

FMB scrutinize theology, request missionary's termination

by Art Toalston

A Southern Baptist missionary whose theology has been questioned by the denomination's Foreign Mission Board officials said he has not decided whether he will resign or force board trustees to dismiss him.

Board officials have asked Michael E. Willett to resign, saying they are not satisfied with the clarity of his views on the deity, miracles and physical resurrection of Christ.

Willett, who is in language study and was to become a seminary teacher in Venezuela, met July 11 in Atlanta with board president R. Keith Parks, two other administrators and a missionary seminary teacher from Colombia.

Willett refused comment on the meeting, except to verify quotes from a five-page statement he gave to board administrators. The statement concludes with a request that they withdraw their request for his resignation.

After the meeting, Parks said his view is unchanged: that Willett should not continue as a missionary.

Several days earlier, in a telephone interview with Word and Way, newspaper of Missouri Southern Baptists, Willett said, "If I resigned under these circumstances, I would be saying the charges against me are true, and I don't think they are."

Willett initially submitted his resignation June 18 but rescinded it July 7.

He called the accusations against him a "tragedy of poor communications" and said he is being "martyred" because of an article he wrote. The article, "Opposition to women is unforgivable sin," appeared in the April issue of SBC Today, an independent publication affiliated with Southern Baptist moderates.

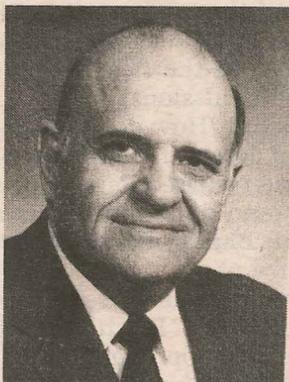
Action by Foreign Mission Board trustees on Willett's status will come during their July 19-21 meeting at Glorieta, N. M.

Parks said he told Willett in the July 11 meeting that "doctrinal ambiguity" is the only issue involved in the request for resignation.

As Willett read the first two pages of his document, Parks said, a general discussion developed. Parks said the dis-



Willett



Parks



McGinnis

ussion focused on Willett's belief that a few of Jesus' miracles possibly were expanded or created by the early church.

Willett stated he agrees with historic church teaching that "Jesus is God and man, divine and human." He affirmed "the tradition of Jesus as a miracle worker, as a healer, as an exorcist." But he noted "the possibility that some miracle stories were expanded, perhaps even created in the early church as the gospel was proclaimed." The miracle stories he questions "are a small number compared to those I accept," he said.

Jesus, in his resurrection, "was transformed into a new level of existence with God. To say that (Jesus') spiritual body has flesh and bones like you and I have is to reduce the resurrection to a resuscitation," Willett said.

He described his views as "consistent with the mainstream of Christian scholarship." He added: "If only the inerrantist position is going to be acceptable on

the foreign mission field, that needs to be stated. I am deeply saddened and hurt, because I feel that the work to which God has called me has been taken from me."

Parks said he told Willett that Willett's views conflict with the authority of scripture. The earliest and best manuscripts of the New Testament, Parks said, do not omit any of the miracles of Christ which Willett has questioned. Parks said he disagrees with the missionary on choosing what parts of the Bible to accept.

In an interview, Parks said the other doctrinal questions—the deity and resurrection of Christ—and the rest of Willett's statement were not discussed during the two-hour meeting.

In addition to Parks and Willett, participants in the July 11 meeting were Don Kammerdiener, board vice president for the Americas; J. Bryan Brasington, area director for Spanish-speaking South America; and Randall

Sledge, a missionary seminary teacher from Colombia.

Fellow missionary and language student Michael L. McGinnis of Birmingham, Ala. initially challenged Willett's theology. Both men are doctoral graduates; Willett's degree is from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and McGinnis' degree is from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tenn.

McGinnis wrote to a friend in Tennessee about a lengthy discussion he had with Willett. Without identifying Willett by name, McGinnis wrote that he had talked with a missionary who "believes none of the miracles recorded in the Bible occurred. He says Jesus did not resurrect physically . . . he won't say how he resurrected."

After receiving some circulation, the letter was forwarded to Parks, who instructed Brasington to investigate McGinnis' complaints. Brasington and Sledge met with Willett and McGinnis June 17 and 18 in Costa Rica, where they are in language school.

Board officials have asked Willett to return to the United States in about a week. They plan to recommend that his salary and missionary support be maintained until the end of the year or whenever he is employed, whichever comes first.

McGinnis has been reprimanded for going outside Foreign Mission Board channels in raising his concerns. Kammerdiener said he knows of no other time in recent board history when a missionary wrote to attempt to involve board members in a campaign against a fellow missionary.

Tatesbrook dedicates facility, plans growth

by Kima Jude, State Correspondent

For the second time in four years the seven-year-old Tatesbrook Baptist Church, Lexington, dedicated a building to the Lord.

And they're not finished yet. Members envision more expansion, more dedications for Tatesbrook is in the business of building the kingdom.

The church was initiated in December 1980 when a group of persons met with pastor Steven B. Smith. From that meeting evolved Tatesbrook Baptist Church, situated in Lexington's densely populated Tates Creek Road area.

After meetings between Smith and Houston Lanier, state missions representative for Eastern Kentucky, and Harold Polk, executive director of Elkhorn Association, the group was organized in January 1981 as the Missionary Baptist Fellowship.

Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington officially sponsored the mission, which formally called Smith as its first pastor.

After seven years resident membership for the church, constituted in October 1982, stands at 233, one-third of whom have joined the congregation by baptism.

In 1985 Tatesbrook was recognized by the Kentucky Baptist Convention Department of Evangelism for placing 59th among Kentucky Baptist churches in baptisms and 39th in per capita baptisms.

It built and dedicated its sanctuary in June 1984. Last month Tatesbrook dedicated its adjoining educational building

with a service followed by dinner on the grounds.

Wally Miller, associate in the KBC Sunday School Department, was guest speaker during the morning services. Smith later led the congregation in the dedication service.

Along with the educational wing, a portion of the sanctuary also was dedicated. Since the sanctuary was completed four years ago, it has been extended to create more space for the congregation.

The addition of the educational wing help fill the need for more Sunday school space, which is at a premium in the crowded sanctuary basement.

During the dedication service Smith recognized volunteer building crews from South Carolina, Missouri and Alabama who had assisted with construction of the building. In fact, one team from Bessemer, Ala. made two trips to Kentucky to help with the project, returning a second time to do work they were not prepared to do on the first trip.

Smith credits many people and agencies for the help the church received with both building programs, including other volunteer building crews; the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Elkhorn Association, the Oldham Foundation and various other churches and friends.

The church purchased the four-acre tract of land upon which it is located from the Elkhorn Association, which had held the land in hopes of planning a church there.

Two previous attempts failed but Tatesbrook has grown to the extent the

church has already organized another mission, constituted in October 1985 as Heritage Baptist Church.

Tatesbrook now may boast of land and properties valued at about \$700,000. More importantly, ministry to date has been "fruitful" according to Smith.

"Tatesbrook Baptist Church is evidence of the need for new and indigenous congregations throughout Fayette and surrounding counties," Smith declared. "Our hearts' desire is to see other new works evolve from this ministry as God leads us to serve his Kingdom."

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July 19, 1988

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September-June Gifts

	Month	YTD
June 88	1,537,657	13,401,686
June 87	1,493,420	13,186,491
\$ Chg.	44,237	215,195
% Chg.	3.0	1.6
Budget	1,365,053	13,650,525
\$(under)/over	172,604	-248,839
%(under)/over	12.6	-1.8

Year	\$Over/-Under Budget to Date	% Increase Over Prev Year
87-88	-248,839	1.6
86-87	185,991	9.3
85-86	-940,157	5.8
84-85	-634,491	3.3
83-84	-208,277	4.4
82-83	662,765	9.2
81-82	1,067,238	11.0

sanford's perspectives

Serious questions for all Southern Baptists



Jack D. Sanford

The story on page one about the controversy with foreign missionary Michael E. Willett raises some serious questions which go to the heart of our cooperative method of doing missions.

Foremost among them is this: How did a person who questions the deity of Jesus, the miracles of the New Testament and the resurrection of Jesus ever receive endorsement and appointment as a missionary of the Southern Baptist Convention?

Did Willett change his mind about these important matters **after** his appointment? Did those who interviewed him and those who approved him fail to probe **deeply enough** to discover his doctrinal position on these matters?

Is Willett a victim of what he himself called "poor communications?" Is the doctrinal flap a smoke screen to cover dissatisfaction by some of the trustees of the Foreign Mission Board over the article Willett published in SBC Today?

Another disturbing factor in this situation is the part played by Michael L. McGinnis, a fellow missionary and language student with Willett in Costa Rica.

McGinnis allegedly wrote a "friend in Tennessee" and reported his concerns about his fellow missionary. Why did McGinnis not report his concerns to the proper authorities whom Southern Baptists have put in charge of our missionary en-

terprise? Why did the "friend in Tennessee" not pass on immediately the information from McGinnis to Keith Parks, president of the FMB, instead of "circulating" the letter?

The trustees of the Foreign Mission Board meet July 19-21 in Glorieta, N. M., and perhaps some answers and clarification will come from them. After all they are the ones whom we have elected to run this business in a proper and Christian manner and we have the right to expect them to act with compassion and honesty.

In the meantime we must all ponder the method we use to select, screen and approve all candidates who would serve with and for us in all places of leadership, not just in foreign fields.

We must also remember this is an isolated incident and the approximately 3800 missionaries now at work around the world through the FMB have wide acceptance among Southern Baptists. They also have a clean slate as far as doctrinal clarity is concerned and are loved, respected, prayed for and supported by all of us. Under the constant glare of world opinion they are indeed God's choice people who deserve our trust.

Let us all be in prayer for the members of the board of trustees of our FMB as they grapple with the problems which not only determine the career of missionaries, but also affect our mission for Christ throughout the world.

Controversial resolution

During the recent Southern Baptist Convention meeting, messengers adopted resolution five which has stirred the waters of controversy once again.

We print this resolution so Kentucky Baptists may see and decide from themselves if it is the ogre some claim.

