

Deacons-Pastors-Spouses' focus caring, sharing

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

Program personalities have been named for the fall statewide Deacon-Pastor-Spouse Retreat Sept. 16-17 at Cedar-more Baptist Assembly, near Bagdad.

The event is one of three annually sponsored by the Family Ministry and Church Administration Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middle-town.

According to John Lepper, director, there has been such a growing demand for these retreats that a fourth one will be added to the agenda in the fall of 1989. It will be held at Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly, near Aurora. Others are scheduled in the winter at Cedar-more and at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, near Gilbertsville.

The theme of the Cedarmore retreat next month will be "Caring and Sharing." Its purpose is to help participants grow in awareness of the biblical role of deacons as "servant leaders" who minister to the "total needs" of the congregation, according to Lepper.

Deacons, pastors and their spouses will have opportunity to grow in "shared ministry and caring skills," he declared.

The agenda begins Friday evening with supper at 5:45 p.m. followed by a general session at 7:00. Lunch at 12:30 p.m. Saturday concludes the program.

Keynote speaker for the weekend will

be J. Howard Cobble, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

Rex Sholar, minister of music and senior adults at Latonia Baptist Church, Covington, will be music leader.

Participants may choose from six

topics during three small group conference periods over the weekend:

—"Covenant Marriage," led by Dan and Niva Francis, pastor and wife, Central Baptist Church, Winchester;

—"Deacons Caring for Their Pastor," Guy Futral, consultant, KBC Minister-Church Relations Department, Middle-

town;

—"The Single Staff Church and Shared Ministry," Gary Hardin, design editor, *Church Administration*, Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville;

—"Personal Witnessing," Hal Poe, assistant professor of evangelism, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville;

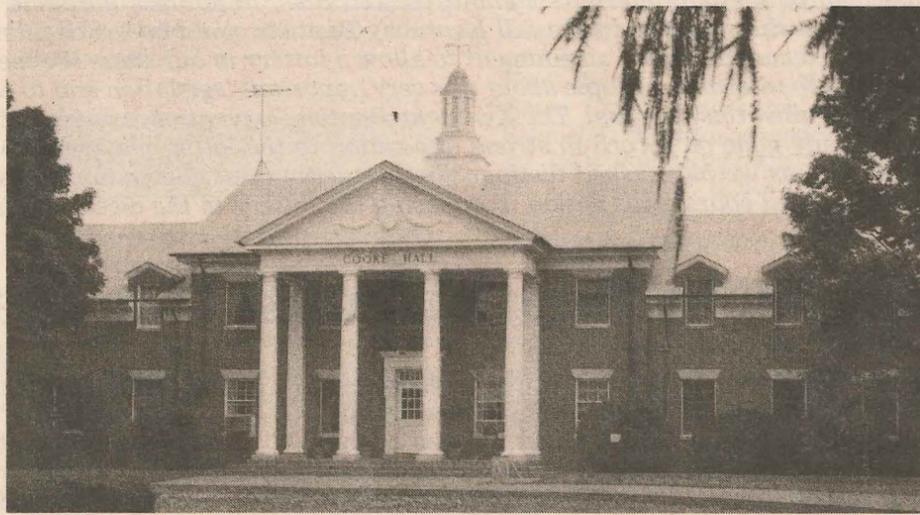
—"Where Caring Begins," Mary Ann Poe, assistant professor of student services, Southern Seminary; and

—"Beginning and Revitalizing a Deacon Family Ministry Plan," Bob Sheffield, deacon ministry consultant, Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Reservations may be made directly with Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Rte. 1, Bagdad, KY 40003. A \$15 per person deposit must accompany reservations.

Boone Lodge housing is available at \$30 per person for two per room, \$29 for three and \$27 for four. Motel space is available at \$26 for two, \$25 for three and \$23 for four. All rates are per person and include three meals.

A \$1 charge per person will be assessed commuters, plus the cost of meals. Commuters are asked to advise Cedarmore in advance of their coming, and which meals they will take in the assembly dining room.



The V. V. Cooke Foundation of Louisville has awarded a grant of \$40,000 to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children for several renovation projects on Cooke Hall at Spring Meadows Children's Home. Prior to his death in 1973 Louisville businessman V. V. Cooke Sr. was actively involved in the development of the Spring Meadows campus in the early 1950s. He was elected first president of the Baptist Board of Child Care when the Glen Dale Baptist Home and Spring Meadows Home combined as Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

western recorder

Kentucky Baptist Convention
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At Corbin, Sunday school between washers and dryers

by Beth Wyatt
State Correspondent

Corbin Manor apartments has a Sunday school all its own and it is unique. It meets each Sunday at 11 a.m. in the laundry room between the washers and dryers.

It all began last spring when Bill Jagers and D. M. Aldridge, Church Starter Strategists for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, rode around Whitley County with Corbin's Central Baptist pastor, Don Mathis. They were looking for a suitable spot to begin a mission.

Following the Whitley County tour, Mathis discussed their findings with Jim

McGee, minister of education at Central.

Some five miles from downtown Corbin and Central Baptist they located Corbin Manor Apartments. The complex is low rent housing for low income families and consists of about 150 units.

McGee, who has been at Central Baptist six years, was formerly with Campus Crusade. He has had the opportunity of sharing Christ in downtown Washington, D. C. and Watts in Los Angeles and Lexington, Ky. He feels the Corbin area is the most open to the gospel he has found. McGee is a strong believer in church recreation and has used this tool as a means of starting a mission.

He went out to the community, scouting for a location. Finding none, he met with the manager of the Corbin Manor Apartments and found him quite open to the mission Sunday school idea. Regulations prevented the church from renting an apartment but the manager mentioned the laundry room was available. A Sunday school was begun there. Classes meet weekly in the bays between the washers and dryers and in the tool room. Adults are currently meeting on the church van.

According to McGee, "That first Friday we sponsored a Fun Day. We visited each resident with flyers announcing a day of games, food and prizes. A surprisingly good number turned out that day. We gave those present a letter from the church and a form that they could fill out, stating their wishes of a day, time, etc., to meet for Bible study."

The Sunday school average attendance has been 25. Eighteen of the youngsters attended Central's vacation Bible school.

Each weekend men and women from the Central Sunday school go out to the apartments and conduct Sunday school. They use Big A materials and keep re-

CORDS. They visit absentees and prospects as in a standard Sunday school. Some of the teachers rotate on a monthly basis while others are regular weekly workers. Each of them attends the early service on Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. and Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. before driving to Corbin Manor.

"We begin with Kool-Aid and cookies. We have a class for each age level, beginning with the two- and three-year olds," he concluded.

In addition, church recreation is available in the form of a ride to Central's Family Life Center one day each week. Each Thursday, Harold Harper of the Central staff is available at the apartment building for recreational activities.

One resident tells how her two sons

have been saved. She is now attending Sunday school and the family desires to attend Sunday night services at Central.

Rowdiness and vandalism is down at the building also.

Mathis says the Corbin Manor Apartments Sunday school is a pilot. "We have another in the wings in a different area." His goal is at least four satellite Sunday schools.

McGee has a dream of one day having a building in the area near Corbin Manor where recreational activities could be conducted during the week with Sunday school and worship on Sunday. But, in the near future, he hopes to see a tent on a vacant lot nearby and participation in an old-fashioned tent revival with pastor Mathis doing the preaching.

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August 16, 1988

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Central Baptist (Corbin) Sunday school teachers prepare for their weekly class in the laundry room of the Corbin Manor Apartment complex.

sanford's perspectives



Jack D. Sanford

Below is a guest editorial by Ted Sisk, chairman of the public affairs committee. Western Recorder has asked the executive secretary, William W. Marshall; the president of the KBC, Howard Cobble; and the chairman of the public affairs committee, Ted Sisk, to address the issue of a lottery in guest editorials throughout the summer. In the fall Kentucky Baptists could be the deciding force in defeat or passage of a proposed constitutional amendment to allow a lottery in our state. We feel it is the obligation of Western Recorder to inform our people about this very important legislation and to encourage all Kentucky Baptists to vote against this proposal. The Kentucky Baptist Convention, as well as the executive board of the KBC, has already gone on record in strong opposition to the lottery as a way to finance state government. For these reasons we have asked distinguished leaders in our convention to use this space to call us to sober reflection and courageous action in opposing the lottery in the election this fall.

