

CLC, PAC members polled amid new quarreling

by Dan Martin

Amidst renewed controversy, ballots have been sent to members of the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission and SBC Public Affairs Committee asking whether they favor a merger between the two organizations.

The proposal for the merger came out of a meeting Dec. 12 between the three trustee officers of the CLC and four members of the PAC.

The talk between the two groups re-



FAMINE-STRICKEN AGAIN—Just as Southern Baptists in Ethiopia were beginning long range water and soil projects to stem famine during future dry spells, drought hit the eastern African nation again. Relief experts believe up to five million Ethiopians face starvation. Those pictured here were aid recipients at one of the remote feeding stations in the 1984-85 famine. That station and six more are expected to be running again at full speed by early spring.

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January 12, 1988

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sulted in a proposal which would merge the assignment of the PAC into that of the CLC; expand the 31-member CLC board to include the 12 at-large PAC members; dissolve the PAC; ultimately sever ties between the Southern Baptist Convention and the BJCPA; and affirm cooperation with other Baptist denominations and other groups...and "strongly encourage the expanded CLC to work closely with the BJCPA whenever possible and advisable...."

Oct. 6, 1987 the PAC voted 8-4 to request the SBC to "dissolve its institutional and financial ties" with the BJCPA and allocate the \$485,200 designated for the work of the BJCPA to fund and staff the PAC "as an agency" of the SBC.

Almost immediately, controversy erupted anew:

• N. Larry Baker, executive director of the CLC, Nashville, expressed his "dismay at this action" and called on Fred Lackey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Athens, Ala., and chairman of the CLC, "to halt this improper and illegal course of action." He also said the action taken by the officers "contradicts and violates the commission's bylaws."

Baker, who has been under fire since his election to head the commission in January 1986 and was sustained in his job on a 15-15 vote in September, returned to Nashville Dec. 30, cutting short a vacation after he was informed of the action.

"The course of action was one taken independently of me, one that was taken without my consultation, input or counsel," Baker wrote to Lackey. "I did not receive a copy of the letter to the commissioners but learned of it through phone calls from other commissioners."

• Lloyd Elder, president of the Baptist

Sunday School Board, Nashville, and an ex-officio member of the PAC, protested the merger talks in a letter to PAC chairman Sam Currin of Raleigh, N. C. which was circulated to all members of the committee. Elder told Currin he wished "to register...my deepest concern that this conversation was held by members of the PAC without the knowledge of the total PAC...."

Elder urged PAC members "to vote 'no' to such a proposal and ask rather that it be placed on the agenda of our next meeting." He asked, "Are we being asked to vote to pursue this CLC/PAC merger without even opportunity for careful and prayerful consideration as a total, responsible committee?"

• The two immediate past chairmen of the CLC—Lynn P. Clayton of Alexandria, La. and Charles Wade of Arlington, Tex.—immediately issued statements decrying the action of the officers and the poll of members.

Clayton, editor of the Baptist Message, newsjournal of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, said he finds the action "incredible" and added, "I think it is a tragedy that the commission responsible for moral and ethical concerns should be conducted in such an unethical manner."

Wade, pastor of First Baptist Church, Arlington, Tex., and chairman of the search committee that brought Baker to head the commission, said the CLC has responsibility for six areas and does not need "to take on religious liberty and church-state issues, especially when we have this very able and respected BJCPA tending to those matters."

He said, "Recent state conventions have demonstrated clearly that most Baptists have genuine confidence in and appreciation for the BJCPA."

Colorado becomes first state to suspend publishing paper

The Colorado Baptist General Convention has suspended publication of its 7500-circulation, twice-monthly news publication, Rocky Mountain Baptist.

In a letter to subscribers Charles E. Sharp, editor of the paper and CBGC executive director, wrote: "It is with regret that we announce that the Rocky Mountain Baptist will no longer be published by the Colorado Baptist General Convention. The last issue will be Dec. 10, 1987. This is due to economic reverses."

It is believed the suspension of publication of the Rocky Mountain Baptist is the first time a state convention news journal has ceased publication this century, although several of the state Baptist newspapers did reduce frequency of publication and size of the papers during the depression and war years.

The Colorado convention has been in economic difficulty since 1985 when two corporations of the CBGC—the Colorado Baptist Foundation and the Colorado Church Loan Corporation—suffered significant financial losses.

The two organizations were set up to raise money and then loan it to Southern Baptist churches in the state. The foundation began to experience losses as early as 1981 as a result of poor return on "over-the-counter" stock investments. The foundation assets were frozen in February 1985.

An audit in mid 1986 showed the

losses of the foundation totaled \$1.2 million.

Since Sharp became executive in January 1985 the convention has worked to pay off investors and bondholders. The convention has since eliminated several staff positions—including the newspaper's editor; cut back on the frequency of the newspaper; refinanced its office building; obtained a loan from the Home Mission Board; and reconsolidated its debts into a single loan.

When Don Turner, RMB editor, was terminated in early 1986, Sharp assumed responsibilities of editing the newspaper but cut it from a weekly to a semi monthly.

In the 1987 annual meeting, messengers adopted a budget of \$2.4 million, of which \$1.2 million is to be contributed by the churches of the state. The remainder primarily will come from the Home Mission Board and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The Rocky Mountain Baptist cost about \$32,000 annually.

With the elimination of the publication, Sharp said about 2500 pastors and church leaders will receive a monthly newsletter, Colorado Baptist Leadership, which includes promotional material as well as some state and national Baptist news.

The leadership publication, he said, is done completely in-house, and will cost about \$18,000 annually. (BP)

• The CLC's Nashville attorney, James P. Guenther, told Baptist Press the mail ballot may be illegal under the newly-enacted Tennessee Non-Profit Corporation Act: "Under the act, the commission can dispense with a meeting and vote on a matter by mail, but only if every member of the commission agrees to do so. My understanding is that there are some members of the commission who are not willing to deal with a matter of this substance by a mail ballot and therefore if even a single member of the CLC objects to a ballot by mail, it cannot be taken." (BP)

Denise George rejoins writers as correspondent for state paper

After an absence of nearly three years, stories by Denise Wyse George of Louisville will reappear in the pages of Western Recorder.

Her reappointment as a state correspondent effective Jan. 1 was announced last week by Recorder associate editor James H. Cox.

For four years the Louisville author, speaker and Christian homemaker was a regular state correspondent for the state news journal. Her service was interrupted in 1985 by a years' sabbatical in Europe.

She will now be state correspondent for the Recorder representing the associations of Henry County, Long Run, Nelson, Shelby County, Sulphur Fork and White's Run. She will report news and provide features about Baptist people, churches, programs and associations in that territory.

A well known author, the 36-year-old Chattanooga, Tenn. native has six books to her credit, a seventh to be released in October, and has written extensively for Christian publications within and outside her denomination. She and her husband, Timothy, associate professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and two children, Christian, 6, and Alyce, 4, attend Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville.

The new state stringer may be reached at 4811 Clipping Ct., Louisville 40241, telephone (502) 228-0605.



Mrs. George

sanford's perspectives

The first priority



Jack D. Sanford

The final command of Jesus to his disciples was a simple declaration of what was to be their mandate. "Go make disciples," he stated.

A startling statistic from the 1986 Uniform Church Letter tells us how well we Southern Baptists have been carrying out our Lord's final command. That statistic declares that 5729 Southern Baptist churches did not baptize a single convert during the entire year. That same report indicates the average Southern Baptist church baptized only five people per year. Hardly an exemplary record in disciple-making.

Surely it is past time we concentrated on the first priority of church life, that is, winning lost people to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. That is the primary purpose for church, at least that is what we Baptists have always believed to be true, and winning lost people is the deepest passion of every true believer.

We have seen Training Union, once a significant training ground for our people, decline in recent years. Last year we experienced a drop in the number of Baptist Student Unions at work on American college campuses where a witness for Christ is essential if we are to win tomorrow's leaders to the Lord. Will we now settle for a continuing low baptism rate as well?

No doubt the winning of lost people is the most difficult thing we are called to do as Christians. It is difficult because sin is so entrenched, distractions are so many and time for witnessing seems scarce. All of which combine to deter us from the effort to go out and "make disciples."

The most poorly attended function in the average Baptist church is the visitation program. Not so in those churches which are making disciples.

January Bible study

Several hundred thousand Southern Baptists will study the Old Testament book of Malachi during the annual January Bible study in the churches.

This is a timely book though it was probably written more than 400 years before the birth of Jesus. It details the lament of God because of the way his beloved people have failed to live up to his high expectations of them.

All segments of the ancient society of Israel were subject to God's lament. The priests because they have been greedy and performed their ministry in slovenly ways. The people because they have entered mixed marriages, practiced divorce and failed to honor God with tithes and offerings.

Yet one cannot read this book without knowing God's continued love for his people and his continuing concern for their spiritual welfare. The love of God is present in nearly every paragraph of the book and is the redeeming note throughout.

God's call in Malachi is consistent with every other biblical picture of the Father. He takes no glory in the failure of his people. He does not delight in the sin of the nation. Neither does he rejoice when discipline is necessary to correct the ways of his people. God's heart aches because his people sin and disregard his ways.

What is true of ancient Israel is true today with us. We too have often failed to live up to God's

Pastors of 70 churches which led the Southern Baptist Convention in baptisms in 1986 met together recently to discuss evangelism and its importance in the life of the denomination. These pastors averaged baptizing 180 new converts each year and speak from personal experience as soul winners and as leaders of witnessing churches.

The essence of what they had to say boils down to a few simple declarations. One, the pastor must be dedicated to personal witnessing and set the example for his congregation. Two, denominational leaders must be role models for pastors and also set an example in personal witnessing. Three, the director of missions must provide more evangelism training opportunities for lay leaders in the churches.

Thus the pastors who did the most disciple-making in 1986 recognize the need for cooperation across the spectrum of our common life. It is not the pastor alone. It is not the lay person alone. It is all of us working together to see that the gospel of Christ is sent across the land to people who are lost in sin.