Resolution No.5—On the Priesthood of the Believer:

Whereas, none of the five major writing systematic theologians in Southern Baptist history have given more than passing reference to the doctrine of the Priesthood of the Believer in their systematic theologies; and

Whereas, the Baptist Faith and Message preamble refers to the Priesthood of the Believer, but provides no definition or content to the term; and

Whereas, the high profile emphasis on the doctrine of the Priesthood of the Believer in Southern Baptist life is a recent historical development; and

Whereas, the Priesthood of the Believer is a term which is subject to both misunderstanding and abuse; and

Whereas, the doctrine of the Priesthood of the Believer has been used to justify wrongly the attitude that a Christian may believe whatever he

so chooses and still be considered a loyal Southern Baptist; and

Whereas the doctrine of the Priesthood of the Believer can be used to justify the undermining of pastoral authority in the local church.

Be it therefore Resolved, that the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in San Antonio, Texas, June 14-16, 1988, affirm its belief in the biblical doctrine of the Priesthood of the Believer (1 Peter 2:9 and Revelation 1:6); and

Be further Resolved, that we affirm that this doctrine in no way gives license to misinterpret, explain away, demythologize, or extrapolate out elements of the supernatural from the Bible; and

Be it further Resolved, that the doctrine of the Priesthood of the Believer in no way contradicts the biblical understanding of the role, responsibility, and authority of the pastor which is seen in the command to the local church in Hebrews 13:17, "Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your soul, as those who will give an account;" and

Be it finally Resolved, that we affirm the truth that elders, or pastors, are called of God to lead the local church (Acts 20:28).

So there it is. Judge for yourself.

western recorder

(ISSN 0043-4132)

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Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder, Inc., Box 43969, Middletown, KY, except for one week in July and December. Second class postage paid at Louisville, KY.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Middletown, KY 40243.

Subscriptions: Single, \$7.35; foreign, \$8.00; church budget, \$5.50. Payable in advance, except church accounts, which require tax exemption number.

Advertising: Rates available upon request. Institutional columns on an inside page are paid space.

Directors: Robert DeFoor, Harrodsburg, Chairman; Denzel Dukes, Owensboro, Vice Chairman; Glenn Mollette, Pikeville, Secretary; Richard Bridges, Bowling Green; Bill Crosby, Erlanger; Jerry Davis, Pippa Passes; Greg Earwood, Murray; Paul Godsey, Burlington; Garnett Hulette, Frankfort; Don Mantoath, Morehead; John Searcy, Franklin; George Smith, Leitchfield.

A showdown in center aisle

Flatwoods Sunday school director strives for growth

by Glenn Mollette
State Correspondent

Imagine a Sunday school director and a pastor willing to have a showdown in center aisle dressed like cowboys during a worship service.

Or, imagine that same Sunday school director and pastor dressed as the "Mission Impossible" team and talking about their mission to contact every Sunday school member every week for a month.

Or, imagine that same duo willing to be smeared by a pie in the face when they came in second place in a Sunday school contest.

These have been only a few of the things pastor Ken Holden and Sunday school director Bill Riffe have done in recent months to promote Sunday school at First Baptist Church, Flatwoods.

The church recorded its second highest attendance (226) in more than 15 years Apr. 24.

The northeastern Kentucky church has been growing for several years and has been averaging 10 percent more in attendance than last year according to Holden.

For years the church averaged attendances of barely over 100. But in the last six years this church has been thrusting forward to record attendances.

"Since 1986 we have had the top ten attendances in the church's history," observed Holden. The attendances have ranged from 194 to 242 persons.

Recently this congregation held a five Sunday attendance and enrolment campaign. During the campaign attendances soared over 200 twice. There were 62 visitors and 17 new members added to the Sunday school roll.

Holden commends Sunday school di-

rector Riffe who said, "I'll do anything to help Sunday school." Putting his words into action he has dressed up like a cowboy or a spy in trench coat and sun glasses. Challenging his congregation with a numerical goal he has said, "Folks, this is the goal we want to reach. And we know that numbers aren't most important, but numbers represent people and people are important."

Twice a year First Baptist has a Sunday school emphasis to keep their folks interested in Sunday school. This is also helpful in emphasizing contacts and reaching new people.

Holden points out two words have played key roles in the success of Flatwoods's Sunday school growth—creativity and promotion.

He shared the following formula to Flatwoods's Sunday school success.

"Creativity is essential to making any campaign go. Yet all the creativity in the world will not keep our people's interest if there is not a worthy cause. And that worthy cause for us is people who need Christ. We believe the best way for us to know them better and introduce them to Christ is through the Sunday school."

Holden further outlined his three step plan to keeping Sunday school campaigns in focus.

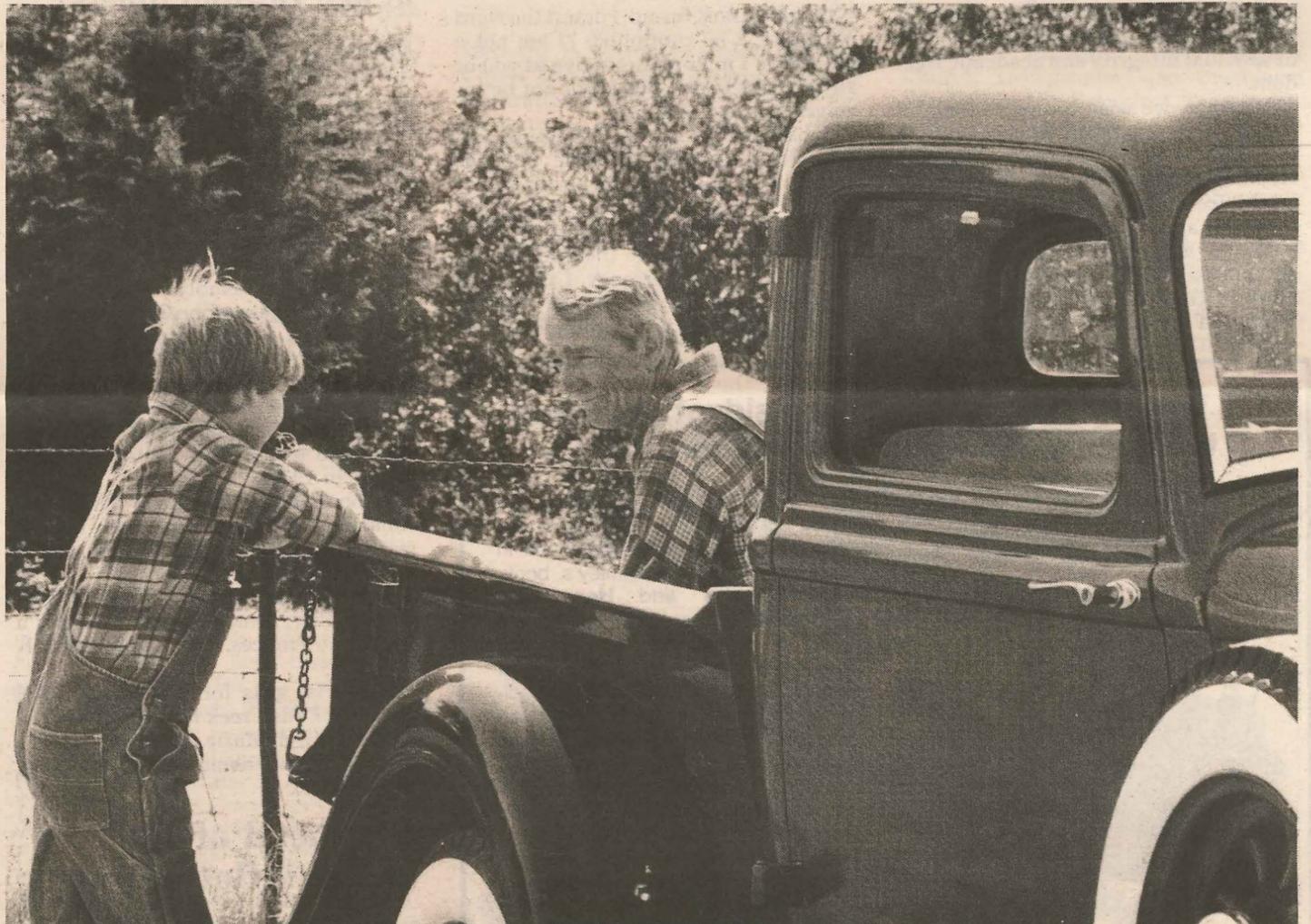
"(1) We have to get their attention. This is done by skits or overhead projector layouts left on during worship service.

"(2) We have to keep their attention

by a period of promotion. One emphasis we did was called 'It's About Time.' There was a picture of a clock that was posted all over the building. The idea was to point out that 'it's about time' we begin reaching people, praying or making contacts.

"(3) Create expectation and have a celebration. All through the campaign we have a sense of expectation of reaching the goal we've set. And when we reach the goal we have a celebration to give God the glory."

Holden is not the first to state that his church has a multitude to reach and there is much to be done. "But with a heart to reach people through the Sunday school this congregation will have more and greater reports in the future.



This youngster learned an important lesson on tithing in the film on stewardship, *The Darkness Shall Turn*.

Lincoln County WMU hear Carol Noffsinger at associational meet

Ladies from Lincoln County's 25 Southern Baptist churches reinacted the historic meeting at which the 100-year-old Woman's Missionary Union was organized when associational WMU director Kathleen Hall convened their meeting May 31 at Watts Chapel Baptist Church, Crab Orchard. Carol Noffsinger, state WMU consultant, was guest speaker at the event which took place as part of Lincoln County Association's WMU centennial celebration.

Miss Noffsinger noted that WMU had "come a long way" in its first 100 years. "In my judgement," she said, "WMU has lived a century because our purpose is rooted in the command of our Lord to take the good news of Jesus Christ to all people everywhere."

Kathleen Hall, a member of Calvary Hill Baptist Church, Stanford, thanked the church representatives, who came dressed in 1888-vintage costume, for their hard work in preparing the quarterly session. She called attention to the WMU centennial motto: "A Century to Celebrate; A Future to Fulfill." She also voiced her hope that WMU members would "feel the nudging of the Holy Spirit to enable you to see farther and reach higher as we move into a new century."