Kentucky Baptists must vote against a lottery

My old buddy Bob Cole was a world class professional gambler until he was transformed by the Lord Christ. He said many times, "I was in the business of separating a sucker from his money." He also said, "When I played cards with a fellow, he had two chances: slim and none. It was no gamble for me; it was a sure thing: he would lose."

When will people ever learn? There is a prophetic word in Zechariah (1:4): "Be not as your fathers . . ." I take that to mean most people have to climb fool's hill for themselves, they just can't learn from others' mistakes.

People who purchase lottery tickets never seem to realize they have two chances at winning: slim and none. In fact, they have a better chance of being hit by lightning than hitting the jackpot in the lottery.

There are four kinds of persons who will vote for the lottery: those who will profit from it, those who will buy tickets hoping to strike it rich, those who think it will boost public education or prevent more taxes, and those who think the mature stance is to give people a choice.

Those who will profit from a lottery are those who will operate it and those whom they will pay off. Such a situation always lends itself to graft; and if it is a really successful venture, it becomes a target for organized crime. I can't see any honest, thinking person supporting such a scenario. People who profit off the weakness of others are moral leeches, whether the weakness be alcoholism, drug addiction or gambling addiction.

Those who purchase lottery tickets thinking they will strike it rich are duped. They have a better chance of being hit by lightning. Besides, it is a mark of moral weakness to want something for nothing. If you want to get ahead, do it "the

old fashioned way"—work for it.

Compared with the more traditional methods of revenue production, how efficient are state-run lotteries? Consider the record of New Hampshire. In Fiscal Year 1982, New Hampshire grossed \$12,387,513 from its lottery. Of that amount, \$8,777,279 was spent on operating expenses (including commissions and prizes). That left the state \$3,610,234 in net revenue received from the lottery. These figures mean the New Hampshire lottery board had to spend \$243.12 for every \$100 it returned to the state coffers. Just one example? Oh no; there are nine other examples if you care to wade through the statistics.

Those who vote for a lottery just to give everyone a free choice need to remember what that kind of thinking has done to our society through abortion on request and drunk driving. People too often make the wrong choice.

Listen to Rep. Joe Clarke, D-Danville: "A lot of people think a lottery will put an end to the need for higher taxes. Obviously, that's just not true."

Listen to former FBI director/current CIA director William Webster: "I do not see how one can expect to run legalized gambling anywhere without serious problems—fraudulent tickets and counterfeit lottery process. Anytime organized crime sees an opportunity to put a fix on something it'll be there."

And hear Jonathan L. Goldstein, former U. S. Attorney for the State of New Jersey: "The state lotteries begin to blur people's ethical and moral values. They make gambling respectable and thus create new clientele for organized crime to prey upon. You become addicted."

Let's tell our people the facts; let's register them to vote; and let us defeat the lottery in Kentucky.

For the information of all Kentucky Baptists, contributions or inquiries to Citizens Against State Lottery may be addressed to: Jim Holladay, East Baptist Church, 400 E. Chestnut St., Louisville, KY 40202, or the CASL office, 810 E. Broadway, Louisville, KY 40204. The phone number is (502) 587-6735. CASL has the support of the leadership of our convention and churches are urged to help this organization with prayer and offerings as the struggle comes down to the finish line. Revenue regulations allow as much as a \$4000 contribution from a single church before tax exempt status is threatened.

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mountains to the mississippi

congregations

Northside Baptist Church, Princeton, Caldwell-Lyon Association, celebrated its homecoming July 24. Founded in 1949 the church began as a mission of First Baptist Church, Princeton. A plaque was given in honor of the late H. G. M. Hatler, former pastor of First Baptist, designating the building as the Hatler Memorial Building. David Royalty is pastor of Northside.

First Baptist Church, Smithland, Ohio River Association, celebrates its centennial Sept. 11. The celebration begins with Sunday school at 10 a.m., morning worship at 11 a.m., noon meal and concludes with afternoon worship at 1:30 p.m. All former members and guests are invited. Ray Gilliland is pastor.

July 10 was homecoming for 110-year-old **Corinth Baptist Church**, Crittenden Association. Former pastors Jesse Hilton and Ray Berger participated. Afternoon services featured a singing group, "The Gospel Crusaders," and Corinth's youth choir, "Friends." Ten public decisions were recorded. M. Keith Tingle is pastor.

Construction of an educational building began July 18 for **Ellers Memorial Baptist Church**, Mercer Association. Expected cost of the building is \$100,000. The congregation has raised \$40,000 to date. The church is acting as its own contractor and will hire workers to save money.

Sunday school attendance has tripled in six years. Ellers Memorial began as a mission of Harrodsburg Baptist Church, also of Mercer Association. The new building will provide kitchen, restrooms and classrooms. Bill Vaught is pastor.

Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, Liberty Association, is celebrating its 190th anniversary. Randy Smith is pastor.

Winsome Sunday school class of **Hurstbourne Baptist Church**, Long Run Association, earned more than \$100 for West Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church,

Middlesboro, Bell Association. Members of the class took inventory for a dress shop in Oxmoor shopping center. Class activities leader Mary Lou Crutcher and pastor of West Cumberland David Bullock will decide how to use the gift.

revivals

First Baptist Church, Whitesburg, Three Forks Association, invites all members, former members and friends to its homecoming/revival Aug. 28. Former pastor Bill Mackey will be preaching the Sunday services and revival. The revival concludes Sept. 1. Pastor of First Baptist is Thomas S. Stokes.

New Hope Baptist Church, Cadiz, Little River Association, held revival and Bible school in Powhatan, Oh. Nineteen church members participated in the linkup with Taylor Street Baptist Church. Pastor of New Hope Jimmie Gibbs reports 11 professions of faith and an average attendance of 68 in Bible school.

personnel

Jim Browder has been called as minister of music of First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Warren Association. Browder is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth. He goes from First Baptist Church, College Station, Tex. The Bowling Green pastor is Richard W. Bridges.

Todd Smith has accepted the call of Erlanger Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Baptist Association, as minister of youth and activities. Smith and his wife Janice are graduates of Union University, Jackson, Tenn. He received the MDiv degree from Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth.

J. Brent Walker is the new pastor of Richland Baptist Church, Falmouth, Union Association. He is a student at

Southern Seminary, Louisville, and will be ordained by Bayshore Baptist Church, Tampa, Fla.

David Whitlock, former pastor of Richland Baptist, has accepted a call to First Baptist Church, Livingston, Ala.

First Baptist Church, Morganfield, Green Valley Association, has called **Samuel T. Newman** as associate minister. He is from Henderson, Ky. and will be a student at Southern Seminary, Louisville. Pastor of First Baptist is Stephen E. Thompson.

Julian J. Padgett has accepted a call as minister of music from Calvary Baptist Church, Somerset, Pulaski Association. He leaves Double Springs Baptist Church, Waynesburg, Lincoln Association. Doyle Searcy is pastor at Calvary.

Brett Travis is the new pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Burgin, Mercer Association. A graduate of Southern Seminary, Louisville, he and his wife Pam have two daughters.

Don Reed is the new pastor of Bruner's Chapel Baptist Church, Harrodsburg, Mercer Association. Reed, a Kentucky native, is a graduate of Asbury College, Wilmore, and Southern Seminary, Louisville. He and his wife Debbie have two daughters.

J. W. Farmer resigned from the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Carrollton, Whites Run Association. Farmer has been in the ministry 40 years and intends to live at his retirement home (1259 Bordeaux Dr., Lexington, KY 40504). He is available for pulpit supply, interim pastorates, Bible conferences and revivals. He served 10 years on the Kentucky Baptist Convention executive board and has been active in associational work. He was director of missions for Whites Run Association, 1959-63.

