

## FMB dismisses Willett for doctrinal ambiguity

by Bob Stanley

Affirming a staff recommendation, the Foreign Mission Board voted without dissent July 21 to terminate the service of Michael E. Willett, missionary to Venezuela.

Board president R. Keith Parks said he recommended the missionary's dismissal because of Willett's "doctrinal ambiguity."

The dismissal was effective immediately, but Willett will continue to receive his salary and benefits through the end of the year unless he secures employment earlier. The vote to dismiss Willett was taken during a business session near the end of a four-day dialog meeting at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Don Kammerdiener, board vice president for the Americas, told trustees the process that was followed in reviewing Willett's doctrinal beliefs is the same as has been used in such instances for many years. Both he and Parks said the action

is not related in any way to the increased number of conservative trustees now on the board.

Willett, of Liberty, Mo., was appointed in April 1987 at Rupp Arena in Lexington, Ky., to teach at a seminary in Venezuela. He would have completed his Spanish language study in Costa Rica Aug. 11.

William C. Link, pastor emeritus of Willett's home church, Second Baptist, Liberty, sat in on a meeting of the Americas committee where the procedure followed in Willett's dismissal was reviewed. He said he had baptized Willett, known him all of his life and "radically disagreed" with the board's decision.

Parks became aware of questions about Willett's theological beliefs when a pastor forwarded him a copy of a letter written by Mike McGinnis of Birmingham, Ala., another Southern Baptist missionary to Venezuela also studying Spanish in Costa Rica. The letter raised questions about the theological beliefs

of another "Baptist missionary" without naming him. McGinnis urged that board trustees be contacted to be on the lookout for "this kind of stuff in the future."

Apparently the letter already had received some circulation before it was forwarded to Parks, who then asked J. Bryan Brasington, director of work in Spanish South America, to go to Costa Rica to check into the allegations. Accompanied by Randall Sledge, a Southern Baptist missionary and seminary professor in Colombia, Brasington talked with both McGinnis and Willett and also with other missionaries there June 17-18.

At Brasington's request Willett submitted his resignation June 18 at the conclusion of the interviews. But the missionary withdrew his resignation July 7 after being informed he was being asked to resign for doctrinal reasons.

In the letter of resignation that he later rescinded, Willett expressed regret the board could not support him in light of an article he had written for the April 1988 issue of SBC Today, an independent publication identified with Southern Baptist moderates. The article, on the role of women in ministry, ran under the title, "Opposition to women is unforgivable sin," a title which Willett said he did not choose.

Brasington wrote back to Willett that the doctrinal issue, not the article, was the primary reason for requesting his resignation. Both Kammerdiener and Parks said Willett's doctrinal ambiguities were the only reason he had been asked to resign.

As the matter came to the board, which must approve appointment or termination of missionary service, Parks and Kammerdiener walked the trustees through the process they had followed in investigating the situation.

Parks said he told Willett at a July 11 meeting in Atlanta that he hoped Willett was still in the process of developing his theology and that when he comes to a point where he can affirm accepted Southern Baptist beliefs "we would look with favor on his reevaluation."

In making its decision, Parks added, the board was not evaluating Willett's suitability to teach in a U. S. seminary but only his ability to work effectively in an overseas mission seminary.

They reported McGinnis had been reprimanded for the inappropriate way in which he reported the situation and will be given annual reviews during his first term, instead of the normal single review at the end of the four-year term.

McGinnis, a doctoral graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tenn., was appointed in October 1987. He completed eight hours of course credits at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex. A new board policy approved at Lexington in April 1987 dropped the requirement that graduates of other accredited seminaries attend a Southern Baptist seminary for one year if they can show close identification with Southern Baptists in other ways.

Willett, a doctoral graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, had taught there during parts of 1983 and 1984 while working toward his doctorate. He was an instructor at William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., during 1985 and an adjunct professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., during 1986.

## FMB action prompts Missouri response

by Trennis Henderson

The recent call for the resignation of Missouri Southern Baptist foreign missionary Michael E. Willett has prompted a response by the Missouri Baptist Convention executive board.

The issue surfaced during the board's July 12 meeting when George Steincross, the pastor of Willett's home church, presented an appeal for fellow board members to express "prayerful support" of Willett's "sense of call and training for missions ministry in teaching."

The motion by Steincross, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Liberty, also called for expressing to the Foreign Mission Board "our grave concern about the implications of requesting Dr. Michael Willett to resign."

Steincross' motion, introduced during the board's discussion of miscellaneous business, caught several board members off guard. "Things are developing. I don't know the facts," pointed out John Hughes, pastor of First Baptist Church, Independence. "I don't want us to vote down something we should pass, and I don't want us to pass something we would wish tomorrow we hadn't."

Rick Wadley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon, noted: "My feelings are that I would tend to want to be supportive of (Willett) and affirm him, but I don't know what his doctrinal position is. . . I would like to share with him that we're praying for him during this difficult time."

Board chairman Charles Hufft, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church, Springfield, cautioned: "There are problems both ways. Either way on this thing, the gun's loaded. . . We need to think really carefully right now."

Following continued discussion, Hughes requested a brief recess to formulate a substitute motion. Hufft appointed Hughes, Steincross, Wadley and Verna Haun, a member of First Baptist Church, Bolivar, to draft the substitute.

Following the recess, Steincross introduced the three-point substitute motion. Adopted by the board without opposition, the motion expressed "prayerful support to Dr. Willett as a person in these difficult circumstances."

Specific concerns centered on the fact that Michael McGinnis, one of Willett's fellow missionaries, wrote to friends in Tennessee with complaints about Willett's beliefs.

In his comments to the Missouri Baptist executive board, Steincross noted, "The first year that other than Southern Baptist seminary-trained persons have been appointed (as Southern Baptist foreign missionaries), a graduate of Mid-America Seminary has called into question Michael Willett's theology." Steincross warned Baptists "have now been shown what can happen when unaccredited persons join the missionary ranks to 'do something about the situation.'"

## Whittaker elected Clear Creek president

Bill D. Whittaker was elected July 19 as president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. He succeeds Leon Simpson who resigned earlier this year.

Twenty of the 23 members of the Clear Creek board of trustees were present for the special called meeting held in Corbin. The vote to call Whittaker was a unanimous 20-0.

Whittaker is no stranger to Kentucky Baptists. He is a native of Bowling Green and pastored churches in Bowling Green, Sturgis and Murray. He was a member of several boards and committees of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and was KBC president, 1980-81.

