

Supreme Court refuses to hear Crowder lawsuit

by Jack Sanford, Editor

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention met in Nashville Feb. 22-24 and heard convention attorney James Guenther announce the end of the Crowder lawsuit in favor of the SBC.

After two years and eight months, the Supreme Court refused to hear the suit, thus ending the struggle which began after the Dallas convention in 1985, when Robert and Julia Crowder sued the SBC, claiming their rights were violated by rulings from SBC president Charles F. Stanley.

The court refused to hear the case on First Amendment grounds. The grounds for refusal meant the court felt it had no jurisdiction over the internal affairs of a religious body.

In other action the Executive Committee refused to grant exhibit space at the San Antonio convention for Mid America Seminary, Luther Rice Seminary and Criswell College. Further study of the policy related to exhibit space was ordered by the committee.

In a related matter the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (BJCPA) was not granted exhibit space for the first time in many years.

The Public Affairs Committee (PAC) of the SBC wanted to use the space or-

dinarily given to the BJCPA. Since the PAC is the sponsoring agent for space of the BJCPA, there was no provision made for the BJCPA. However, SBC president Adrian Rogers offered to talk with the PAC chairman to see if the PAC would reconsider and allow the BJCPA to have a booth in San Antonio.

In response to the suggestions of sharing space with the BJCPA, Currin said the PAC "is definitely going to have an exhibit" but the PAC is more likely to share space than grant the BJCPA its own exhibit.

He further declared the PAC "would want assurances that they (the BJCPA) would not use the booth to advocate any positions that are not in the mainstream of Southern Baptist thought."

The Executive Committee refused a request from the PAC to dissolve its ties with the BJCPA and turn over more than \$400,000 funding to the PAC.

James M. Dunn, executive director of the BJCPA, applauded the decision not to sever ties. "The Executive Committee rightly rejected the appeal of the PAC to recommend defunding."

PAC chairman Samuel T. Currin declared, "I think there is strong majority sentiment within the Southern Baptist Convention for the Public Affairs Committee to represent Southern Baptists on church-state issues. But we ought to

take our time about how we go about making these institutional changes.

The Executive Committee passed resolutions of appreciation for Raymond M. Rigdon who will retire July 31, 1988 after 19 years as director of the off-campus program of the six SBC seminaries.

A resolution of appreciation also was passed in honor of Jack U. Harwell who retired Dec. 31, 1987 as editor of the Christian Index of the Georgia Baptist Convention, a position he held for 21 years.

A plaque honoring the life and work of Porter Wroe Routh was authorized and will be mounted beside his picture in the Executive Committee building in Nashville. Routh served 28 years as executive-secretary of the Executive Committee of the SBC.

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the Woman's Missionary Union the committee passed a resolution of appreciation for the work of WMU.

In other action the Executive Committee recognized the growth of church membership in the state conventions of Alaska, Nevada and Pennsylvania-South Jersey. According to SBC Bylaw 22, these states are eligible for representatives on the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board since the total church membership of each convention exceeds

20,000.

An error in listing the dates for two future SBC meetings was corrected. The correct dates are Houston, June 15-17, 1993 and Orlando, June 14-16, 1994.

Following the Executive Committee meeting a press conference was called by former SBC presidents Jimmy Draper and Bailey Smith and current SBC president Adrian Rogers.

Rogers read a prepared statement entitled, "A Conservative Southern Baptist Affirmation." The statement noted that misunderstandings had developed among Southern Baptists and made a series of affirmations about where conservatives stood and what they hoped to achieve in the convention.

The affirmations included a statement in support of the right of Baptists to set parameters for institutions and agencies which are supported by Baptists.

Also affirmed was Article One of the Baptist Faith and Message as well as evangelism, the cooperative method of missions, autonomy of the local church, separation of church and state and that "Jesus Christ, the virgin-born God-man is the center of all faith."

Kentucky members of the Executive Committee are John Christian, Hopkinsville; James Jones, Campbellsville; David Gray, Radcliff; and Dewey Keys, Glendale.

Jackson, Young apart on controversial issues

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

A leading Southern Baptist conservative and an announced candidate for SBC president representing moderates in the denomination's theological controversy were at sharp odds last week on substantive issues. Both were speakers for the Kentucky Baptist evangelism conference in Louisville, and granted separate interviews to Western Recorder.

Saying "we're not through with this task" of purging the seminaries of perceived liberalism, H. Edwin Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., an avowed conservative, said he

was concerned that the seminaries maintain a "balanced representation" of theological views.

While agreeing there is always a need "to check ourselves theologically," Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church, a moderate who says he will be "available" for service as SBC president, stated that Southern Baptist institutions are not in "theological chaos" as some claim.

Jackson continued: "Some folks had legitimate concerns fanned by irresponsible inflammatory rhetoric. This caused a lot of Baptists to be stampeded by false-founded fears."

Young cited the SBC Peace Committee report of 1987 as approval to pursue concerns about the denomination's "theological plight." "Wouldn't you say, with 90% of those present adopting it, the convention has gone on record favoring these concerns?" he surmised.

Asked if he believed, as some moderates suggest, the theological purge is a smoke screen for political activity, Young emphatically replied, "No," and added: "I'm not for dismissal of any faculty member at any seminary on theological grounds. But as normal attrition occurs through retirement, resignation or death, I would like to see the seminaries draw faculty members that will give a more balanced perspective."

Jackson obviously disagrees with Young's assessment, for he commented that he had "never been a part of political takeover of this convention." Saying he is a "blood-bought believer" in Jesus, Jackson observed that he belonged "only to Jesus and a Baptist church."

Anyone who knows him (Jackson) knows "no one else does my thinking for me," he said. To suggest "I have been bought by anyone, moderates or conservatives, would be absurd."

While feeling that the end of the theological struggle is not yet due,



Jackson



Young

Young said that he eventually sees "a time for healing" in the strife-torn denomination. "I pray to God it will come," he added.

Jackson said his prayer is that "we return soon" to basic Baptist characteristics of "harmony, cooperation and strong emphasis on missions and evangelism."

"I pray the trend of the last nine years will not continue," he declared.

Asked about the current plight of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., Young remarked that president Randall Lolley is "a very good friend." A Southeastern alumnus, Young said: "Randall could not conscientiously move in the direction of the Peace Committee's report." Lolley has resigned as president after 14 years, effective this summer.

Young called the nominee for Lolley's replacement, Lewis A. Drummond, "an able man." Drummond is Billy Graham professor of evangelism and administrative director of the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. Young said he is "excited" to have a man like Drummond "who can equip the men (ministerial students) with what they need for such a time as this."

"Everybody has a season," said Young, "and I think Lolley has had his. Now it's time for Drummond's."

Young also predicted "in two years you'll see increased enrolment at Southeastern Seminary."

Regarding other Baptist entities, Young said he does not feel Baptist Press has been unfair in reporting the news of Southern Baptists. Some editors have "colored the controversy" with headlining and use of negative terms but he believes "more care is being shown now than in the past."

Young claimed the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has been "out of step with its constituency for a long time." The Christian Life Commission, on the other hand, "hasn't been active enough in moral issues."

Jackson took an opposite view. "Many of the most supportive churches of the Cooperative Program sense they've been disenfranchised, and they won't continue indefinitely in their supportive stance," he said. "I am praying that their concerns will be heard from in a Christian way at the convention."

He continued: "I believe the true Baptist champions the priesthood of the believer, the autonomy of the local church and separation of church and state. I don't believe true Baptists are going on having their priesthood denied."

Referring again to his announced candidacy for SBC president, Jackson said that if 14 others were nominated, and I wasn't elected, "I won't be mad." I'll just keep "leading my church to win people and to give more to the Cooperative Program." Whatever it takes, he said, he would "maintain integrity" for he would rather be "respected than elected."

The church he pastors led the SBC in 1987 in baptisms and in giving to the Cooperative Program.

Time magazine is currently pursuing a story on Young's church, reportedly calling it "the fastest growing church in America."

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sanford's perspectives

Baptists in New England



Jack D. Sanford

Editor's note: Material for this editorial was supplied by the Home Mission Board, particularly articles prepared by Leisa Hammett-Goad. However most of the material was gathered first-hand by the editor.

The annual meeting of state executive secretaries and state editors was held in early February in Boston.

James Currin, executive secretary of the Baptist Convention of New England and former pastor of Northside Baptist Church, Mayfield, Graves County Association, was in charge of the activities of the week and proved himself a gracious host.

We toured the Boston area and took a mission trip to New Hampshire and Maine. In Portsmouth, N. H., we had a wonderful time of fellowship with the historic Screven Memorial Baptist Church and enjoyed a boiled New England lunch prepared by the members of this historic congregation.

What is amazing about the work in New England is the fact that all the odds are being beaten by Southern Baptists. In only eight years Southern Baptists increased the number of churches in the New England area from 60 to 148.

Ambitious plans for a new seminary are well under way in spite of the impossible costs of property and the local stereotype of a Southern Baptist. Currin has said, "Many people think we are snake handlers or very weird people." However, he declared respect for Southern Baptists has greatly increased in recent years.

An example of that respect is seen in the fashionable, historic area around Beacon Hill. Margaret and I worshiped with the Beacon Hill Baptist Chapel on the Sunday of our visit. The day was cold, with ice and snow on the streets, yet several people gathered in the rented room which is the worship center of the Beacon Hill congregation. David Draper, a young preacher from South Carolina, is the enthusiastic pastor of this new Baptist work. His wife, Betsy, is a Missions Service Corps volunteer who began a Baptist Student Union on the campus of Massachusetts Institute of Technology from scratch. She and her husband teach students there is no secular work and that they can be ministers now with their college peers and tomorrow in their work places.

An exciting and quite different statistic for Southern Baptists reflects the reality of the region. Boston has 40 congregations, half of them ethnic or American Black. Among the four million people in the area, 300,000 are college and university students in the 70 centers of higher education in the region.