Officers for the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention for 1987-88 have been reelected to serve an additional term in 1988-89. Serving again this year are Waldo P. Harris III, retired director of missions for the Georgia Baptist Association, Washington, Ga., vice chairman; **Ronald F. Deering**, librarian for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., chairman; Marlene Hunt Rikard, professor of history at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., recording secretary; and Lynn E. May Jr., executive director for the commission, Nashville, Tenn., treasurer.

deaths

Thomas Arnold died July 19 of a massive heart attack in Madisonville. A member of First Baptist Church, Madisonville, Little Bethel Association, Arnold served on the state executive board 1972-75 and 1979-81. He also served on the Christian education committee 1960-61 and 1962-65 and was involved in the Christian Education Advance program.

Harry Meadors, retired director of missions for McCreary County Association, died at age 71. Meadors was pastor of Baptist churches in Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio and Pennsylvania. At the time of his death Meadors was pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, McCreary County.



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

Hymns of our faith

Recently the Baptist Sunday School Board conducted a survey among Southern Baptist ministers of music seeking to discover our denomination's most frequently sung hymns. This was in connection with work on a new hymnal for release in 1991. A total of 348 churches responded. Here are the top 10 vote-getters, in descending order:

"Amazing Grace," "To God Be the Glory," "Victory in Jesus," "Just As I Am," "Blessed Assurance," "Standing on the Promises," "Living for Jesus," "There Is Power in the Blood," "At the Cross," "At Calvary."

When I read that I couldn't help but dig out a list I made 31 years ago of my own 10 favorite hymns. All appeared in the 1956 edition of *Baptist Hymnal*, released a year earlier.

Looking over that list I realized there are two songs there I don't remember well—"Mighty God, While Angels Bless Thee" and "Hark, Hark, My Soul!" My number one choice in 1957 was "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" (Diadem tune). Only one ("To God Be the Glory") of my 10 favorites is frequently selected by Southern Baptist music ministers for us to sing today. It ranks fifth on my list, second on that of the professionals answering the survey.

Now I've carried it all a step further. I went through the 1975 edition of *Baptist Hymnal* thinking it would be interesting to see if my tastes in hymnody had changed. They have. Considerably. Maybe yours would, too. In descending order, my top selections for 1988:

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness," "Love Is the Theme," "Surely Goodness and Mercy," "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" (Diadem), "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" (Geibel), "Send a Great Revival," "In Loving-Kindness Jesus Came," "When the Morning Comes," "Victory in Jesus," "At Calvary."

The only song to appear on both 1957 and 1988 lists is "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" (Diadem). It doesn't look like I'll be singing many of my other favorites very often in Southern Baptist churches, either. Of my current top 10, ministers of music schedule only two regularly—"Victory in Jesus" and "At Calvary." Two of my choices, "Surely Goodness and Mercy" and "Victory in Jesus," couldn't have been so in 1957 anyway; they weren't included in the 1956 hymnal.

Church Music Emphasis Week is on the denominational calendar Aug. 21-28. Although music is not my forte, I participate in congregational singing and support the music ministry as best I can. I'm grateful to be part of a singing church, one that takes seriously the admonition: *Sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth* (Ps. 96:1).



Members of Ellers Memorial Baptist Church break ground for a new educational building. Bill Vaught, pastor, is surrounded by members of the building committee.

baptist news in brief

Controversial film released; SBC leaders get screening

Universal Studios rushed the theater release of its controversial film, "The Last Temptation of Christ," to Aug. 12, and indicated it would honor a request by Southern Baptist leaders for a private screening of the Martin Scorsese movie.

A spokesman in the office of Sally Van Slyke, director of publicity for Universal, said the screening "is not to determine whether we will release the film. That has already been announced. The screening is set up to give them a firsthand opportunity to see the film."

Larry Braidfoot, general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life

Commission, was to be invited to attend the New York screening.

Braidfoot said a preview "would assist us in forming opinions objectively on a basis of firsthand viewing rather than on inferences from an original script or secondhand reporting." He added the preview would "assist us by enabling us to accurately inform our constituency about the nature of the movie."

Braidfoot said a July 12 screening in New York City did not include any Southern Baptist leader "who works with our general leadership or with moral issues." He added: "A great deal of concern is being expressed by our constituency. Those of us who work with issues such as this are in the delicate position of not being able to give accurate information about the movie. We do not want to be in the position of criticizing something which we have not reviewed."

He told Baptist Press he has "no doubt that much of the handling of the movie has been done by Universal to create a controversy which would heighten publicity. That would increase Universal's profits. Also, the posturing of the studio has resulted in most of the criticism coming from persons who have not seen the movie."

Much of the criticism of the movie has stemmed from such groups as Donald Wildmon's American Family Association, which has called for telephone calls

and petitions protesting the movie. Wildmon boycotted the July 12 screening, which was attended by "about 50 religious leaders."

Braidfoot charged the studio "invited a number of 'fundamentalists' who, they are quick to say, boycotted the preview. I am convinced that this boycott was anticipated, thereby enabling Universal to posture those calling for a boycott at theaters as persons who had not seen

the movie. Thus critics would be cast in the least-favorable light."

The film, based on a novel by Nikos Kazantzakis, presents Jesus, as portrayed by Willem Dafoe, in a way offensive to most Christians, according to Christians who saw the July 12 screening. "I found it extremely offensive," said Evelyn Dukovic, a Catholic who is executive vice president of Morality in Media. (BP)

Labor Day conferences set for single adults

Two national single adult conferences will be held Labor Day weekend Sept. 2-5 at Glorieta (N. M.) and Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist conference centers.

At Ridgecrest, Jim Towns, author and professor at Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Tex., will be keynote speaker. At Glorieta, Harold Ivan Smith, researcher, writer, lecturer and founder of a Kansas City, Mo., firm which researches Christian singleness, will be main speaker.

Register for the Labor Day conference at either Ridgecrest conference center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, NC 28770, (704) 669-8022; or Glorieta, Box 8, Glorieta, NM 87535, (505) 757-6161.

Kidney foundation official claims aluminum pull-tab drive is hoax

Reports that the National Kidney Foundation of Kentucky is accepting recyclable pull-tabs from aluminum cans for time on a dialysis machine for kidney transplant patients are "absolutely false."

"There is no such program being sponsored in Kentucky that will help someone acquire a dialysis machine or benefit a kidney patient in any way," said Michael Stegeman, executive director of the National Kidney Foundation of Kentucky. "Those reports are just a rumor."

However, because of the interest in such a program indicated by the strong response to the rumor, the Kidney Foundation in cooperation with Reynolds Recycling will initiate a similar national program, "Keep the Tabs on

Your Cans," soon.

"By turning in an aluminum product to a local recycling center, people will be able to make a charitable donation to the Kidney Foundation. The recycling center will send the amount earned from collecting aluminum cans in a check to the foundation," Stegeman said.

Proceeds will not go to treatment of designated patients, however. Monies generated by the national fund-raising campaign will cover general drug expenses, purchase of additional dialysis machines, transportation of patients to and from facilities, public education and research.

No collection sites have been announced yet, but press releases are anticipated in the next few months.

Opening day at the Kentucky State Fair is Kentucky Baptist Day!



Visit the Kentucky Baptist Convention booth in the East Exhibition Hall next to the WHAS broadcast booth.

Thursday, August 18
9:00 AM 'til 10:00 PM
The Kentucky Baptist Convention and WHAS Radio bring you Kentucky Baptist Day at the Kentucky State Fair

DOMs challenged to 'think globally, act locally'

Directors of missions for more than 200 Baptist associations of churches were challenged to become part of a global missions strategy team during a meeting at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Bill O'Brien, executive vice president of the Foreign Mission Board, issued the challenge during a conference sponsored by the Home Mission Board's Associational Missions Division.

O'Brien urged the associational missions directors to become part of a global missions strategy team that crosses denominational lines.

"If the Baptist association is to function effectively, it must see itself in a global context," O'Brien said. "The only effective associations will be those led by leaders who are able to think globally and act locally."

Currently, 252 nations or geo-political states exist in the world, and 67 of

Annuity Board bank acquired by NCNB

The second-largest bank bailout in United States history will mean no more than a name change on Southern Baptist annuitants' monthly retirement checks from the convention's Annuity Board.

NCNB Corp. of Charlotte, N. C., has taken over major operations of Dallas-based First RepublicBank, the board's depository bank.