Following his service in Kentucky Whittaker, his wife Rebecca and their three children, John Mark, Karen Marie and Mary Kaye, spent one term as missionaries to the Philippines under appointment with the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was pastor of International Baptist Church, Manila.

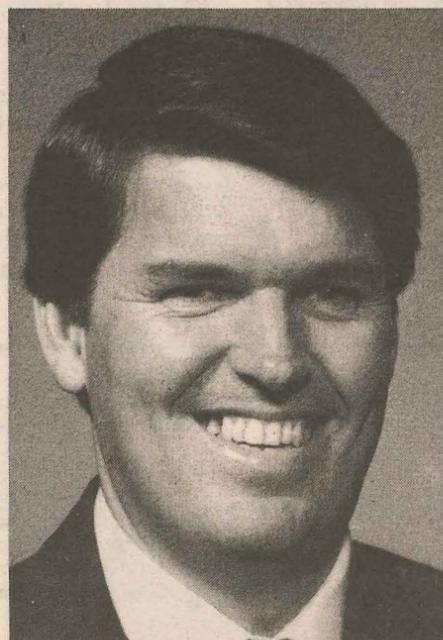
His most recent place of service has

been as pastor of Downtown Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla. The Orlando congregation is composed of members from First Baptist Church, Orlando, who preferred to remain in the downtown facilities rather than join their colleagues in a move to a suburban complex.

Whittaker is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Don Mathis, pastor of Central Church, Corbin, and chairman of the search committee, declared Whittaker "needs no introduction to the Clear Creek family nor Kentucky Baptists. For 16 years he has shown his interest in Clear Creek as director of the Christmas project. He is known and loved by virtually every alumnus, student, faculty and staff member and friend of Clear Creek."

Other members of the search committee include William Barnard, Alexandria; J. T. Rafferty, Clear Creek student body president; Earl Clark, professor at the college; Arnold Moon, Ludlow; Charles Dean, lay member of First Church, Pineville; Samuel Sowder, Mouthcard; and Elmer Gambrel, lay member of First Church, Corbin and chairman of the Clear Creek board of trustees.



Whittaker

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

July 26, 1988

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# sanford's perspectives



Jack D. Sanford

## Be alert

A film is scheduled for release this fall which has Southern Baptists and other Christians up in arms.

The film is titled *The Last Temptation of Christ*. It is scheduled for release by Universal Pictures and Ceneplex Odeon Films.

What has Christians up in arms is the content of the picture. For example, Don Wildmon's American Family Association has gone on record requesting the film be destroyed because it depicts Jesus as a "mentally unstable person who fights being the son of God, a sinner who doesn't know who will pay for his sins, a person who lashes out at the sick and poor, a traitor to the Jews, one who lusts after Mary Magdalene and a bigamist."

A spokesman for Universal Pictures read a statement which said, "In the last few days some fundamentalist leaders have attacked the film, stating clearly that their goal is to have the film destroyed. These individuals declined an invitation to see the film and consequently what they are saying is inaccurate and exaggerated. The filmmaker deeply believes this film is an affirmation of faith."

However, Robert L. Maddox, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and himself a Baptist minister, declared the movie will never be accepted by people in the

pew. He said the film has enough offensive material to make Christians concerned, but not enough "to picket or go into orbit."

So what are we to do as Kentucky Baptists? Will we wait and see or will we jump on a bandwagon of protest before the product is ever finished? Will we support the calls from Wildmon and others to petition Universal Pictures? Will we do as a Louisville area radio station has suggested, write Universal Studio and make phone calls of protest?

Western Recorder has received several calls from pastors and others who want to know if it is true that such a film is in process. The answer is yes, such a film is in process. The answer for release. We do not know the content of the film but we do know some people are upset about it and claim it is degrading to our Lord.

All we can say for sure is that if the film is as blasphemous as Wildmon says it is we will not be surprised. Nothing men do in this age is surprising for our society models Sodom and Gomorrah more and more with each passing day.

It is indeed a day for Christians to put on the whole armor of God in order to stand against the evil one. Perhaps part of that armor is a strong protest from millions of Christians to people who would make profit from slandering and ridiculing the one whom we serve as Lord.

## It is time to get ready

The Democratic party convention has concluded and the Republicans are standing in the wings ready to launch their own bid for the White House.

All this tells us election day is not far away, only 112 days from the time of this writing. Plenty of time, but is it really?

If Kentucky Baptists are to be a significant political force in deciding a major political question in our state this year we better be well on our way toward making our presence felt.

The issue of a constitutional amendment to authorize a state lottery is THE question in Kentucky this year. It is our opinion every Baptist should be against this legalized gambling menace and vote against it. However we have no assurance that is the case, so we must constantly remind

each other the time is short, the cause is just but the laborers are few and scattered.

Plans should be set already. Persons who will make calls urging voters to register, persons who will man the phones for persons who need transportation to the polls, persons who will offer child care while parents vote and persons who will see that older people have transportation to the polls should be enlisted and in training right now.

We cannot wait until election week to do something. What we are going to do must be done now, so the question is: Are you ready for the contest of the decade in Kentucky?

It would be a tragedy of great proportions if Kentucky Baptists let this one slip away by lethargy and lack of preparation.

## Congratulations all around

The announcement this week (see page one) that Bill Whittaker will be the next president of Clear Creek Baptist School is good news for Kentucky Baptists.

This man has shown, through all his ministry here and abroad, compassion, dedication, evangelistic zeal and a heart for the ministry of God's word.

At a time when Christian education is being attacked by those who should know better and by those who should be supporting all educational work, it is good to know a former president of the

Kentucky Baptist Convention will be at the helm of one of our schools.

Congratulations to Bill Whittaker. Congratulations to the trustees of Clear Creek Baptist School for such a good choice. Congratulations to the students who will benefit by the ministry of a man of integrity and Christian love.

This is good news and we rejoice in the decision which brings an excellent person back to Kentucky to serve within the family of our Kentucky Baptist Convention.

**western recorder**

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# mountains to the mississippi

## ordinations

**Charles B. Keller** was ordained to the ministry by Olivet Baptist Church, West Union Association. T. Tommy Tucker is pastor of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, La Center.

Waco Baptist Church, Tates Creek Association, ordained **Wayne Spivey** to the ministry. He is minister of music and youth for Rosedale Baptist Church in the same association. Fred A. Livingood is pastor at Waco.