New film captures hope of Cooperative Program

The *Darkness Shall Turn*, a 30-minute film to capture the hope and excitement of the Cooperative Program, the Southern Baptist Convention method of channeling funds to mission causes, is being premiered at churches across the country.

James Powell, of the SBC Stewardship Commission, said the film is a two-year project with input and support from the Home Mission Board, the Foreign Mission Board and the Stewardship Commission.

"This film is very unusual in that it recognizes right off the difficulty of telling the whole Cooperative Program story in just 30 minutes. But it does an excellent job of sharing the excitement and the impact of the mission support channel that has helped send the message of Jesus Christ to all corners of the

world," he said.

The film looks at just a few of the places and people that have been changed by efforts funded through the Cooperative Program.

—A youngster who came from a farm setting and who learned some valuable lessons about giving after hearing a missionary speak.

—The formation of an inner city church—where churches are locked to keep street people from coming inside to sleep and where "Jesus is a word you said when you've smashed your finger."

—Missionaries who call the Cooperative Program the "lifeline of Southern Baptist mission support."

"The *Darkness Shall Turn* tugs first at your heart, then your mind and then your will. Don't see this video unless you

are ready for missions to take on a newer and bolder meaning in your life," said R. Keith Parks, FMB president.

Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, said the film will "have tremendous impact on the support for home and foreign missions."

A. R. Fagan, Stewardship Commission, said the title of the film—*The Darkness Shall Turn*—states "the true purpose of the Cooperative Program which is to dispel the darkness of sin that envelops all of mankind."

Copies of the film may be reserved and used on a loan basis without charge from state stewardship offices across the SBC. Or the film may be purchased through the SBC Stewardship Commission, Suite 650, 901 Commerce Street, Nashville, TN 37203-3620. 16 mm film copies are \$125; VHS ½ inch tapes, \$6.

baptist news in brief

Bible to proclaim, not defend: Pollard

Southern Baptists must not reduce their faith to any object, even God's Holy word, Frank Pollard warned in a sermon at Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist Conference Center.

"In these pharisaical days when people are looking for liberals more than the lost, I want to say to you I am an inerrantist," proclaimed Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss. Pollard, former president of Golden

Women in Ministry support SEBTS faculty

The steering committee for Southern Baptist Women in Ministry issued a statement affirming support for Randall Lolley and administrators at Southeastern Seminary.

The statement declared, "We wish to commend the former president, W. Randall Lolley, the faculty and administration of Southeastern Seminary for their heroic stand in defending the principles of spiritual integrity and academic freedom.

"Further, we wish to assure them of our earnest prayers and deep concern in the days immediately ahead as far-reaching decisions must be made in regard to resignation or settling-in, reassignment and/or retirement.

"In the aftermath of broken careers, unjust demands and broken hopes we cling to God's promise that finally all truth will be vindicated." (BP)

Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Cal., has not often spoken publicly regarding problems in the denomination.

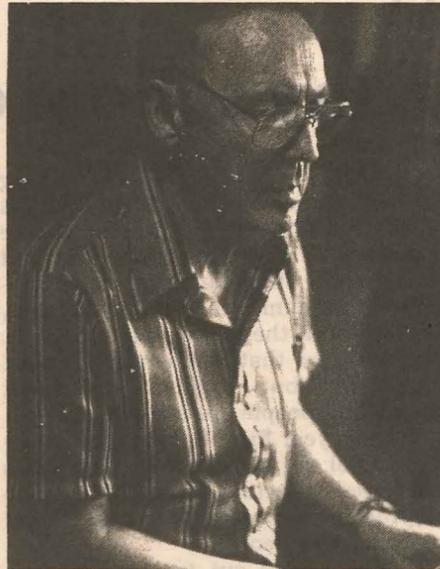
"I believe the Bible is God's word, but it is not the living word of God," he explained. "Jesus Christ is the living word of God. The Bible is God's spoken word.

"We simply must never reduce our faith to a book, not even God's holy book," he said. "When you do that, you begin to become superstitious about the Bible. You begin to try to defend it. The word of God doesn't need defending. It is God's holy word. We're supposed to proclaim it, not defend it."

Pollard said he sat down with a leader of the conservative movement at the convention a few days ago. "The first thing he asked was, 'As a leader of the moderate faction in our denomination, how do you feel about what is happening?'" Pollard reported.

"I said, 'Look, friend, I detest the word moderate,'" he continued. "I am not a moderate. I'm as conservative as you or anyone you know. But I will not be involved in your politics.

"I have never attended a meeting, and I would never take the time God has given me or spend the money of salary or gifts to the kingdom trying to enthrone or dethrone anyone," Pollard said. "I do not believe the issue in our denomination is inerrancy. I think it is integrity. I do not believe the solution is politics. Politics is the problem." (BP)



Bartlett

Bartlett, musician, dies at age 70 from illness

Eugene M. Bartlett Jr., 70, longtime Southern Baptist musician, died Sunday, July 10 in Oklahoma City after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Bartlett was director of the Church Music Department of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma from 1954 until he retired in 1980. He directed the music at Falls Creek Assembly during that time and wrote many of the Oklahoma Baptist assembly's theme songs. When he first joined the Oklahoma convention staff he also directed student work.

Born in Greenwood, Ark., Bartlett received degrees from John Brown University and Oklahoma Baptist University. OBU gave him a doctor of music degree in 1971.

A book about his life, "Grace So Amazing," is to be published by Broadman Press in early 1989. It was written by his wife, Emma Jean.

Survivors include his wife of Oklahoma City; sons, Larry and Reggie; a daughter, Frances, and five grandchildren.

Memorial gifts for the Bartlett Bell Tower at Falls Creek may be sent to the BGCO Church Music Department, 1141 Robinson, Oklahoma City, OK 73103 (BP)

CP ahead of 1987, below inflation rate

The Southern Baptist Convention's ministry budget remains ahead of its 1987 pace, but its year-to-date receipts fell below the annual rate of inflation at the end of nine months.

June receipts for the Cooperative Program exceed its year-to-date receipts to \$110,265,278. That amount is 2.19 percent ahead of the budget's pace last year but it is more than 1.5 percent below the current U. S. inflation rate.

The Cooperative Program received \$10,268,120 at the national level in June. That amount reflects a 13.36 percent drop below receipts for June 1987.

The Cooperative Program requires \$11.7 million per month to meet the overall goal and \$11 million per month to meet the first-phase basic operating budget. The June report is almost \$1.4 million below the total Cooperative Program budget for the month.

Year-to-date receipts—taken from October through June—are ahead of the same point last year but \$4.7 million short of the convention's Cooperative Program budget goal for the nine-month period. (BP)

Missionary child dies, family injured in fire

John Parrish, 3, the son of Southern Baptist missionaries James and Martha Parrish, died inside a flame-engulfed car July 4 in Ecuador, and his father and brother were hospitalized with burns.

Parrish had stopped to buy fuel at a gasoline station in Esmeraldas, Ecuador, when his car burst into flames following an explosion, said Betty Law, the Foreign Mission Board's associate area director.

Two sons, Stephen, 7, and John were in the car. Parrish was standing outside the car when the explosion and fire occurred. He grabbed Stephen and pulled him out of the car but was unable to find John.

Stephen has "rather extensive, serious burns" and underwent treatment at a hospital in Quito. Parrish sustained burns on the face and hands. The two were transferred to a burn trauma unit at the Methodist Medical Center in Dallas July 8.

Stephen, who has second- and third-degree burns, mostly on his face, hands and arms, will be treated in an intensive care unit and Parrish will have a private room in the hospital. Both are "doing well."

Parrish's wife, Martha, and their other son, Micah, 5, accompanied them in an ambulance jet. As the Parrishes boarded the jet they told other missionaries, "We'll see you back in Ecuador." The family arrived on the field in December 1987. (BP)

1200-plus responded to SBC missions call

Some of the 1200-plus people who signed commitment cards for foreign missions at June's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in San Antonio, Tex. could become missionaries as soon as early 1989.

More than 1200 people signed commitment cards after the June 15 evening convention session, during which 35 new missionaries were appointed and Foreign Mission Board president R. Keith Parks delivered a missions challenge.

A breakdown of the cards showed 166 people will explore a career in missions, 43 are willing to serve between four months and two years overseas and 51 are willing to volunteer up to four months. Another 688 said they will pray regularly for missions, 390 promised to increase financial support of missions and 717 will influence their churches toward greater missions support.

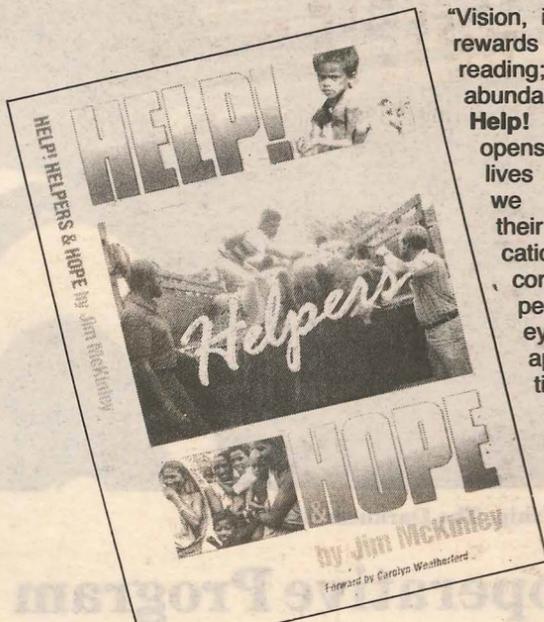
This is an excellent response, said Bill Morgan, director of the board's Missionary Enlistment Department. The department has contacted all of the people interested in missionary careers.

"We'll continue to work with all of them as long as they show an interest," Morgan said, adding commitment cards still are coming in by mail.

Morgan said he just wrote a letter to a married couple who already meet basic qualifications for missionary candidacy. "It's remotely possible some of these could be appointed missionaries by December," he said. Others could be appointed in early 1989.