Annuity Board president Darold H. Morgan emphasized that First RepublicBank, now NCNB Texas National Bank, was used to "pay the bills." The Annuity Board was neither an "investor in First RepublicBank stock nor a creditor," he said.

"The name change on the check is about all the effect this historic event in banking will have on us," said Morgan. "None of our assets were registered in the name of the bank, and the money we deposit is in a trust relationship." (BP)

these are restricted or limited-access countries where traditional western missionaries have almost no opportunity to live and serve.

Research by FMB consultant David Barrett has revealed 788 plans by Christian groups to evangelize the world, including 250 such plans that are now operative and 70 plans O'Brien described as mega plans. About 95 percent of these plans were developed without the realization that the other plans existed. About 30 percent of the plans were developed by Christians in Third World underdeveloped countries,

Partnership missions becomes part of VBS

Vacation Bible schoolers at First Baptist Church, Denver City, Tex., learned about Australia as a mission field July 25-29 while seven church members were part of a partnership missions group serving in Perth, Western Australia.

Since the VBS was conducted the same week of the Partnership Missions effort, the team from Denver City would electronically transmit information about the day's events back to the church for use during the mission study time.

Randy Butler, minister of music at the Denver City church and leader of the team, said the trans-continental effort was possible because of the 13-hour time difference between Western Australia and Texas. When the time is 5 p.m. in Perth, it is 4 a.m. in Denver City.

About five each afternoon, Butler would write a letter telling about what the team had been involved in the night before and during the day. He also would include specific prayer requests and an Australian word or phrase for the students to discuss.

Since many of the oil-related companies in Denver City have facsimile or FAX machines, Butler could FAX the letter back home. Butler said he and the

O'Brien said.

"God is up to something big" in the Third World, O'Brien said, noting Christians in Third World nations have sent out 20,000 missionaries across tribal, cultural and geo-political lines. By the end of the century, O'Brien said, Third World countries probably will send out more missionaries than the 38,000 currently supported by Christians in the United States.

By the year 2000, 100 million Christians will live in South America, and about 250 million Christians will live in Africa. The churches in Africa are grow-

ing one and one-half times faster than the population, he said.

Southern Baptist leaders must learn to think globally in developing missions strategy for the future, O'Brien said. "We've got to be so sensitive to what God is up to in the world that we will not be left defending outmoded denominational structures after God is through with them," he explained. (BP)

BSSB begins Baptist group travel service

The Sunday School Board hopes to make group travel easier and more economical for Southern Baptists through a new service, Kindred Travel.

Offered through the Church Recreation Department, Kindred Travel: A Group Travel Service for Southern Baptists, is expected to make international and domestic group travel planning easier and cheaper for churches, state conventions, associations, universities and seminaries.

Examples include assisting a church in planning a tour of overseas mission points, planning a ski trip, taking a group of families to Disney World or senior adults to New England in the fall.

For more information about Kindred Travel, call (615) 251-3850, or write Church Recreation Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, TN 37234.

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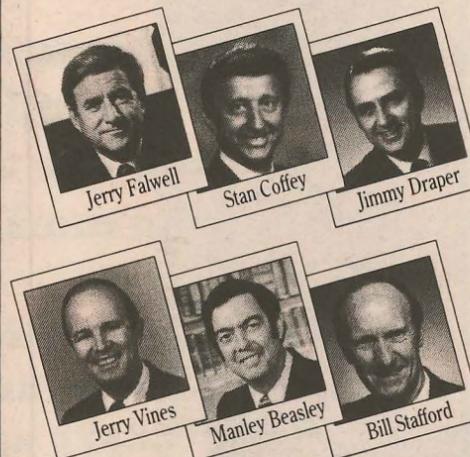
FOR SALE: Church pews: 22, 14' X 6"; 3, 13'; 4, 10'; 3, 9'. Traditional style. Buck Grove Baptist Church, Ekron, KY 502-828-2717.

FOR SALE: Church pews: 28, 15'; 8, 13' X 9". Contemporary style. Newburgh Church, Louisville, KY 502-964-4638 church; 502-964-4467 home.

FOR SALE: Church pews: 30, 15' with center divider. Gothic style. Silver Street Church, New Albany, IN 812-944-1772. after 5:00 est.

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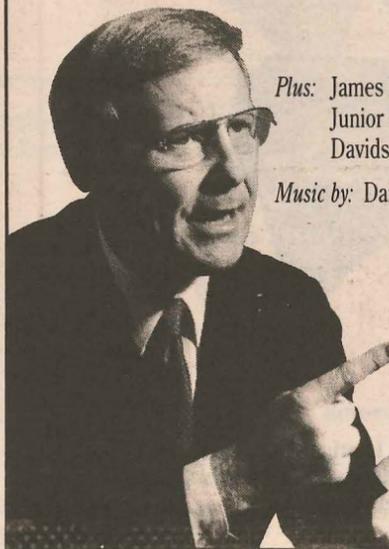
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Bob Alston: Walnut Street's 'preacher on wheels'

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

When the long, shiny, white chauffeur-driven Cadillac rolls to a stop at your hospital door, you'll know you really have been visited.

Not to worry.

It isn't a hearse that ferries Robert H. Alston to as many as a dozen Louisville area hospitals in a typical day.

This car, driven by a semiretired Cadillac dealer who's a member of Walnut Street Baptist Church, has six doors and every amenity, including television in the back seat.

But "Brother Bob" doesn't sit in the back seat! He rides "shotgun" beside the driver.

They are an interesting duo, this pair that glide up to the front doors of Louisville's leading medical facilities each weekday. The driver deposits his passenger, then calmly awaits his return.

Meanwhile, Alston, who began visiting for Walnut Street "to help out" for a three-month period in 1974, looks in on his list of patients. Fourteen years after finishing his "three-month assignment" he's still at the bedsides of many, and his list is growing. He spends as much time as each individual requires, then "moves on quickly" to the next name on his list. His travels carry him all over Jefferson County, into southern Indiana and frequently into Kentucky counties surrounding Jefferson.

"I absolutely love it and would find it difficult to give it up," says the 77-year-old former pastor.

Kenneth Chafin, recently called to the pulpit at Walnut Street, told Alston he didn't want him to "think about quitting before he (Chafin) retires!" Alston

Almost apologetically Bob Alston smiles over the long limousine that carries him to Louisville medical centers every day. But his 'patients' don't mind—his grin and good cheer are welcome everywhere.

laughs.

Chafin is the third Walnut Street pastor under whom Alston has served as minister of visitation.

In connection with his official duties as church visitor, Alston reports to the congregation during the weekly Wednesday night supper and prayer hour on those in the hospitals.

"He can tell you everything about everybody who's sick," said one Walnut Street member. "He knows it all."

On Sunday mornings, Alston is an integral part of the televised worship service of the Walnut Street congregation. Weekly, he reads the morning scripture, then raises his right hand and leads the congregation in prayer. He prays for those "in the hospitals and nursing homes" and frequently quotes one verse of a familiar hymn before concluding his prayer.

"That man's prayers touch the very depths of my soul!" said one Louisville shut-in who watches him every week.

Another Louisville homemaker, in good health, remarked that "if I ever am hospitalized, Bob Alston is the man I want praying for me!"

Prayer is a major part of Alston's personal life as well as the public's percep-

tion of him. It's difficult to separate the two. Yet, through it all he maintains a dignity and humility befitting that of his calling.

"I give the Lord the credit if he is able to accomplish anything through me," affirms Alston.

An ordained minister, Alston served four pastorates, plus two lengthy stints as a chaplain in the U. S. Army. His churches included Brooksville and Augusta, Ky., but he has looked upon Walnut Street as his "home church" for most of his life.

Born in Covington Dec. 12, 1910, he moved to Louisville at age two. He had a most difficult first year at Male High School for failure to "get serious" about his studies.

But a BYPU convention in northern Kentucky changed all that. (BYPU was the Baptist Young People's Union, forerunner of Church Training.) The convention was held in April, near the close of Alston's first year in high school.

When a missionary speaker from China impressed upon the young people in that audience that "China is waiting for you," Alston was sure the Lord himself had spoken those words personally to him. He responded publicly, returning to Louisville "a new man," one with resolve and a goal in life for the very first time. He intended to go to China as a missionary himself.