We have done well in cooperative missions, in developing many age group activities, in building up annuity programs and in promoting educational ministries. Now it is time for us to put the same concentration and cooperation to the task of winning lost people.

That is our first priority and that is the reason for our existence as church. We must do it now before time runs out for us and for those who need what we have to offer.

"Go make disciples" is still our primary mandate from the Lord and we must be about it or cancel our reason for existence.

expectations. We too have often been greedy, selfish, lax in our duty toward the Lord. We too have created an ache in the heart of God.

Yet the grace note of heaven is present in Malachi, just as it is in every relationship between God and man. The writer of this little book declares, "The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves."

It is the eternal promise of forgiveness and restoration for all who will walk in simple faith with the Lord. It is the message our tired world needs to hear. We Southern Baptists have been people of the Book all our days, and now, more so perhaps than at any time in our history, need to demonstrate our walk of faith so that we may experience the "healing in his wings" in our body of faith as well as in the larger world outside our Baptist family.

Perhaps a careful, reflective study of Malachi by thousands of us this month will prove to be the stimulus which turns us once again to the first things of kingdom service.

We need deliverance from self and Malachi promises us that God will provide that deliverance if his people will once again honor the Lord with their life. May we have ears to hear and eyes to see while there is yet time.

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Northside: a church without a pulpit or pew

by Suzanne Darland
State Correspondent

In a large room smelling of new carpet and plaster, 20 adults sit in several rows of metal, folding chairs listening to a Bible teacher.

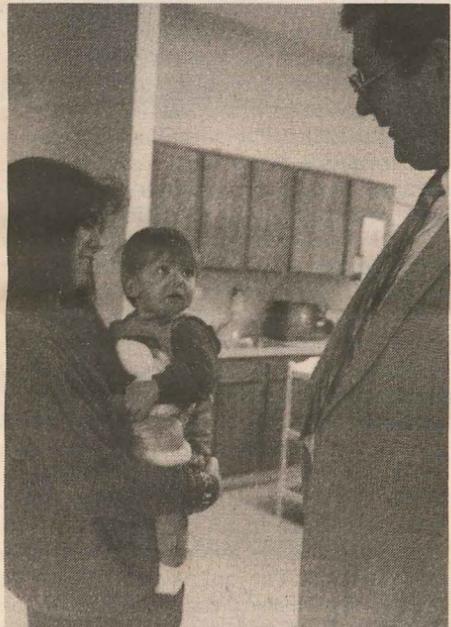
There is no pulpit, no organ, no pew. But to Bill Gibson it is a church.

Somewhere between two and five years from now this group will be self-sustaining," projects Gibson, chairman of the missions committee at Severns Valley Baptist Church, which sponsors the fledgling group.

I know it will be a great deal of work, but there's plenty of room for growth."

Northside Baptist Chapel, meeting in the community building of a north Elizabethtown housing development, is one of 26 church starts and preaching points begun since Sept. 1 in Kentucky.

And after the first three months of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's fiscal year, William D. Jagers of the Direct Missions Department is confident this



Ange Brown, a member of Severns Valley Baptist Church, helps in the preschool department of the church's new mission, Northside Baptist Chapel.

year's goal of 75 will be exceeded.

Since 1985, 114 missions or preaching points have been started, reaching toward a goal of 200 by 1990.

Mission Kentucky's emphasis on new works is nothing innovative for Severns Valley Church, which has a history of beginning missions, noted Jagers.

And because pastor Howard Cobble has just begun his tenure as state convention president, Jagers hopes Cobble's leadership will spur other churches to start missions.

Cobble hopes so, too.

"I have a firm commitment to starting churches," Cobble intoned. "I hope I can be an example to any church that is willing to commit itself."

Northside Chapel began meeting Nov. 29 with Bible study groups for preschoolers, children, youth and adults.

A handful of children meets in the Genesis Child Care Center on the premises while three teens open their Bibles in a sunlit development sales office.

At present the mission only holds Sunday school. But Gibson hopes February will bring an interim pastor and preaching services.

About 10 Severns Valley members are involved weekly at the mission.

Youth from Severns Valley Church held a children's program Dec. 19 at the mission, inviting area youngsters to puppet and drama presentations.

"We'll just keep visiting," confirmed Donella Taylor, a member of the missions committee and youth teacher at the mission. "Eventually they'll come."

Planning for the mission began about a year ago shortly after another Severns Valley mission, Berean Baptist Church was constituted.

Hardin County is the fourth most populated county in the state, according to University of Louisville Urban Studies Center statistics, with the northern part of the county, around Radcliff, growing the fastest.

"All along we felt north of Elizabethtown would be the best place for a mission," Gibson reflected. So the church brought in a team of Southern Baptist seminary students last summer to survey potential church sites.



Dr. Les Langley, a member of Severns Valley Baptist Church, leads a Bible study during Sunday school for adults at Northside Baptist Chapel, a new mission begun by his church. An average of 20 adults have been attending since the mission opened its doors Nov. 29.

Committee members remembered one area they thought would provide "a beautiful place for a church in a country setting," recalled Mrs. Taylor.

"But the team went and there was virtually no response," said Gibson. Most who lived in the area already attended other churches.

Yet when the team surveyed the 300 plus houses in the Airview Estates subdivision, they found 60 percent were unchurched, an unusually high number, claimed Gibson.

Discussion with developer Burton Langley, who owns the nearby Pine Valley subdivision, country club and golf course, yielded the use of its community building free.

Severns Valley Church pays the utilities and provides the piano and chairs. Mrs. Taylor credits the Severns Valley youth group's enthusiasm for door-to-door visitation and flyer distribution as well as the support of other church members.

Another church in the Severns Valley Association, Radcliff's Mill Creek, also

has begun a mission.

Two families from Mill Creek currently meet in a rented office building for Sunday morning services, Sunday school and Wednesday night Bible studies. Mill Creek pastor James Dixon leads worship at 9:50 a.m., then returns to his church for morning services. Sunday school follows the service at the mission.

Services have been held for about three months now, and Dixon admits he's "discouraged there's not a better response."

He added, "We anticipated it would take quite a while when we began."

The Severns Valley Association has placed major emphasis on new works, noted director of missions Delores Baugh.

An associationwide pilot growth project conducted with the Baptist Sunday School Board will emphasize outreach Bible studies. The Home Mission Board will be conducting probe studies beginning next month to "look for ethnic groups not being reached," she announced.

The association already has a Korean church and Severns Valley Church ministers to Laotians.

"We've uncovered so many pockets of people that are not being reached," Mrs. Baugh explained.

Jagers notes that the call for new churches is not directed solely at larger churches like Severns Valley.

"Small churches can and do band together to begin missions," he explained. "One church might have money, another has the people." He added that the Direct Missions Department has monies, information and other assistance to share.

Churches should look for any unchurched groups in their communities, he said. These might include different ethnic groups, subdivisions, mobile home parks, apartment complexes, or socioeconomic groups to whom no one is ministering.

He also noted that barriers, such as creeks, mountains and even interstates, tend to create clusters of people that are not reached.

He said there are benefits to churches that begin missions—they often are revived in the process.

"There's an excitement and enthusiasm about new work. They reach more people faster," Jagers said.

Brushy Creek ministering in vast contrasts

by Glenn Mollette
State Correspondent

Carefully planted seeds grow: Brushy Creek Baptist Mission is proving it.

Begun five years ago, this mission in Pike Association will move into its new facility in April. The building, which will contain a sanctuary, Sunday school space and fellowship hall, has become a reality through the steadfast help of the mother church, Meta Baptist.

Last summer several church groups such as Zion Baptist, Henderson; High Street, Somerset; Farmdale, Louisville; and First Baptist, Moss Point, Miss., assisted the Brushy Creek mission in construction.

Claude Turner, pastor of Meta, reports the debt for the facility will only be \$25,000 when completed.

Until now Brushy Creek has met in two trailers. Beginning with only 18 people attending each week, the mission now averages between 60 and 70.

John George Blackburn has been the bivocational pastor since its conception. A graduate of the University of Kentucky school of engineering, he works

for a coal mining operation in Pike County.

Blackburn observed, "The new building will give us room to grow. Besides the local elementary school we will now have the largest building on Brushy Creek. This facility stands as a tribute to the Lord and all he is doing on Brushy Creek."

Blackburn believes the facility will strengthen their identity in the community: "Moving into a permanent structure will show we are not a fly by night operation."

Ministering to a population of about a thousand, Brushy Creek is the only Southern Baptist church in a community of vast contrast. "We have the potential to minister to all kinds of people. We have families who live in very nice homes and some whose housing is extremely inadequate. We have many challenges before us as we try to do God's work in this area."

Starting such work is seldom glamorous. But Brushy Creek seems to be a shining example of what can happen when willing people, prayer, hard work and patience combine.



Pastor John George Blackburn calls the newly constructed Brushy Creek mission a "tribute to the Lord."

baptist forum

Praise for Dwight Lyons

I am writing in reponse to the article, "Retiring Lyons looks toward fulfilling future" (WR, Dec. 8, 1987, p. 5).

During my sophomore year at Eastern Kentucky University, Dwight came as our BSU director. It is easy to recall his leadership qualities, along with his zeal and dedication. Dwight effectively led us as college students and linked our university with the city of Richmond. His encouragement regarding local church involvement was exceptional. Many of us became involved at First Baptist Church, Richmond. This has been a carry-over into our adult life-style. As we have moved from Richmond many have become involved in local church ministries.

As ministry programs were developed the goal was always to meet the needs of students on campus. Such programs as evening vespers, BSU choir, Telford community mission project and other campus ministries meet a variety of needs. Dwight made living on a state campus a spiritual experience for which many of us will be eternally grateful.

As an Eastern BSU alumnus, I want to say "Thank you Kentucky Baptists" for Baptist Student Union ministry on all our college campuses. What was a vital need in the 60s is even a greater need in the 80s. Thank you Kentucky Baptists for giving to the Cooperative Program. Your giving has made an eternal investment in thousands of lives.