## congregations

**Edgewood Baptist Church**, Christian County Association, commissioned 19 people as summer missionaries. The church will be represented in western Europe; St. Louis, Mo.; Glorieta, N. M.; Leesburg, Ky.; and Cherokee, N. C. Pastor E. D. Helton presided and speakers included William Rowlett, former representative of the Foreign Mission Board, and Don Blaylock, Kentucky Baptist Convention Student Department director.

**Rosemont Baptist Church**, Elkhorn Association, conducted summer mission work at Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church, Endicott, N. Y. Thirty-five youth and adults served in backyard Bible clubs, conducted evening services and did construction work for the church. Deaf signing, puppets and handbell ministries along with personal witnessing and a general introduction to Master Life characterized their work. Jerome Browne is pastor of Rosemont.

## CLC Day of Prayer for World Peace: August 7

Praying and working for peace is at the very heart of the biblical mandate for Christian living. The apostle Paul, who commanded us to "present your bodies as a living sacrifice," only a few verses later spelled out one of the implications of sacrificial living: "Live peaceably with all" (Romans 12:18).

Paul advised early Christians—and us—to let love be genuine, bless those who persecute, live in harmony and "live peaceably with all."

The command about peaceable living did not assume that peace with all persons is always attainable. But Christians have the responsibility to be peacemakers "so far as it depends upon you. . . ." Failure to achieve peaceable living should result, not from the actions, attitudes or words of Christians, but only from others.

Paul's command was painfully specific. We are not to repay evil with evil. We are not to take vengeance. We are to give food and drink to the enemy. We are not to overcome evil with acts of greater evil, but rather with good.

To the first-century Christians, this meant living peaceably with Jews who would reject them, with Roman officials who would become their persecutors and with Gentiles who would view with disdain the Christians' faith in a crucified and risen Lord.

These demands are perhaps no easier to attain today than they were 19 centuries ago. But the responsibility of Christian living remains. The language, "so far as it depends upon you," is clear and plain.



Fendley



Dipboye

## personnel

**Ken Fendley** will assume the newly-created position of director of publications at Georgetown College July 1. Fendley has been director of public relations at the college seven years. He is retiring from full time responsibilities as head of the public relations department.

Whitesburg Baptist Church, Three Forks Association, called **Mary Wrye** as minister of education.

**Tilmon Bargo** accepted the call as pastor of Paint Hill Baptist Church, Lynn Camp Association.

**Steve Griffith** has been called as minister of music, youth and education by Yellow Creek Baptist Church, Daviess-McLean Association. Donald Zuberer is pastor.

Beuchel Park Baptist Church, Louisville, Long Run Association, accepted the resignation of **Larry K. Dipboye**. Dipboye will become pastor of First Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, Tenn. He

has been adjunct professor at Southern Seminary and Boyce Bible School as well as an active participant on the WHAS-TV program, "The Moral Side of the News." He was editor of The Call/Dallas '85, a publication supported by moderates in the SBC.

First Baptist Church, Burkesville, Freedom Association, accepted the resignation of pastor **Mark Lilly**.

**Dan Kincer** has been called as pastor of Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, Tates Creek Association.

**Bill Baird** accepted the call as pastor of Minors Lane Baptist Church, Long Run Association.

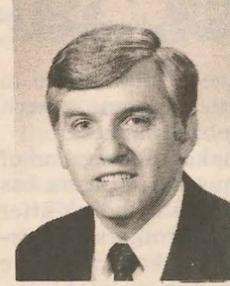
**Donald Berry** was called as pastor of Salem Baptist Church, Taylor County Association.

**Jim Browder** has been called as minister of music by First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Warren Association. Richard Bridges is pastor.

## deaths

**Elmer F. Davis**, former pastor at Clay Village, Cadiz, Springfield and Franklin, died at age 80 in Lynchburg, Va.

In the July 12 edition Western Recorder incorrectly listed the pastor of Sacramento Baptist Church. The pastor is Randy Stallings. We regret this error and apologize to Brother Stallings and the Sacramento congregation.



**Curtis C. Mooney**  
Executive Director  
10801 Shelbyville Road  
Middletown, KY 40243

## homes for children

### Real gratitude

"I don't know what would have happened to me if it had not been for this place," were the words of one of the alumni of Glen Dale who came back for homecoming. Others echoed those same words as they made comments about their lives before coming to the home. As older adults they have had enough of life's experiences to know how fortunate they were to have come to Glen Dale where someone cared enough for them to discipline and shape their lives toward a more positive future.

As I talked with some of the alumni further, I learned that many of them did not have that same feeling when they lived at the home. They resented the rules and discipline like most of us do.

I am sure that few of our young people today actually understand what the home will mean to them in the future. They may appreciate the food, the clothes and a place to sleep. However, for them the rules seem too restrictive, the child care staff too nosy and for some having to go to church and school is no fun and a waste of time.

Discipline and hard work are never easy and most of us are not fond of going through the experience. I recall vividly my senior English teacher, Mrs. Cora Hooks, now of Bowling Green. She was determined we were going to learn to write before we graduated. She required at least one written theme per week, along with all the other assignments. She graded each one of them hard and I can remember a number of papers with more red marks than written lines.

To be honest, I did not enjoy the class, but she was not overly concerned about my immediate happiness. She was very concerned I learn a skill which I have needed more than I ever would have thought possible then.

At Baptist Homes for Children we are concerned about both the short term and long term happiness of our children. However, our goal is that as adults they will be able to look back on their time with us with real gratitude for the life changing experience they may have "endured" here.

There are literally thousands of adults who have been a part of the ministry of Baptist Homes in our 119-year history. As older adults they can truly say if it had not been for Kentucky Baptists, "I do not know what would have happened to me."

## Live Peaceably With All

(Romans 12:18)



Observe Day of Prayer for World Peace  
August 7, 1988

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission  
of the Southern Baptist Convention

# baptist forum

## Church members have bad manners

I would like to have a small space in Western Recorder to tell some church members they have bad manners.

When someone makes a profession of faith or joins our church, our pastor has them stand and remain standing after the benediction so we brothers and sisters can shake their hand and welcome them into our fellowship.

It makes me sad to see so many head for the door like the building is on fire.

How can you turn your back on a new Christian or a new member? I can't understand. It is as though you are rejecting them.

Christian, if you are guilty think about this. We know you want them but do you show it?

I would put this in our church bulletin but there may be someone there who is going to respond to the invitation and I wouldn't want them to know how some of us act.