Southern Baptists have a great opportunity for ministry in the New England area but help is needed. Many churches in the South, and especially in our beloved Kentucky, could offer life-giving financial assistance to the brothers and sisters in this fruitful pioneer area. Summer groups and workers of all sorts would be welcome, according to Larry Martin, director of missions in the Boston area. Larry is a native Kentuckian from Eubanks and is an outstanding example of the quality young people who are flocking north to plant the gospel seeds.

Consider this vast, strategic region as a possible mission site for your congregation. A few dollars

invested in the area, a few people committed to go there to help in various ways and continued prayer are vital ingredients if we are to see continued progress in Southern Baptist growth.

And progress is what all of us want, including the quality people at work in the name of Christ and Southern Baptists in the northeast. Among them is Tom McKibbens, pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, Cambridge, near the campus of Harvard University. He left the professorship of preaching at Southeastern Seminary to become pastor of the church. His congregation of about 75 uses the church house Sunday morning, a Hispanic group uses it later in the day and a Laotian congregation also uses it for worship.

Ed Allen, native of Spartanburg, S. C., is pastor of First Baptist Church, Chelsea. His church is made up of poor people in a poor neighborhood. He declared it was his intention to do just such a ministry and God has provided him all he can handle. He has about 50-80 people in church each week, meeting in a small room since the 600-700 seat sanctuary cannot be used because of a poor heating system. The church originally belonged to an American Baptist congregation but they sold it to Southern Baptists for \$11,000 and then gave back the money, making the worship facilities a gift. But a bad furnace was part of the deal and Allen and his people endure with joy because they can worship and praise the Lord in a place which someday they know will be warm and filled with people.

New England evangelicals have fallen on hard times even though the region is rich in historical happenings. The Haystack prayer meeting which ushered in the modern missionary movement in America was a New England event. The establishment of the first Baptist church on American soil was a New England event. The Great Awakening which stirred the fires of evangelism in the early days of our country was a New England event. The first Baptist church established in the southern part of our country was a New England event because William Screven migrated from Maine to Charleston, S.C., to establish the first Baptist church in the South.

History once again seems to be making a move in New England religious history. The growing strength and amazing confidence of New England Southern Baptists makes one believe the Holy Spirit may be stirring another Haystack prayer meeting, or perhaps a new Awakening of missionaries or perhaps a Great Awakening which may sweep America.

All of us join Jim Currin and his fellow Christians throughout New England in praying for workers to enter this great harvest field and help reap the multitude of lost souls waiting for the light of the gospel. May the gracious God of our Lord Jesus hasten the day and strengthen the hands of the laborers who are there now, giving sacrificially to see that others hear the word of salvation.

western recorder

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

baptist news in brief

Conference centers accepting 1988 requests

Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist conference centers began accepting reservations for 1988 summer conferences Feb. 1, according to Barbara Stockett, conference center promotion specialist at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board which owns and operates the conference centers.

The year-round centers offer summer leadership conferences for church training, Sunday school, church media library, deacons, recreation, family ministry, church administration, church architecture, drama, home and foreign missions, Brotherhood, Woman's Missionary Union and student ministry. Youth celebrations and youth Centrifuge camps also are provided.

In 1987, in response to requests summer conference scheduling returned to pre-1984 times with all conferences starting on Saturday evenings and ending Friday at noon.

Reservations should be sent to either Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, NC 28770 or Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Box 8, Glorieta NM 87535-008.

In addition to housing in hotel-type accommodations or apartments, campers attending Ridgecrest can stay at the Creekside Campground which has a total of 36 available sites.

At Glorieta, campers can stay in the Western Town Campground which has 84 total sites. The cost for tent sites is \$29 for the week at both conferences and includes water, electricity and a nearby bathroom. The cost for RV sites is \$43 for the week and includes water, electricity and sewer. (BP)

BSSB trustees approve expansion of facilities

Approval of preliminary design for a nine-story office/conference tower atop the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's operations building and approval to proceed with a \$3.9 million expansion of the operations building were given by board trustees during their semiannual meeting Feb. 15-17.

Both projects are part of a long-range Nashville master properties plan developed by the board's administration in conjunction with a trustee space committee and adopted by the trustees in August 1987.

The plan is based on projected space needs of serving a denomination of 17.5 million members by the year 2000. At present, about 14.7 million people are members of Southern Baptist churches.

The nine-story limestone, granite and glass building was designed by Hart-Freeland-Roberts architects, designers of all Nashville facilities of the board, and will sit atop the operations building. An elevated three-story connecting lobby will join the operations tower with existing office space. The tower will add 150,000 square feet and will include one floor of conference space and eight floors of office space.

Estimated cost of the tower is \$14.3 million, with completion expected in February 1990. Trustees will be asked to approve construction drawings and bids in August 1988. Completion of the tower will enable board components presently housed in leased space to move into board-owned facilities.

Expansion of the Operations Building is expected to begin immediately with completion anticipated by October 1988. (BP)

SBC Today board elects Harwell

Jack U. Harwell, former editor of the Christian Index, Georgia Baptists' weekly newjournal, has been elected editor of SBC Today, an independent, autonomous Southern Baptist newspaper, effective June 1, the paper's board of directors announced.

Harwell's election, according to the board's action, is part of an effort to upgrade the publication by changing its frequency to twice monthly, adding other full time staff members and increasing circulation.

The board has launched a campaign to raise \$250,000 by June 1, the time when Harwell would assume the editorship, in order to finance the changes.

In the board's February meeting, Harwell was offered the post of editor to replace SBC Today founder, editor Walker L. Knight, who will remain with SBC Today as publisher.

"Harwell's being editor will of necessity have to depend upon a successful fund-raising campaign, but we have been encouraged by the heavy support shown by Jack's many friends," said

BSSB strengthens service role

An improved financial report for the first quarter of the current fiscal year greeted Southern Baptist Sunday School Board trustees in their semiannual meeting in Nashville. They discussed and approved matters aimed at strengthening the agency's ability to serve churches.

First-quarter sales for Sunday School Board products were closer to sales projections than they have been in eight years, reported E. V. King, vice president for business and finance. Sales for the October-December 1987 quarter, at about \$38.5 million, are 4.7 percent ahead of the comparable period in 1986 but still 1.7 percent behind budget projections.

In a move to streamline management of the business and finance office, trustees approved a reorganization of the board's financial arm. They eliminated the management services division, effective Apr. 1, and reduced the number of departments from seven to six, effective Oct. 1.

The changes were intended to reduce operational costs, help the board stay closer to church leaders and reflect the board's commitment to service, said Don Mathis, chairman of the general ad-

ministrative committee and pastor of Central Baptists Church, Corbin, Ky. David Turner, director of the management services division, was reassigned as director of administration and audit in the office of business and finance.

Product changes also were approved, including an average price increase of church literature items of five percent, effective April 1989, because of increases in the costs of printing and production, paper and postage.

Trustees received an update on the new multi-volume Bible commentary planned by Broadman Press from James W. Clark, senior vice president for publishing and distribution. The six consulting editors have met with general editor Michael Smith and are selecting and enlisting writers for the 40-volume commentary, he said.

Writers who have been suggested by the consulting editors include four people from Criswell College, Dallas; four from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tenn.; seven from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.; and four from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., Clark said. (BP)

board chairman Melvin Williams, pastor of Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga.

Knight, who has announced he will take partial retirement next February, said: "The securing of Jack Harwell is an exceptional opportunity to guarantee Southern Baptists will continue to receive a fair and unbiased reporting of SBC affairs."

"I see this as a chance for SBC Today to reach a new level of effectiveness, to appeal more strongly to the laity of the convention and to ensure that in Baptist life censorship will not be tolerated. This assures us that there will always be a voice to champion freedom."

Harwell, who worked for the Christian Index for 30 years, the final 21 as editor, took early retirement last December. He drew increasing criticism from conservatives who were displeased with his editorial policies. After a review committee was established to monitor him, he announced plans last October to retire last Dec. 31, saying he could no longer work under the group's

restrictive policies.

The Georgia Baptist Convention voted to request Harwell to stay during its November meeting. But by a 57-54 margin members of the convention's executive committee refused to reinstate Harwell, forcing him to abide by his Dec. 31 retirement date.

A native of Mobile, Ala., Harwell, 55, is a long-time reporter. After earning a degree in journalism from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., Harwell worked for newspapers in Mobile, Ala., Birmingham, Ala. and Atlanta. He also spent four years as a public relations specialist for the U. S. Army and Air Force. He joined the Index staff in 1957 as associate editor and became editor in 1966.

Harwell is to join the SBC Today staff as editor prior to the 1988 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. Currently Harwell is completing a book on the nine-year theological/political controversy in the denomination.

His wife is the former Blanche Virginia Beard of Troy, Ala., and a graduate of Samford University. She has taught in metropolitan Atlanta schools. They have twin sons, Ronald and Donald.

In agreeing to take the editorship, Harwell said: "I believe there is grassroots support for what SBC Today stands for, which I describe as the mainstream, traditional Baptist concepts of missions, evangelism and freedom. I don't believe that group has been heard from. We've heard from both ends of the theological struggle, and there's a place for the mainstream person and a need for that mainstream person to be heard from. I'd like for SBC Today to be the voice for these people." (BP)

No damages for Falwell, Supreme Court rules

Television preacher Jerry Falwell is not entitled to damages from Hustler magazine publisher Larry Flynt for infliction of emotional distress over an advertisement parody depicting Falwell in a drunken, incestuous rendezvous with his mother, the Supreme Court ruled.

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist concluded, "public figures and public officials may not recover (damages) for...intentional infliction of emotional distress...without showing in addition that the publication contains a false statement of fact which was made with actual malice." He added, "Such a standard is necessary to give adequate breathing space to the freedoms protected by the First Amendment. (BP)

Baptism report corrected

Official results of baptismal reporting by the Baptist Sunday School Board showed a few discrepancies from the report previously supplied to Western Recorder. Corrections should be made for the following churches:

Under top 100 baptisms—

No. 45 Westport Road should be deleted; No. 66 for Westport Road, Long Run Association, is correct.