Debby Murrell
Tampa, Fla.

Love that majority

Do we as Southern Baptists believe in majority rule? Don't we meet annually in a southwide convention and elect a president who receives the most votes from this great body? This being true why can't we then love and support the people's choice?

Instead we come home and start bad-mouthing those who were elected and those who elected them. Our Western Recorder editor, past and present, not excluded.

Some day the so-called moderates will have a chance again. Then shall we the conservatives do unto them as they have done to others. It seems to me our denomination is much stronger now than it was 10 years ago, before we started to clean up our act. Especially our seminaries are not so bold in hiring professors who doubt the scriptures, especially the virgin birth, the book of Genesis and on and on.

It seems that most every one who opposed the majority choice say it is just a political power struggle. Of course it is. Won't it be the same thing when the tide changes?

I have a great admiration for those who have had the guts to stand up and be counted when a change in direction was needed. Some of the greatest pastors in our convention have been president of our convention these past 10 years and as one among the majority, I say "Praise the Lord."

H. H. Thomas
Lexington

May God draw us back to his work

I agree with your Dec. 1 Perspective. We need to support mission work more throughout our denomination. Before this will happen meetings such as the one reported on page five will have to end.

It is sad that such a ridiculous organization would be formed to do exactly

what they accuse others of having done. So much for the pot calling the kettle black. And in the process they are spending \$15,000 per month of possible missions money to do this.

After the SBC spent thousands of dollars and months of time to come to an agreed upon conclusion that the problems are rooted in theological differences, this group of 400 decides for the other 14.6 million plus members that these two men are at fault. What a waste of time, money and efforts.

Let's get together and back our convention both national and state that we might reach the lost for Jesus. Southern Baptists should bring their offerings and tithes to the church to reach the lost and carry out Christ's commands—not to some organization whose stated task is to control the convention by politics.

May God draw us back to his work.

Dennis A. Hammons
Flat Lick

It is good to sever ties with BJCPA

You know it's not the secular press that has been calling the difference of opinion in the Southern Baptist denomination a "Holy War" but it is the president of our own seminary in Louisville who called for a "Holy War" against the leaders of our denomination, who were democratically elected each year at our national convention. The president of our Louisville seminary made an unfortunate choice of words in a public speech and has yet to retract those words. He could repent publicly which would contribute much to the "peace effort."

Personally I think it is great that our national convention is severing its ties with the "Joint Committee on Baptist Affairs" headed by James Dunn. He has never spoken for most Southern Baptists, nor represented them. He claims to, but most of us believe abortion is murder. Most of us think prayer should be allowed in public school systems, since Baptists have traditionally supported the public school systems wherever they find themselves living. Mr. Dunn does not agree and has represented that prayer should not be allowed in the schools and that abortion is a personal choice. So is sin. So is homosexuality. So is stealing. They're all personal choices. Mr. Dunn continues to rationalize these things, but fortunately the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention has chosen to label them what they really are, sin.

Richard C. Porter Jr.
Louisville

Editor's note: The organization which James Dunn heads is the "Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs," not the "Joint Committee on Baptist Affairs" as Mr. Porter stated in his letter.

A letter to Gov. Wilkinson

This letter is to address the new Kentucky license plates. As you are aware they have the twin spires of Churchill Downs on them. I have read how proud Gov. Collins was that now everyone in Kentucky would be advertising the horse industry. It seems to us this is not merely an advertisement for the horse industry but is an advertisement for the horse racing industry. As such we object to putting that advertisement on the vehicle owned by our church with our church name and logo painted on that van.

We do not believe we should be forced as a church to advertise the horse racing

industry. We are not in any way trying to stop anyone else from doing so. This is not an issue in which we are trying to impose our morals on society. This is a case in which we believe the government of Kentucky should not be allowed to impose its morals on our church. We object to being forced to sanction and advertise horse racing. We do not actively fight that industry nor will we actively promote it.

I object to being required to put this new plate on my personal vehicle. But I have grown accustomed to government at all levels making me do things I don't like. But I see no need for the church to be put in this position.

We have decided we will pay our license fees in January as we always have but we will not put the plate on the van. I ask you for some alternative. We have discussed painting over the twin spires but understand that is a violation of law. I hope you will suggest some alternative action for us.

We pride ourselves as a church on being good citizens of our community, our state and our nation. Local officials of Cold Spring would affirm that. We are not trying to be obstinate. We are not trying to avoid payment of any fees. We simply refuse to be an advertisement for Churchill Downs.

Larry J. Davis, pastor
First Baptist Church
Cold Spring

Southern Baptists move to political right

Public Broadcasting aired Bill Moyers' Journal which addressed the Southern Baptist Convention's wholesale move into the ultraright wing of the American political movement. Those who watched this program learned with specific detail how the ultraright has dictated moral, political and theological beliefs to all Southern Baptists.

A long time ago my father taught me Baptists were a minority born of oppression and persecution. Baptists have historically been against a dominant political, social and theological hierarchy which would dominate and dictate a specific creed to other Baptists.

It is appalling to see leaders of my denomination assume the role of "oppressors" and "theological dictators." The Southern Baptist Convention represents a huge segment of American life. Every effort must be made to preserve the historical independence of all Baptists. Today it is important that all Baptists know that the Fundamentalists' leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention has "sold the farm" to the political right wing and subordinated hundreds of years of Baptist birthright for a small cup of right wing pottage.

The situation is now alarmingly apparent that our dictatorial and oppressive Fundamental leadership is "beating up" on our local, convention and seminary leaders to such an extent these leaders feel it necessary to retire from this fight. The situation is also apparent that this generation of Baptists will not be able to pass along a Baptist church that is as independent and free to decide their theological and political beliefs as that Baptist church which our fathers gave us. The Fundamental right wing would have us desert our commitment to the tasks of social examination and intellectual pursuit in favor of a dogma that is not fundamental to our Baptist heritage. It is time the individual members of our churches decide it is our time to reclaim our Baptist heritage, a proud heritage of independence.

Terrell L. Black
Louisville

Benign neglect of controversy needed

In Western Recorder of Dec. 15 and 22 editorials had to do with (1) where and when (and possibly if) the end of the current SBC controversy will take place, and (2) the notion of reconciliation not occurring until "we learn to practice the truth of the Bible which we claim to believe."

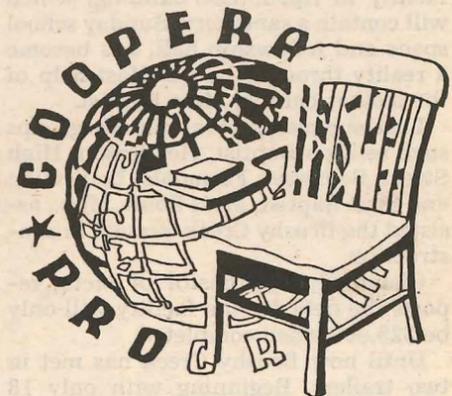
Part of the answer regarding where and when lies with state Baptist editors who can accomplish a great deal by according the controversy a magnanimous dose of benign neglect. Most lay people, sophisticated and confident enough in their personal persuasions not to be hung up on theological nuances and niceties, are tired of the whole mess and don't want to be constantly reminded of it. In fact, most pastors probably feel the same way. Recognizing that important denominational news should be reported, I am suggesting a bare minimum of space be allocated to the controversy, the Peace Committee and anything remotely concerning inerrancy. A moratorium on editorializing regarding these matters would also be welcome. Enough is enough.

I assume that practicing the truth of the Bible is simply practicing Jesus, who said, "I am the truth." The so-called inerrantists can practice Jesus by ascending the cross of theology and allowing their egos to be crucified—or at least to bleed a little. The so-called moderates can practice Jesus with a Gethsemane prayer of resignation vis-a-vis the current realities of the situation and this, as did Jesus, accept the fact that God's plan, if not currently recognizable or negotiable, is nevertheless in place and not likely to suffer defeat. Bruised, perhaps, but not defeated.

Those in both groups need to remember that, even if they had copies, perhaps half the people of the world couldn't even read a Bible. To them such terms as inerrancy, fundamentalism, moderate, conservative, critical analysis and literal are of no consequence. The Bible-worshippers among us should take note of this. The only word of God to which the masses can relate is to be found in flesh and blood believers. God help us if we let the current squabble over doctrinal trivialities kill our witness. There is room for all.

James L. Clark
Danville

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.



can generosity be
TAUGHT?

Leaders can help church members
grow in COOPERATIVE
PROGRAM support.

christian education

Concern expressed for college accreditation

Southern Baptist colleges and seminaries could lose their accreditation if groups within the denomination undermine academic integrity, an educator warned.

Jim Rogers, executive director of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, expressed his concerns to Baptist educators attending the midyear meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools in New Orleans.

Rogers, a Southern Baptist layman and a deacon at First Baptist Church,

Gainesville, Ga., noted many individuals do not understand that students should be exposed to different ideas and concepts "whether they are acceptable to us or not." What's more, some of those people may be constituents of Baptist institutions, he warned.

"One of my greatest concerns as a Baptist layman is with the theological shallowness of many of the individuals in our churches today," Rogers said.

He reminded educators someone once said, "An unexamined faith is not worth living."

"I fear we have a number of Baptists who are trying to live just such a faith. They seem to fear exposure to concepts," he said.

Rogers told educators the Commission on Colleges, which accredits the majority of Baptist colleges and schools, has been monitoring recent events affecting Baptist educational institutions.

Although Rogers did not name specific institutions, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N. C., and Mercer University in Macon, Ga., have made national news recently related to trustee issues.

Rogers said he has been authorized by the executive council of the Commission on Colleges to send a letter to Baptist college presidents in the region informing them accreditation could be in danger if their trustees were to make drastic changes in the institutions' governance or academic programs.