Southern Baptists need a revival of missions interest if the Bold Mission Thrust campaign to reach the world for Christ is to be accomplished, Morgan said, and this response may indicate a revival is starting. (BP)

Dr. William Wakefield, vice-president, Asia and the Pacific, Foreign Mission Board says,



"Vision, insight and understanding are rewards not always available from our abundance; but all of these are found in Jim McKinley's book, **Help! Helpers and Hope**. Jim opens the shutters into the private lives of missionary families; and we gain intimate glimpses of their struggles, fears, dedication and work. With deep compassion, he writes of the people of Bangladesh and our eyes are opened to understand, appreciate and love these sensitive people. Through his eyes we see a vision of what God wants to do in Bangladesh. And we learn how God is working out His purpose through His chosen servants. Jim has given us a precious gift in these pages."

Every penny of profit from sales goes to the Foreign Mission Board for helping to build a Conference Center 25 miles north of the capital city of Dhaka.

It may be purchased as follows:

**Jim McKinley Books
Highview Baptist Church
7711 Fegenbush Lane
Louisville, KY 40228**

Box of 50 \$350.00

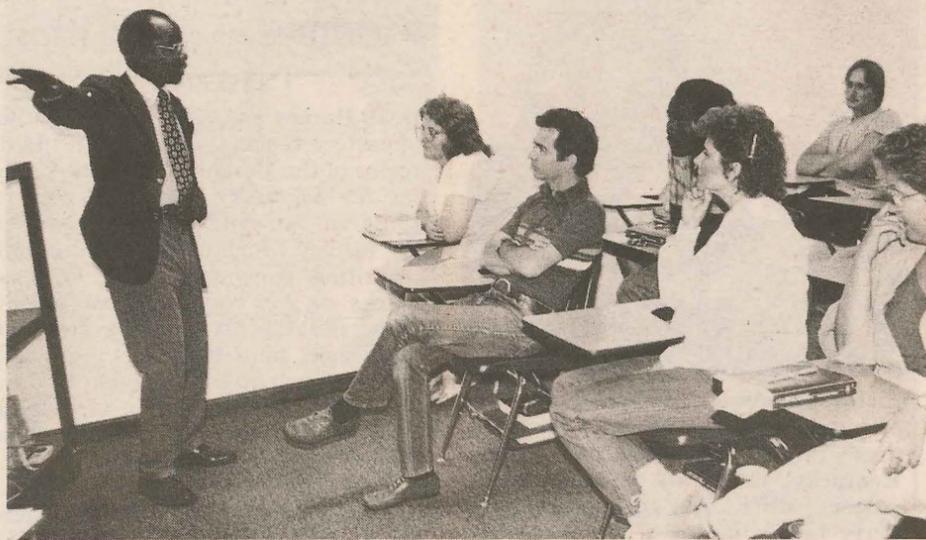
Box of 20 \$140.00

Single copies: \$7.00

Also **Death to Life: Bangladesh by Jim: \$4.00**

Or both books: per set: \$10

christian education



Isaya Mwonyonyi leads Campbellsville College class.

Ugandan speaks at Campbellsville

Isaya Mwonyonyi, adjunct faculty member at the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky, spoke to professor William Bennett's American diplomacy class at Campbellsville College June 27.

Mwonyonyi was deputy chief of protocol in his native Uganda under presidents Milton Obote and Idi Amin. He has studied or taught at Kent State University, Cambridge University and Carroll College in Wisconsin.

Mwonyonyi came to the United States in 1972 and was granted political asylum. He labeled himself an "orphan" because he is not a citizen of any country and he has no family. Some of his family were killed and others are missing.

A member of the Ugandan diplomatic corps, Mwonyonyi has served in various countries such as Russia, China, Peru and France.

He said the United States should take the time to get to know another country's culture and people. He went on to say that when Americans travel, they

Campbellsville offers evening degree program

Campbellsville College is offering its evening degree program this fall, according to Robert S. Clark, vice president for academics at Campbellsville College.

Students can earn an AS degree in business administration or an AS degree in data procession in as few as five semesters.

Classes meet Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday from 6:30-7:45 p.m. and 8:00-9:15 p.m. Students may earn up to 12 hours of college credit per semester.

Evening degree courses offered are freshman English I, introduction to geology, basic programming, system analysis, elementary typing, introduction to business, business law I, personnel management and American government.

Other evening classes offered include introduction to philosophy, commercial art, reporting and news writing and history of the United States to 1877.

Tuition is \$150 per semester hour or \$1795 for those taking 12-16 hours at Campbellsville. Financial aid is available for those who qualify.

Registration for the evening program at Campbellsville will be from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 23. Classes begin Wednesday, Aug. 24.

For more information, contact the admissions office at Campbellsville at (502) 465-8158 ext. 6220.

use American credit cards, stay in American motels and fly on American airlines. Instead, Mwonyonyi said, "You should experience the culture and see what others are really like."

According to Mwonyonyi, one problem with American diplomacy is that Americans "jump to conclusions. If another country does not do things like Americans think it should be done it is labeled communism." He added that Americans should not be so hasty.

Cumberland professor earns PhD in biology

Walter Blaine Early III, chairman of the biology department at Cumberland College, has earned a PhD degree in biology from the University of Louisville.

A member of the college's faculty since 1979, Early is a magna cum laude graduate of DePauw University and has been a teaching assistant at both DePauw and the University of Louisville.

Early was selected as an honor faculty member by students in 1983 and as an honor professor by his fellow faculty members in 1984. He is a member of First Baptist Church, Williamsburg.

He graduated from Williamsburg High School as valedictorian in 1972. He is the son of Walter B. Early Jr. and Virginia Vallandingham Early of Williamsburg, and the grandson of the late J. T. Vallandingham, professor of mathematics at Cumberland 61 years. He and his wife, the former Suanne Hirschy, have two sons, Walter Blaine IV and Robert Hirschy.

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Cumberland chorale tours Europe

The Cumberland College Chorale recently returned from a 10-day concert tour throughout western Europe. The chorale, under the direction of Joe E. Tarry, head of the music department, toured West Germany, Austria, Leichtenstein and Switzerland May 16-25.

Accompanying the chorale were the show choir and the brass quintet, also from Cumberland. These groups, directed by Harold Wortman and supervised by John Schecter, assisted the chorale in presenting a wide variety of musical styles to their audiences.

The chorale visited Freiburg, West Germany; Lucerne, Switzerland; Vaduz, Leichtenstein; Innsbruck and Salzburg, Austria; Munich and Dinkelsbuhl, West Germany. The choral members were given walking tours of most of these cities and then spent the afternoons sight-seeing and shopping.

Concert performances were given in Innsbruck; Vigaun, outside of Salzburg; and in Dorfgematten, outside of Dinkelsbuhl. In Innsbruck the concert was a part of the mass performed in the celebration of Pentecost. In Vigaun the concert was presented in a folk hall. And, in Dorfgematten the concert was given in a Lutheran church, whose youth performed in a brass choir at the beginning and end of the concert.

The music for the tour represented all musical styles from the sounds of Mozart to the lyrics of the rock group Alabama. The pieces enjoyed by the audiences the most were the American spirituals, which included "Swing Low,

Sweet Chariot," "Bright Canaan," "Saints Bound for Heaven" and "I'm Gonna Sing."

Tarry hopes to take the chorale to England and Ireland in spring 1990.

First black student team ministers in Kentucky

A team of students sponsored by the National Baptist Student Union Retreat recently participated in a two-week summer mission project.

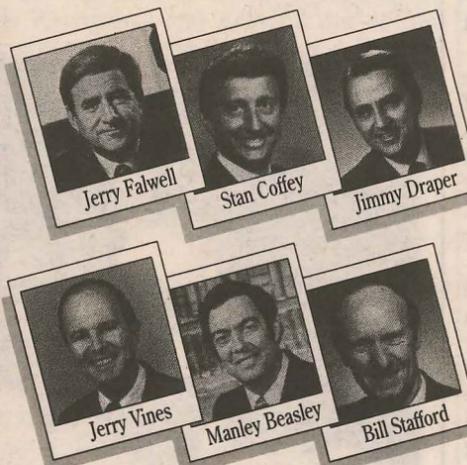
The team was led by Mikel Robinson, Kentucky Baptist Convention campus minister at Kentucky State University, and Bonnie C. Brown advisor to Black Students Fellowship on the University of Kentucky campus.

Activities were localized in Frankfort, Georgetown, Lexington and Louisville. The group worked in various mission-oriented activities, such as vacation Bible schools at Pleasant Green Baptist Church, Lexington; First Baptist Church, Georgetown; and Crestwood Baptist Church, Frankfort. Team members saw first hand the needs of the homeless as they helped prepare and serve meals to the homeless in Lexington's Son Shine Center and a community kitchen in Frankfort.

The team sponsored a lock-in at East Frankfort Baptist Church for 15 students from Spring Meadows Children's Home, Middletown. The team also ministered at the Blackburn Correctional Center, Lexington.

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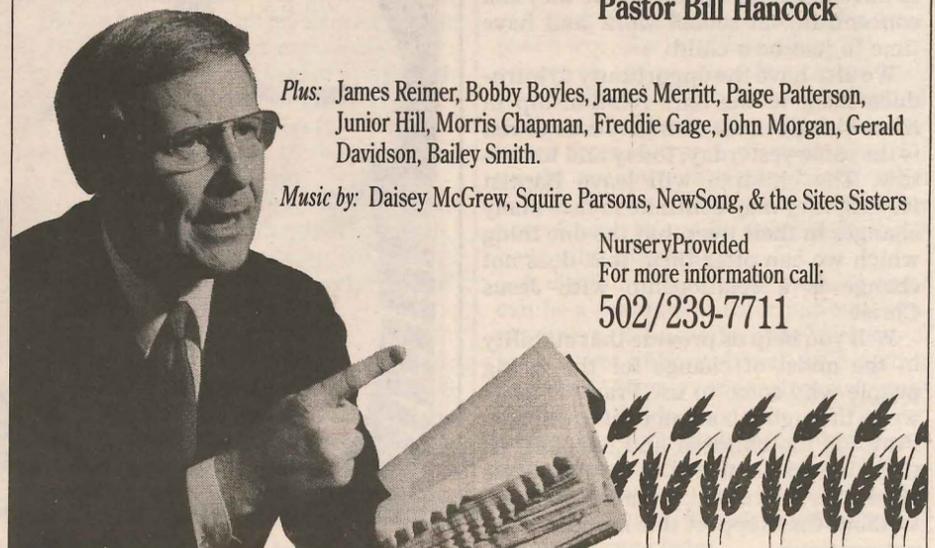
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homes for children

Stability in the midst of change

Change is something which occurs every day around us, but in reality we never are really comfortable with change that affects us personally. We are creatures of habit who face new situations and new people warily.