Name withheld by request

## Tribute to a former pastor-teacher

On 25 May, 1988, Robert Leland Palmer went to his long home and mourners went about the streets of Williamsburg, Kentucky. The whole town was saddened by the death of this godly man whose tenure here as pastor, professor and friend had touched so many lives.

Since 1960, Brother Palmer had lived in this community and its people witnessed his gentlemanly ways. He came from the pulpit of First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, Tenn., to assume the pasto-

rate of First Baptist Church here. In this post he emphasized worship, evangelism and denominational cooperation. His skills as a pastoral visitor impressed many members of the congregation.

At Cumberland College, beginning in 1969, he taught religion and English. He was seen as a man who thought deeply and who with unwonted ability fitted together the words of our common language.

At his funeral pastor Harold Mauney, using Mal. 2:5-7 as a text, called him a "messenger of the Lord of hosts."

First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, grieves at his departure from its midst. The congregation extends to his widow deep and abiding Christian love and sympathy. It asks the church clerk to spread this statement upon the pages of the record book and requests the editor of Western Recorder publish it to the Baptists of Kentucky.

By order of the church  
June 26, 1988

## Toll free number has many purposes

Some weeks ago we advised you of the new toll free number of the Louisville Baptist Book Store, 1-800-274-2474.

Book store manager Edwin Poindexter said this number can be used to secure all Baptist Book Store and Customer Service items.

For example, a church in Elkhorn City can now call the number and receive any item in stock within a few days. (Example: Equipping Center Modules).

A church in Corbin can use this number to order its quarterly literature

and any additional literature it needs. (Example: extra copies of Baptist Young Adults).

A church in Hartford can call this number and place a standing order for literature which will remain current for every quarter until changed.

Poindexter is having decals printed with this number. If you need any for your church or have any questions call him at the toll free number or (502) 423-1422.

Jim Clontz

Church Training Department  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

## Are Baptists back to the roots?

To those Kentucky Baptists who have been persuaded the 10-year political civil war in the SBC has taken our denomination away from liberalism and back to its fundamental roots I invite attention to the following from Wallace's "What Baptists Believe," published by the Sunday School Board in 1913: *If men had needed that the Bible, besides being God's great religious message to the world, should give a detailed and exact statement of the geologic and biologic changes up to date, the Bible would not have been lacking at that point. But it was not necessary. Whatever is found in the scriptures other than the religious message is only incidental and may be fragmentary. It is the religious message which is there in fulness and completeness; for it was to give this message that the Bible was written.*

## —classified ads—

**MISSIONS SUMMER CAMP** for children and youth at Rabro, Cedar Crest, Jonathan Creek. Affordable prices, trained staffs. Contact Rob Carr, Brenda Price, Kentucky Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union, 502-245-4101. EW

**POSITION OPEN** East End Louisville church needs to employ an individual to prepare Wednesday night fellowship suppers for 50-70 people. Call 502-895-3439 7-26-2T

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So much for the Criswell-Patterson-Pressler claim that they have led the fight to take the convention away from revisionist "skunks" and back to the old-time Baptist belief in the total inerrancy of the Bible.

E. Gaines Davis Jr.  
Frankfort

## The Bible is God's word

The Bible is God's word. The Devil says it is not God's word. Are you worshipping God or the Devil?

Don't let the Devil split the convention.

Every individual will have to answer to God for every one they turn away from him. The Holy Spirit fell on men and women. Our missionaries are women. Are they not preachers and teachers? More women in our churches do more work for people than the deacons do.

Get your heart right with God. Read your Bible and ask him what he wants you to do for him.

Ella H. Hollander  
Louisville

## Our present crisis: the lottery

"Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide. . ." So goes the poem "The Present Crisis," by James Russell Lowell.

As children we memorized this poem and recited it before the class. Centuries before the Bible records an important quotation in I Timothy 6:10, "For the love of money is the root of all evil." Note it says the love of money—not money itself.

The pros and cons of the lottery have already been debated by both sides. We are on the eve of deciding privately, with God as our sole witness, which way it shall go. It will be a decision for which we must one day stand before our creator and give an account.

My husband and I have been pilgrims of recent times and have stood in the catacombs in Rome and touched the burial places of the early Christian martyrs. We have photographed the great coliseum where many lost their lives rather than compromise the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Although we will not have to face the repercussions that befell them, the lottery vote will nevertheless carry eternal consequences.

In "I am not bound to win," Abraham Lincoln wrote: "I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have. I must stand with anybody that stands right; stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong."

I encourage all Western Recorder readers to do two things: (1) go to the polls and vote your convictions about the lottery; and, (2) be willing to live with the results both now and in eternity.

If you are not registered to vote and you wish to cast your vote on the lottery, please inform your pastor. He will help you.

Mrs. Edward L. Sweat  
Owensboro

*Letters for baptist forum: maximum length, 300 words. Longer letters will be edited for space or returned for revision. Writer's signature, address, phone number and church affiliation required. No form letters will be printed. Letters must deal with issues and not make personal attacks.*

## A Call to Baptist Basics

We're expanding to **3**  
Church Training Leadership Days!

**September 10—Cedarmore Baptist Assembly**  
**September 17—Clear Creek Baptist Bible College**  
**September 24—Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly**

Time for all three is **9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Training will be for:**  
**General Officers**  
**Adult Leaders**  
**Youth Leaders**  
**Children's Leaders**  
**Preschool Leaders**

Conference leaders will be from the Baptist Sunday School Board and Kentucky. Reservation fee of **\$5** will include lunch.

For additional information or directions contact:

**Church Training/Special Ministries Dept.**  
**Kentucky Baptist Convention (502) 245-4101**

Douglas T. Strader, Director James G. Clontz, Associate

# baptist news in brief

## Foreign Board transfers Bates to new territory

W. Richard Bates Jr. has accepted a position with the Foreign Mission Board to work with potential missionary candidates in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Tennessee, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Before taking a new position in early July, Bates was missionary candidate consultant for the western United States. He is one of six consultants within the board's Personnel Selection Department. Through telephone conversations and letters, he will discuss missionary personnel needs and requirements with potential missionary candidates. He also will visit within his assigned states, including seminary campuses, and meet with those interested in knowing more about missionary careers.

A native of Louisville, Bates was pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church, Monterey Park, Cal., before joining the FMB staff in 1987. He has lived in California most of his life and was a student summer missionary to England. He and his wife, Jane, were journeymen to Hong Kong from 1976 to 1978. They were resident directors with the FMB's journeyman training program in 1981. (BP)



Bates

## Crowder suit defense costs SBC \$280,000

Defending a series of lawsuits filed by Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Crowder of Birmingham, Ala. and others will cost the Southern Baptist Convention about \$280,000, reported SBC Executive Committee president Harold C. Bennett.