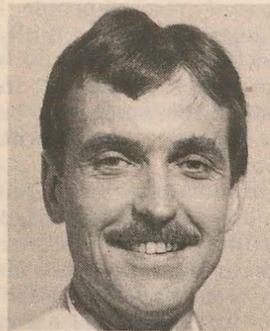
Rogers read the letter, but asked that the contents not be released to the media until the letter has been received by the presidents. He emphasized the letter was written only to be helpful.

Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive secretary of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools, also expressed concern about accreditation: "Many Southern Baptists simply do not understand what accreditation is. If an

institution were to lose its accreditation, many students would feel they must attend elsewhere."

Many professions, including public education, as well as graduate school programs, require degrees from an accredited institution, said Walker, executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Education Commission. (BP)

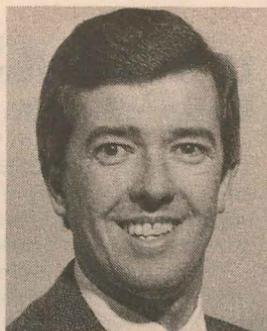
NOBTS graduates three Kentuckians



Chatfield



Miss Hixon



Cunningham

Three Kentucky natives, graduated Dec. 19 from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (La.).

From Ashland, James Martin Chatfield earned the MDiv degree. Chatfield, associate pastor of Pontchartrain Baptist Church, New Orleans, is married to F. Elise Owenbey Chatfield of Augusta, Ga. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel K. Chatfield of Ashland.

Kelly Hixon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Hixon Jr. of Bardwell also received an MDiv. Miss Hixon holds a BS degree from Murray State University.

Earning his PhD, James Lance Cunningham is married to June Leech Cunningham of Sedalia and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Cunningham of Wingo. He is pastor of New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe, La.

Wallaces complete ministry in Paris

Jeff and Cecilia Wallace have returned to Louisville after four months of volunteer service with Emmanuel Baptist Church, Paris, France. Wallace was assistant pastor while Mrs. Wallace was church secretary. Wallace will now finish his studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Mrs. Wallace will finish hers at the University of Louisville.

Wallace preached in the absence of pastor Bill Clark Thomas, who made an emergency trip to the United States. Wallace often led the singing in Sunday morning worship services. From the singles' Sunday school class he started, the Wallaces developed a singles' Sunday lunch program and a singles' Friday evening fellowship. Gathering a group composed of 13 people from five nations, he led MasterLife discipleship training.

In addition to her secretarial duties, Mrs. Wallace taught the younger children in Sunday school and helped lead the singles ministry. Both she and her husband sang, played handbells and worked with the church's youth.

A highlight of their eventful semester came when the couple attended the annual European Baptist Convention in Heidelberg, Germany and enjoyed a side trip to Interlaken, Switzerland and Bavaria.

Each had an additional bonus, however. Wallace will receive three hours of field work credit at Southern Seminary for assistance in the Paris church. And Mrs. Wallace has had a long visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Clark Thomas.



Jeff and Cecilia Wallace returned from a semester of volunteer service in Paris, France where he was assistant pastor and she was church secretary.

Journeymen applications have Jan. 15 deadline

College graduates who would like to work as journeymen with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board must have their applications postmarked by Jan. 15.

The journeymen program is for college graduates with four-year degrees. They must be 26 years old or younger by the deadline and interested in using their skills on overseas mission fields for two years.

Applicants must be active Southern Baptists, U. S. citizens, in good physical and emotional health and qualified for specific mission tasks. They may be single or married but not divorced. Couples must be childless and married for at least a year by Jan. 15, and both must meet qualifications.

Positions are available in weekday ministries, youth work, student work, music, health care, media, agriculture, business, secretarial work and elementary and secondary teaching in missionary schools and local schools.

All expenses are paid for journeymen training, overseas service and transportation to and from the place of service. In addition, journeymen receive a monthly stipend. Severance pay is provided when the two-year term is completed.

Qualified applicants will be invited to attend a weekend information conference Feb. 19-20 in Richmond.

Applicants selected will begin training in June at the Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va., and go to the field in July or August.

The board commissioned 64 journeymen in July to work in 29 countries and approved 42 journeymen in December to work in 30 countries.

Those interested in applying for the 1988-90 program should contact the Foreign Mission Board immediately. Call Pamela Smith in the board's Personnel Selection Department at (804) 353-0151 or write the department at Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.



Bearden



Hancock

Kentucky represented among SWBTS grads

The fall graduating class of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary included two students from Kentucky.

The two Kentucky graduates were Linn Bearden, son of Edward Earl and Irene Bearden, Paducah, and Bobby Wayne Hancock, son of Bill and Euna Hancock, Louisville. Bearden earned his MA in religious education while Hancock earned his MDiv.

President Russell Dilday awarded 298 degrees during commencement ceremonies Dec. 18 at Travis Avenue Baptist Church.

Bobby Parker, president of the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, delivered the address. Parker challenged the graduates to live responsible lifestyles as Christian ministers. He said people in the communities where graduates serve will watch them to see examples of the Christian life. "You have the responsibility to be fit examples in what you do, for our actions speak much louder than our words," he said.

Parker asserted churches and ministers should not shy away from "getting into social issues. We're in the business of preaching the whole biblical message." That message includes service to the community as a whole, Parker said. "We must free ourselves of the belief that crosses belong only in front of the churches and on top of them. Crosses belong on the Christian's back."

Georgetown Choral opens new season

The 50-voice Georgetown College Choral will make nine off-campus concert appearances this spring. The season will open Thursday, Feb. 4 with a concert for the Kentucky Music Educators Association meeting in Lexington Center, Lexington, at 12:30 p.m.

The choral will make seven appearances across Kentucky during its Mar. 9-13 spring break tour. Concerts will be performed at First Baptist, Ft. Thomas; Ft. Thomas High School at Highlands; Immanuel Baptist, Lexington; First Baptist, Paducah; Lone Oak Baptist, Paducah; Salvisa Baptist; and Beaver Dam Baptist.

At the invitation of the Baptist Sunday School Board, the choral will deliver a concert at the conventionwide Music on Missions conference in Indianapolis, Ind., Thursday, Apr. 14.

baptist news in brief

San Antonio Southern Baptists making plans to care for preschoolers, elementary children during SBC

San Antonio Baptists have begun preparing for children whose parents will participate in the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in the Texas city June 14-16.

Preschool child care will be provided at First Baptist Church, located downtown and within walking distance of San Antonio Convention Center, site of the annual meeting, and most downtown hotels. A missions day camp for grade school children will be held at the Ruble Community Center of Trinity Baptist Church.

Preschool care will be available to convention messengers' children who are five years old and younger. Parents may register their children by sending \$15 per child to SBC Preschool Care,

First Baptist Church, 515 McCullough, San Antonio, TX 78205.

Cost of the care will be \$7.50 for each four-hour session of the convention. The meeting will include three sessions Tuesday, June 14; two sessions Wednesday, June 15; and two sessions Thursday, June 16.

When their registration fees are received the children's parents will receive information packets containing maps, health forms and policies and procedures. The packets also will provide information about special parking for parents of children who participate in the program.

A new feature of the preschool program will be a noon meal for parents, which will be served at First Baptist's fellowship hall. The meal will be available for a nominal charge, but parents, not child care workers, will be responsible for feeding the children.

The missions day camp will accommodate school age children through sixth grade. "Jesus Calls for Change" will be the theme of the camp, and children will study the 1988 Backyard Bible Club material prepared by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Other activities will include sports and crafts, recreation and a visit to San Antonio's zoo.

Day camp registration will be conducted in the convention center at a booth in the area where parents will register as convention messengers.

Sponsors of the day camp are the Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Texas Baptist Men and San Antonio Baptist Association. Childhood education and activities/recreation staff members from Trinity Baptist will staff the camp.

Camp fees will be \$7 per day. Supplemented by the Brotherhood Commission, the fees cover all camp expenses, including meals and snacks.

Preschoolers will be allowed into the convention center at all times when accompanied by their parents. Daycampers will be allowed into the center during the annual meeting's evening sessions. (BP)

Baptist peace office moved to Memphis

The Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA) moved its office from Atlanta, Ga. to Memphis, Tenn. Jan. 1.

The organization's new headquarters are located in Prescott Memorial Baptist Church in Memphis.

"Our move to Memphis is very significant," noted Ken Sehested, BPFNA executive director.

"A report indicates Memphis is the poorest large city in the U. S.," Sehested explained. "The presence of our office can graphically symbolize the connection between poverty and war which is so important to our understanding of peacemaking."

"A second reason," he continued, "is the fact that Dr. King was murdered here. As I frequently remind people: If Baptists had saints, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would be the patron saint of the BPFNA, precisely because of the way he understood the connection between domestic oppression and international aggression."

"There is significance as well," said Sehested, "in the fact that Prescott Baptist is dually-affiliated both with American and Southern Baptists. Since our organization is a network of Baptists concerned about justice and peace from the many separate Baptist conventions in North America, being based in a congregation like Prescott is symbolically important."

"Oakhurst Baptist, where we were formally located, was far more than a landlord for us," Sehested noted. "They were keenly interested in and supportive of our work. Prescott Baptist, no doubt, will be the same kind of community."

Sehested is presently working out of his home, having moved to Memphis with his family on October 30 in order for his wife, Nancy Hastings Sehested, to begin duties as pastor of Prescott Baptist.

New office address in Memphis will be: 499 S. Patterson St., Memphis, TN 38111; new office phone: (901)324-7675. (BP)

U. S. Brazilian students begin mission project

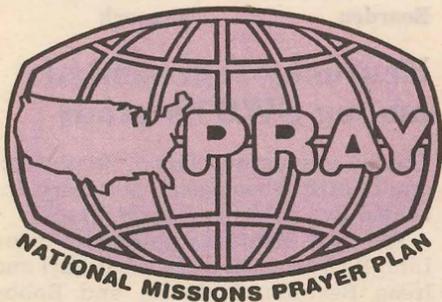
The new year for 143 Southern Baptists and 110 Brazilian Baptist students began as they launched a massive student evangelistic project in Brazil.