At Baptist Homes for Children this summer is a time of transition and change. Eldren Taylor has retired after seven great years as executive director. Tom Moore and Edna Woofter, who have served 15 years each in key roles, will be retiring at the end of August. They both have given so much to this ministry. These key personnel changes will mean new people with new ideas and new ways of doing things.

With so much change it is important to focus on that which does not change. The purpose of this ministry is to meet the needs of children in the name of Jesus Christ. We are to be a witness for him to the children and families whom we serve, as well as to the world around us, as we show Christ through our actions. That purpose will not and cannot change.

For many of the children who come into our programs, change is a way of life. They have been passed between mom and dad, grandparents and aunts and uncles. Many have been in a number of foster homes or other institutions. They have seen nothing stable in their young lives.

As we minister to them, it is crucial to provide a place where their lives can stabilize, where they can form deeper relationship and friendships. We must provide a place where they can move beyond worrying about where they will spend the night, or what they are going to have to eat, to a point where they can concentrate on school work and have time to just be a child.

We also have the opportunity to introduce them to the only relationship in life which does not change. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. The children will leave Baptist Homes, they may continue to face many changes in their lives, but the one thing which we can offer them that does not change is a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Will you help us provide that stability in the midst of change for the young people who come to us? Pray for us as we go through this summer of transition. Pray for the children and our staff as we minister to them. In addition, we need your continued financial support. Without that support this ministry cannot continue.

ordinations

Tony Murrel Stephens was ordained a deacon by Water Valley Baptist Church, Graves County Association. Hub Smith is pastor.

Crabtree Avenue Baptist Church, Daviess-McLean Association, ordained **Kevin West** as a deacon June 26. Wallace Morris is pastor.

congregations

Munfordville Baptist Church, Lynn Association, will observe its 100th anniversary July 24. All friends and former members are invited to the celebration during the 10 a.m. worship service.

The Crossroads Singers, senior high ensemble of **First Baptist Church, Pikeville**, Bell Association, toured the campgrounds of Myrtle Beach, S. C. June 17-21. They performed an original musical drama, "The Writer," to over 2000 persons.

Sunday evening, June 24, the group performed the musical at their home church to more than 600 people.

They sang during the morning service and during the invitation there were three professions of faith, two persons came on transfers of members and several made rededications. One young adult surrendered to the call to ministry, a couple made a decision to enrol in seminary and a young lady committed herself to full time Christian service.

Yvonne Clark and Rebecca Martin are coordinators of the Crossroads. Glenn Mollette is pastor.

Second Baptist Church, Greenville, Muhlenberg Association, approved construction plans for a \$1,285,000 enlargement of the sanctuary and construction of a new educational building. Rick



Pictured above is **Billie Wright**, director of missions, Laurel River Association, presenting a check to aid a "Mission Kentucky" new start to **Paul Brewer**, pastor of Mill Street Baptist Mission and **Terry Lester**, pastor of the sponsoring church, **First Baptist, London**. **Bill Jaggers** is associate director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Direct Missions Department.

Shannon is pastor and Ben Van Hooser is chairman of the building steering committee.

New Hope Baptist Church, Springfield, Central Association, held its annual homecoming May 29. This year's homecoming was both bitter and sweet as **Ray Roberts**, a former pastor who was to be the guest speaker, died unexpectedly Apr. 25. The event was held as a memorial to his life and was subsequently declared "The Ray Roberts Memorial Homecoming Day."

The church saw 147 in Sunday school, the highest attendance in 17 years, and there were 305 in the morning worship service, three times the congregation's average attendance. The worship gathering proved to be the largest crowd on record since the church was founded in 1802.

Guest speaker for the day was **David Royalty**, son of Marshall and Dorothy Royalty of Nelson County. He is pastor of Northside Baptist Church, Princeton, Caldwell-Lyon Association. **Kevin H. Lee** is pastor at New Hope.

personnel

Dean Harney has accepted the position of eastern regional coordinator and director of the Morehead temporary shelter for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. Ten children can be housed in the facility which cares for children in transition from the courts to foster homes or for children from abusive home situations where they need care for a short time. Harney is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and has been a juvenile probation officer and family service worker for the Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources.

Swiss Colony Baptist Church, Laurel River Association, has called **Larry Starkey** as music director. **Johnny Jervis** is pastor.

Gary Conner resigned as pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Boones Creek Association.

First Baptist Church, Barbourville, North Concord Association, called **Eric Timerding** as minister of music/youth. **Andy Reese** is pastor.

West London Baptist Church, Laurel River Association, called **Bill Mays** as pastor.

Tom Patterson was called as pastor by Poplar Grove Baptist Church, Lynn Camp Association.

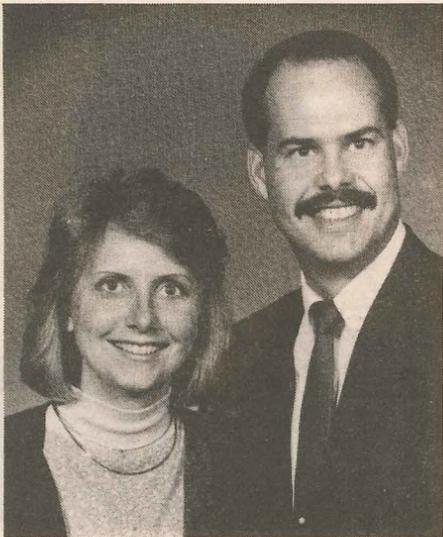
Doug Sharon accepted the call to be pastor of Stanton Baptist Church, Red River Association.

Lothair Baptist Church, Three Forks Association, called **E. A. (Buddy) Gilpin** as pastor.

Randy Tate resigned as pastor of Providence Baptist Church, Boones Creek Association, to accept a church in Paris, Oh.



The senior high ensemble of **First Baptist Church, Pikeville**, toured Myrtle Beach, S. C., June 17-21.



William and Deborah Steele Jr.

Oak Grove Baptist Church, Mt. Zion Association, called **Tony Jackson** as pastor.

Northside Baptist Chapel, a new congregation started by Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, has called its first pastor, **Garland Hawkins**. He is a student at Boyce Bible School and was ordained July 10 by Berean Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, where he was a deacon and music director before becoming Northside's pastor. J. Howard Cobble, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, is pastor of the sponsoring congregation.

Roger Alford resigned as pastor of Mt. Gilboa Baptist Church, Taylor County Association, to accept a call from New Salem Baptist Church, Winfield, Mo.

Liberty Baptist Church, Graves County Association, called **Roy Sutherland** as pastor. He began his ministry with the church July 3.

Harlan Baptist Church called **Ron Goodwin** as minister of music. He has been on the staff of Clear Creek Baptist School six years. Roy Carlton is pastor.

Guthrie Baptist Church, Bethel Association, accepted the resignation of pastor **Bill Jones** who has accepted a pastorate in Tennessee.

Eastwood Baptist Church, Warren Association, called **Jeff Randolph** as minister of music and single adults. James W. Haskell is pastor.

First Baptist Church, Inez, Enterprise Association, called **Paul Peterson** as its pastor. He has served at churches in Kentucky since 1980, with his last pastorate being at Milton Baptist Church, Sulphur Fork Association.

Peterson received a BA degree from Georgetown College in 1980 and a MDiv degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1985. He is married to the former Cheryl Sebastian of northern Kentucky. They have one child, Matthew.

missions

Two Kentucky couples were among 35 people named missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board June 15 at the Southern Baptist Convention, San Antonio, Tex.

Rev. and Mrs. William B. Steele Jr. will live in eastern Europe where he will be starting and developing churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries. He is pastor of Temple



John and Jeanie Johnson

Baptist Church, Springfield.

Born in Ft Benning, Ga., Steele is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William B. Steele of Midland, Ga. He received the BS degree from Lee College, Cleveland, Tenn., and the MDiv from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He has been a teacher and coach of gymnastics in Louisville and Atlanta, and owner and director of Gymnastics Plus in Columbus, Ga.

Also born in Ft. Benning, Mrs. Steele, the former Deborah Skarpness, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Skarpness of Columbus.

She received an AA degree in nursing from Columbus College; a BS in nursing from Medical College of Georgia, Augusta; and a MS in nursing from the University of Louisville. She has been a registered nurse both in Columbus and Louisville and is a nursing instructor at Elizabethtown Community College.

Rev. and Mrs. John F. Johnson will live in equatorial Brazil where he will be starting and developing churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries. He is pastor of Hurricane Baptist Church, Cadiz.

Born in Garden City, N. Y., Johnson is the son of Gertrude Johnson and John Bodnarczuk, both of Orlando, Fla. He received the BA degree from the University of South Florida and the MDiv degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He has been a teacher in Sanford, Fla.; organist at Rolling Field Baptist Church, Jeffersonville, Ind.; and chaplain for the Masonic Home, Louisville.

Born in Mobile, Ala., Mrs. Johnson, the former Jeanie Wofford, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Wofford of Commerce, Ga. She received the AS degree from Valencia Community College, Orlando, and has achieved registered nurse standing.

She has been a nurse in Louisville and Hopkinsville and has been a visiting nurse with Upjohn Healthcare, Greenville. Recently she taught a health careers class at Trigg County High School in Cadiz.

The two couples will go to Rockville, Va. in August for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

Harold and Clara Matthews, missionaries to the Philippines, report a change of address (Box 99, Davao City 8000, Philippines). They are natives of Kentucky. He is from Ohio County and she, the former Clara Lee, was born in Georgetown and grew up near Sadieville. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1957.

Robert and Martha Jones, missionaries to Senegal, have completed furlough

and returned to the field (BP 39, Bigona, Senegal). He was born in Pinehurst, N. C. and she, the former Martha Vertrees, in Elizabethtown, Ky. Both consider Laurinburg, N. C. their home town. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1984.