No. 103 Immanuel, Pulaski Association, does not belong on the list. Fifteen is the correct number of baptisms.

Under top 100 per capita—

No. 1 Warfield First Missionary, Enterprise Association, took eight members to baptize one instead of one to one.

No. 8 Kelly, Christian County, does not belong on the list.



Sunday School Board president Lloyd Elder and trustee chairman Lloyd Batson look over a model of the board's Nashville present and planned facilities.

baptist news in brief

Presidents field queries on politics, credalism

The current Southern Baptist Convention president and two former presidents fielded questions about credalism, political candidates, appointments and who speaks for the conservative cause at a news conference in Nashville Feb. 24.

Participating with Adrian Rogers, current SBC president, were James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Tex., president 1982-84, and Bailey E. Smith, an Atlanta evangelist and president 1980-82. Rogers said a third former president, Charles F. Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta and president 1984-86, concurred with their actions but was ill and could not attend.

On several occasions during the hour-long conference, Rogers made reference to "others who have been speaking for us," and although he was not specific about his statement during the formal presentation, he was more specific during a question-and-answer session. He was asked whether the four presidents "were putting distance" between themselves and other high visibility conservative leaders by the disclaimer.

"This is not an attempt to put distance between us and Paige Patterson and Paul Pressler, for example," he said, referring to Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas, and Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge, generally regarded as the chief architects of the

conservative resurgence. Neither man had been mentioned in the question.

"I have felt there has been an effort by some to single out certain individuals who have a high profile and give them a higher profile, thereby saying these are the de facto spokesman for the presidents and others. They are not. They are spokesmen for themselves."

The presidents also were asked whether the Peace Committee report adopted by the 1987 annual meeting is being used as a creed by insisting the four specific examples of what "most" Southern Baptists believe about the Bible be used as a standard in hiring practices for the 20 national agencies, including the six seminaries.

"The Peace Committee report is not meant to be creedal," Rogers said. "It does define those beliefs most commonly held. We (the Peace Committee) did not write a creed, but we did agree Baptists have a right to set parameters for those who will work for them."

"To me not to believe that the miracles happened, not to believe that the Bible is historically accurate, not to believe that the stated authors did indeed write the books or not to believe that Adam and Eve were real people is outside the parameters of who we are, rank and file, Southern Baptists," Rogers said.

Draper, also a trustee of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., said the presidents "keep

hearing that we are trying to tell people what to believe. Not at all. But we do have a right to determine parameters if our cooperative efforts are to be successful."

He added the presidents support the great doctrines of the priesthood of the believer and soul competency, but said on the "other hand, there have to be guidelines for any kind of successful operation."

"The seminary has a right to say professors can believe what they want, but should instruct them they must teach in accordance with the Baptist Faith and Message." (BP)

Cooperative Program aims at \$145.6 million

The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee has proposed a record \$145.6 million budget for the 1988-89 SBC Cooperative Program.

Messengers to the convention's annual meeting will vote on the budget proposal when they meet in San Antonio, Texas, June 14-16. If approved, the budget—a four percent increase over the current \$140 million budget—will go into effect Oct. 1.

Allocation of the budget is divided into three sections: a first-phase basic operating budget of \$137,610,000, a capital needs budget of \$6,899,000 and a second-phase operating budget of \$1,091,000. Funds will not be allocated to the capital needs budget until the first-phase basic operating budget is met, and funds will not be allocated to the second-phase operating budget until all current and previous capital needs budgets are met. (BP)

Subcommittee affirms BP, but urges restraint

A subcommittee of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee generally affirmed the Baptist Press news service, but urged greater restraint in reporting sensitive controversial issues in an effort to promote peace and harmony.

Acting on a recommendation of its public relations workgroup, the SBC Executive Committee declined to conduct an investigation of "objectivity and fairness" in Baptist Press news reporting from 1978 to the present.

In addition to its recommendations, the public relations workgroup distributed to members of the Executive Committee a three-page report evaluating Baptist Press releases distributed from April 1987 to February 1988.

The summary report was prepared, according to PR workgroup chairman Julian M. Motley of Durham, N. C., "with a positive view toward... bringing an affirmation of the Baptist Press, which in turn might hopefully raise the trust level of all Southern Baptists and enhance the process of peace."

Motley said the goal of the report is "peace" in the denomination, and called on Baptist Press to take a leadership role in working toward peace in the convention. The workgroup, in its report, urged Baptist Press to exercise "Christian restraint" in publishing releases which tend to impugn the motives of any Southern Baptists, or which tend to revive hostile feelings "unnecessarily."

The report of the public relations workgroup also affirmed the fairness and objectivity of Al Shackelford, director of Baptist Press since April 1987. (BP)

Patterson, Land report views on SBC conditions

About 50,000 messengers may attend the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in San Antonio, Tex., to decide between Richard Jackson and Jerry Vines for president, predicted Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College, Dallas.

Giving an "Update on the Southern Baptist Convention" at the annual School of the Prophets at First Baptist Church, Dallas Feb. 20, Patterson said, "Jerry Vines has agreed he will seriously take the matter before the Lord, and I feel fairly confident that he will say, 'yes,' that he will let his name be put up."

Patterson shared the podium with Richard Land, Criswell College's vice president for academic affairs who is on leave of absence while working for the Texas governor.

Patterson said Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla. understands the need for the continuation of the conservative resurgence and there is a danger to the convention in "turning it back the other way."

He said Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church, also is an inerrantist but charged Jackson has been coopted by the moderates.

Patterson and Land renewed charges of unfairness by Baptist state papers and by Baptist Press news service: "The whole thing would have been over by now and normalcy would have returned had there been a fairness and evenhandedness of treatment," said Patterson. "Frankly, when I read some of the press reports about me, I say, 'Good night, if that's true, I don't like me either.'" (BP)

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Kenya and Kentucky: revival set in motion

by Marty Croll

Missionaries in Kenya say the African nation known for luring jet-set Westerners in khakis and safari hats has just begun to feel the effects of some 725 Southern Baptist volunteers who came dressed to preach instead.

And Baptist leaders in Kentucky, where the volunteers live, say their convention will never be the same after linking up for three years with Kenyan Baptists and foreign missionaries.

The volunteers helped set in motion a revival in Kenya that about doubled the convention's church membership from 31,000. The number of baptisms per year reached an all-time high of 14,144 during 1987, compared with 6,833 in 1985 when the effort began.

From late 1985 until the partnership ended in 1987, the volunteers became known throughout Kenya for the trail of excitement they left behind. Their willingness to weather nights in tents and tread sweaty miles between villages proved they did not come to see the sights.

"They were all top-notch," said missionary Clay Coursey. "The amazing thing to me was that we did not get one out of the batch who wasn't." He described 136 volunteers who teamed up with Baptists in his area and put their feet under his dinner table at least once. A church developer, Coursey works with

the Malindi Baptist Association up the coast from Mombasa, Kenya's chief port.

"For us, it was a tremendous experience," Coursey said. He considered the partnership so successful that he proposed missionaries talk with Kenyans about linking up with another state convention in 1990. The missionaries voted to do so at their annual meeting last year.

Baptists in the Malindi association hoped to start a new church for every existing one. They fell short of their goal of 84, but they did start 52 new churches.

"Some of the volunteers never got to see an animal or anything," said Mary Horton, a missionary in western Kenya. "I really thought it was bad they didn't get to see more after coming so far. But they said, 'That's not what we came to do; we came to work.' They said, 'We have been given this assignment, now you tell us what needs to be done.'"

Mrs. Horton and her husband, Ed, work with churches in about 10 associations near the border with Uganda. Many Kenyans they know have deepened their own spiritual commitments because of the volunteers' influence.

The volunteers brought fresh energy to the Hortons and to other missionaries. "These people are our friends for life," said Horton, who shared his home with groups of volunteers for 52 days from January to March last year. For foreign

missionaries, such friendships hold great value. Friends mean prayers. And prayers mean results on the field.

When the partnership began in 1985, the Kenya Baptist Convention was reporting 602 churches. By the end of the three-year period, the number of churches had doubled to about 1200. Working with volunteers, Kenyans started an average of one new church a day during the partnership's final year.

The impact of the program spilled back into Kentucky. Volunteers, who came from 300 churches in all but five of the state's 78 associations, returned to sing praises about God's work across the ocean. Many volunteers went more than once. All who had seen flesh-and-blood Kenyans became missions experts in their churches.

"I feel this lock, stock and barrel. If I could afford it, I would love to be able to go out voluntarily and give of my time and money to people who need it," said Larry Dixon, a department store manager in Franklin, Ky. who stayed with the Hortons. Because of his experience, he has committed himself more deeply than ever before to foreign missionaries and overseas Baptists.

Dixon told of walking into villages of 2000 to 3000 huts, singing and reading scripture: "Wherever you went you had a crowd. It seemed to get around that Americans were coming to share the gospel."

In one village, a Muslim leader tried to run him out and the Kenyan workers with him. "So we went down the road apiece," he said. "We set up our meeting and it lasted about two or two-and-a-half hours. Before it was over, toward the end, the man who had tried to run us out came and listened."

Dixon also told of being invited into a hut and seeing a sickly woman with barely any clothes on, sitting in the corner on a dirt floor. He and his Baptist interpreters shared the gospel with her, and she and several of her daughters decided to trust Jesus.

About two-thirds of the volunteers who went to Kenya made their trips during the last year of the partnership. "Once success stories began to come back, our folks really got on the bandwagon," said Bob Jones, the partnership's project coordinator in Kentucky.

Jones recently attended a meeting where former volunteers from Kenya met for fellowship. "It was like a little revival," he said. He regularly receives letters about the project. One is 12 pages typed and reads like the Book of Acts. Another tells of the experience of a volunteer, recently reformed from alcoholism, who said all he had to do was tell what he knew about his faith and people in Kenya would trust Jesus.