Following New Year's eve services in churches throughout the capital city of Brasilia the students left in teams of 10 for projects in 26 locations across the country.

The Brazil-U. S. project is a joint effort of Brazilian Baptists, the Foreign Mission Board and the Baptist Sunday School Board's National Student Ministries Department. Leaders said they hope Brazilian students will be introduced to evangelism possibilities through the project while U. S. students will be exposed and involved in world missions.

Prior to a joint orientation in Brasilia, U. S. students had participated in two days of preparation in Miami with the Brazilian students holding similar sessions in Brasilia.

The students complete their projects Jan. 11, returning to Brasilia Jan. 12. Southern Baptist students will return to Miami Jan. 13. (BP)



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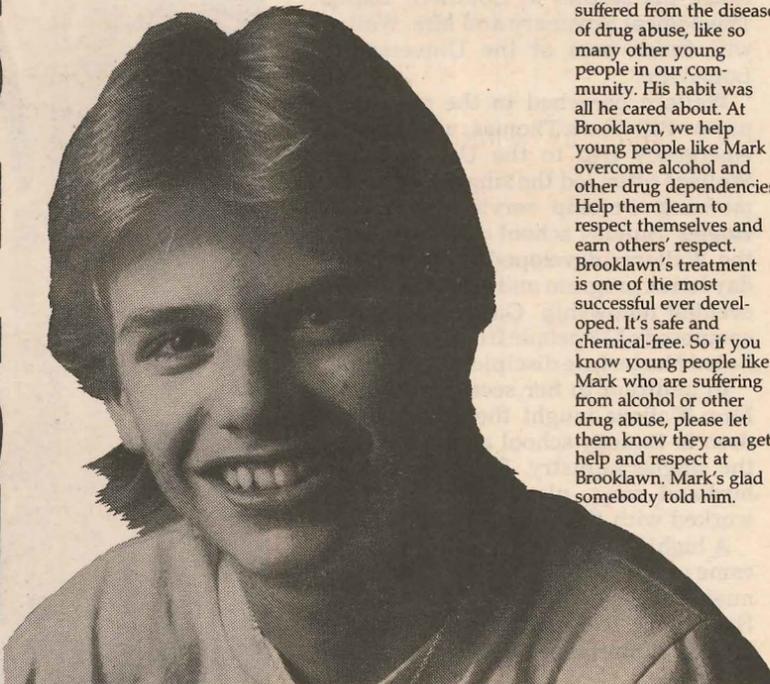
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MasterLife prices dropped 20%

The price of MasterLife materials was reduced by 20 percent by the Baptist Sunday School Board to make the adult discipleship course more affordable to more people, said Avery Willis, manager of the leadership development section in the board's Church Training Department.

The price of MasterLife was reduced from \$31.15 to \$24.95.

"We have learned through our state leaders that the study of masterLife (a Lay Institute for Equipping course) is making a great difference in baptism rates, Sunday school enrolment and giving. We want to do all we can do to make the study of MasterLife available to all churches," Willis said.

For example, baptism rates in

churches with 200-299 resident members reporting MasterLife enrolment were 69 percent higher than those which did not have MasterLife. Sunday school enrolment gains in the same size churches reporting MasterLife was 23 percent higher, and the percentage of undesignated gifts to the Cooperative Program was seven percent higher, Willis reported.

He said the Church Training Department is interested in making the course more affordable for smaller churches and couples, both of whom must purchase a course to complete it.

An average of 400 persons enrol in the MasterLife course each week, he said. About 23,620 took the 26-week course in 1986.

Oldest retired missionary dies

Julia Lowe, Southern Baptists' oldest retired foreign missionary, died Jan. 1 at age 103.

She and her husband, Clifford, spent more than 30 years doing pioneer mission work in southern China beginning in 1908. It was one of the most tumultuous periods of China's history, but only World War II forced the Lowes to come home.

They retired in 1948 but kept speaking for missions in churches and Baptist meetings. He died in 1963 at age 80. Mrs. Lowe continued her ministry in Nashville and later in Chevy Chase, Md.,

where she lived with her daughter, Reba Campbell.

She prayed daily for missionaries. Despite failing eyesight and hearing in recent years, she also wrote letters regularly and taught Sunday school at Wisconsin Avenue Baptist Church in Washington, until early 1987.

She said her happiest experience was telling the Chinese people that "there is a living God who loved them and a Savior who died to save them."

She is survived by her three daughters and eight grandchildren. Funeral services were scheduled for Jan. 6 at Woodlawn Memorial Park, Nashville. (BP)



Creswell



Mrs. Creswell

Overseas news advanced with new assignments

Mike Creswell has been appointed by the Foreign Mission Board as overseas correspondent and communications consultant for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. He and his wife Christie were appointed in December.

Creswell joins a new overseas system featuring firsthand reporting of missions by trained correspondents from four regions.

Two others are Michael Chute, Asia and the Pacific, and Craig Bird, Africa. The only vacancy remains in The Americas, encompassing Latin America and Canada. Chute covered The Americas region before transferring to Hong Kong and Bird is a former Baptist Press feature editor.

Creswell was associate editor of The Commission, magazine of the Foreign Mission Board, and earlier assistant director of public relations for the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

One killed, two hurt in Colombian car wreck

A Colombian Baptist woman was killed and two Southern Baptist missionaries injured Jan. 4 in a one-car accident outside Barranquilla, Colombia.

Betty Lemos, a mother of four children and a leader in her church in Barranquilla, was killed. Her 5-year-old son, who was traveling with her, received only scrapes and bruises.

Jeni Hester and Kay Brown, both missionary nurses in Barranquilla, were admitted to Baptist Hospital in the city. Miss Hester's pelvis was fractured on both sides, and she lost about three liters of blood, requiring several transfusions. Doctors placed her on a respirator, and she was expected to remain on it for three days. Miss Brown received a concussion and was disoriented. (BP)

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Executive Director Search Committee Kentucky Baptist Foundation

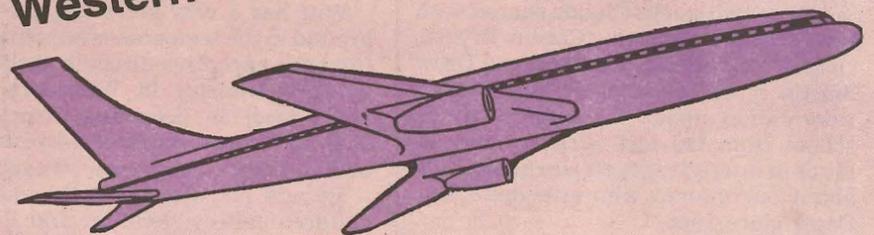
The Search Committee is now receiving applications for the position of Executive Director.

Anyone interested in being considered should send a current resume and a current photograph to: Barry G. Allen, Foundation Executive Director Search Committee, P. O. Box 43433, Middletown, KY, 40243.

The minimum requirements for the position are:

1. Public profession of faith in Jesus Christ; member in good standing of a cooperating Southern Baptist church; a life exemplary of traditional Christian values
2. Bachelor's degree (minimum)
3. Excellent health (physical exam required)
4. Willingness to travel regularly
5. Strong family support from spouse
6. Acceptable appearance
7. Four or more years of successful employment experience in one or more of the following fields: development (especially deferred giving), legal, investment management, tax accounting, financial services (banking, life insurance, etc.), church administration
8. Highest ethical standards and a personal attitude which will prevent any jeopardy to the Foundation's credibility or integrity
9. Record of demonstrated financial stewardship

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Leon Simpson
President
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clear creek comment

A giant has fallen

The telephone rang on Christmas eve—"Claude Fox has been called home!" I immediately made plans to return to Kentucky.

Just a few days before, Brother Fox had received a special urging from the Lord to move back to Clear Creek. Since his official retirement in 1984 he had been representing Clear Creek from his retirement home at Spottsville in western Kentucky. Now there was an urgency in his voice as he shared how the Lord had revealed that he should return to strengthen his alma mater. He said, "The issue of our day is not Kelly, Aldridge or Simpson. The question is whether or not a man supports God's school, Clear Creek."

Claude and Gladys arrived on Monday (Dec. 7) to spend the last two weeks of the fall semester at Clear Creek. During those two weeks Claude shared with several staff members (Carvin Bryant, class of '48, Charles England and Drew Martin of the class of '70 and others) information about the history of the school from the last 40 years and all kinds of interesting facts and knowledge about our alumni who attended Clear Creek since 1946.

Providentially I asked him to bring the message for our last chapel of the semester. It would be the last message he would ever preach on this earth. He preached on "Staying by the Stuff" from I Sam. 30:24. He mentioned the names of many who had 'stayed by the stuff' at Clear Creek. Modestly he did not mention his own name. However, his sermon typified his life and ministry—a life Claude Fox spent in 'staying by the stuff'.

The following Wednesday evening (Dec. 23) Claude suffered a fatal heart attack. Gladys was with him when he died, and shared reminiscences and favorite scriptures at the memorial service on Saturday. Tributes were given by Gene Vaughn, Spottsville's pastor, Dr. Aldridge and myself. It was a glorious homegoing for one of God's choice saints.

Claude was 'Mr. Clear Creek' and one of the finest servants Clear Creek Baptist Bible College has ever had. He received the highest academic award as a student under Dr. Kelly and was a valuable and trusted colleague under Dr. Aldridge. He enjoyed the admiration and respect of all of our alumni, faculty and students. Truly, a giant has fallen!

*Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.*

revivals

First Baptist Church, Carrollton, Whites Run Association, was led in revival services Nov. 15-20, 1987 by Herman Rios, evangelist, a Home Mission Board staffer. Kevin Landgrave, Southern Seminary student, led in music.

There were six decisions for baptism and two additions by letter. J. W. Farmer is pastor.