By the following year he had climbed from a high school failure to the honor roll.

He was on his way.

Along the way he met and fell in love with Evelyn Melton, whose family was active at Walnut Street. He received a diploma from Male High School in December 1929 and a bachelor's degree from Georgetown College in 1934. But he felt it was not wise to marry until his missionary education was behind him.

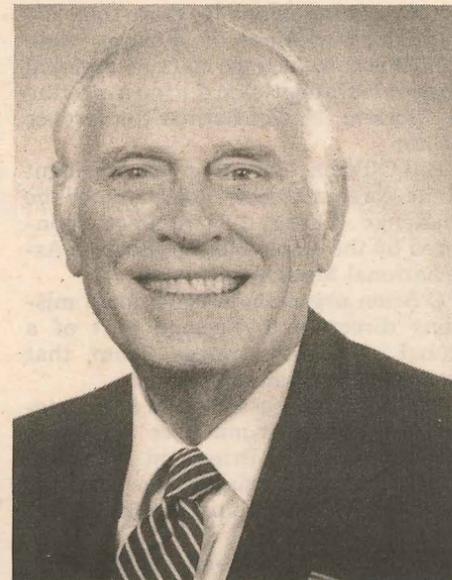
Having earned the ThM degree from Southern in 1937, he married Evelyn. The Walnut Street family honored them on the occasion of their golden anniversary June 6, 1987.

To that family were born three daughters—Helen Alston, now with Jefferson County Public Schools; Carolyn McTighe, a licensed registered nurse; and Jean Batts, a musician and artist. All three live in greater Louisville.

Back to Bob.

When the Foreign Mission Board began pulling missionaries out of China during that nation's revolution in the 30s, Alston's worst fears were realized. No new missionaries would replace those coming home. The dream he had harbored of spending the rest of his life there as a Southern Baptist missionary—impressed on him years before during his earliest days of high school—was over.

"It was a very dark day for us," he remembers.



Since then, Alston has maintained an interest in the Chinese people, and does so today. Fortunately, he was able to channel his preparation for ministry into new directions.

One of these was in the love and care of a congregation, which surely prepared him for his responsibilities today.

Walnut Street has more than 6300 members on its roll. It would be a difficult task for a pastor to visit all of its members who are hospitalized and carry on other ministerial functions, too.

Bob Alston relieves that pressure, and says he probably visits as many non-members of Walnut Street as he does members. Members often refer him to their neighbors or fellow workers who are hospitalized and who may have no church home. He acquires names in many ways.

He sees terminal cases every week, as well as those whose illnesses are not as serious. Because he is so closely identified with those confined in the hospitals he is frequently called upon to conduct or participate in the funerals of hospital patients who die. In the first seven months of 1988 he conducted 34 funerals, averaging more than one per week.

Alston says he feels especially good when those he visits "get well and go home." He also acknowledges his thrill "when people seem to want me."

He usually listens to a patient on a visit, then leads in prayer for that one, before moving to another bedside.

If a patient could be further contaminated by germs "which we carry on our bodies and clothes," says Alston, "I keep my distance." He says he is not afraid of the patients but tries "to think of them and not do anything that could weaken them or in any way make their condition worse."

He had driven himself to the hospitals until earlier this year when Walnut Street member Morris Brown urged him to let him be his chauffeur.

"I feel funny riding up in the limousine," Alston laughs. "But it sure expedites things. I mean, he lets me out at the front door and picks me up there and I don't have to find a parking place way off somewhere nor run for cover in inclement weather."

So . . . if you're near a Louisville hospital some day and a big white Cadillac comes rolling by, it may be Walnut Street's preacher on wheels fulfilling his call to ministry.

What a way to go.



Robert H. Alston, minister of visitation at Louisville's Walnut Street Baptist Church, pauses at the bedsides of patients in as many as a dozen hospitals on any given day.

UNTIL JESUS COMES

*He which hath begun a good work in you
will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 1:6

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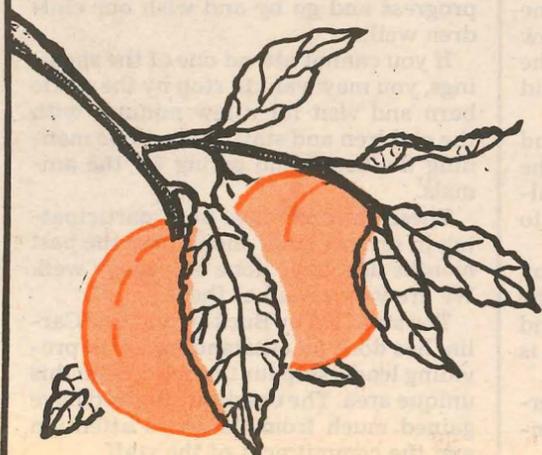
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Peace chairman owes lifetime debt to SBC

by Frank White

Charles Fuller does not believe the Southern Baptist Convention owes him anything for his three years of work as chairman of its Peace Committee.

Instead, the pastor of First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va., considers himself indebted to Southern Baptist people and institutions for a lifetime of opportunities of service and ministry.

Fuller preached during the first of three Sunday school leadership conferences at Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist Conference Center and talked in an interview about being introduced to the plan of salvation while attending the boys' camp at Ridgecrest.

As a nine-year-old boy attending Camp Ridgecrest while his recently widowed mother participated in conferences at adjoining Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, the president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary spent two hours explaining to the young Fuller how he could become a Christian.

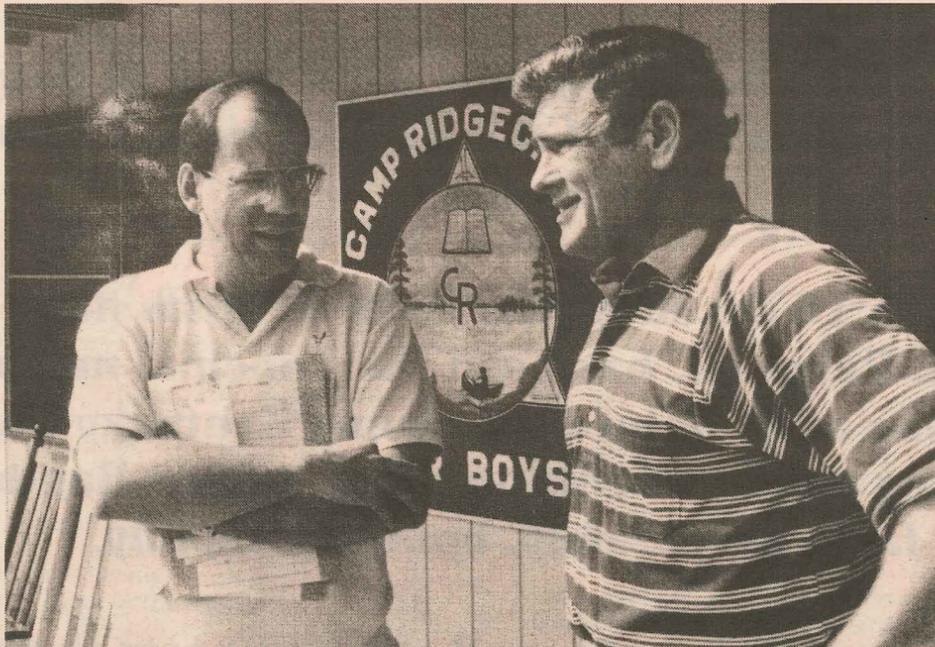
Fuller later attended a Virginia Baptist military preparatory school, Fork Union Military Academy, where, in his senior year, he "transacted a commitment in my life. There was a genuine, wholesale commitment to Christ."

At age 17 Fuller, then a summer staffer at Ridgecrest, preached his first sermon during a staff assembly. He returned to Ridgecrest the next two summers to work as a lifeguard.

"Ridgecrest had an impact on what I was to do with my life," Fuller recalled.

"He broke through," said Fuller. "I got my Bible and spent an afternoon praying. I surrendered to God and abandoned my interest in being a doctor."