"Kentucky Baptists will profit from this for years and years to come," Jones said. (BP)

Kentucky DOM reports

Philippines receptive to gospel

by Pauline Stegall
State Correspondent

"People in the Philippines are open to the gospel. Their receptiveness is similar to that encountered in Kenya last year."

Calvin Wilkins, director of missions, Graves County Association, made that observation after taking part in a two-week crusade in the Philippines last November. He is a veteran of 22 overseas mission trips.

The Foreign Mission Board and the Philippine Baptist Convention joined forces in the venture. A group of 14 preachers from Australia also assisted. Bill Peacock was coordinator and David Parker, career missionary, was a field consultant.

The American team consisted of 31 members, mostly ministers from Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Alabama, Illinois and Mississippi. Wilkins was the only Kentuckian.

After landing in Manila on the island of Luzon, team members were dispatched to other points, mostly on the island of Mindanao.

"I was assigned to work with A. Alfaras, director of evangelism for the Mindanao Baptist Convention. I stayed in his home in General Santos City, which has a population of about 2,000,000," stated Wilkins.

"The mission trip had been planned as a church planting effort, but it didn't work out that way in all cases because of the Communist guerrillas. Sometimes we did more church reinforcement than church planting," he explained.

Wilkins and Alfaras, who served as interpreter, held services for five nights at Magsaysay, a barrio [village], where the people are extremely poor. There was an average of 300 people at each service and 63 people were saved.

A typical service consisted of a

Foreign Mission Board film, followed by a song service, preaching, invitation and another film. Since the natives have very little entertainment, they relish films.

It was necessary to carry generators for emergency power because the local electric systems were so erratic.

The second week was spent at the barrio of Bagangga. There were 56 conversions. The new converts of the first week wanted to make house to house visits with us during the second week," marveled Wilkins.

He preached at Dadiangas, the largest English speaking church in General Santos City the first Sunday.

The second Sunday he preached at Polomok Church. The pastor, a Catholic priest 13 years, became an atheist for two years. Then, he read the Bible and became aware that he was lost. Coming in contact with Baptists, he learned about the denomination and decided their teaching was nearest to the biblical understanding.

Wilkins saw 10 people saved at a dedication service. Having gone there to dedicate two children to the Lord, he gave an invitation and had an enthusiastic response. Filipinos take the dedication of their children seriously. Taking part in the service are relatives who also promise to be responsible for training the children in Christianity in case the parents are unable to do so.

Even though people are receptive to the gospel, there are many barriers. Not the least of these is geographic.

Travel between the 7107 islands in the Philippine group is by plane or boat.

Wilkins experienced two earthquakes while he was there. The natives assured him that this was a common occurrence. Shortly after he left, a typhoon killed 800 people.

Poverty is prevalent. Most of the people where Wilkins worked live like



Filipino family and Wilkins, just after Wilkins had witnessed to the father and won him to the Lord.

squatters. The pastor at one church received a salary of only \$7.50 a month.

"In spite of having to work at other jobs, pastors are faithful and depend on the Lord to supply their needs," Wilkins observed.

Although there is a continuous growing season, there is hunger. Some families are too poor to send their children to school.

The prevalent religions are also barriers to the gospel. The majority of the people are Catholic. Many others are Moslem and Taoist.

Communist guerrillas have been active in the Philippines 18 years. In some areas, they have control and collect taxes the same as the real government. Sometimes, as was the case in the church planting program, they pose problems.

"One preacher asked permission from the guerrillas to have a service. They gave permission and one of the guerrillas was saved," Wilkins related.

There are 168 Southern Baptist mis-

sionaries in the islands. "Some serve in dangerous places, but God is showing his power through their service," Wilkins said.

"Church planting is a big thing. The present goal in the islands is 200 new churches for 1987-88. Many little churches start other churches.

"The people are appreciative." He related how he had given a bar of soap to a woman with a young baby. She had not named the baby and showed her appreciation for the soap by naming the baby after Wilkins.

In spite of the hot weather, insects, cobras and a high malaria rate, he would like to return.

Since I have been home, I received a letter from a girl who was saved when I witnessed to her. She had in turn witnessed to a Moslem girl. Then the Moslem wrote me a letter requesting information about salvation."

This kind of thing makes the effort worthwhile.



Leon Simpson
President
Clear Creek Bible College
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek comment

Now

Someone once said, "God exists in the eternal Now!" I am impressed with the truth of that statement and I am convinced that 'now' is a very important word for a Christian.

For example, Paul tells us that, "now is Christ risen from the dead" (I Cor. 15:20) and John states, "Now is come salvation and strength" (Rev. 12:1). "Now" is the accepted (of salvation)" (I Cor. 6:2) and "now are we the sons of God" (I John 3:2). We are "now justified" by Christ's blood (Rom. 5:9) and "we are now returned into the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls" (I Peter 2:25). We must "now yield" our members as servants of righteousness (Rom. 6:19) for "now (we) are clean through" his word (John 15:3).

Christians must not live in the past nor needlessly worry about the future, for God has given us the present. Marcus Antoninus stated many centuries ago, "Every man's life lies within the present; for the past is spent and done with and the future is uncertain."

To continue living in a happy past can make present changes seem unwelcome. To dwell on an unpleasant past can kill confidence in the present. To judge the present by an unsuccessful past can stifle enterprise and initiative. But the capacity to let the past go without regret is important to the Christian. Someone has said, "Today is the hearse that carries the dreams of yesterday to the cemetery."

There is no moment like the present. The person who will not execute his plans and resolutions when they are fresh upon him can salvage meager hope from them afterwards. They will be lost because of the failure to act now.

If we think that the present is conditioned by the past, we tend to feel tired today because we did a lot yesterday, to feel discouraged because we were happy yesterday or to feel neglected because we were praised yesterday.

We can live in the 'eternal now' because the past with its sins and failures has been forgiven by the Lord. We need not worry about the future, for the Lord has prepared a place for us. We can live for Christ and his cause now!

The Psalm of Life

*"Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant!
Lest the dead Past bury its dead!
Act, act in the living Present!
Heart within, and God o'erhead!"*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Evangelism crowd reveres power of Spirit

by James H. Cox, Todd Deaton
and Joy Jordan

"The greatest scandal of the 20th century church is that we are trying to do the work of God without the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives," John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmead Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., told an estimated 2000 Kentucky Baptists at the state evangelism conference last week.

The former first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention and member of both the Executive and Peace committees, advocated three things that must happen in every Christian's life before evangelism will take place: noticing the need, claiming the power of the Holy Spirit and being obedient to the will of God.

"You must see the need of lives being transformed.... A lost man not only spends eternity separated from God in hell, he also spends his entire life lost to why he was created...lost to everything God intended for his life."

In a later session, Sullivan projected three components in the life of an uncommon church—an uncommon prayer life, an uncommon fellowship and an uncommon reliance upon the Holy Spirit.

Sullivan was one of seven speakers delivering 15 major addresses at the evangelism conference Feb 22-23 at Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville.

Interspersed among the 15 messages were 10 solos by Bess Cunningham, a vocalist from Atlanta, Ga.; appearances by the Kentucky Baptist Chorale and Covenant, a musical group from Danville, Va.; and 15 inspirational, congregational hymns.

In one session last week at Walnut Street, Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church, "One of the things lacking in our churches today is recognition of the awesomeness of the Holy Spirit."

"You and I have handled so much of the things of the gospel that we don't have the proper sense of awe," Jackson commented. "We have seen in Jesus one who loves the world. It is an awesome mystery."

"If we would correct our Southern

Baptist ship of state, let us focus our eyes on Jesus. Let us share him with a lost, dying, helpless and hurting world," he advocated.

In another address, Jackson told the Kentucky Baptist group, "One of our greatest indictments is that we have lost sight of our assignment. We need to

glass windows and minister we aren't going to win anybody."

"We are not winning America to Christ; we are dangerously close to losing it," warned Home Mission Board staffer Jack Smith. "Unless God intervenes, we are going to lose America and our grandchildren aren't going to have what we had."

The associate director of evangelism said that only 3.1 percent of all Southern Baptists ever lead anyone to the Lord. "That means 96.9 percent miss the greatest joy any Christian can ever know."

Vocational evangelist Don Short, of Kuttawong, Ky., averred that Jesus was "an artist with a vocabulary."

According to Short, Jesus used a one-word to give his disciples the term harvest to give his disciples a divine mandate. "Harvest depicts not only the multitude of people who need to be saved...but also the value of the human soul and the urgency of the hour."

Short insisted, "If you line up all the lost people in single file, the line would encircle the world more than 20 times and would be growing at an average rate of 20 miles a day."

"I once saw a flashing blue light upon a sign beneath that read, 'Everytime this light flashes, a lost person dies and is on his way to hell,'" he testified.

"I counted: every 60 seconds more than 90 lost people were dying. I've never been able to get that light out of my head."

Harold Carter, pastor of New Shiloh Baptist Church, Baltimore, Md., reminded the crowd that they were "ambassadors with a mission."

Carter recounted that having the life of an ambassador means one must be a new creation in Christ. "All of us know that wearing a three piece suit doesn't make you holy. Holiness comes on bended knee through a surrendered life to the Lord," he elaborated.

"We have a gazing problem in our churches. People are not burning for those who are lost, hurting and dying. They are just sitting in the pews gazing," Carter asserted.

As a solution he advocated first waiting on the power of the Holy Spirit, praying for the lost world and then testifying.