Elmira Baptist Church, Shepherdsville, Long Run Association, held revival services Nov. 15-22. The church recorded three professions of faith and four rededications.

The first four nights the evangelist was Preston Siler of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Lebanon Junction. The revival was concluded by Joe Hampton, retired pastor from Louisville. Don Daniel is pastor at Elmira.

personnel

James S. McKenzie has been called as pastor of First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, Christian County Association. McKenzie is a graduate of Dallas Baptist College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He goes to Hopkinsville from First Baptist Church, Russell, Greenup Association, where he was pastor 14 years.

Mark Potts, a recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was called as pastor of Bagdad Baptist Church, Shelby County Association. He started his duties Dec. 20.

Claude M. Witt was elected executive director of the Temperance League of Kentucky Oct. 1, 1987. He had been associate director of the league since 1983.

Witt has a very knowledgeable background in the temperance ministry, having been executive director of the temperance ministry in Wisconsin seven years prior to becoming associate of Delbert Butts, former executive director of Kentucky's Temperance League.

He and his wife Marcella and three children Jeffrey, Jennifer and Richard are native Louisvillians and are members of Farmdale Baptist Church.

Steve Littlefield has assumed the minister of music position at First Baptist Church, Murray, Blood River Association. He goes to Murray from First Baptist Church, Anchorage, Alaska.

Bill Mitchell has been called as minister of music by North View Baptist Church, Lexington, Elkhorn Association.

Alan G. Jolly, a native of Kentucky, accepted the position of training and marketing planning coordinator for the national chain of Baptist Book Stores.

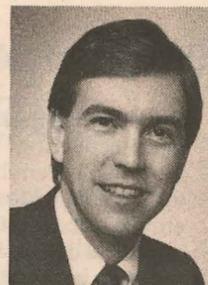
Jolly, who was born in Franklin, is the son of Mrs. Rebecca Lee Jolly of Bowling Green and the late James Wiley Jolly. He earned the BA degree from Colgate University, Hamilton, N. Y.

He and his wife, Martha, have been active members of Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville. He has been president of Jolly Communications since 1980. Earlier, he was senior vice president of Z. M. L. Inc., a Louisville advertising and public relations firm.

During his years in Kentucky, Jolly has been involved extensively as a consultant in marketing, advertising and public relations for Southern Baptist associational, state and national projects. Also, he served in similar capacities for



McKenzie



Montgomery Jr.

numerous Southern Baptist churches, colleges and other institutions.

Chuck Overton began his duties as pastor of Woodlawn Baptist Church, Lebanon, Central Association, Jan. 3.

He was formerly pastor at Friendship Baptist Church, Daviess-McLean Association, and was director of Church Training for the association.

Bald Rock Baptist Church, Laurel River Association, has called **Arthur Bengé** as pastor.

Helen Duncan has recently been added to the staff of Lancaster Baptist Church, South District Association, as minister of education.

Tom Burton of North Salem, Ind., who completed his degree requirements at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in December, has been called to Aetna Grove Baptist Church, Summersville, Lynn Association. He began his ministry there Dec. 6.

Jim Drury became minister of music at Victory Memorial Baptist Church, Louisville, Long Run Association, Dec. 9. C. Michael Baker is pastor.

Allen K. Montgomery Jr. has been promoted to vice president and corporate counsel by Baptist Hospital Inc.

As chief legal officer for the multi-hospital organization, Montgomery is responsible for all legal matters of the corporation, its operating divisions and its affiliated corporations. In addition to managing any outside counsel retained by the organization, he also is a legal advisor for the board of directors of BHI.

Prior to joining BHI in 1986, Montgomery was associated with Evans, Fitchell & Jenkins, an 80 member law firm in general civil practice in Phoenix, Ariz. He is a 1985 graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Law, where he was a staff member of the Kentucky Law Journal. The Sacramento, Ky. native received a master's degree in resource development from Michigan State University.

Bobby Huguley resigned as minister of music and single adults at Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Warren Association, to accept the call of Ocean View Baptist Church, Myrtle Beach, S. C.

ordinations

John E. Willingham Jr. was ordained to the ministry Nov. 22, 1987. Willingham is minister to youth at St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville, Long Run Association.

Bill Oliver was ordained as a deacon of Lancaster Baptist Church, South District Association.

Magnolia Baptist Church, Severns Valley Association, ordained **Bomar Chaudoin** as deacon Dec. 13.

Brent Taugher was ordained a deacon by Elkton Baptist Church, Bethel Association. Ronnie Grace is pastor.

missions

Paul and Peggy Grossman have returned to Burkina Faso following their furlough. Their address is B. P. 580 Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Appointed in 1985, Mrs. Grossman is a native of Owensboro.

Paula Settle, a native of Owensboro and missionary in Togo, West Africa, wrote the December 1987 unit for Baptist Young Adults periodical. Appointed in 1985, she is the only appointed women's worker for French-speaking West Africa.

congregations

First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg, Enterprise Association, celebrated its 80th anniversary Dec. 6. William D. Jagers, pastor from 1962-1977, brought the morning message. Dinner followed at the Martin Student Center of Prestonsburg Community College.

Woodrow Burchett presented a history of the church during an afternoon service.

First Baptist was organized in 1907 with seven members. Twenty-three pastors have served the church, including B. R. Lakin, Joseph Nordenhaug and George Redding.

The congregation is worshiping in its third sanctuary since the church's beginning and will soon be completing a new educational addition and fellowship hall in the spring.

Stephen Hopkins is pastor and Gus Kalos, minister of music.

deaths

D. L. Druien, former trustee chairman of Campbellsville (Ky.) College, died in December at 89 at Hodgenville Nursing Home.

Chairman of the board from 1935-65, Druien was later the school's vice president and director of development.

He was pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Taylor County Association, 36 years. In 1957 he was one of four Kentucky Baptist pastors receiving a DD degree from Campbellsville.

The Hart County native was a member of Campbellsville Baptist Church.



D. L. Druien (r) is shown with his pastor, **James Jones**, of Campbellsville Baptist Church. Druien, 89, died late last year.

Baptist schools stress support

by Arthur L. Walker Jr.

Southern Baptist colleges and schools have a unique role in the realm of higher education. Religiously-affiliated institutions provide quality education in addition to aiding their students in becoming Christian witnesses in the society in which they live.

Some might facetiously ask, "Since when did Baptist schools begin offering Christian Witness 101?" That's the unique part of Baptist higher education. The Christian element is already evident. Christian witness is abundant through classroom and campus-wide example. Baptist colleges and schools provide an atmosphere conducive not only to educational development, but also to spiritual development.

R. Orin Cornett, the first executive director of the Education Commission, told of his freshman experience at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee.

Cornett admitted when he first entered college he "wanted to take a very real vacation from church" to see if he missed it. He also said he was not "very far from typical."

Cornett observed students may find on a Christian college campus "practically all the kinds of meanness you can find at any college though not necessarily to the same degree of availability as in other institutions."

The important factor on the Christian college campus, he stressed, is how those things are perceived by a majority of the students.

In a good Christian college the undesirable elements exist on the periphery of student life, disapproved of by the majority of students and usually having very little effect on them," he said.

Cornett remembered that after one year he had not satisfied all the curiosities he had, but instead, those curiosities "lost importance."

Cornett's experience is probably not much different from many Baptist college students. We must remember college freshmen are at a vulnerable time in their lives when they are influenced easily by others. The prevailing environ-

ment on campus is important.

As Cornett pointed out, there may be things which occur on a Baptist campus of which we do not approve. Yet Baptist institutional administrators work overtime to see these type of things do not occur on a regular basis. Most Baptist schools have strict rules regarding undesirable activities. We must remember, Cornett reminded, that sin is a human element, and no matter how much we would like to, it cannot be eliminated totally.

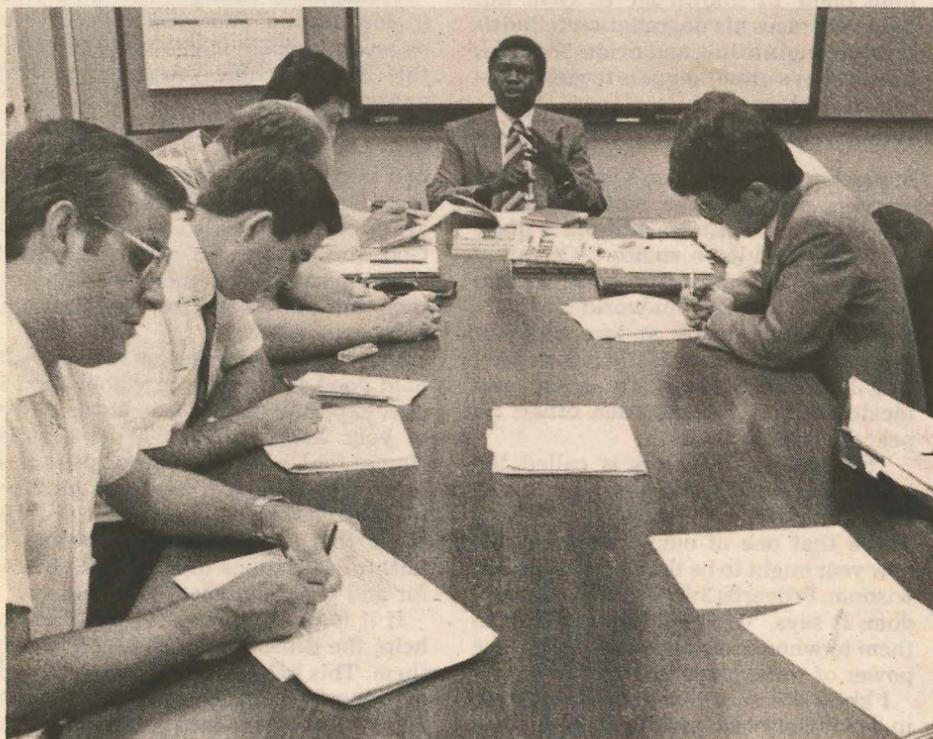
In the Baptist school, however, personal concern for Christian growth receives a major emphasis.