Robert Hall, judge of the U. S. Court

## Resignations continue as Youngs quit CLC staff

John and Shirley Young have resigned administrative positions at the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, the third and fourth staff members to leave the agency since June 10.

Young will become minister of media, evangelism and discipleship at First Baptist Church, Independence, Mo., effective Aug. 1.

At the CLC Young has been associate director and director of product development. Shirley Young has been administrative assistant to executive director N. Larry Baker, who resigned June 10 to become pastor of First Baptist Church, Pineville, La.

In addition to the Youngs and Baker, another elected staff member, Tim Fields, also has resigned, leaving five professional staff members at the embattled moral concerns agency. Fields, who was associate director and director of communications, accepted a position at the Southern Baptist Education Commission, effective July 1. (BP)

for the Northern District of Georgia, ruled against the Crowders May 5, 1986, saying the courts could not become involved in internal governance of churches. The Crowders appealed to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta and that court ruled against them Sept. 28, 1987.

The Crowders then appealed their case to the U. S. Supreme Court, which, on Feb. 22, 1988, declined to review the decisions, thus upholding the rulings of the lower courts.

In a statement released soon after the Supreme Court's rejection of the suit, Crowder reported an organization named Baptists Committed to Fairness had collected contributions of \$51,505.65 to pursue the lawsuit. Crowder said the lawfirm "honored their original commitment to put a cap on their legal fees of \$50,000," and reported Bondurant, Mixson and Elmore had been paid \$51,248.81.

According to Executive Committee records, as of May 30, the SBC had spent \$242,981.20 for the defense. Of that amount, King and Spaulding was paid \$176,381.28 to represent the SBC in the four courts. Guenther and Jordan received \$66,036.66, and miscellaneous expenses amounted to \$563.26.

James P. Guenther, the SBC's counsel and partner in the Nashville lawfirm, said: "It was my judgment the SBC should be represented by the highest quality legal counsel available. King

and Spaulding, led by Griffin Bell, had the experience, the Atlanta connections, the trial ability and the capacity to produce the highest quality work."

The Executive Committee authorized a loan in June 1986. As of May 31, interest had amounted to \$29,923. When the total is repaid, Bennett estimated, costs will be about \$280,000. (BP)

## Madisonville native appointed journeyman

Karen Wilson of Madisonville was one of 63 young men and women commissioned as Southern Baptist journeymen July 11 at Derbyshire Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

They will work in 37 countries for the next two years, helping Southern Baptist career missionaries by working as bookkeepers, teachers, music/youth workers, secretaries, community center workers, agriculturists, coaches, nurses and media specialists.

The journeyman candidates, all college graduates under age 27, completed five weeks of training at the Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

The group, which includes four whose parents are missionaries, was the 28th to be commissioned by the Foreign Mission Board since the program started in 1965. They came from 23 states and from Guatemala, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Peru.

## Summer staff reports 60 saved in five weeks

Reports from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Direct Missions Department for the first five weeks of the summer indicate more than 60 professions of faith directly related to the work of student summer missionaries in Kentucky.

This summer, through the cooperation of the Home Mission Board and Baptist Student Union programs of various states, 13 out-of-state student summer missionaries are serving for 10 weeks in Kentucky.

Along with an additional 17 college students appointed by Kentucky Baptist Student unions, these 13 students, from eight different states and British Columbia, Canada, are involved in a variety of service projects. Many are staffing associational camps and doing program directing while being cabin counselors. Some work in the inner city while others are involved in resort ministries. They also are doing survey work, leading vacation Bible schools and backyard Bible clubs.

Six others are involved in "Love in Action," a group that builds houses for

the underprivileged, and Mountain Outreach programs at Cumberland College.

The 36 summer missionaries, now scattered across the state, participated in a two-day orientation at a Louisville hotel May 26-27 before going to their places of service. Supervision is provided by local pastors, directors of missions and state missionaries. State supervision is under Robert C. Jones and Ed Richardson of the Direct Missions Department.

Out-of-state student missionaries, their home towns and assignments:

Beth Ann Loucks, Freeport, Tex., and Paul Holbrook, Bristol, Tenn., Jefferson Street Chapel, Louisville; Angela

Spencer, Yokon, Okla., and Mark Dittmer, Oklahoma City, Okla., Laurel Lake Camp; Laura Maynor, Mt. Juliet, Tenn., East Baptist Center; Kevin Engler, British Columbia, Canada, Camp Joy;

Thomas Mills, Tallahassee, Fla., Mammoth Cave area; Dawn Woodson, Jasper Ala., Southside Baptist Church, Covington; Kimberlie Pearson, Tishomingo, Okla., Boones Creek Camp; Michelle Williams, Starkville, Miss., and Melinda Pierce, Bessemer, Ala., Long Run Association; Julie Cook, Travis Air Force Base, Cal., Greenup Association; and Deon Chambers, Jal, N. M., Pike Association.

## State deaf conference convenes at Georgetown

More than 100 deaf persons and interpreters attended the Kentucky Baptist Conference of the Deaf at Georgetown (Ky.) College June 10-12.

Jari Saavalainen, pastor of Alpha Baptist Church of the Deaf, Oklahoma City, Okla. since 1982, gave the keynote address. Married to a deaf Missourian, Saavalainen taught Bible and physical education courses at Temple Deaf College.

The conference featured a workshop for the deaf and two interpreter workshops, fingerspelling and American Sign Language.

## Cedarmore conference focuses on homebound

James Berthelot, author of the book, *The Sunday School Providing for Homebound Adults*, will be a conference leader at the Kentucky Baptist Sunday School Assembly, Sept. 3 at Cedarmore. The conference, which will be from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., is for church leaders who now work with homebound departments as well as those who would like to start such work.

Southern Baptist Homebound ministry consists of visiting homebound adults and others on a regular basis. Instruction will be provided on maintaining fellowship with shut-ins and how to teach a brief Bible lesson during visits. Volunteer teachers will be encouraged to assume responsibility for eight to 10 visits in a bimonthly period.

Further information and registration information may be obtained from the Sunday School Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Middletown 40243-0433, or call 502/245-4101, ext. 300.