Mrs. Ruth O. Yocum, mother of Mrs. Norman Lytle, Baptist representative to Israel, died June 2 in Louisville. Mrs. Lytle is the former Martha Yocum of Louisville. Her husband was born in Akron, Oh. and lived in Akron, Cumberland, Md. and Gadsden, Ala. while growing up. Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1964, they may be addressed at Baptist Village, Mobile Post, Central Sharon, Israel.

Mrs. Bertha Mulberry, mother of Mrs. Dan Cobb, missionary to Thailand, died June 8 in Georgetown. Mrs. Cobb is the former Fannie Morris of Kentucky. She was born in Versailles and grew up in Sadieville. Her husband is a native of Ware Shoals, S. C. Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1954, they are currently in the United States on furlough (1663 Burton Rd., Georgetown, KY 40324).

S. Thomas Tipton of Floyds Knob, Ind., emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to countries in eastern Africa, died July 3 after a long, hereditary illness. He was 58.



Tipton

Tipton and his wife, the former Virginia Dixon of Ashland, opened work 1967 in Kampala, Uganda. Working with a graduate of the East Africa Baptist Theological Seminary in Tanzania, they started 43 churches and 30 preaching points in three years. Tipton retired in 1971 for medical reasons.

He was born in Louisville and lived in Providence and Ashland during his boyhood. He was the son of a Baptist minister.

Tipton graduated from Georgetown (Ky.) College with the BA degree and from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Cal., with the MDiv degree. He also studied at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

After their appointment in 1959 the Tiptons went to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where he was a general evangelist. In 1963 they transferred to Kenya and for three years he was headmaster of a Baptist high school and director of evangelistic work in the area. He also taught music and directed a choir there.

Before his appointment he was pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church, Stillwater, Okla., for three years. He also was pastor of Clear Creek Baptist Church, Versailles, Ky., for about four years and assistant pastor of churches in San Francisco, Cal. and Bristol, Tenn.

Survivors include his former wife, Virginia Carman of Floyds Knob, Ind., and his two children, Craig, 30, of Indianapolis, Ind. and Kimberly, 25, of Floyds Knob.

Harry Meadors, retired director of missions in McCreary County, died July 6 of heart problems. He had recently undergone surgery and all appeared to be well, but he took a sudden turn for the worse and died Wednesday morning. Funeral services were held July 9 in Whitley City.



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

Until Jesus comes

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:6).

I like that verse. It suggests to me that we have opportunities to sow seeds which God can use and multiply until the end of the ages.

I've been thinking about editor Jack Sanford's idea of an endowment for Western Recorder. What a beautiful concept! Through it, Kentucky Baptists can help assure future generations of an informational source committed to telling them the facts—accurately, honestly and rapidly.

Jack has called for 100 persons to offer \$1000 each to launch the endowment. There may be others who could share significantly more. I believe there are probably thousands who might offer gifts of smaller dollar value, too. Their gifts would be genuinely appreciated. Combined with others, they would make a big difference. Gifts would be wisely invested by the Foundation, the corpus never touched by Western Recorder, the interest underwriting Baptist communications needs from now until eternity.

One of the most persuasive arguments for a Western Recorder endowment, it seems to me, is that the paper's requests for Baptist budget assistance would be significantly trimmed. More than 36% of the journal's operating costs for 1986-87 were funded by the Cooperative Program (the rest by subscriptions and advertising revenue). Imagine being able to send much of that 36% to missions enterprises because today's readers set aside something for tomorrow. An endowment could help offset unpredictably sharp rises in postal rates, paper and printing costs over which a news journal has no control, without additional mission money.

I am reminded of a story the late J. Winston Pearce, author, lecturer, teacher and pastor, used to tell:

A man in his eighties planted a small peach tree. His neighbor asked, "Do you expect to eat peaches from your little tree?" The elderly gentleman replied, "All my life I have enjoyed peaches, but never from a tree I planted myself. I would not have had peaches if other people had not done what I am doing now. I hope to supply peaches to somebody who lives after me."

A check in Western Recorder's name can be a permanent informational supply line to thousands, even millions of readers yet unborn. It will be a lasting link with 162 years of continuously publishing glad tidings.

Your tax deductible gift will be gratefully acknowledged by Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243. Thank you for sharing it until Jesus comes.

baptist news in brief

Antigambling stand costs layman his radio career

Remington Park parimutuel racetrack in Oklahoma City has been heralded as a boon to Oklahoma's economy and a source of new jobs, but for one Baptist deacon it has meant the loss of a 15-year career.

The voice of Keith Swezey, a member of First Baptist Church, Edmond, is no longer heard on Oklahoma's premiere radio station because of the race track. The 12-year veteran of WKY radio and news director for the past four years was given an ultimatum to add coordination of the station's racetrack coverage to his duties or resign.

WKY has the exclusive contract to be Remington Park's official radio station, broadcasting daily reports, promotion of races and through commercials, to promote parimutuel wagering on horse racing.

Swezey would have been licensed by Oklahoma Horseracing Commission and would have been classified as a disseminator of betting results from the track. He would have supervised on-track reporters. Another part of his duties would have been to produce "how-to" features on betting on races.

When informed of his new duties, Swezey told officials he could not carry it out because of personal beliefs regarding gambling. He was given the choice

of accepting the job or leaving. He left.

Faced with the loss of an income, Swezey turned the matter over to God. "My wife, Dixie, and I prayed about the situation and believed the Lord would work it out," he said.

Missionary to Maasai dies in Kenya

Carl R. Hall, a Southern Baptist missionary for nearly 18 years, died of a heart attack July 2 in Kenya. He was 51.

With his wife, Geraldine, Hall started several churches among the Maasai people of Kenya, a nomadic group of herdsmen whom he taught to farm. He also had been the director of Baptist social ministries in Nairobi, Kenya, and most recently had begun working in Kisumu on Lake Victoria.

Hall became known among missionaries for his creativity and capability to carry a job to completion. One example was his ministry in an area near the Tanzania border. There he demonstrated farming techniques to the Maasai people, who had never eaten food from farms. He worked with local officials to apportion land and get people started on their own small farms.

Hall grew up in Heber Springs, Ark. In his freshman year at Ouachita Baptist

University in Arkadelphia, Ark., he met the former Geraldine Wright of McCrory, Ark., whom he married two years later.

Before missionary appointment he worked for the Arkansas Department of Public Welfare as a caseworker and supervisor. He also was a director of Royal Ambassador camps for Southern Baptist boys in Tennessee.

Hall received the BA degree from Ouachita, the master of religious education degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and the master of science in social work degree from the University of Tennessee School of Social Work in Nashville. (BP)

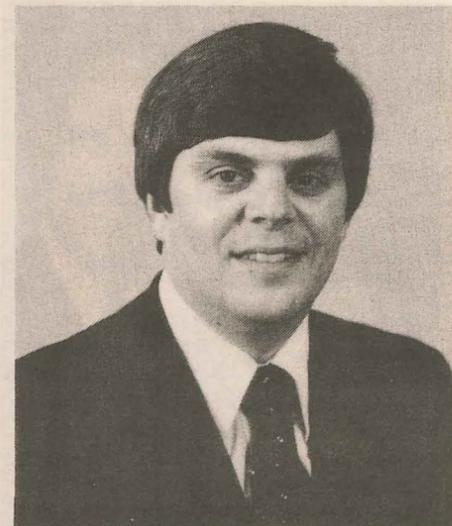
Eldred Taylor named to Boyce School post

Eldred M. Taylor has been named administrative assistant to the dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Boyce Bible School, effective Aug. 1.

Taylor who retired June 30 as executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Board of Child Care, will coordinate Boyce's 12 off-campus centers. He will assist local directors of the Boyce centers in planning curricula and scheduling. He will also be involved in faculty selection and budget preparation.

A native of Owensboro, Taylor is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond and Southern Seminary.

Boyce, founded in 1974, provides ministerial training for persons who do not have a college degree.



Fields

Education Commission elects associate director

Tim Fields, associate director and director of communications of the Christian Life Commission, has been named assistant director of the Education Commission effective July 1.

Fields was elected unanimously by Education Commission members during their annual meeting in Greenville, S. C., June 26.

In his new position, Fields will be responsible for communication functions of the commission, including news and information, production, marketing and distribution of commission products and promotional materials and other public relations and administrative responsibilities. He also will be managing editor of *The Southern Baptist Educator*.

Fields has been with the CLC since 1980 as director of communications, director of product development and most recently as associate director and editor of *LIGHT*, the CLC's moral concerns publication.

Before joining the CLC staff, Fields worked for the Brotherhood Commission nine years as editor of *Royal Ambassador* and *Baptist Men's materials* and as assistant to the program director.

Fields has a B. S. degree in journalism from Kansas State University and an MRE degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo. He also was news director of Midwestern Theological Seminary, and was reporter, photographer and editor for newspapers in Kansas and Missouri. (BP)

Nevada Baptist leader Campbell dies at 58

J. Walker Campbell, director of Bible teaching ministries for the Nevada Baptist Convention, died of a heart attack July 13. He was 58.

Campbell was an Alabama native and had been pastor of churches in Alabama, Louisiana, California and Nevada. He was pastor of West Oakey Baptist Church, Las Vegas, immediately before he joined the Nevada convention in May 1986.

As a pastor, his churches were awarded five Eagle Awards from the Baptist Sunday School Board in recognition of Sunday school growth.

He had been a member of numerous Baptist boards and committees, including the executive board of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, which he chaired for one year, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. (BP)

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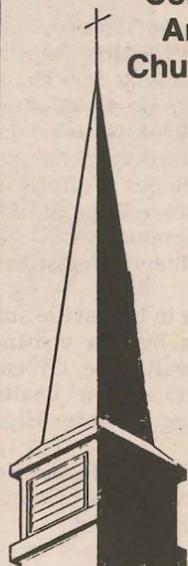
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Crosspoint brings activity, bonding to island youth

When summer hits the tiny island of Grand Isle, La., 300 or so students free from classes until fall discover a void in their new-found leisure.

Skating rinks, bowling alleys, even municipal swimming pools have not made their way to the isolated seven-mile strip of land in the Gulf of Mexico.