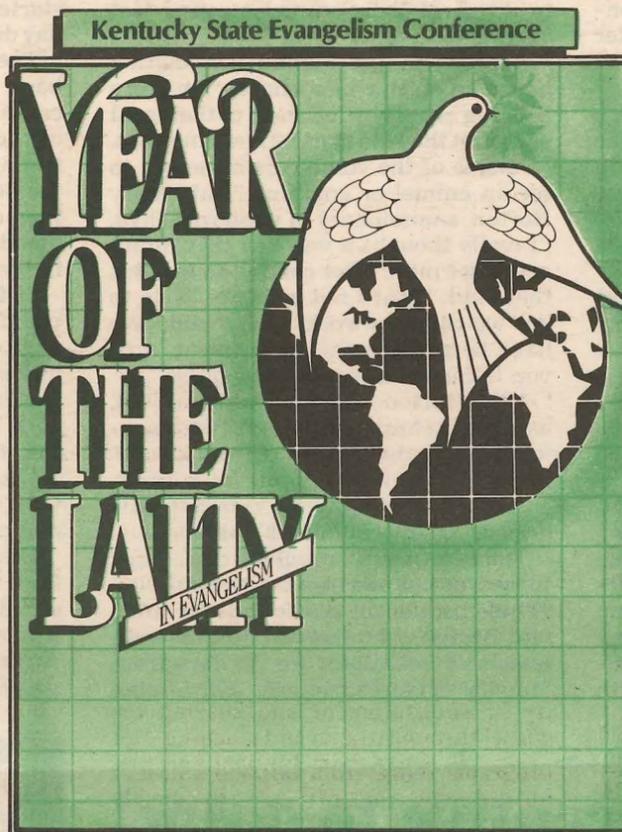
In a later message Carter spoke again on the need for cleansing in the church. He said, "You can't just crow about being born again; you've got to be thoroughly and radically sold out to the Lord."

He advised seeking sanctification: "It's one thing to be saved; it's another to be holy...bathe your life of the iniquities of this world."

A professor of foreign missions at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary challenged conference participants to live their lives in spirit-led obedience.

"We won't have a Bold Mission Thrust just because we as Southern Baptists declare it. We must pray prevailingly without ceasing... and be willing to go, share the gospel," Bryant Hicks intoned.

"Spirit-led, spirit-filled obedience will bring about a new day among Southern Baptists," Hicks concluded.



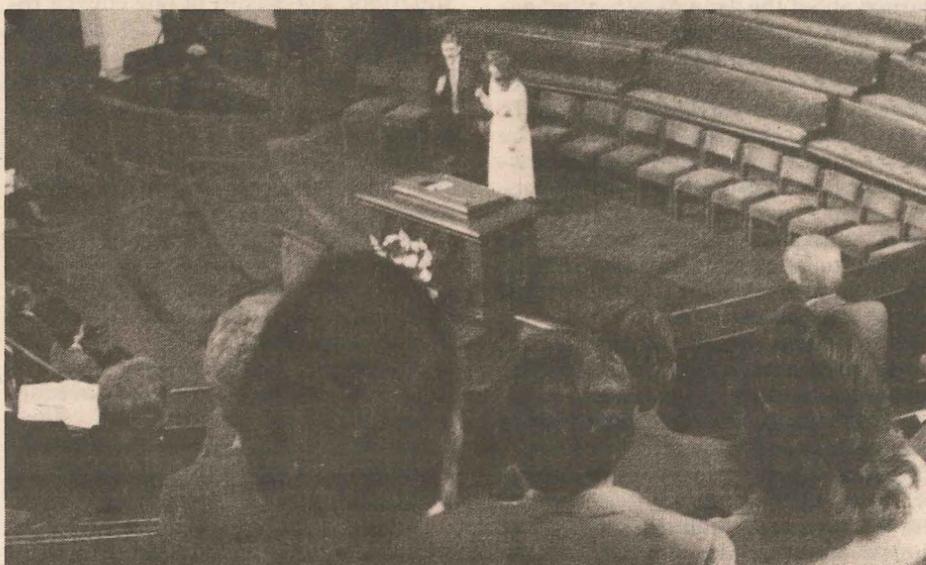
share the gospel with every person we meet in the normal traffic patterns of our lives.

"Evangelism in the church is an atmosphere—it is in the air people breathe," he explained. "I believe you to pray if you're not going to do what he told you to do."

Houston pastor Ed Young cited startling statistics to motivate evangelistic outreach in Southern Baptist churches.

"With 14 million plus Southern Baptists, we baptized only 75,000 all over America last year. Brothers, we've got a spiritual problem, and if that doesn't break your heart you're in the wrong business," he declared.

"Fifty percent of the 37,000 Southern Baptist churches baptized less than five persons last year," Young observed. "If we don't move outside these stained



Covenant, a musical group from Danville, Va., inspires the evangelism crowd Tuesday morning.

mountains to the mississippi

missions

William and Susan Thompson were named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Feb. 9. They will develop churches and establish outreach ministries. He received his BS from Cumberland College, Williamsburg, and his MDiv from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. She earned her registered nurse standing by examination in Kentucky. Thompson was minister of music and youth at Chenoweth Park Baptist Church, Louisville, and First Baptist Church, Stearns.

Alvin and Debbie Elmore, missionaries to Kenya, have completed language study and arrived at their place of service (P.O. Box 848, Machakos, Kenya). He is a native of Louisville. The former Deborah James of Georgia. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1986.

Graham and Jeanne Walker, missionaries to Singapore, have completed furlough and returned to the field (11 Barbary Walk, Singapore 0314). He was born in Louisville and grew up in Orlando, Fla. She is the former Jeanne Francisco of Orlando. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1969.

congregations

Charleston Baptist Church, Dawson Springs, Little Bethel Association, is one of five churches in Kentucky that have pooled their resources to bring a Kenya pastor to lead revivals in April.

Justus Okal of Kisumu, in western Kenya near Lake Victory, will be the visiting evangelist Apr. 18-May 20. He is pastor of First Baptist Church, Kisumu, and a leader in the Nyanza Baptist Association.

James Cason, pastor of Charleston Baptist, and two deacons, David and Ernie Kingery, met Okal in September 1987 while they were volunteers in the Kentucky-Kenya partnership. Okal will be speaking at their church Apr. 28-May 1.

Hardinsburg Baptist Church, Breckinridge Association, will hold its centen-



William and Susan Thompson

nial celebration Apr. 17. The members especially invite all people to have belonged to or have ties with the congregation.

First Baptist Church, Murray, Blood River Association, is sponsoring a women's seminar entitled "Designs for Living" led by Freddie Marcia Neel Mar. 5 at 9:30 a.m. Miss Neel will also be portraying the character of Annie Armstrong Mar. 6 at 7 p.m.

"Designs for Living" is a motivational seminar which includes a lunch and a fashion show. For details and reservations call (502) 753-1854.

Miss Neel conducts a full time ministry of entertainment and sharing the gospel through drama and teaching. Her programs range from biblical and historical character portrayals to comedy and interpretive movement.

A graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, Miss Neel has also studied at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Spurgeon's College in London. She has served two years as a US-2 missionary under the auspices of the Home Mission Board. She has also appeared as Annie Armstrong in a documentary film produced by the HMB.

Central Baptist Church, Mt. Zion Association, held revival Oct. 25-29. Results included a record high of 1444 in Sunday school, a one Sunday offering of \$50,000 and 16 additions to the church. The Sunday school attendance and the

offering were the highest in the 67 year history of the church. James Jones was evangelist for the revival. Don Mathis is pastor.

ordinations

First Baptist Church, Franklin, Simpson Association, ordained **Roy Reynolds, Damon Tabor** and **Claud Johnson** as deacons Jan. 3. Ray E. Cummins has been pastor since April 1987.

Rodger Grace and **Anthony Steward** were ordained as deacons by White Plains Baptist Church, Little Bethel Association. Daniel Belcher is pastor.

Jerry Don Winstead and **Thomas Otis Little Page** were ordained as deacons by Harmony Baptist Church, Little Bethel Association. Tom Durbin is pastor.

Oaklawn Baptist Church, Paducah, West Union Association, ordained **Art DeWeese, Larry Hamilton** and **Johnny Roberts** as deacons Jan. 17. Earnest A. Carpenter is pastor.

personnel

Jack Carter resigned as pastor of Blue Grass Baptist Church, Three Forks Association.

Dale Ethridge, pastor of Thomas Baptist Church, Boone's Creek Association, resigned.

Eugene I. Enlow, pastor of Beechmont Baptist Church, Long Run Association, is retiring from the ministry Nov. 1.

Crestwood Baptist Church, Sulphur Fork Association, has called **Clifford E. Long** as minister of youth. Long is a native of Florida and a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Alan Davis resigned the pastorate of Woodland Baptist Church, Ohio Valley Association, effective Jan. 24. He will continue his studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Willard Smiddy is the pastor of Red Bird Baptist Church, South Union Association. He was ordained to the ministry Nov. 14 at Tannery Hollow Baptist Church, South Union Association, where he was a bus driver, Sunday school director, youth leader and deacon.

Bobby Elliott has resigned as pastor of Pleasant View Baptist Church, Sulphur Fork Association, to accept appointment by the Foreign Mission Board to be a missionary in Swaziland, South East Africa in the division of world rural church development.

Ballardsville Baptist Church, Sulphur Fork Association, called **Keith Fidler** as their minister of youth and children. Fidler is a native of Louisville and is enrolled at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Glenn Courtney was called as pastor of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church, Warren Association. Courtney goes to Hillvue from Florida.

Richardsville Baptist Church, Warren Association, has called **Toby Nunn** as pastor. Nunn goes to Richardsville from Cave City Baptist Church, Liberty Association, where he was associate pastor.



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

Do it again

If you could relive the same set of dire circumstances at a given time in your life, would you do it? Three such instances in our early married days prompt me to think I would.

We were living in a tiny second floor apartment. I was working for a small Baptist college. The meager sum I earned seldom covered the basics, let alone any extras.

Payday was monthly, but there were always more days than pay. I arrived home one Friday evening, three days before payday, pockets empty, and not a morsel of food in the house. The nearest relatives were 250 miles away and there were no savings in the bank.