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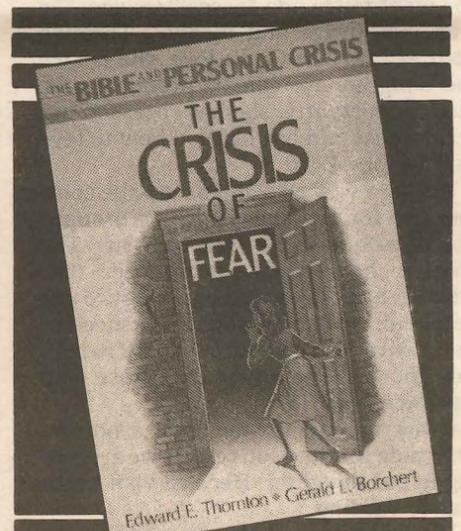
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Edward E. Thornton is Lawrence and Charlotte Hoover professor of Pastoral Care and Gerald L. Borchert is professor of New Testament Interpretation, The Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

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**Barkley Moore**  
President  
Oneida Baptist Institute  
Oneida, KY 40972

## oneida journal

### You made a pathway

Shortly after our graduation ceremony in May we received this letter from a mother: "How impressed I was with this year's graduation. Your personal interest in your students was evident by your ability to talk about each student in detail; their accomplishments, goals, career aspirations and, in some cases, their family. I have never seen a graduation ceremony where such personal interest was shown. Your time and effort was greatly appreciated by each graduating senior, their family and friends.

"I also want to express my thanks to you and your staff for all the help in bringing our daughter back to us. When she went to Oneida three years ago, she was into drugs and alcohol. Through your efforts and God's love, she is now the daughter we can be proud of and, most importantly, she has regained her self respect and has learned how to love through the Lord."

A father writes: "Oneida is to be commended for the change it has brought about in our son the past two years. The change has been remarkable. The friendly atmosphere makes it easy to understand why your students are successful in advanced education. I plan to help the school financially in the future. You have my word."

Other parents write: "Just a note of gratitude for the good results we are seeing in our daughter. Her last visit home was rewarding."

We had to expel a young man some years ago after three years of work with him. He went on to graduate from his

home school and is doing well today in his chosen career. His grandmother wrote some months ago: "I am proud for your individual contribution to his life of passing on to him courage, self-esteem, desire for an education, eagerness to work for it and also for planting Christian morals. I'm happy for his Christian knowledge and maturity. I assure you that your work and trials were not in vain. He gives you credit, with God's help, for an aim in life and a desire to work for it. I do pray for you and hope in the future to meet you."

Letters like the above are wonderful to receive. Not all that I get are so rewarding, of course.

Then it is good to hear from former students. A boy writes: "Without all of the people of Oneida, my life would have been in a very different situation. You opened a new pathway for me. I had good and unforgettable years at Oneida. I gained so much, not only in education but in social life, too. May God be with your work and give you an even greater success. I'm going to keep in touch."

A girl came to us five years ago in the eighth grade. She was a very difficult person to work with. Her attitude was terrible. She grew into one of our finest young people, a tremendous achiever academically, athletically, in music and drama, in Christian grace. She writes: "I want to thank the entire staff for all you did for me. I know if it wasn't for all of you I wouldn't be anywhere near the person I am today. I miss the school terribly. I will be sending contributions as often as I am able. I want everyone to have the tremendous opportunity I had. Once again thank you for turning me around."

A boy writes: "Thank you for letting me be a part of the Oneida family. It has been quite an experience. I also thank you for the rules. They have helped me understand things more clearly."

One of our foreign girls, having graduated from college, writes: "My journey has come to an end. I'm on my way to my homeland to help my parents. I could not leave without telling you how much you and OBI means to me and my family. You opened a way for my brother and I to come and accomplish more than I ever thought possible. OBI will always have a place in my heart. I always think of Oneida as home to me. I'm sure that many others feel the same. Please let me know of the progress you are making and I'll have you always in my prayers."

Lord, thank you for these, for blessing our efforts, for giving us and each of these the victory. Amen.



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

## sunday school lessons

### LESSONS FOR JULY 31, 1988

#### Life and work series

### God is at work

**Ezra 1:1-4** Through Jeremiah God had said that at the end of 70 years the Babylonian captivity would be over. That promise must have been a great source of encouragement to many of the exiles during their enforced absence from home. Due to the magnanimity of Cyrus, they were allowed to do many things which were to their liking, such as having their own homes and earning money. God put it into the mind of Cyrus to issue a proclamation which gave the Lord's people permission to return to their homeland and rebuild the house of the Lord in Jerusalem. Cyrus did not force any of them to go, but he did give them an opportunity to do so. Their return was an acknowledgment that they belonged to God.

When Cyrus gave the Lord's people permission to return to Jerusalem, it was the fulfillment of the prophecy of Jeremiah. Furthermore, those who chose to remain in Babylon were granted the privilege of being involved in rebuilding the temple and fulfilling the plan of God through their personal gifts.

This method of work reminds us that God calls some to be missionaries and calls others to support them with their prayers and their contributions. Those who remain in the homeland and carry on the Lord's work must be faithful in

their ministry of praying and giving so others may go and serve abroad.

**Ezra 3:2** Approximately 50,000 Jews returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon. They found the city in utter ruin wrought by Nebuchadnezzar. They decided to clear away the rubbish, rebuild the altar which stood in the center court of the temple and resume the custom of making daily sacrifices. Their worship and obedience would constitute a witness to the power and love of God.

**Ezra 3:11** Even in laying the foundation in the temple God was extolled. In praising God and giving thanks to him they magnified the continual goodness of God to his people. All who loved God delighted in the privilege of singing praises. Both old and young united in singing praises to God for his mercies.

#### International series

### God makes a covenant

**Exod. 19:16-25** God commanded Moses to remind the people that he had delivered them and brought them into a covenant relationship with him. His covenant with them was both a pledge to protect them and a challenge for them to be faithful in their obedience to him. God reminded them that he had exercised loving care over them. Therefore, they were under obligation to exercise a redemptive ministry in the world. Without hesitation the people pledged themselves to do what God commanded them.

The people needed laws to guide them in their relationship with God and with their fellowmen. On the morning God was to reveal his presence there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud overshadowed Mt. Sinai. The voice of the trumpet was so loud the people trembled. The thunder, lightning and smoke were symbols of God's power and his anger toward sin.

The circumstances were awe-inspiring when Moses summoned the people to meet with God at the base of the mountain. They never forgot God's overwhelming presence, the majestic exhibition of his power and communication of God's will for their lives.