A Virginia Baptist college, the University of Richmond, was next to influ-



Charles Fuller (r), pastor of First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va., and a former camper at Camp Ridgecrest for Boys, talks with Ron Springs, director of the camp.

ence Fuller's life. During his senior year, Grove Avenue Baptist Church, Richmond, where Fuller was a member, asked him to be a supply preacher.

For eight months Fuller preached a Sunday morning and evening worship service, a radio broadcast and a separate television program. Preparing four sermons weekly was "absolutely providential and has made more of a difference in my life than anything else," Fuller said.

Fuller and three friends decided to "go west" to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., primarily because of the emphasis on evangelism and missions.

Fuller had one pastorate after seminary before becoming pastor of the 2000-member Roanoke congregation. "They were willing to take a risk in calling a 30-year-old pastor," he said.

Today the church includes 4600 members and has been through two building programs with another in progress. It is a "cosmopolitan church that emphasizes evangelism," Fuller said.

While pastor at Roanoke Fuller has been president of the state Baptist convention, chairman of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and has preached at the SBC Pastors' Conference and the 1976 and 1985 SBC meeting.

"I'm astounded at the grace of God who took a boy after his dad died, growing up with a scattered family with a good solid Southern Baptist background and moved me through various exposures and experiences," Fuller said.

During his sermons at the Sunday school leadership conference, Fuller said Southern Baptists need to rediscover the importance of biblical preaching, the priority of evangelism, role of the Christian layperson, concept of church as family and personhood of the Holy Spirit.

Fuller said in an interview he believes God wants Southern Baptists "to be submissive to him."

He claimed, "If ever a denomination had the manpower and a legacy for evangelism, it is Southern Baptists. If we do not avail ourselves to the Lord, we can waste the potential we have."

In order to return to a unified emphasis on those priorities, Southern Baptists need to major on healing, he said.

"I'm one who felt there were some courses that needed to be altered. Now we need to put as much emphasis on the healing as we did on the altering," said Fuller.

People in leadership positions and people who speak for segments of the Southern Baptist family need to swallow their pride and seek some means to heal the convention, he added.

"What an impact this denomination can have by saying, 'We believe in the healing power of the Holy Spirit, and the most important thing to us is evangelizing the world,'" he said.

The Sunday school leadership conference was sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board.



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

homes for children

A pat on the back

There is nothing like being told you are doing a good job or to keep up the good work. All of us try a little harder when we are praised and the children and staff at Glen Dale and Spring Meadows are no exception.

Though it is a lot of work to spruce everything up and get ready for visitors, all of us look forward to the two days during the summer when Kentucky Baptists come to visit us. This summer we have had almost 500 friends and supporters visit us on these two special days. It is tremendously encouraging to have so many people willing to take the time in very hot weather to make a long drive to see us.

For me, a new person on staff, it really meant a lot to know how important the children's work is to Kentucky Baptists. For the staff who work long hours caring for a house full of children, your words of encouragement were very important also. And for the children, your words of praise and encouragement showed them that the love and concern they find at both Glen Dale and Spring Meadows is magnified across the state by caring Baptists.

Thank you Kentucky Baptists for making the effort to come and visit us. You really made our day.

For those of you coming to the State Fair which begins this week, there is another opportunity to encourage some of our young people. We have several of our 4-H members from Glen Dale showing their animals at the state fair in Louisville. The youth will be showing Angus cattle, goats, dogs and rabbits. If you are at the fair, check the schedule of events to see if these shows are in progress and go by and wish our children well.

If you cannot attend one of the showings, you may want to stop by the cattle barn and visit for a few minutes with the children and staff who will be manning the booth and caring for the animals.

These children have been participating in several other shows over the past months and have done extremely well. We are very proud of them.

The staff, led by Buckley and Sue Carlin, has done an outstanding job in providing leadership for the children in this unique area. The children involved have gained much from the extra attention and the commitment of the staff.

For starters, a first VBS in eastern Kentucky town

Believing that the kids of a little eastern Kentucky mountain community deserved to have a vacation Bible school like the "big church kids," Bill and Sally Tober took God's word "Go into all the world" literally. The Clay City couple decided to reach out this summer to the children of Morland Branch Baptist Church, Nada.

You won't find Morland Branch Baptist Church listed in the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual. Morland Branch has no pastor, no identifiable congregation, no electricity, no running water and no parking spaces as other churches have. The church is located on the side of a mountain and is reached by a long flight of steps leading up the side of a hill.

Yet, the Tobers discovered there are people in Nada that are warm, friendly and open to the teaching of the gospel. With that in mind, they called on their experiences as home missionaries to plan a vacation Bible school July 28-29.

Literature for the VBS was provided by Central Baptist Church, Winchester. Refreshments were donated by Bill and "Sam" Davis, owners of White Castle Restaurant, Clay City. Rev. and Mrs. Edmond Burgher Jr. and Judy Tober were volunteer teachers.

"These people believed God was able and would do things in Nada," said Tober.

Because of limited space and no musical instruments, Tober used a tape recorder to teach the children to sing scripture passages. Crafts also encouraged Bible memory by transferring Bible verses to rocks found in the creek bed near the church. The Bible stories were simple and carried the theme of the purpose of Jesus on earth.

Refreshments and recreation periods were expanded to introduce a "Mountain Olympics" where children received gold, silver and bronze medals.

High interest caused the couple to venture back into the eastern Kentucky hollow three Friday afternoons in August to conduct a Bible club at the small church. The only regret, Tober says, is that he had to set aside an invitation to hold "regular preaching" services at Morland Branch.

"My work schedule, as a data processor and inventory control clerk, prevents this for the time being," Tober said. But he is quick to reply, "The same God who sent him into Nada this summer may have other plans for me that he hasn't worked out yet."

viewpoint

Catastrophic Health Law to expand Medicare's benefits

Editor's note: We asked Henry Huff, prominent Baptist attorney, to set out some of the implications of the new Catastrophic Health Law. Huff has taken material from Volume IV, No. 13 of the Over-55 Financial Management Letter published by Prentice-Hall. The booklet which details this material is available from Steven O. Bryant, Prentice-Hall, 200 Old Tappan Road, Old Tappan, NJ 07675 at \$1.25 per single copy. We thank Huff and Prentice-Hall for this timely information.

by Henry Huff, Louisville

The new Catastrophic Health Law, the most sweeping expansion of benefits in Medicare's 23-year history, takes effect Jan. 1, 1989.

The new law provides needed financial protection against increasing health care costs. It shields individuals' income and savings from the financial shock of prolonged illness.

Everyone needs to clearly understand the cost associated with these new benefits will be paid by those under Medicare. Medicare insurance premiums will increase in two ways.

There will be an increase in the flat monthly premium virtually all Medicare recipients have deducted from their monthly Social Security check.

Individuals who are enrolled in Medicare's Voluntary Part B coverage will pay \$24.80 per month in 1989. This is in addition to any regular annual increase in Part B premium due to a rise in overall cost of Medicare coverage.

In addition to this, the act's new benefits will be paid for by surcharge added and collected with federal income tax of age 65 or older taxpayers.

For tax year 1989 the supplemental premium surtax is \$22.50 for \$150 of tax liability. The maximum premium is \$800 per Medicare individual. A joint return surtax can be \$1600 maximum.

For example, if taxable income is under \$20,000 a married couple filing jointly would owe a supplemental premium of \$450 in taxes. If income is \$30,000, the supplemental premium would be \$675 and \$40,000 would demand \$1102.50 in supplemental premium.

Beginning in 1989 payment of the annual Medicare Part A deductible entitles an individual to as much as 365 days or 100 percent coverage while in hospital. The spell of the illness rule is repealed.

An individual is no longer required to make any payments if they are in hospital more than 60 days.

The Medicare Part A pays 100 percent

of the following hospital related costs: (1) semi-private room and board; (2) operating and recovery room; (3) intensive care unit; (4) lab tests, x-rays and radiation therapy; (5) drugs furnished by the hospital; (6) medical supplies; (7) appliances such as wheelchairs; (8) rehabilitation services; (9) cost of special care units; (10) physical and occupational therapy; and (11) a stay in a psychiatric hospital subject to a lifetime maximum of 190 days.