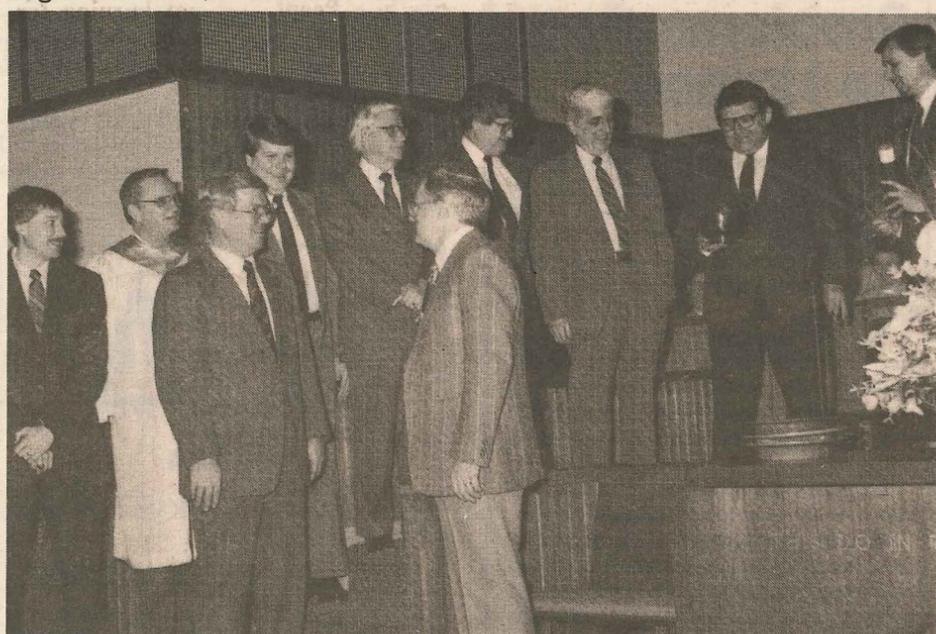
A little elderly Catholic widow lived below us. On Saturday, having never done so before, she told us she had been cooking and had some food she would like to share. When we went to get it, to our surprise it was enough for two days! Had God revealed our plight to her? We never knew, but an angel of mercy that little lady was!

On another occasion, in the dead of winter, we returned home from Sunday morning services in an ice storm that had dropped temperatures to zero. We had food but the apartment was poorly insulated and drafty. We fixed lunch, then took our plates into the tiny hallway connecting our bedroom, living room, bath and kitchen. The little furnace for the entire unit was there. We closed all the doors, sat on the floor and perched our plates on our knees, wearing heavy coats and two pairs of slacks. I think we spent that whole afternoon in that tiny hallway trying to keep warm.

Then there was the time we had a summer heat wave, daytime temperatures soaring past 100 degrees several days. My wife was to deliver our firstborn in a matter of weeks. I arrived home for lunch and found sweat pouring off her, her face grimacing with discomfort. I said, "I know we can't afford it, and I don't know how we'll pay for it, but I'm going to buy an air conditioner tonight." I did just that, and that \$200 was a long time being paid off. But the ox was definitely in the ditch.

What did I learn from all of this? At least six things: 1. God never promised us an easy life. 2. Because we are Christians does not shield us from hardships. 3. We can withstand greater difficulties after we face smaller ones. 4. We are dependent upon one another. 5. We value our basic necessities. 6. We appreciate what we have in easier times that we didn't have in leaner ones.

I'm thankful for where I have been. If I were starting out now, I'd probably ask for the same problems again. You see, I gained far more than I lost in that experience.



Glenn Mollette (far right) put the match to only a 28 month-old note Jan. 31 at First Baptist Church, Pikeville, while the committee and trustees looked on. In Aug. 1985 the church borrowed \$234,000 to purchase a portion of the old Pikeville City High School. The building was torn down to make way for additional parking. The new parking space provides 120 additional parking spaces. Total cost of the project was \$260,000.

christian education

Hope and challenge highlight BYM rally

by Mike Day

The first High School Baptist Young Men's Regional Rally, held in Gatlinburg, Tenn., opened on a note of hope and ended with the sounding of a challenge.

Randy Foster, home missionary and director of Teton Resort Ministries in Jackson Hole, Wyo., opened the three day event with an explanation of his ministry and a word of hope for the 475 rally participants.

"What I do is an outgrowth of who I am in Christ," said Foster. "God has shown me how to use what I am for his glory."

"I hope God will use what I've said to help direct your life to discover those things he has placed within you that you may use to his glory," he concluded.

Brotherhood Commission president James Smith sounded the challenge in the closing session of the event for members and leaders of the missions education organization for young men in grades 10-12.

"We believe High School Baptist Young Men ought to have responsibilities in the church and a ministry in their world," said Smith. "We believe you are going to prove to the Southern Baptist Convention that High School Baptist Young Men can get the job done," he added.

"You have a spiritual gift now," Smith exhorted, "and that spiritual gift is to be used now. You'll never know the

abundant life until you make a commitment of your life and say, 'Lord, I'm available for you to use me. I want to be involved in something that glorifies you.'"

Small group workshops were also offered to the young men and leaders attending the rally. The workshops ranged from a focus on implementation of the BYM program to an emphasis on personal evangelism.

Conference leaders included Dean Finley, Home Mission Board youth evangelism consultant; Richard Ross, Baptist Sunday School Board youth ministry coordination consultant; and David Garrison, Foreign Mission Board.

In a session focusing on foreign missions, Tim McCall, missionary physician in Eku, Nigeria, recounted events in his missionary experience that conveyed the power and presence of God.

As he communicated the differences between a successful medical practice in the states and a missionary medical practice in Nigeria, McCall said, "I don't have the abundant life in terms of cars and houses and a large practice but I do have abundant joy beyond my expectation."

Music for inspiration and entertainment was provided by the Belmont Reasons, from Belmont College in Nashville, Tenn.

Kenny Rains, director of High School Baptist Young Men at the Brotherhood Commission called the rally a success and said plans are being formulated for regional rallies in two locations in 1989.

The event, originally intended to reach churches within a 200-mile radius of Gatlinburg, drew participants from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.



The Belmont Reasons, a public relations musical group from Belmont College in Nashville, perform at the first High School Baptist Young Men's Regional Rally in Gatlinburg, Tenn. The Reasons, under the direction of Bob Mulloy, were the featured musicians for the three-day event that attracted 475 High School Baptist Young Men and their leaders.

Southern offers wellness conference

A conference examining the multiple aspects of healthy living will be conducted April 14-16 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The conference, titled "Lifestyle and Wellness: A Christian Imperative," is sponsored by the Gheens Center for Christian Family Ministry at the Louisville, Ky. seminary. The program will offer participants a biblical foundation for a healthy lifestyle, acquaint them with the various aspects of wellness and health practices and encourage the development of wellness programs in

churches.

"The conference grew out of a belief that the church is a center for the multiple dynamics of wellness," said Michael Hester, a family ministry professor and director of the Gheens Center. He said the concept of wellness includes physical, emotional, relational, intellectual, occupational and spiritual well-being.

Hester added the conference would offer both ministers and lay people helpful suggestions on how to develop positive health habits.

During the conference, participants will hear from health care professionals, counselors, nutritionists, health educators and ministers. Some of the workshops offered include "Traits of healthy families: what makes families strong," "Assessing exercise programs: an overview," "Nutrition and wellness: you are what you eat" and "Spiritual discipline for well being."

For further information call the seminary's Continuing Education Office toll free at (800) 626-5525. Kentucky residents should call (502) 897-4315.

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Southern Seminary president Roy L. Honeycutt talked with H. Stephen Shoemaker, president of Kentucky's Southern Seminary alumni, and David Watts, a theology student from Louisville, during a recent meeting of the national Alumni Advisory Council. Shoemaker is pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.

Professor seeks volunteers for Kenya

Carlos Anderson, assistant professor of social work at Campbellsville College, is seeking volunteers to do mission work in Mombasa, Kenya in May. He needs at least three or four persons in order for the trip to materialize.

Anderson encourages pastors, lay persons, song leaders and anyone interested in witnessing to go on the May 4-15 tour. Doctors, dentists and nurses are asked to work in clinics.

Participants will have opportunities for witnessing in neighborhoods, street meetings, revival services, preaching and singing in Kenyan churches.

The Mombasa Crusade is an approved program of the Partnership Evangelism Division of the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board. Wayne Dehoney is the crusade organizer and Jerolyn Morrison is the coordinator. Arrangements are through Bibleland/

Cumberland breaks ground for P. E. center

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the Cumberland College Convocation and Physical Education Center will be held Mar. 8 at 1:15 p.m. The event is part of the college's centennial celebration.

"For many years our goal has been to construct a facility where all of our 2000 plus students, faculty and staff could meet at one time. Now, thanks to persistence and hard work, we have reached that goal," said college president Jim Taylor.

The day's activities will begin at 12:45 p.m. when country and bluegrass musician Red Rector and his band will play both traditional and classical favorites in front of the Gatliff Gymnasium.

Ceremonies will then move inside the gymnasium, where the Cumberland College Concert Band will perform two numbers, beginning at 1:15 p.m.

Former Kentucky Governor Bert T. Combs will read the salute to Cumberland College contained in the Jan. 27 edition of the U. S. Congressional Record. Representatives from the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Cumberland College's board of trustees and the City of Williamsburg will also be on the agenda.

The Convocation and Physical Education Center will include an auditorium/gymnasium, swimming pool, skating arena, handball court, recreation center, weight room and training and dressing facilities. The building will also contain seven classrooms.

Heritage Travel.

The cost for the 12-day crusade tour is \$1999. This fee includes air fare, a two-day game safari, lodging and meals.

More than 35 new churches and meeting places have been started in Mombasa in the last 18 months. The FMB and the Kenyan Baptist churches are inviting 50 preachers along with mission support teams for the crusade.

For more information contact Anderson at (502) 465-8158, extension 279 at Campbellsville College.

Campbellsville hosts small church meeting

Campbellsville College will host its annual Center for Small Church Ministries Conference Mar. 5, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. It will consist of two conferences divided into three sessions each.