**Exod. 20:18-21** The people were willing to hear the commandments of God, but they preferred hearing them through the voice of Moses rather than through the thunder, lightning and noise at Mt. Sinai. The commandments recorded in Exodus 20 are a condensed summary of their moral obligation to God and to men.



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

## on mission together

### The water hole was dry

For those readers who are unfamiliar with the term "filler" as used by editors, it means "printed stuff with which you can fill in when you need to fill up space in the paper."

For editorial or column writers, it may also mean written material one has selected and accumulated to fill in for those times when you can't come up with anything you think is worth printing.

For Dr. Barkley Moore, president of Oneida who may well be the world's busiest high school principal, it may mean having to dig back in the file of his previous columns to find a "rerun" to substitute for the one he just didn't

have time to write this week.

I'm now well into my sixth year of writing a weekly column which appears in *Western Recorder*. It is 5:30, I'm sitting in the office watching God splash my windows with the water of desperately needed rain. He's been doing that now, off and on, for the past several days. (I nearly said something to a fella in the line at Morrison's who was complaining about how little good such a hard rain would do!)

I should, but I don't keep "filler." If I did, on days like today I would just dig through the file and select whichever seemed the most appropriate or had the best chance of being read.

In the pastorate, a preacher may not be able to prepare a message for that Sunday. So, he may rummage through some old sermons (affectionately called "the barrel") and see if he can reshape one of those. Problem is, of course, he may not have a barrel. Or he may have used it up already. Or, even worse, he may not be able to make that old sermon

come alive anymore than the last time he preached it.

The grind is real, folks; churning out sermon after sermon, usually two each Sunday and often other teaching-preaching preparation for Wednesday. No wonder some pastors fantasize becoming Presbyterians—only one sermon a week! (Is this one of the reasons why Presbyterian clergy are considered excellent preachers?)

The reason I'm writing this kind of column is because this is one of those weeks when I just couldn't come up with a column I felt good about. In the process, I remembered what so many preachers feel when it gets to be Saturday night and no sermon has "congealed." It's an awfully lonely feeling!

Everyone, they say, has a dry season; some have them for weeks; others for months. Occasionally, someone will vow their preacher's been in the desert for a year!

On those occasions, like this one, have mercy. And pray for rain!

# BSSB NEWS

## Storytelling plants seed for receiving the gospel

by Charles Willis

Maxine Bersch believes storytelling is a good way "to plant seeds for Jesus."

Bersch, a professional storyteller from Richmond, Va., and media library director at Richmond's Derbyshire Baptist Church, said she believes storytelling can prepare children to accept Christ "from the earliest days when they are forming big impressions. I consider that the golden opportunity to plant seeds that later will be brought to fruition by the gospel.

"Through storytelling, the message can be brought so the child is drawn to it," she said during the Church Media Library Conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

For more than 40 years Bersch has been in demand by schools, hospitals, nursing homes, senior citizens' groups, libraries, nursery schools, kindergartens and community organizations. Her storytelling repertoire—to which she adds regularly—has stories for all age groups. When she took an early retirement six years ago from the Richmond Public Library, storytelling became a full time activity. Today she is in almost constant demand in Virginia and throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

Bersch's philosophy is that storytell-



Maxine Bersch tells Bible stories to children in the media center at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center. A professional storyteller, Bersch said she believes her talent can help plant seeds of the gospel in the lives of young listeners.

ing is "the greatest way to communicate with another human being. While the story is being told, the audience responds and the storyteller responds, so it is not a performance like drama."

Depending on the group, she uses

myths, legends, hero tales, folk and fairy tales and stories from religion.

"People have brought these stories down to us, preserving them just as they did the history of the human race. The love of the narrative, the oldest form of

storytelling, is innate in people," she said.

"Once you have a story in your possession it never leaves you," she declared. "It's a great teaching tool. Jesus taught by using the parable."

Stories not only communicate, she said, but also they entertain. "They can bring a lot of joy into the lives of people."

Bersch, a member of the National League of Storytellers, said she believes everyone has the innate ability to tell stories.

"You tell stories every day when you tell someone about something that happened to you," she said. "A storyteller is like a person with an ear for music who goes on to study and brings it to its highest point."

Bersch receives letters of appreciation regularly from children who have heard her spin a story. Some say, "One day I'm going to be just like you."

"I'm not concerned about perfection in my sessions, but rather impressions I might be making this week," she said. "This is a model. You don't know what the end might be.

"I believe the Lord called me to this work. I believe all I have done up to now has prepared me for this very special task, that it will bear wonderful fruit for him in this world and the next."

## Church built on heritage relies on Baptist materials

by Frank W. White

Weldon Gage may not be thinking much these days about his future role as a Sunday school or church training teacher, missions group leader, deacon, minister or missionary.

As a ninth grader involved in a variety of activities at First Baptist Church in Clyde, Tex., Gage has just started considering future responsibilities. Leaders of the ministries Gage is involved in are committed to laying foundations and providing training for him and others who one day will become the church leaders.



Three-year-old Russell Evatt talks with his father, Kirk Evatt, between Sunday school and worship at First Baptist Church, Clyde, Tex. Providing foundations for spiritual development of children and discipleship development for youth and adults are some of the primary objectives of church program organizations at the 105-year-old church in west Texas.

Many of those leaders such as John Connel, chairman of deacons; Carl Brown, youth Sunday school department director; Mark Hogan, Covenant Marriage seminar leader and others were once where Gage is now.

The church has grown much of its current leadership and many of the future leaders will come from ranks of youth and children now in the church, said Lowell Skaggs, pastor.

Traditions of training and commitment began 105 years ago when the church was established on the Texas plains east of Abilene.

When Sunday school materials first became available from a uniquely Southern Baptist source, the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, the young Baptist church in Clyde was among the first to order. Records show an order from 1892, the first year the board published literature after its founding in 1891, from First Baptist Church in Clyde for 19 copies of *Kind Words*, a periodical for children in Sunday school.

Now 97 years later, materials such as *Growing*, *Bible Learners* and *Youth in Discovery*, all of which are targeted for specific needs of age groups, are part of the church's efforts to build foundations for Christian growth and discipleship at all age levels.

The church has always found that board literature and programs provide the basis of various activities for adults, youth, children and preschoolers, according to Skaggs.

Sunday school, Church Training and church music materials for all ages, Bible drill for children and youth, a media center with BTN training tapes, Equipping Center modules, doctrine studies, January Bible Study and Vacation Bible School are part of an almost endless list of materials and programs which form the framework of the church experience at First Church, Clyde.