"Most of the kids would do nothing but hang out," said outgoing Mayor Tommy Marullo, who sees Crosspoint camp activities as a reprieve from the stale summer the children might otherwise endure.

Crosspoint camps are sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Recreation Department. The camps offer opportunity for fourth-through 12th-graders to learn basic athletic skills and understand more about the Christian life.

A traveling team of 13 college students, recent graduates or mission workers, serve as the staff for the 11 weeks of Crosspoint camps conducted in various areas of the country throughout the summer.

About 130 children attended the Crosspoint camp at Grand Isle Community Center this year, said George Feazell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Grand Isle, the only Baptist church on the island.

Feazell, who knows half the city's population of 3000 by first name, was approached last year by a Louisiana Baptist Convention representative and



Kaysie Dodd, a Crosspoint staffer from Colorado Springs, Colo., helps aspiring cheerleaders from Grand Isle, La. build a human pyramid.

asked to consider coordinating a Crosspoint camp on the island.

"I told him no one here had any money, but that didn't seem to matter to him," Feazell said.

Much of the income on the formerly oil-rich island is earned through shrimping, fishing or manual labor jobs. Although the children are not poverty-stricken, the opportunity to attend off-island camps is not available to many

of them, Feazell said.

Each morning during the camp, the younger children gathered at Grand Isle Community Center, spending the day improving their skills in a sport of their choice, playing games, singing and briefly listening to a Bible story. At night, it was the older ones' turns.

Naturally, the weeklong camp became a time of bonding for island school children, but the community also learned

the importance of working together.

"I have noticed ever so slightly a change in the local people's attitude toward each other because their kids are coming together for a common bond," Mayor Marullo said. "The community is talking about it because they see that good things are happening."

Because the children were not charged to attend the camp, the \$5500 needed to pay staffers and take care of general expenses was put up by the city through its recreation fund and by the Grand Isle Youth Program, an independent organization that raises money through various activities such as carnivals, Feazell said.

"We had the blessing of the town council last year, but this year they became more involved when they voted to give \$3000 through the recreation fund," Feazell said.

A committee from the community was formed to solicit snacks for the children and lunches for the staffers. Many of the mothers and some church members volunteered to cook noontime meals for the staffers and put them up in their homes for the week, the pastor said.

At least during the week of Crosspoint camp, the children "are meeting some older young people who are modeling dedication, commitment, love and acceptance," Feazell said.

The mayor added, "Watching these 20- to 25-year-old staffers doing something good is in itself a big promotion for the Lord's work." (BP)

Theological trivia and the traumas of our time

by Henlee Barnette

When A. J. Gossip, distinguished English preacher, was introduced years ago to a Baptist minister's retreat at Cambridge, England, he stated he was delighted to be with Baptists. "You have a clean sheet in matters of religious freedom and toleration. You have never persecuted others," he said. He paused a moment, then continued in a quieter tone: "You are always too busy persecuting one another."

How sad the energy and time of many Southern Baptists continue to be consumed amidst theological non-essentials, the pursuit of power, heresy hunting and character assassination. I believe the inerrancy-of-the-Bible issue has been blown all out of proportion in regard to its significance to the Christian faith and continues to prove destructive to the fellowship. When challenged by those who have even a smattering of theological background about the fact that no one has seen or possesses a "perfect" or "inerrant" Bible text, the proponents of inerrancy retreat behind the notion that the autographs (original documents) were perfect and that is supposed to settle the issue. This is similar to that which is claimed for the Koran of Islam and the Mormom Bible.

But only God is perfect. All else is imperfect and finite. Yet God's revelation comes to us loud and clear through the divine-human record of revelation—the Bible—and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. That is what makes the Book authoritative—not a humanly-devised doctrine developed long after the earthly life and death of

our Lord.

Unfortunately large numbers of Southern Baptists have become swept up into the maelstrom of denominational peevishness and petty power plays. And while Southern Baptists are debating and wrangling about such issues as inerrancy of the holy scriptures:

1. Famine and numerous wars are raging in the world; thousands of innocent victims are being killed; refugees are starving and millions of little children are dying of preventable diseases as well as of hunger.

2. In the U. S. corruption in government, local, state and national, goes unchallenged by the churches.

3. Poverty and homelessness prevail on an unprecedented scale in this richest country in the world.

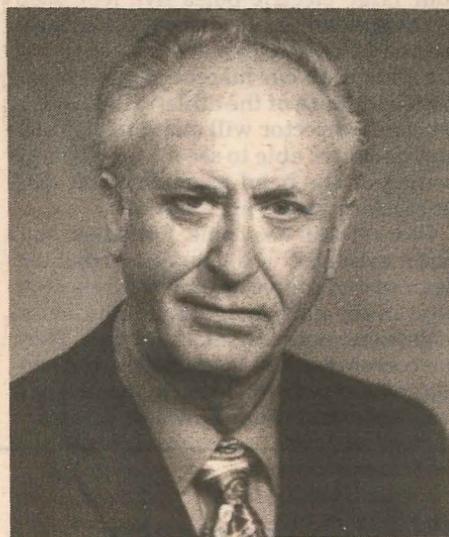
4. Racism is still rampant but is expressed in more subtle and sophisticated forms than before.

5. Millions of Americans who are out of work are suffering the resultant devastating effects which unemployment has on the individual, the family and the community.

6. The excesses of some televangelists and hucksters of "religious" panaceas have contributed to a decline in the public's confidence in traditional religious groups as well. The cause of genuine Christian evangelism has been ill-served.

7. Several governments now have the nuclear power capability to obliterate all life on this earth.

These and numerous other traumatic moral issues confront the Christian conscience and community. But we Southern Baptists continue to waste



Barnette

time, energy, paper and mutual good will debating about "inerrancy" of the holy scriptures. While Southern Baptists are rightly concerned about belief in the inspiration and authority of scripture, the "inerrancy" campaign has undergirded a calculated attempt of some among us to achieve power, prestige and ego enhancement. In none of these pursuits is Jesus Christ our model.

Those who have been placed in charge of our Southern Baptist Convention must incarnate "inerrant love" for others instead of contempt for those who disagree with them. Those who say they love should act lovingly. The leadership of the convention is surely free to believe that a whale literally swallowed Jonah or

that Balaam's ass literally spoke Hebrew. Southern Baptist tradition regarding freedom of conscience allows for such literal interpretations. And they should be respected, if honestly held, but not used as litmus tests for the orthodoxy-evaluation for the beliefs held by others who have arrived at their beliefs with equal honesty and intellectual integrity!

In addition, flagrant attempts by power brokers to determine and control local church polity (e. g., publishing lists of "inerrancy-safe" pastors) undercut our cherished practice of granting local autonomy to every local church—both large and small. The president of the convention, institutional trustees and the convention itself must insure that appointed officers do not become Grand Inquisitors to ferret out "heretics" in a Baptist community, nor set themselves up to question the integrity of fellow Baptists or engage in frivolous Baptist excommunication.

As an active Southern Baptist for more than half a century, I earnestly implore all members of this great denomination: let's be done with this theological trivia and move forward to preach and practice the weightier matters of the faith: love, justice, evangelism, missions and education in a lost and suffering world.

Editor's note: Barnette is clinical professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, University of Louisville School of Medicine, and professor emeritus of Christian ethics, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.



Barkley Moore
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oneida journal

Honest sweat

Most of the beautiful stone work of recent years around our campus has been done by the volunteer labor of my father, who will be 75 at his next birthday. Dad was still lifting 100 pound rock into place past his 70th birthday. He has not been able to do such arduous work since he fell from the house roof several years ago. But his general health is good, he is an avid gardener, an avid reader and he takes a keen interest in all our construction projects.

He and many others have been watching a young mountain man build a set of beautiful stone steps near my office. The steps are down a steep hill from the main campus area to the athletic field.

Our school boys have been carrying rock from the river and from the mountain sides for the project of the steps.

At the foot of the hill is a piece of ground about 30 feet wide between the hill and a large drainage ditch that runs the width of our athletic field to Goose Creek.

There we got the idea to develop a miniature 18-hole putt-putt golf course. Tim Erwin is making the vision a reality. He has developed the plans, staked out the course and does hours of physical labor each day on the project. It's not like he has nothing else to do. He is our school's business manager, ramroding every bill, writing every check, etc. He teaches computer science. He supervises the kitchen and dining room areas, the

menus, ordering food, etc. He also coaches. He is a devoted husband and father of two sons and a daughter.

Besides all this Erwin found time this summer to make a two-week trip to Brazil, spending six days on the Amazon River itself. With him was another of our remarkable staff members, Tom Jenkin. Jenkin is assistant principal, civics teacher and our soccer, drama and baseball coach. He frequently preaches at chapel.

But, back to the golf project. At the foot of the hill a group of our boys, sweat glistening on their suntanned bodies, are busily digging with shovels along the projected golf course, others are working with stone. A stone patio is being built at the base where the stone steps will end. From there the putt-putt course will begin following eastward along the hill base.

J. L. Burns, OBI '53 graduate and retired highway foreman, works tirelessly on our bulldozer, backhoe, tow truck and driving one of our two diesel Greyhounds on long school trips. Today he is busy lifting large 400-500 pound stones into place, three and four rounds high as the boys prepare and apply the mortar. Some of these are where a small building will be to house equipment.

When I get tired of writing all my letters and articles, and taking care of phone messages, I slip out to see how things are going.

To the far left of our developing athletic complex, south of where we grind cane and make sorghum molasses in the fall, we are also making a 500 square foot practice area with proper drainage and golf course type grass for the use of our varsity golf team. There, our students will practice their chipping, putting and driving. To practice on a regular golf course and to play matches they must travel.

Also earlier this morning our men put four large electric poles five feet deep in the ground. A platform is being built by one of our carpenters 14 feet in the air. This is on our marching band practice field south of the athletic field. Here our band director will stand to conduct and be better able to see all that is happening as the band practices their differing formations and routines.

Blessed rain has come. For weeks our farm manager and equally dedicated dean of boys have supervised relays of boys in the daily irrigation of our acres of gardens, potatoes and field corn. They have even worked some nights snatching an hour or two of sleep in the fields.