Baptist colleges and universities provide the opportunity to study various academic disciplines within a Christian perspective. Faculty members are free to demonstrate and espouse the Christian faith. The faculty members are not only allowed to do so, but are also encouraged to share faith and to relate that faith to their discipline.

Southern Baptists have 46 senior colleges and universities, four junior colleges, four Bible schools, six seminaries and nine academies which relate either directly to the Southern Baptist Convention or to the Baptist state convention in which the school is located.

While these schools train many students for church-related and missions vocation, they also train many of our finest business leaders, doctors, teachers and other professionals. These people also will be our Baptist lay leaders of tomorrow. They will be the ones who become Sunday school teachers, deacons, WMU and Brotherhood workers and leaders in other church positions. All benefit from the Christian influence found at Southern Baptist colleges and schools.

Our denomination needs to be reminded constantly of our educational institutions. Without the prayer and financial support of Southern Baptists, our schools would not be able to continue the tradition of providing quality education within a Christian context that has existed for more than 150 years.



Missionary guest professor Samuel Fadeji leads a class discussion on missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Fadeji, who is from Nigeria, is a product of Southern Baptist mission work and in his lectures draws upon the 137-year-old history of the Nigerian Baptist Convention.

Preparing for Christian Witness

OBSERVE
Baptist Seminary, College and School Day
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1988
Sponsored by the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

Fadeji stresses missions tradition

When guest professor Sam Fadeji talks to his classes at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary he draws on a national history almost as old as the Southern Baptist Convention's.

In 1850, as the Southern Baptist convention celebrated its fifth anniversary, missionary Thomas Bowen landed in Nigeria, making it the SBC's third mission field. Missionaries were already serving in China and Liberia.

Today more than 1 million people worship in the 4500 Nigerian Baptist churches each Sunday. In addition, the Nigerian Baptist Convention sponsors its own seminary and 40 home missionaries.

Fadeji, professor of Old Testament at the Nigerian Baptist Seminary, is a product of the mission work begun by Bowen. As national guest professor at Southwestern this fall, Fadeji speaks with authority about the importance of world missions.

Fadeji's faith was nurtured in a strong Baptist home. His father, a carpenter, served 36 years as a Baptist pastor in three small Nigerian villages. The elder

Fadeji led his son to faith in Christ.

Sitting in his office at Southwestern, Fadeji speaks fondly of his father who at 78 still rides his bicycle to minister in his tiny village.

"Islam is the real threat (in Nigeria) today," Fadeji said. But Christian missionaries must also deal with traditional African religions which "tempt Christians" during personal trial.

These experiences illustrate for Fadeji the importance of the Bible over culture in the Christian faith. "We must not mix the eternal truths with forms in which they are presented," he said. "The Bible must be our primary source for all our theology, evangelism and missions."

Through emphasis on the Bible and evangelism, Baptists have laid a firm foundation in Nigeria, Fadeji said. But that doesn't mean missionaries are no longer needed.

On the contrary, Fadeji said Nigeria still needs the support of Southern Baptists, especially in technical areas such as medicine, agriculture and theological education.



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Sleeping in a car

Many of you who read these words contribute to our work. But the great majority do not. Those who do are more than contributors or benefactors to us. We think of you as a friend, a dear friend of girls and boys, one who puts your money where nearly every cent goes to feed, house, care for medically, teach, and, in many instances, clothe more than 500 young people.

We are reminded that our Lord picked out the word "friends" to characterize those choice souls who had come through all the tests and stood before him at the last, trustworthy and beloved. Sometimes people comment on the friendliness that is a part of Oneida. We like to say that it is friendliness reflected from all our wonderful friends.

Daniel Webster once said, "If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work on brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon mortal souls, if we imbue them with principles, with the fear of God and the love of fellow man, we engrave on those tablets something which will brighten all eternity." And so we do together at OBI.

The Lord has blessed in so many ways this past year. Yet it remains the struggle it has always been to keep on day by day, and to try to improve. There are as many, and perhaps more, today in our school on full scholarship, not paying even a penny, than on any day of our history. We care for nearly four

times more children than we did for 70 years of our history.

The calls are daily, pressing and, in many situations, heart-rending. Just last week three brethren brought an 18-year-old boy to us whom they discovered had been sleeping in a car for two years, even on the coldest nights of winter. Often he went hungry. Occasionally he would steal to eat. Sometimes he would do something to get arrested, just so he might have a few warm meals and a bed in the county jail. They brought some clothing articles, and we have since gotten more clothes for him. He has been out of school several years, but is now happily going to class each day. We are very impressed with him. His smile has brightened several difficult days.

How can we turn such a one down? We cannot while there is a bed.

But to be able to minister to all we care for, and others who wish or need to come, we must have the help of people like you.

I cannot bring myself to come and high pressure you face to face. In 15 years as president of this school, I recall directly asking for something, face to face, one time. I do present our cause when speaking. I do present our needs when writing like this.

What we are doing is as worthy as any, much more worthy than most, for we get a lot more done, dollar for dollar, than most. We invite any doubters to come and see for themselves.

We feel the Holy Spirit will direct those in whom he dwells. Yes, he will direct you to share with us if that is his will. If he moves your heart to help us, please do not resist. Do not quench or grieve him.

If he does not lead you to help us, he will surely call you to some other work of his. We can only let you know our needs, about \$7000 per day.

It is, and has always been, a struggle at Oneida. We are never satisfied with anything short of our best for the many boys and girls who seek only an opportunity. We are not willing to give up this effort.

If Oneida is God's work, and the evidence of every day of every week of every month, for 87 years, gives testimony that it is, then it must be that God is well pleased with this kind of struggling, this approach to fundraising. Our approach is to have faith, do God's work, and to daily proclaim his good news.

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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR JAN. 17, 1988

Life and work series

Don't make your own gods

Exodus 20:4-6 The Second Commandment forbids the use of idols or images in connection with the worship of God. To attempt to represent the true and living God by that which is without life and made by man is useless, sinful and a debasement of deity.

Isaiah 44:9-10 Long after Moses returned from the mountain with the message which God had given, the Israelites were still struggling with the seductive lure of the worship of idols or false gods.

Later, when Isaiah came upon the scene and observed men making and worshipping false gods, he burned with righteous indignation. He saw the folly of their practice of making costly idols and worshipping them.

He made it clear that neither the idol or the false god knew anything, nor could do anything whereas Jehovah knew everything and had sufficient power to do anything which he desired. Trust in a false god that could not provide any protection or assistance was the very height of folly.

Romans 1:21-25 Man began on the high plane of knowledge of God, but verse 21 traces his degradation to indifference, ingratitude and pride. This was due to man's unwillingness to yield himself to God.

Man's foolishness is made obvious by his attempting to live as though God did not exist. How tragic for people to reject the divine revelation, refuse to worship God, refrain from being grateful for what God has done for them and plunge into the depths of sinful living! People cannot dishonor God and degrade their bodies in immorality without suffering the consequences.

As verse 24 indicates, God sometimes withdraws his providential restraints from those whom he has left to their polluted nature, and gives them up to judicial hardness. He allows them to dishonor, injure and disgrace themselves.

International series

Religion in life

Matthew 7:1-12 Censoriousness is one of the great blots in the lives of many Christians. Many are addicted to the sinful habit of criticizing others harshly, adversely and unnecessarily. The keener one's eyes become to the faults of others, the more blind one will become to his own faults. Nobody ever builds himself up by tearing down somebody else.

The cure for a critical spirit is a recognition of the sinfulness of it, repentance for it and reliance upon God's grace to enable you to overcome it. A critical spirit is a sin by which one wounds others, injures himself and grieves the heart of Christ. In this all-important matter of witnessing to others effectively, every child of God needs great spiritual discernment.

It is the desire of Christ that Christians shall retire to a secret place, and there pour out their hearts to God the father. Instead of our prayers being orations before God, he wants them to be childlike requests of him.

Christ commanded Christians to seek earnestly and patiently and to knock faithfully. Every earnest suppliant should ask as a beggar, seek as one who has lost some treasure and anxiously desires its recovery and knock as one who stands before a closed door and is desirous of being admitted for fellowship.

Christ taught his followers to act towards others as they would have them to act toward them. If you are eager for others to judge you kindly, then you must judge others kindly.

Tremendous changes will take place in your affairs, and for you life will be so much happier if you will remember this the next time you get impatient, angry or critical.



Eldred M. Taylor
Executive Director
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homes for children

Is it in your power?

What is your desire and hope for the year 1988?

I suppose all of us have dreams and

hopes for this year. Don't you wish the starving people of our world could be fed and the multitudes without a place to stay could have shelter! Certainly every Christian prays for, longs for and hopes for peace. But our world is at war! Many individuals are at war with self and with God. Society is filled with warring factions. Nations are at war and ideologies war against each other. So peace seems far away.

The book of Proverbs is called the book of wisdom. Indeed, it has much to say about that which is wise. It seems to me that one of our desires for this new year ought to be that we would have wisdom. Proverbs 3:27 is filled with wisdom. It says, "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it."

I know for sure that there is a group in our society who are due to have some good things happen to them. That group is made up of dependent, neglected, abused children. Many of them are unwanted, misused and deserted. So many

bad things have happened in their lives they feel defeated and worthless. Yet every child is created in the image of God and deserves a chance to fulfill God's purpose for them by reaching their full potential. They are due some good experiences.

Our text admonishes us not to withhold good from these to whom good is due, especially when it is in the power of your hand to do it. Your Baptist Homes for Children is in the business of providing good care, love and guidance to children who are in need. We are able to do this only because multitudes of faithful Christians care enough to pray for and give to support this ministry.

If it is in the power of your hand to help, the Bible admonishes you to help them. This help can be through the gift of property, an insurance policy, or your last will and testament. Cash gifts can be sent directly or through your church. Is it in your power to help those to whom help is due? Then make 1988 a year of helping children.