Church program organizations—missions, Sunday school, Church Training and music—are important because they work together and support each other, Skaggs explained.

"I'm a little stronger on Church Training—equipping the saints. Once we become Christians we need to become trained," he said.

Short-term courses have kept church members interested in training. An Equipping Center module on cults recently drew the interest of adults in Church Training. Study of a module for deacons is an annual requirement for new deacons. New church members are

*Present leaders should be committed to laying foundations and providing training for children who one day will become the church leaders. . . .*

provided Survival Kits for New Christians.

Covenant Marriage proved useful and will be followed with other Lay Institute for Equipping courses—Parenting by Grace, PrayerLife and DecisionTime. Skaggs has been trained to lead MasterLife, a discipleship course for adults.

The fruits of the church's programs are obvious in its leadership but also through a list of pastors, missionaries and missions volunteers who have gone from the church, Skaggs pointed out.

A commitment to missions includes financial support—12 percent to the

Cooperative Program, three percent to associational missions, \$17,000 to state mission, \$10,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions and \$5000 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

But the missions commitment runs deeper. An everpresent reminder of what the church has given is etched in the memory of church members.

At the entry to the worship center is a plaque engraved with the names of five church members who lost their lives in a plane crash traveling to a mission project in the Caribbean. In the church office area is a photograph of a 15-year-old boy, one of those killed in the crash, with a plaque listing recipients of the annual college scholarships given in his memory.

Deacon chairman John Connel was the third generation of his family to be elected a deacon of the church just a few years before the plane crash which killed both his parents. In a town of fewer than 3000 people everyone lost friends if not relatives.

Rather than cause them to turn from missions, the experience led to a deeper commitment, observed Arthur E. Travis, a Sunday school teacher who is a retired pastor and university professor. The church mourned but continued its serious-minded approach to missions, evangelism and education.

The church will continue to grow and develop "because the Lord will provide for us as long as people will work to get things done," said J. O. Connel, grandfather of deacon chairman John Connel and, at age 86, somewhat of a patriarch of the church.

"We will keep going because we will keep trying," the senior Connel said.

Connel's grandson and other leaders have been equipped to lead the church now as Weldon Gage and a crop of future leaders are being prepared for future leadership roles.

## CONVENTION

## KBC NEWS

### Lyndon media library staff receives SBC achievement recognition

The media library staff at Lyndon Baptist Church, Louisville, was honored during the Church Media Library Leadership Conference at Ridgecrest last month. Lyndon placed sixth among churches across the Southern Baptist Convention in 1986-87 for its 22 church study course awards in the church media library subject area; Long Run Baptist Association placed fifth in its category with 81 awards.

Another honor the suburban Louisville church received was being among 80 Southern Baptist church media library staffs which earned a 1986-87 Achievement Guide Distinguished Recognition for merit advancement in helping library staffs understand the basic foundations of church organizations and seeing how the media library relates to the total church program. Five other Kentucky Baptist churches also received distinguished recognition: First Church, Fulton; First Church, London; Highview, Louisville; Valley Station, Louisville and Walnut Street, Louisville.

Lyndon's library was recently dedicated as **The Eloise Goldsby Media Library** in honor of their pastor's wife. Dr. Hugh Goldsby will soon retire after 36 years as Lyndon's pastor.

"The Goldsby's have made a large contribution to our media library," notes Margie Bowling, director of Lyndon's media library. "They have been very supportive in their enthusiasm as well as in their donation of more than 150 books." Mrs. Bowling added that other church staff personnel have lended their support, too.

Lyndon's library was first organized by Mabel Felts 41 years ago. In 1961, Mrs. Bowling was asked by her church's nominating committee to consider directing the library. Having no previous experience, she agreed and took on the task as a one-member staff.

"The committee knew I could type and that I had some free time, so I accepted knowing full well I knew nothing about what my responsibilities would be," she explained. Realizing she needed help, Mrs. Bowling began classes at Jefferson Community College and eventually received an associate degree in library science.

Although she was offered several secular library jobs, the Louisville native turned them down in order to put her education in practice as volunteer director of Lyndon's media library. Mrs. Bowling also found help from TACMO (The Associational Church Media Library Organization) meetings, church study course books and state and national media library conferences.

As Lyndon's library volumes expanded, so did the need to move into a larger facility within the church.

"Until 1976, our library was in a 2 x 4 room and our books used to be kept in cartons due to the lack of space," Mrs. Bowling stated. "We began to feel a greater use to the church so it was agreed we should move to a larger area on the third floor of our education building." Although the location is not ideal because it is not always visible to heavy flows of traffic, the media library staff often publicizes its ministry through creative displays and bulletin boards near building entrance doors and the sanctuary. Their vision, Mrs. Bowling reveals, is to relocate in a newer facility near the mainstream of traffic.

Besides local church media library experience, Mrs. Bowling and her husband, Paul, have had special foreign mission and home mission volunteer short term assignments. They have served in Zimbabwe, Washington State and in Montana. Most of Mrs. Bowling's assignments have involved media library work.

Another Lyndon media library staff volunteer who was honored at Ridgecrest last month was Mrs. Bowling's assistant, Cary Ann Geron. Miss Geron recently graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with a master of arts degree in Christian education.

Miss Geron felt God's calling to media ministry as a senior in high school. "I began working in my home church's library in high school and by the time I was a senior, I felt God wanted me to pursue a library science vocation," the Texas native explained. Following her college graduation, Miss Geron worked as a county librarian and then she, too, felt the need to combine her interests in libraries and missions together. She served as a missionary journeyman in the International Baptist Theological Seminary Library in Ruschlikon-Zurich, Switzerland for two years.

Since that experience, Miss Geron has served in libraries at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, the Missionary Learning Center at the the Foreign Mission Board, Glorieta Baptist Conference Center Media Center and at Southern Baptist Seminary.

Miss Geron is transient now as she is "waiting upon the Lord for the next phase of my life." She is considering working in missions as a librarian but is leaving her options open.

Mrs. Bowling, Miss Geron and five others who comprise the Eloise Goldsby Media Library staff at Lyndon serve as fine examples of dedicated volunteers in media ministry. Their success can be contributed to their commitment and a supportive church staff and congregation.



Margie Bowling (r), director of Lyndon's media library, consults with Cary Ann Geron, her assistant, concerning circulation cards. The Lyndon media library staff was honored at the annual Church Media Library Leadership Conference at Ridgecrest for their achievements.