conclusion of the Kentucky-Kenya partnership, where he had been assistant coordinator. A month earlier, Eugene Hamilton, associate manager of Cedar-

more Assembly, retired.

Alas, there were still other announcements being made. Dwight K. Lyons, a campus minister for the state convention's Student Department, said he would take early retirement (at age 55) Jan. 15, 1988. Eugene F. Quinn, for three decades director of the convention's Church Music Department, plans to step down at February's close. Eldred M. Taylor, executive director of the Baptist Homes for Children since 1981, will relinquish the reins there at the end of June. And on it goes.

When I arrived at the Kentucky Baptist Building in 1975 there were 74 full time employees working under that roof. That didn't include assembly workers, campus ministers nor directors of missions whose salaries are paid in part or in whole by the executive board. Today, there are 99 permanent employees in Middletown including WMU and Western Recorder, 75 of them full time. Of the 75, 17 (23.25%) were there in 1975.

In my brief tenure we have seen four

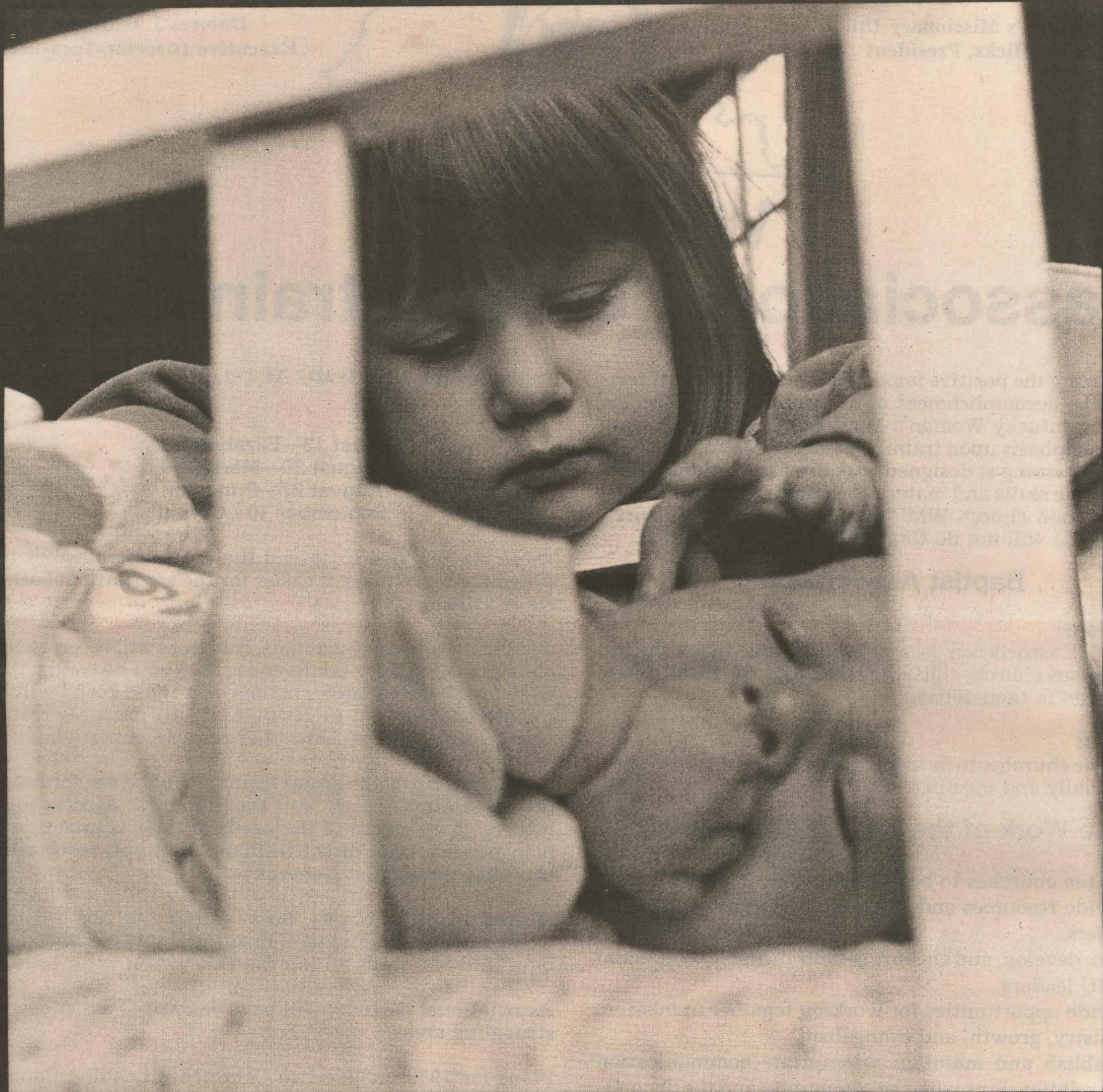
individuals lead the state Brotherhood program, three lead Sunday school work, two in Church Training and two in Woman's Missionary Union. The only church program organization with the same leader now as then is Church Music, and that changes as Quinn retires.

Among the chief executive officers of the state convention's agencies and institutions, there have been three presidents of Georgetown College since 1975, two at Clear Creek, two at Cumberland College, one at Campbellsville (Davenport, who's retiring) and one at Oneida Baptist Institute. There have been two editors of Western Recorder; Baptist Homes for Children has had two executive directors (the second retiring soon); and Baptist Hospitals Inc. has had two presidents.