By the sweat of our brows we do eat.



H. C. Chiles
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sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR JULY 24, 1988

Life and work series

Responding to God's love

Hosea 14:1-3 Through his prophet, Hosea, God called his backslidden people to repent of their sins and come back to him. Backsliding is that condition of life where communion with God has been broken, love for him has diminished and joy has departed.

When God's children backslide, they fall into open sin, they are less willing to receive reproof for sins, they develop a censorious spirit, they lose their usefulness in God's service and they bring upon themselves remorse of conscience.

Here, as well as elsewhere in the Bible, God appeals to backsliders to come back to him. If you have backslidden, and lost the joy of the Lord from your life, heed the call of God to come back, confess your sins, tell him you are sorry you did wrong and ask him to forgive you. If you will do so, you will find he is ready to forgive you, cleanse you and restore you to fellowship with him.

Hosea 14:4-8 Hosea reminded his readers that idols which they had been worshiping could not enable them to avert the impending judgment. Only in the God of grace and mercy could they find the help which they needed. Hosea assured the people that, if they would come to God with penitent hearts and contrite spirits, God would restore them

to their former position.

Hosea 14:9 Through Hosea God promised his children if they would repent of their sins and turn from their wicked ways and comply with his precious will that he would in compassion and love forgive their iniquities and impart righteousness to them.

International series

Moses shares leadership

Exod. 18:13-16 Moses exercised great caution to see that justice and equity were administered to all without any favoritism. He was delighted to see how the people trusted him.

Exod. 18:17-18 One admires the tactful, courageous and loving manner in which Jethro dealt with his son-in-law about his impractical and unwise way of administering justice on such a large scale. He warned Moses that unless he changed his procedure his health would be impaired and the people would become dissatisfied and rebel against his administration of affairs. He was convinced that Moses should enlist the cooperation and service of additional judges to assist him in rendering fair decisions.

Exod. 18:19-26 Knowing full well that Moses was the divinely appointed religious leader of the Israelites, and that he was duly recognized and accepted as such by his people, Jethro tactfully, unhesitatingly and pointedly counseled him to discontinue his practice of being involved personally in the adjudication of the minor civil and criminal cases and to share the responsibility of handling such matters with competent assistants. He encouraged Moses to interpret God's will for his people in their various crises, to teach God's word to them and to set a worthy example for them to emulate.

Moses promptly accepted the criticism of his father-in-law which had been offered to him in the spirit of good will and revealed his willingness to improve his methods. From this incident we learn that the enlistment and the training of more Christian workers, along with a wider distribution of responsibilities, would add a tremendous impetus to the efficiency and effectiveness of our churches today. Through the division of labor in our respective churches, and the hearty spirit of cooperation on the part of the members, dedicated Christians can accomplish far more in their service for Christ than they can ever achieve through their individual efforts.



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on mission together

Through the secular

It's always a bit risky to recommend a book to a general population, much less a Baptist constituency. However, I'm going to do just that in my column this week.

The book, a popular best seller, **When All You've Ever Wanted Isn't Enough**, was loaned us by a close friend, Kitty Johnson. An attorney in Richmond, she is one of those rare individuals who has the rich combination of keen intellect and a compassionate heart. For over seven years she has visited Baptist churches in her area and writes the wills of many members—free of charge.

Anyway, back to the book by a Jewish Rabbi, Harold Kushner (who also wrote **When Bad Things Happen to Good People**.)

Although I regret it, I rarely read the longer writers anymore—James Michener, Irving Stone, etc. I've gone

the way of too many Americans: If it isn't short, I probably won't read it.

This 190-page paperback is well worth random marking as you go along. It's the kind of book you can review again what you found significant.

Maybe because of my age (56 and resisting), stage in life (new "empty-nester"), and contemplative bent (I like to be quiet more than I used to) the book really pushed my warm button.

It's not written from the point of view of a Christian. But the Jewishness of our Christian heritage and the reflections from the Old Testament give testimony of God. And that's good, especially when so many "seculars" will read this book who will neither go to church/synagogue nor watch religious broadcasting.

Some quotes from the book which spoke to me:

• If our sense of who we are depends on popularity and other people's opinion, we will always be dependent on those other people. On any day, they

have the power to pull the rug out from under us.

• I suspect that the happiest people you know are the ones who work at being kind, helpful and reliable and happiness sneaks into their lives while they are busy doing those things. Happiness is a by-product, not a primary goal.

• Love can be generated only between people who see themselves as equals, between people who can be mutually fulfilling to each other. When one commands and one obeys, there can be loyalty and gratitude but not love.

• We can endure more than we think we can. We need to learn not to be afraid of pain. Grit your teeth and let it hurt. Don't deny it. It will not last forever. One day the pain will be gone and you will still be there.

The book "spoke" to me and I heard the voice of the Lord in some of the pages. I was again reminded of the agility of our God to make himself known through the "secular" as well as the "religious."

Customer service role: one aspect of ministry

by Frank White

Answering a telephone is one aspect of the ministry Betty Anne Wright believes God has for her.

As a customer service representative at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Mrs. Wright is one of the voices on the other end of the line when customers call the board's toll free customer service number.

In her church, Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, she assists in banquet preparations, works in the single adult ministry and helps people in other ways. But being a customer service representative at the Baptist Sunday School Board is a way she can help an even wider circle of people, she said.

"We're not just selling soap like a grocery store. We are selling things that change people's lives. It is a ministry," Mrs. Wright said.

The toll free customer service number, 1-800-458-BSSB, has been available since March, allowing churches to order virtually everything the Baptist Sunday School Board sells.

Customer service transactions have increased by as much as three times what they were before the toll free service, according to David Wilkins, customer service manager. There was a 134 percent increase in April 1988 over April the previous year with 19,086 calls compared with 8511 in April 1987, Wilkins said.

Response from customers has indicated that they are happy with the toll free number but are displeased when they can't get through.

"The main problem is not being able to answer all the calls because the response has been overwhelming," Wilkins said.

The phone bank included 30 lines. When there are more than 30 calls at a time, customers get a busy signal. A system is being developed to shift some overflow calls to the Nashville mail

order center, Wilkins said.

The consolidated system along with some other changes streamlines the way orders are received and hopefully speeds delivery, Wilkins said.

Previously, in addition to churches paying for long distance calls to place an order, the orders were recorded on an order form which was later placed into the computer ordering system.

Customer services representatives now may key the order into the computer as it is received, Wilkins explained.

In order to provide the expanded service, Mrs. Wright and the other customer service representatives completed a month of intensive training about the products available, the computer system, the ordering system and telephone techniques, Wilkins said.

Ensuring that a church's order is handled correctly may require an extra effort from the customer service representatives.

When a church in Cadiz, Ky. called on a Friday needing materials for that Sunday, Mrs. Wright knew there would be no way to ship the materials on time. She offered to take them herself.

"I was going that way on a weekend retreat. I dropped it off at a grocery store right on the highway and didn't have to go out of my way at all," she said.

She can't promise such personal service for every order, but she insists that all the representatives are willing to go the extra mile to help churches and many have done other things that were beyond what is required.

"Our job is to be sure the customer gets what they need as soon as possible. We get a lot of last-minute calls. It's something they need and we try to get it to them," Mrs. Wright explained.

Helping people is a spiritual gift that Mrs. Wright believes God has given her. She believes God also has called her into single adult ministry to help others.

She became involved in a singles



Betty Anne Wright, a customer service representative at the Baptist Sunday School Board, sees her work as an important aspect of ministry.

group at Two Rivers Church in 1979 after a divorce. In 1983 she remarried but her husband died of a heart attack two months after their marriage.

Her experiences allow her to help other singles both from the perspective of divorce and death, she said.

The list of activities Mrs. Wright is involved in through her church sounds

more like a full time job—Bible study groups, discipleship ministry, coordinating work crews and others.

Both her work at church and helping other churches through the Customer Service Department get her total efforts because, "Whatever the Lords leads me into, I'm going to put 100 percent into it," she said.

SWBTS Acquires Stebbins Collection

by Scott Collins

The acquisition of the 1200-volume George Stebbins Hymnal Collection has moved Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's A. Webb Roberts Library to a new scale.

It is a scale researchers will tune into for information on one of the most important eras in American Christianity.

"This collection will be used for years to come by researchers who are probing the depths of material of the era it represents," according to William Reynolds, professor of church music.

That era is the "revivalist" period in American Christianity from 1875-1925. Stebbins was active during that time along with evangelists such as D. L. Moody, Ira Sankey and P. P. Bliss.

Reynolds said the collection is valuable because it "represents more than just hymnbooks. These are important documents from the revivalism era."

Stebbins was music director at First Baptist Church, Chicago, and later spent 25 years in music evangelism, working with Moody and other evangelists.

But Stebbins is known best for his contributions to American hymnology, composing such hymns as "Jesus Is Tenderly Calling," "Have Thine Own Way"

and "Throw Out the Lifeline."

The hymnals are Stebbins' personal collection, ranging in dates from 1750 to the time of his death in 1945. For 50 years the books were housed in the rare books collection of the National Cathedral in Washington, D. C.

But through the efforts of Reynolds and Carl Wrotenbery, director of libraries, the collection is now part of the Roberts Library.

Wrotenbery said the collection is significant for Southwestern because Stebbins' connection with Moody and the evangelistic movement in America.

In addition to the hymn books the collection includes more than 100 notebooks containing copies of songs Stebbins collected. Many of the notebook pages carry handwritten notes by Stebbins about the hymn.

Wrotenbery said the library staff is in the process of checking bibliographic data to catalog the books. However, he said some of the hymn books do not have a catalog number and must be entered into the national data base.

Wrotenbery said those hymnals published before 1820 are considered rare books. Other books are considered rare because of their uniqueness and fragile condition, he said.



William Reynolds, professor of church music at Southwestern Seminary, and Carl Wrotenbery (r), director of libraries at Southwestern, look through a scrapbook from the George Stebbins collection.

Woman's Missionary Union
Peggy Hicks, President

Dolores J. Gilliland
Executive Director-Treasurer



WMU ACT (associational council training)

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

Baptist Associations

Definition:

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

Purpose:

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

The Work of the Associational WMU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Associational WMU councils should:

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