Generally Medicare Part A does not pay for services rendered by doctors other than interns and residents on the hospital staff.

Most individuals have a policy from a private insurer to cover some of the above provisions. The new law requires private insurers to eliminate from their policies benefits that duplicate those provided by the Catastrophic Coverage Act. There presumably will be a cost saving in the form of lower premiums.

Medicare Part B provides coverage for doctor bills. This a voluntary provision. Anyone who is eligible for Medicare Part A can choose to have Part B. The new law, beginning in 1990, puts a cap of \$1370 on your out-of-pocket expense for Medicare approved doctor services. The cap will be raised each year. Medicare will pay 100 percent of all reasonable expenses above the ceiling.

It is important to realize Medicare will pay physician bills they consider reasonable by their own standards. Nothing above that will be owed the doctor.

The services covered under this new Part B will include medical and surgical treatments, diagnostic tests and procedures, services of a doctor's nurses, drugs that cannot be self-administered, medically necessary ambulance services, blood transfusions, medical supplies and equipment, physical, speech and occupational therapy.

A new provision has been added on drug coverage. Beginning in 1991 Medicare will pay 50 percent of the cost of all covered outpatient prescription drugs following payment of an annual deductible of \$600. Coverage will increase to 60 percent in 1992 and 80 percent thereafter, with the deductible rising to \$652.

There is another advantage in this. Pharmacists who participate will accept assignment of Medicare claims. The payment they receive from Medicare is payment in full. The individual will owe nothing in addition.

Participating pharmacists will file a claim electronically. No paper work is involved on the patient's part.

In addition, there are other benefit provisions of Part B. Beginning in 1990

Medicare will pay up to \$50 toward the cost of a mammogram. Also Part B will pay up to 80 hours a year in home care for a chronically dependent individual.

The new law also provides for coverage of the cost of intravenous drug therapy services provided in the home.

Under the new law nursing care in home health aid services may be provided seven days a week with one or more visits per day for up to 38 consecutive days.

Individuals may desire to adjust any wage withholding in 1989 or estimated tax payments to reflect the additional costs mentioned above.

Increases in Part B premium can cancel any future cost of living increase in Social Security benefit, but they cannot exceed it. The new law provides that Social Security benefits in any future year must at least equal what they were in the preceding year.

There are changes in Medicaid. The new law attempts to take some of the sting out of qualifying for Medicaid. Under the new rules a husband and wife can keep the greater of (1) \$12,000, or (2) one-half their savings investments up to a maximum of \$60,000. Before applying for Medicaid individuals now are allowed to retain (1) their home, (2) personal effects, and (3) a minimum amount of other assets. What this does is basically increase the minimum amount of

other assets a couple can keep.

Under the new law an individual could be disqualified from Medicaid for up to 30 months if they gave away property, for example to their children, immediately before they enter a nursing home. This rule is designed to discourage individuals from making themselves poor in order to qualify for Medicaid.

The new Catastrophic Health Law will be of tremendous value to many retirees in providing coverage for much greater hospital costs, drug costs and medical bills. It does not cover nursing home care.

The basic provisions provide those who receive the coverage pay the cost and those who are most able to pay will pay most. This is not a raid on the federal treasury nor is it some new provision that other people are paying. Those who are receiving benefits are those who pay.

The peace of mind afforded many people confronting possible catastrophic hospitalization, operations and drugs will be of tremendous benefit to many Kentucky Baptists and to all others 65 and older.

I suggest each person look at his own situation and find out as much as possible regarding these new provisions. They may affect you both in benefits and in cost. Take whatever steps seem appropriate for 1989. You will notice this law goes into effect Jan. 1, 1989.

... *And if I die before I wake* ...

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Barkley Moore
President
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oneida journal

Two gold, three silver medals

Jeff Jackson won two gold medals and one silver medal in the Bluegrass State games held at Lexington July 29-31.

Jeff lives at Corbin and has just completed his sophomore year, having been with us two years. Academically, he is very near the top of his class.

Jeff was awarded the gold for his participation in the 200 meter free style swimming relay and in the 200 meter medley relay. He received a silver medal for the 100 meter free style. He also swam the 50 meter free style and the 50 meter butterfly.

Awarded a silver medal for her participation in the 200 meter free style swim relay was Laura O'Donnely. Laura came to us from Paducah 1½ years ago. She graduated in May and has remained to work this summer preparatory to going to college this fall. Other events for her also included the 100 meter free style and 50 meter free style.

This year's state high school high jump champion Damon Tigner received a silver medal for a jump of 6'2".

Having just completed his freshman year at Oneida when he won the state championship of Kentucky with a jump of 6'6", Damon had been home in Indianapolis for most of the summer. Not being in rigorous training during that time showed in his jumping four inches less than he did to win the state championship this past spring.

Other competitors in the statewide

amateur competition were Krissy May in swimming and Jeff Kelsey, a distance runner. Krissy has just completed her seventh grade year. She came to us from Louisville. Jeff came to us in the eighth grade and will start his senior year in several weeks. His home town is now Harrodsburg. Though receiving no medals, each of the received valuable experience in competing against persons in and out of their age brackets.

Among the approximately 5000 athletes gathered in Lexington, the Oneida group coached by Steve and Roxann May, our print shop staff, had as much spirit and pride as one could ever desire.

This was the fourth year for the Bluegrass State games, the largest amateur sporting event in Kentucky's history. These games represent a series of athletic competitions in the Olympic tradition for Kentuckians of all ages and athletic skill levels. The games are a non-profit effort designed to give every Kentuckian, or one who attends school in Kentucky, regardless of age, a chance to demonstrate their Olympic potential.

Just as these young people returned to our campus from Lexington, 80 more boys and girls and supervisory staff left for a three-day camping trip in the Smokey Mountains. This is a reward for those students who have worked especially hard in the summer program.

It is only several weeks before the opening of our 89th academic year. There is a tremendous amount of activity preparatory to what we pray will be the best school year of our entire history. We have a net gain of four teachers more than last year, which means we have many more sections of courses in math, Bible, social studies and English. We have the best academic schedule prepared in Oneida's history which will make for the best teacher-student ratio ever. Additional classrooms are being made ready for these teachers.

In the meantime our Special Help Department is moving into larger facilities that will provide more classroom area, more storage space and a library for this department. This summer we had 14 teachers working with 23 academically weak students for a teacher-student ratio of 2-3. In the regular term we will have about a 1-3 ratio. Nine of our Special Help teachers have college degrees and others are adult aides. Several of these aides are as capable of teaching as anybody with a degree. It takes a lot more than a degree to make a teacher. Love and patience and an open mind, along with training and experience, are very important.



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR AUG. 21, 1988

Life and work series

Applying God's word

Nehemiah 8:5-6, 8 The people showed reverence for God's word by standing while Ezra stood on an elevated wood platform and opened the Book of the Law. So great was their eagerness to learn that they listened to the reading of the word "from the morning until the midday."

They participated in a worship experience by lifting their hands toward heaven as an expression of their dependence on God. They were imploring him to bless them. They also bowed their heads toward the ground as an expression of their humility before God.

Some helped the people to understand the meaning of what Ezra read by interpreting the passages. From God's word the participants received information, instruction, illumination and inspiration. As Christians we are called upon to be faithful witnesses in "giving the sense" of the divine revelation to those who need it most.

Nehemiah 8:13-14, 17-18 Those who had a desire to hear the reading of God's word were also ready to be obedient to that word. Their response to God's word was characterized by conviction, repen-

tance and rejoicing. When we sincerely, prayerfully and persistently read and study God's word we find great blessings as we become obedient to his commands.

Nehemiah 9:3 When the people faced God's word with open minds and receptive hearts, it made a profound impression upon them. As they thought about how they had sinned against God, the Holy Spirit used those scriptures to convict them of their sins. They humbled themselves before God, clothed themselves with sackcloth, fasted and repented.

International series

Moses counsels a new generation

Deuteronomy 6:10-19 God instructed Moses to deliver to the children of Israel a reminder of their heritage, telling them how he expected them to live and calling them to faithfulness. God wanted them to know that defiance of his will would result in the withdrawal of his favor and blessings.