The Senior Adult Conference will be led by Paul Adkins of the Home Mission Board's Mission Ministries Division. This meeting will be in Little Auditorium in the Student Union Building.

Adkins, a native of Dundee, has earned degrees from Los Angeles Baptist College, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Adkins has been a pastor in Owensboro and Brownsville, both in Kentucky. He also was director of Christian Social Ministries Centers Department and associate director of the Mission Ministries Division at the HMB.

The Church Training Conference will be led by Jerry Kibbons, professor of Christian studies and director of the Center for Small Church Ministries. This group will meet in room seven of the Student Union Building.

Kibbons, a native of Villa Ridge, Mo., has been a professor at Campbellsville College since 1964 and has pastored several small churches.

He holds degrees from Southwest Baptist College, Southwest Missouri State, Central Missouri State, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

For more information contact Kibbons at (502) 465-8158, extension 243.



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

homes for children

Thank you, Lord!

Perhaps you may remember singing the little chorus that said:

"Thank you Lord for saving my soul
Thank you Lord for making me whole
Thank you Lord for giving to me
Thy great salvation so full and free."

Today I want to say, "Thank you Lord for caring, for teaching us to share and thank you for giving Baptist Homes for Children so many loving friends. Without our many friends who pray for this ministry and give sacrificially to support it, we could not begin to serve so many children.

There are three special things for which I give thanks to our Lord. First is the Thanksgiving Offering. This offering received through our churches each November is our lifeline. The total of this offering is not yet all tallied. But it does appear that it will exceed the previous year's offering. With this emphasis coming so soon after "Black Monday" on October 19, the strong financial support shows that Kentucky Baptists love God and children and will support this ministry regardless of the economy.

Second, I give thanks to our Lord and our friends for making the Beyond This Time endowment campaign a wonderful success. Throughout 1987 we worked diligently to tell Kentucky Baptists who we are and what we are doing. The campaign goal was to enlist financial commitments of at least \$3,000,000 to endowment. More than 1000 volunteer workers served in the campaign. The result has been remarkable. Commitments in cash, insurance, wills, annuities, securities and trusts now have surpassed the goal and we are watching to see what God and his people will yet do for children.

The third reason I am thankful to our Lord is that so many youth in our care are being saved or experiencing a renewed relationship with God. This is our primary reason for being, and I thank God that the primary purpose is being fulfilled.

Thank you Lord, thank you Kentucky Baptists for caring about children.



Offering Materials Available

If it is the policy of your church to take up your annual offering for KBHC at a time other than Thanksgiving, please fill out this coupon and let us know when you would like your materials sent.

Name of church _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

When you would like materials sent _____

Number of church members _____

Address where materials should be sent if other than church:

Name _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

A chip off the old block

One Friday night several score of our boys who regularly participate in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes had an all night "lockin" in our gym. It was so successful that we plan to make this an annual event.

We have had a very active girls FCA chapter five years and I have written about some of their activities in my columns. But we have not had an interest among the boys until this year.

President of our chapter is Darin Woods. He is a fourth generation Oneidian. He is my privilege to interview his father, Glenn, 26 years ago and to supervise him in the dorm. Glenn, today, is an outstanding Baptist layman and heavy equipment operator. He went on a mission trip to Kenya last fall and both he and his wife left last week to Burkina Faso, West Africa. Glenn will do bulldozer work for a month on a mission construction crew, and his wife is doing the cooking for the group.

Then Darin's grandmother, the former Georgia Goforth, graduated here in 1940 and his great-grandmother was a student here about the time of World War I.

Darin is a "chip" off the family block, an outstanding Christian young man, long active in the varying activities of his home church at Lyttleton.

For the "lockin" Darin had extended an invitation to seven male athletes from his church who witness together and call themselves "Soldiers for Christ." These

outstanding young men led in a worship service.

They sang. They prayed. They gave testimonies. There were 14 decisions. The following Sunday some of these presented themselves before our church, publicly professing Christ and asking for New Testament baptism.

There was individual fellowship time as the larger group broke up into smaller "huddles."

At midnight the group left the gym for a midnight, mid-winter swim in our heated, indoor swimming pool.

After the fun in the pool, the boys had worked up quite an appetite and went to our home economics room. Chapter secretary Warren Swaar served sandwiches, fruit, chips and punch. Warren came to us last summer for summer school from Illinois. His parents are devout Christians and operate a 500-acre farm. He liked Oneida so well he returned last fall as a sophomore and his eighth grade sister also enrolled.

Following the early morning meal, the group went back to the gym for some basketball relays. Also they watched the movie "Hoosiers."

By this time they were weary and sleepy. They rolled out the school's wrestling mats and slept for what was left of the night.

They awoke about 7 a.m. for fresh doughnuts and orange juice.

Following this the group again broke into smaller "huddles" for morning devotions and dismissed at 8:30 a.m. for the activities of an Oneida Saturday.

Later in February the group plans a trip to Natural Bridge for a day hike. Then they are planning a three-mile walkathon-jogathon in March.

The boys FCA chapter meets each Wednesday night after the midweek Bible study at the Oneida Baptist Church.

Vice President of FCA is Jeff Kelsey who recently returned from a 10-day trip to China, Korea and Hong Kong as a part of an international youth exchange.

Treasurer of FCA is Troy Parrish of Louisville. Troy is very active in BSU and has been in the choir the past three years. He is also active in "pep" band and marching band.

Helping supervising the "lockin" were staff members Richard Burns, Randy Schmittendorf and FCA advisor Scott Hoover.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is just one of a host of opportunities that Oneida young people have as they grow mentally, socially and spiritually.



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR MAR. 6, 1988

Life and work series

Control your tongue

Ex. 20:16; 23:1-2 The ninth commandment forbids the bearing of false witness against another privately or publicly. Few sins are more common than the utterance of disparaging remarks about others. It seems strange that some can hear and circulate false reports concerning others with delight. The pain, heartache and the tears caused by false statements and insinuations are immeasurable. An abomination in the sight of God, this practice always injures the victim, hearer and bearer.

Prov. 6:16-19 Listed among the various sins which are an abomination to God are haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that commit murder directly or indirectly, a heart that produces wicked imaginations, suspicions and schemes, feet that eagerly run to do evil, a false witness who lies in order to deceive and injure others and sowing discord among others.

Matt. 12:36-37 Words, which are utterances of the thoughts, certainly reveal the contents of the heart: "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Just as the fruit reveals the

kind of a tree, words reveal the deep recesses of one's being. Idle words—those that do not correspond to the truth and are spoken without justification or without profit to the one speaking or to the one hearing—must be accounted for at the judgment.

Eph. 4:15, 23-25, 29 It is crucial that God's children grow into spiritual maturity and be established in the truth to avoid being swayed by false teachers.

Paul admonished the Ephesian Christians to refrain from vulgarity and harmful talk of every sort. The words of a child of God should be edifying and beneficial to those who hear them; if not, it would be far better were they not spoken.

International series

The disciple's future

Matt. 25:31-46 There will be a marked contrast between the coming of Christ referred to in this passage and his coming as a babe to Bethlehem. Then he came in humility and poverty, but when he comes again to judge the nations it will be in the role of a mighty king.

Matt. 25:31-33 Those appearing before the judge will be separated into two groups: those who have done good to those in need and those who have done evil or ignored their needs. The former will be placed at the right of the judge, indicating honor and blessing, and the latter will be placed on his left, indicating condemnation and dishonor.

Matt. 25:34-45 The judge will invite those on his right to enter into the kingdom prepared for them prior to the foundation of the world. This invitation will be extended to them because of their relationship to him. The commendation which they receive will be due to what they have done for him as demonstrated by their forgetfulness of themselves in rendering loving service to others.

Ministering to the spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical needs of others is a fruit of salvation, but it is never a condition on which one can obtain salvation. Christians prove their love for Christ—or the lack of it—by what they do toward meeting the needs of others.

Matt. 25:46 The eternal destiny of each will be determined by his or her acceptance or rejection of Christ. Those who reject Christ will spend eternity where Christ will not be as certainly as the bliss of the righteous in heaven will be everlasting.



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

on mission together

Missing

A few days ago, I was emptying the ashes from the wood stove out in the back yard. I bundled up warmly in order to carry several loads of firewood to the backdoor stoop.

The frozen ground crunched beneath my boots, my breath was visible but the sun was out. It was my kind of winter day.

I dumped the bucket and began walking around the yard that grows bigger each summer when grass grows like a teenager.

The asparagus bed, so bountiful in late April and early May, lay sleeping. I could see clearly through the fence

which, by late summer, is covered by raspberry bushes.

I spotted the hole in the fence I had so often patched to keep Strock and Kelluv in the yard. I guess it was that hole which finally made it necessary for us to find Strock (our big, black lab) a new home. He scared folks...but he wouldn't have harmed anyone.

As I walked back toward the corner where we stack brush, I spotted an old tennis ball—never visible last summer. Guess it was where Strock left it the last time one of us threw it for him.

Closer to the rear fence, a trail still shows where he ran...and he's been gone well over a year now.

It hurt a lot the other morning when Marshall Phillips called to tell me someone had shot out one of his eyes. The Vet had wanted to put him to sleep, it seems, but the family refused. Strock has since recovered.

I miss that old dog. I liked his smell and I liked his disposition. There was always a little mischief in him but no

dog was ever more gentle.

As I crisscrossed the yard, I saw more signs of Strock—a bone, another ball, a chewed-up plastic cup...reminders of a dog we all loved...no longer part of our lives.

Here lately I've been melancholy about another member of our family—our larger Baptist family.

There are still signs of him here and there—slogans, words, brochures, and pamphlets. When he came to us about twelve years ago, we called him Bold Mission Thrust. We loved him, we nurtured him, and everybody in the family enjoyed his company.

One day Bold Mission Thrust ran away...maybe he went after another dog...I'm not sure. Maybe we all started neglecting him.

Anyway we miss him. He sort of pepped us up and we all seemed to enjoy each other more when he was around.

If anyone finds him lost out there, see if you can call him home. He could do us all a lot of good.