'Georgia boy' uses Chinese language to reveal 'diamond' within

by Erich Bridges

It's not too hard to find Bob Freeman at the Second Foreign Language Institute in Beijing, China. He's the only Georgia boy on campus.

Sixty residents occupy the foreign students' dormitory. But only one proudly displays a Georgia Bulldogs cap and a souvenir lunch box from The Varsity, Atlanta's legendary hamburger heaven. Freeman, a 26-year-old graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, is from Roswell, Ga., near Atlanta. He says he isn't homesick. At least not yet. He just likes to keep a bit of home close by. Otherwise, he has immersed himself in things Chinese. He is a learner, not a teacher.

In fact, learning is Freeman's job in China. Unlike many Americans who are coming to Chinese universities to teach English, Freeman arrived in 1986 to study Mandarin Chinese for two years. But since most of the Chinese students at the institute want to learn English, Freeman is one of the most popular guys on campus.

"Ninety percent of the Chinese students here are studying English and are anxious for an opportunity to practice it with a native speaker," he explains. "It makes for good introductions."

There's a special cafeteria for foreigners, but Freeman eats at least one meal a day in the regular student cafeteria, where he immediately is surrounded by Chinese friends and acquaintances.

"Just sitting around the table I'm able to meet students, some of whom I don't see again after that one meal," he says. "But some I run into again and again in the hall or at other places, and maybe build friendships with them."

Friendships are as important to Freeman as his studies. He not only wants to know the Chinese language; he wants to know the Chinese.

About 1000 students attend the institute in China's capital city. The school

is run by the government's tourism department, and most of its graduates will work as tour guides, translators, hotel employes and the like. They study a variety of foreign languages, including French, German, Spanish and Japanese. But English is No. 1.

That creates a problem as well as an opportunity for Freeman. He could easily spend all his time speaking English, but he is struggling diligently to learn Mandarin. Does he become discouraged with the effort? Only after getting test papers back, he jokes.

"When I came to China, the only thing I could say in Chinese was hello and goodbye," he confesses. "That was about it. Now I can survive in the language and communicate when I have to buy something or travel somewhere."

"It takes a lot of practice writing the characters. You just have to repeat them over and over. I'm spending a lot more time than I would like to on writing. Writing is good, but you don't communicate in writing. You communicate by speaking. So a lot of what I'm learning about speaking I'm doing on my own—on the streets and in the market and with friends."

One friend is a 20-year-old Chinese student who came to the institute with six years of English study already completed. "One day she just showed up at my door," Freeman recalls. "She said, 'You're an American and you speak English. I'm studying English and you're studying Chinese. So perhaps we could help each other practice our language studies.'"

Freeman was wary at first, since it is unusual for Chinese to take the initiative in a one-to-one contact. But the first meeting developed into a rewarding friendship. The student is very interested in music, so Freeman invited her to attend a church in Beijing to hear special music at Easter.

"She enjoyed the music, and afterwards she was asking some questions

like, 'Do you really believe in God? Why do you believe?' I don't know whether she was more interested in why I believe or whether she may be open to those realities. But she's beginning to ask questions."

When the feeling of being a stranger in a strange land sets in, or he begins to wonder why he ever decided to study a language as difficult as Mandarin, Freeman remembers the relationships he has begun.

Although he relates mostly to young people, another friendship he cherishes is with an elderly professor at the Christian seminary in Beijing. The professor, who attends the same church as Freeman, suffered deeply before and during the Cultural Revolution of 1966-76, when many religious believers were persecuted harshly.

"He's not quick to speak of the suffering he has endured," Freeman observes. "That is something he endured for his faith, but he doesn't look upon those of us who have not suffered in a different light. (There are) a lot of things that we (American Christians) can learn from the Chinese Christians."

Freeman is learning. The Christian professor gave him a Chinese name—Fu Huai Pu. Huai means to embrace or hold within. Pu is uncut jade. "So it means to have something special hidden within," he explains. "It has a good meaning for Christianity, having Christ within."

Or, he adds laughing, it also can be translated as a diamond in the rough. "There are a lot of times I feel like I'm kind of rough."

But with patience, the polished diamond is beginning to show through.



The moment of truth arrives. Southern Baptist student Bob Freeman takes a test on the very challenging subject he is studying: Mandarin Chinese. Freeman is in his second year of study at the Second Foreign Language Institute in Beijing, China.



Southern Baptist student Bob Freeman walks with a Chinese friend on campus at the Second Foreign Language Institute in Beijing, China. Since most of the Chinese students are learning English, Freeman is one of the most popular guys on campus.

What happens when a minister's brook runs dry?

by H. B. Kuhnle

He was a pastor without a church and wondering why. A seminary graduate with more than 20 years of continued service as a pastor he one day found himself sidelined and wondered if this could actually be included in the leading of the Lord. Was it actually true the Lord hears and answers prayer giving definite guidance to his servants?

Recalling sermons he had preached regarding the leading of the Lord he was tempted to question the statements he himself had made in the pulpit regarding the manner in which the Lord guides in life's situations. Had the Lord really called him to be a pastor? If so, why had the door closed?

In his loneliness he thought of the other pastors with whom he had had fellowship over the years. Somehow they did not seem to be concerned about his problem. Many were so successful.

As he compared his lot with theirs he began to wonder about questions which robbed him of sleep and peace of mind. He found himself unable to effectively witness for Christ. The brook had run dry.

It can be a terrifying experience when brooks run dry. We need to read the writing in the dried sands of the brook as did Elijah (I Kings 17:1-7). Elijah had found that brook a source of content-

ment and joy. Why had it dried up? He had not forsaken God. He was there because he had followed the leading of the Lord. Could it be the voice of the chattering brook was stilled that he might hear the voice of God calling him to greater service?

We remember it was soon after the little brook dried up the Lord's voice was heard saying, "Arise and go to Zarahemla." It is not insignificant Zarahemla was by the sea. The voice of the chattering brook was stilled that Elijah might better hear the voice of God calling him to greater things.

God speaks to us in many and various ways. He sometimes speaks through the drying up of brooks. We remember Philip who one day was commanded of God to leave his popular (and flattering?) ministry in Samaria to stand in the barren stretches of the desert on the roadside. No doubt he was tempted to question the leading of the Lord.

God had led him into the desert to meet and lead the eunuch to faith in Jesus Christ. It is indeed significant we read after Philip and the eunuch had parted, "But Philip was found at Azotus and passing through he preached in all the cities until he came to Caesarea" (Acts 8:40). The Lord gave his servant a desert experience in order to prepare him for greater ministry. He who has never been in the desert has yet to learn

the deeper things of God. Let us remember Jesus himself was given a desert experience to prepare him for a ministry pleasing to the father.

What can I do as a fellow-pastor to strengthen my brother or sister going through the experiences of failing brooks and desert scenes? Our hearts go out to such and we lift them before God in prayer asking him to open doors and above all to keep these servants of his in that state of inner peace which comes only to those who, instructed by God's Holy Spirit, allow the Lord to lead even though the winds are contrary.

I need to keep in touch with these persons, remembering them in prayer. But they need more than that. They need to minister.

As a pastor I can invite such a friend to be the pulpit guest in my church. This will not only help relieve the heartache but also give exposure for churches seeking a pastor. Would it not be a gracious thing to request that person to teach the study course rather than call upon pastors of other churches who already have their hands full with their own churches? Vacation Bible schools might be another use. Exposure is needed, not expulsion. What if our positions were to be reversed?

Let us ever remember the paths in which the Lord leads may ofttime be strange but they are his.

CONVENTION

KBC NEWS



Media Libraries. . .

Touching Lives To Improve Learning

Cheryl Doty, church media library intern, catalogs several of the many videotapes which are available through the CML Video Tape Service at the Baptist Building in Middletown.

KBC expands CML ministry

The Kentucky Baptist Convention has recently expanded one of its newest ministries by establishing a Church Media Library, housed in the Communications division, at the Baptist Building in Middletown. When completed, this ministry will provide a model for churches wishing to begin or improve their own CML facilities.

The KBC hopes to upgrade the old image of a church library by providing more than books, as its unit will illustrate. "Ours will house the tract room, VTS (Video Tape Service) and BTN (Baptist Telecommunication Network) services," explained Denise Hawkins, promotions specialist and CML state consultant, KBC.

Hawkins described the tract room as a free service supported by Cooperative Program dollars. Churches or individuals may order free materials on many topics, including missions, evangelism and witnessing, marriage and family life, dealing with sickness and grief.

BTN programming provides viewing of teleconferences, study courses and seminars. The KBC VTS offers, among other instructional and informational tapes, Southern Baptist Report: Kentucky Edition, a quarterly video magazine highlighting various ministries in the state.

Through the KBC church media library, Hawkins will assist local churches into joining their local TACMO (The Associational Church Media Library Organization). TACMO provides a "life-line for CML

work on the associational level," Hawkins stated. By a network of local churches working together, TACMO supports existing CML's and helps start new ones. "CML is a supportive, educational arm of the church," she declared.

Churches just beginning a CML ministry may receive assistance from a free starter kit provided by the Sunday School Board's Church Media Library Department and from Hawkins. The recent Southern seminary graduate hopes the CML ministry will "establish as many new starts as possible" and will show that "no church is too small for a church media library." The Communications division itself has limited space for the CML, she explained, and "this makes us more sensitive to churches with little space."

Each spring the Kentucky Baptist Media Library Association (KBMLA) sponsors a state workshop. This event provides further instruction for established CML staff and training for new staff, especially in areas of promotion and administration.

The 1988 KBMLA State Workshop is Friday and Saturday, April 29-30, at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Bagdad. Scheduled topics include **For Experienced Directors Only; The Learning Team; Using Media Effectively; Promotion: Planning Special Emphasis Weeks; Motivating Your Volunteer Staff; How to Budget and Personal Learning Styles.**

For further details, call (502) 245-4101, ext. 212.