As I write this I am reminded that the brevity of life is but an instant in eternity. None of us is getting any younger, so let us be about the Father's tasks while it is day.

Celebrate Life

(1 Samuel 1:27-28)



Observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday January 17, 1988

Hannah longed for a child. At times she was so full of sadness that she "wept and would not eat" (Samuel 1:7). At other times she was "deeply distressed" and "wept bitterly" (1:10). But Hannah remained barren.

One day while she sat "on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple," Eli, the priest, accused her of being drunk. Hannah replied that she was not drunk, but "pouring out" her soul before the Lord (1:15) and speaking out of her "great anxiety and vexation" (1:16). When Eli learned of her prayer, he told her to "go in peace" with confidence that God would grant her petition.

Hannah left her sadness behind. She conceived, bore a son, named him Samuel and dedicated him to the Lord.

Hannah had made a commitment to God: "I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life" (1:11). After she gave birth she kept her word: "I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord" (1:28).

Hannah anticipated her pregnancy and the birth of Samuel. She celebrated God's gift (2:10). She even dedicated him before he was conceived and kept

her word after his birth.

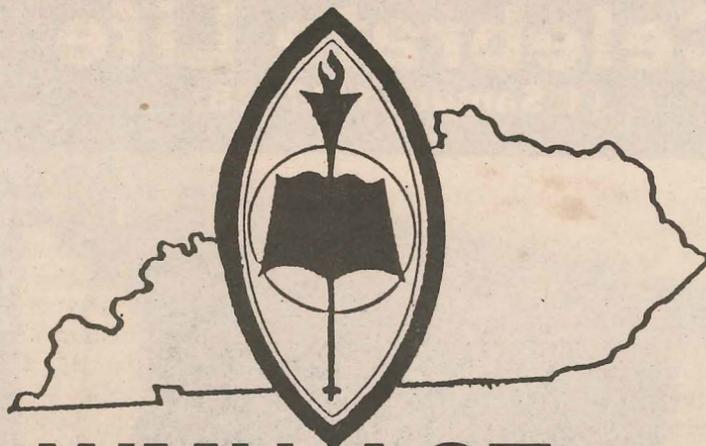
Hannah's story is a model for how we ought to anticipate, to celebrate and to dedicate our own children. Yet the regrettable truth is our culture often does not eagerly anticipate the birth of children. Sometimes pregnancy is viewed as a stumbling block to our careers. Sometimes pregnancy is seen as an embarrassment. The result in such situations is often abortion.

Abortion is the ending of human life. It is a grave act with tragic spiritual, emotional, physical and social consequences. It calls upon us to speak out against abortion on demand and to encourage alternatives to abortion. It also beckons us to be compassionate agents of God's grace in nurturing human life and in taking God's grace to those caught in the tragedy of abortion.

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, set on the SBC calendar for Jan. 17, is a time for each of us to celebrate the children we have and to dedicate ourselves to creating a society where all children are welcomed.

Woman's Missionary Union
Peggy Hicks, President

Dolores J. Gilliland
Executive Director-Treasurer



WMU ACT (associational council training)

Recognizing the positive impact of the individual association in the accomplishment of the missions mandate, the staff of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union is placing greater emphasis upon training associational WMU councils. The training is designed to equip associational officers with the skills and materials most helpful for them to, in turn, train church WMU leadership. Then, of course, State WMU will **not** do Church Leadership Training.

Baptist Associations

Definition:

A Baptist association is a self-governing fellowship of autonomous churches sharing a common faith and active on mission in their setting.

Purpose:

To enable churches to be in fellowship and to be on mission individually and together.

The Work of the Associational WMU

1. Call the churches to be on mission.
2. Provide resources and services to churches and WMU leaders.
3. Train, develop, and encourage church and associational WMU leaders.
4. Provide opportunities for working together in mission, ministry, growth, and evangelism.
5. Establish and maintain appropriate communication and relationships with the community and the denomination.

WMU Associational Council Training (WMU ACT) has been designed to provide both training and resources to associational councils in order for them to be adequately equipped to train WMU church leadership. Four WMU ACT conference workshops are planned for 1988. During these sessions, associational officers (council members) will come together for training under state leadership and other gifted individuals. New age-level manuals, available for summer conferences, will be presented to the councils and WMU Executive Board members participating in the workshops.

The following 1988 WMU ACT dates and locations have been set:

August 13—Elizabethtown
 August 20—Morehead
 August 27—Princeton
 September 10—Corbin

These are planned to spread the conferences across the state in order to make it easier for the associational officers to attend.

Besides the age-level manuals, conferees will receive complete plans for these conferences they will be conducting later for church leaders. Included in those plans will be a conference outline, art work, and fully prepared ready-to-copy work sheets, plus other resource materials.

More effective small-group training will be the format as the associations reach into the churches. Associational leaders, more aware of the needs of their churches, will plan personalized, direct training. This will reach more churches throughout Kentucky.

Geared to today's very busy and/or less experienced woman, the Associational Council Training readily translates into felt needs within the association.

Associational partners will be developed to assist new or struggling areas.

Plans for 1989 include two Conference Leading Conferences (CLCs). Participants will experience specific methods and learn the skills enabling them to more effectively lead any WMU conference. CLC 1989 dates are:

May 5-6, Cedarmore
 May 19-20, Jonathan Creek

Results: More effective, better trained WMU leaders throughout churches and associations in Kentucky.

Associational WMU councils should:

- plan to attend one ACT in 1988,
- plan to attend one CLC in 1989,
- calendar training for their association,
- prepare for growth throughout the association.