Missionaries need empathy to survive resignation

by Leland Webb

"The other day was your birthday, and you were on the prayer list," said a man to his friend who had resigned as a foreign missionary. "I want you to know I just marked your name off the list."

Maybe it was a joke, but that attitude doesn't help people who have resigned from overseas missionary service. Fortunately, it is not typical, according to former missionaries who responded to questions from *The Commission*, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board magazine. Respondents had been missionaries from six months to 31 years; the average was 7.5 years.

But resigning is still painful for most. "The decision we finally made to resign was much more difficult than the one to go in the first place," said a missionary who spent 15 years overseas. A couple who served four years responded: "We were prepared to go, but we were not prepared to return. It was much harder to accept this as God's will."

Many returned missionaries reported positive, or at least supportive, acceptance by church members and others at home. One man, now a long term U. S. pastor after 11 years overseas, said, "Never at any time have we experienced negative responses from church members, family members or colleagues."

Yet one reported, "There was real skepticism on the part of many churches, pastors and denominational leaders over our ability to resume a successful pastorate here in the U. S. after 15 years overseas, as if there was something wrong with missionaries who came home."

The percentage of loss by resignation among career missionaries is low, typically running around only three percent a year. Among nonCatholic missionary-sending agencies in the United States, this rate is "by far the lowest of any," said Louis R. Cobbs, director of the Foreign Mission Board's Personnel Selection Department. He draws the comparison after direct contacts with numerous missions agencies.

The former missionaries responding offered suggestions about how they—and others facing post resignation trauma—would like to be treated upon reentering U. S. culture and church life: They want fellow Christians to recognize their freedom to follow God's will and change their place and type of ministry. Some would welcome help in getting reestablished in the United States. The vast majority want to keep on being part of the missions team by sharing experiences.

A newly appointed missionary moves through a program of orientation to get ready to leave the home culture and enter a foreign one. But there's little orientation for one coming back. Reentry shock is now accepted as real for diplomats and businessmen returning to America after years abroad. But missionaries who resign also face drastic changes in their ministries and church relationships.

In suggestions for treatment at home, the returned missionaries hope for reinforcement through caring support and nonjudgmental attitudes. One said he would like members "to understand that God's will is not necessarily tied to a geographical location—that one can be free to change places of service as God leads and circumstances change."

Another recalled, "By some we were

almost made to feel that we had failed God by resigning."

The Foreign Mission Board continues to emphasize career missionary calling, reflecting a commitment to identify with the new culture. At the same time, society has grown more mobile, and developing mission strategies may call for more field mobility for some missionaries.

One returnee expressed hope that members of the church where he belongs would "trust the resigning missionary to be able to discern the Lord's leader-

ary. "He needs help in informing local people that he is available."

A resigned missionary starts over, facing practical needs—"housing, a car, furniture, kitchen appliances, schooling for children," said one returnee. While overseas, missionaries use Foreign Mission Board-furnished vehicles and live in board-provided housing. Often the cost of shipping household goods to the United States, even in instances where the board provides assistance, prompts resigning missionaries to sell their furniture and appliances overseas.

doing at another church," he said.

Placement assistance is part of Torstrick's assignment. He also offers hints on how to write a resume. Many missionaries have never written one, he pointed out, since they were appointed early in their careers.

The board for years has tried to provide a means by which returned missionaries might feel a part of the missions family. This is primarily done through Foreign Mission Fellowship, an informal organization of resigned missionaries, retired missionaries and returned journeymen. Its purpose, a brochure noted, is "to encourage and enable these persons to continue to play a vital role in mission support." Torstrick directs the fellowship; informal meetings are held in various parts of the United States.

To continue to be part of the missions team, many returnees said they still feel they can contribute to missions education. "Ask them to speak," one advised. "They still have a story to tell."

"People need to realize what a tremendous resource of experience a foreign missionary has to offer," declared another. "We feel that we came back from the mission field much better equipped than when we left. We also feel a definite stewardship to those experiences which we had and have enjoyed sharing them with our churches."

More than one returned missionary noted reestablishing identity sometimes is harder for missionary women than for their husbands. "Reentering Southern Baptist life was much more difficult and traumatic" for his wife, wrote one man. "She felt that she had a professional role as a missionary, but back here she had no such role."

Reasons leading to missionary resignation identified by respondents reflect a wide range and closely mirror types identified by the board's staff during years of studies. These generally fall into three categories: Physical or emotional health problems of a missionary or family member; frustrations on the field, inability to adapt, disappointments, some lack of harmony; and a sense that God is redirecting their ministry.

"It was a leading of God's Spirit which we believe leads in different directions at different times, not just in one direction," declared a returnee who is a pastor in North Carolina. Another wrote, "We felt called to serve here just as we felt called to go" to the field.

Many respondents reported acceptance, if not full understanding, on the part of fellow missionaries. In some instances, colleagues helped in closing out work on the field. "Fellow missionaries could not understand our decision to resign," said one woman. "They loved us and tried to support our decision, but still questioned it."

All who responded feel they have found their way into productive roles in America. "My sense of fulfillment comes in seeing one of my former Acteens or one of the college students (with whom she works) make a commitment to missions and follow through," reflected one woman.

"My missionary experience has been of enormous benefit," wrote one. "It has gotten me involved in all kinds of ministries that I would otherwise have been afraid of—such as hunger, race relations, social action, politics, poverty action. I now see the world through different eyes, and for that I am eternally grateful."



ship and not to assume that he/she has left God's will, nor that God has withdrawn his call."

The pain of resigning from missionary service cuts deep for some. "The mission family and the board has been 'our family' all the years," wrote one woman who served overseas with her husband more than 30 years. "It is an awful feeling...to be suddenly 'dropped.'"

In getting reestablished in the United States, some resigning missionaries said help would be welcome both in finding a home base and a place of service.

"After being out of the United States for a number of years, a missionary's local state connections often grow weak," pointed out one former mission-

ary. "Back in America, many no longer have a home base, and they need a car immediately. More than one expressed gratitude for such help as provision of a church's missionary house, a shower of kitchen needs or furniture loaned by church members."

Returning missionaries may "have to take a real step down in salary," noted Mel Torstrick, who works with furloughing missionaries and those who have left missionary service through retirement or resignation. Because of the wide range of duties a missionary may have handled overseas, pulpit committees in U. S. churches "cannot measure overseas service the same way they can with what a prospective pastor has been

remarks to the faculty at their annual workshop

The Teaching Task at Georgetown College

by President W. Morgan Patterson ... August 21, 1987

As you face the school year, let me urge you to do several things:

1. Teach students to get excited over the prospect of learning something new. Our job is an exciting one, and we ought to convey that excitement to our students.

2. Teach students the value of hard work, high standards, and unselfish service to others. Don't be unreasonable or arbitrary in your expectations of students, but make them work for what they get. They will appreciate you for it.

3. Teach students to love learning for the contributions it will make to their lives now and as a lifelong adventure.

4. Teach students to master their mother tongue — the English language. It possesses beauty, breadth, and flexibility which is in danger of being lost or neglected.

Bill Moyers, formerly press secretary for the White House, commentator for Columbia Broadcasting System, and currently with Public Broadcasting System, delivered a commencement address recently in which he said to the graduating class, "If you would go forth from here to serve democracy well, you must first save the language." Let's teach our students to know the language and to use it correctly.

5. Teach students the value of learning foreign languages. Such study encourages personal discipline and puts us in touch with peoples of the world. Such study also teaches us precision of expression and to listen for new sounds and meanings of words and phrases.

6. Teach students both how to win and lose with dignity and grace displaying good sportsmanship and humor.

7. Teach students by precept and example the importance of being considerate, compassionate, friendly, and sensitive to others.

By what you say and do, demonstrate your commitment to your field, to your students, to what Georgetown College stands for, and to your own Christian faith.



The best way to teach value and ideals is by example. Teachers have a major influence on those they teach.

Dr. Francis Wayland, president of Brown University during its golden age (1827-55) and the edu-

cator who introduced electives into the college curriculum, was a gifted, creative, and charismatic teacher. When he retired, Judge Benjamin Thomas of Massachusetts said of Wayland, "I esteem it the happiest moment of my life that brought me here; the best gift of an ever-kind Providence to me is that I was permitted for three years to sit at the feet of your instruction."

Another eminent graduate wrote: "Six words that he once said to the class were worth more to me than all the words I ever heard beside: 'young gentlemen, cherish your own ideas.'"

Let me make my point with a more contemporary testimony. In May, 1987, I received a letter from an alumnus who is on the faculty at Eastern Kentucky University, and he had this to say:

"Georgetown College has a special place in my life. Through my college years it was my home. Although I lived with my maternal aunt and uncle following the deaths of my parents in 1968, Georgetown and its faculty became a real home to me. I look back at the men and women who taught at Georgetown during my three and one-half years there and without exception all had a positive im-

pact upon my life. I made a decision to enter higher education in 1983 that was, to a degree, influenced by my memories of those able professors. In my college teaching, I have strived to achieve the level of professionalism that the faculty at Georgetown showed me. Georgetown will always hold a very special place in my heart. I care for it very much."

Let us covenant together to strive to be good teachers, not like those who say, "Do what I say, not what I do." Rather, we should be teachers who practice what we teach and who provide an example for our students both in the classroom and out.

In conclusion, let me observe that the educational and Christian objectives of this College are related to people and can only be reached through us, the faculty. Therefore, how we relate to each other to accomplish the task of education in a Christian context is of paramount importance. I am sure that we have all observed situations where much more could have been achieved had there been a better sense of community and a greater degree of trust and commitment.

Such qualities are not optional for the Christian enterprise, for they are foundational to our common life and must be translated into deed and word on a day-by-day basis.

Georgetown College is a community which is based on Christian values and teachings. The school was founded by Baptist fathers and mothers to advance the cause of Christ and to provide educational opportunities under the guidance of committed Christian teachers. That is what we still want to be and to do.