Since Jehovah is the one true and living God, his supremacy must be acknowledged. He is entitled to man's complete and constant devotion. All of man's capacities for thought, feeling, devotion and energy must be centered on God. What is in the heart will be expressed through the lips and will be demonstrated in the life.

In order to prevent his people from making the terrible mistake of forgetting God after he had brought them into Canaan—the promised land—and made abundant provision for their needs, God had Moses urge them to revere him, serve him faithfully and refrain from worshipping any other god. They were warned that disloyalty and disobedience on their part would result in punishment and remorse. Their future would be determined by their choice regarding their manner of life.

God rightfully expected the Israelites to perpetuate the marvelous story of his goodness and grace. They were to relate to their children how he, in mercy and love, had delivered them from their bondage in Egypt. Upon hearing what he had done for their parents, the children should be filled with gratitude to God for his loving kindness and mercy. However, children more readily accept their parents instructions when they see them practicing what they are telling their children to do.



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on mission together

Good things happen

One of the more pleasant aspects of my job is the access I have to information concerning what is going on in Baptist life across our state convention.

It is true that such access also includes painful experiences such as church "splits," financial difficulties, bereavements, forced termination of pastors and the like.

All of it—the good, the bad; the joyful and the painful—make up the family of Kentucky Baptists. And on any given day, one may hear it all.

In some ways, a lot depends on the "eye (or heart) of the beholder." The old phrase "two men looked out from prison bars; one saw mud and the other saw stars" has relevance to Kentucky Baptist life. Put another way, "one sees what one feels." It's difficult for a person who

is angry, hurt or disappointed to see much good in anything. And one can't force another to "see" good in much of anything one doesn't "feel" good about.

Even so, there are some good things happening and I've gleaned just a few from across the state with the hope that it will bring cheer to some who may be feeling "down."

• From "The Messenger of Little Bethel" (Association) director of missions John Ashby reported:

"First Baptist of Mortons Gap voted to "adopt an annuitant." This means paying \$50 a month to the Annuity Board to help already retired pastors who have little or no annuity."

• From "The Pulaski (Association) Baptist," director of missions David Aker wrote:

"Last October our Bold Mission Thrust committee led our association in annual meeting to approve several goals. One of them was to begin two new church-type missions this Sunday school year. **Three new works have been**

begun: (1) Denham Street began Antioch Shores; (2) Okalona began White Oak Creek and (3) Burnetta has initiated Towering Hills/Fishing Creek."

• From the Nelson (Association) Baptist News, director of missions Fred Halbrooks listed a number of churches in the association which had summer missions projects beyond their church:

• Bardstown sent a group to paint buildings at Glendale,

• Bloomfield youth conducted backyard Bible clubs with Brainard Avenue Church in Chicago,

• Mt. Washington First sent their youth choir into southern Ohio,

• New Salem sent 13 members on mission to Roger City, Mich.,

• Pleasant Grove sent six members to Carleton, Mich. to conduct backyard Bible clubs.

These are just samples of a multitude of "good things happening" across our state in the associations and churches this summer.

I can rejoice in that!

Music is more than kid stuff to Evelyn Phillips

by Scott Collins

When it comes to children's music, Evelyn Phillips doesn't kid around.

For more than 40 years Mrs. Phillips has lived by the belief that "only the best music is good enough for children."

Mrs. Phillips, associate professor of church music at Southwestern Seminary, is retiring this year after a career of teaching, promoting and often struggling to get the best churches can offer for children.

In the 40 years Mrs. Phillips has worked with children's music, she has seen many of her dreams come true in Southern Baptist churches.

"Children's music became a great movement among Southern Baptists," she said. "It nearly swept the nation."

When Mrs. Phillips joined the Southwestern faculty in 1948 the school of church music had only one class in children's music. Her task was to develop a curriculum that would guide the future of the ministry in local churches.

"I am known as a pioneer in the area of graded choirs," she said.

Her pioneering spirit was developed as a public school teacher and music minister in Baptist churches.

Mrs. Phillips was on the seminary faculty until 1952 when she and her husband were called to First Baptist Church, Texarkana, Tex.

Mrs. Phillips said the work in Texarkana provided the "golden years" of her church work with children's music. In her first year of working with the chil-

dren's program, attendance jumped from 18 to more than 100.

Mrs. Phillips later was minister of music at First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga. She returned to the Southwestern faculty in 1967 after her husband Dwight died.

When she rejoined the music faculty, Mrs. Phillips brought a deeper commitment to the development of children's music programs in local churches.

Her commitment is based on the needs of children more than churches.

"Why is the church interested in the lives of its children?" she asked.

"It is vitally important churches have music training because of what it does for the children. Music can reach where words can't."

Because Phillips puts kids first, she has taught her Southwestern students not to use children as performers.



"We have to train children to participate rather than perform in the worship experience," Mrs. Phillips said.

She has also taught that lesson outside the classroom. Mrs. Phillips travels across the Southern Baptist Convention, leading children's music workshops.

Her travels have kept her in touch with the needs of churches over the years. And while the needs change, the most frequently asked question has not: How do you discipline the children?

Mrs. Phillips' answer is one word—challenge. "There is nothing like challenge to discipline children. I tell them 'You can do this. You can, therefore you must.'"

It is a challenge she has lived up to herself.

But while Mrs. Phillips challenges children, she still helps them enjoy music.

"I tell them that choir is not for fun. Fun is only for now. We're after joy because that is eternal."

Mrs. Phillips hopes her work with children's music is also eternal.

"What I have done will hopefully be the basis for what will be done," she said.

Evelyn Phillips, retired professor of church music at Southwestern Seminary, rehearses a song with Seminary Children's Lab Choir members Jamie Moore and Jonathan Keith.

Constant change characterizes Denver congregation

by Linda Lawson

Changing might best describe the 35-year history of Riverside Baptist Church in Denver, as the congregation has had four pastors, three locations and two names.

Begun in 1953 in a hard-to-find section of South Denver by a group of transplanted Texas and Oklahoma Southern Baptists, the church now sits on a hill overlooking the downtown skyline, less than a mile from the home of the Denver Broncos, and includes approximately 3000 members.

Rufus Warren joined Riverside, then called South Denver Baptist Church, the first time he attended, six months after it was established in 1953. He views the changes since that inauspicious beginning as God's direction and leadership.

"The greatest blessing besides salvation I have received is God placing me in this church in its infancy and seeing the things he did through the leadership at specific times," said Warren, 70, retired from a career in labor relations.

As Warren sees it, the first pastor, Roy Sutton taught the church the importance of stewardship; the second, Glen Braswell, the value of organization; the third, Bob McPherson, was a builder not only of facilities but of a congregation.

Enter, 1986, the fourth pastor, David Bruce, born the same year as the church. A North Carolina native, he came to the church after four years with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

A man who exudes enthusiasm whether he is preaching or talking on the telephone, Bruce describes his first 20 months at Riverside as "laying down some pilings," strengthening founda-

tions as preparation for penetrating the city with the gospel.

Bruce's first emphasis was missions through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and, more recently, the starting of a Hispanic mission.

Increased emphasis on Southern Baptist heritage and beliefs—missions, evangelism, discipleship, prayer and Bible study—has also been a focus of Bruce's efforts. People migrating to Denver today are less likely to come from areas of the country where Southern Baptist are strong.

"I think our people trip over the word 'Southern' in Southern Baptist Conven-



Elaine Keisling, director of children's ministry at Riverside Baptist Church in Denver, works with a group of children in Sunday school.

tion," said Bruce. "To people living in the South, the word 'Southern' means heritage, missions and vision. But to people out here it means accents, regionalism and culture. We have to filter out some of the cultural baggage and emphasize the heritage."

A third focus by Bruce has been to "deepen and strengthen" the church's educational ministries. One major step was the calling of Riverside's first full-time minister of education, Sam Ligon.

Ligon came to the church with 30 years' experience leading educational ministries.

Reorganization of some Sunday school classes, adding two members to the educational staff, enlisting additional Sunday school leaders and leading all age groups to use Southern Baptist Sunday school curriculum have been among projects Ligon has been involved in during his first year.

"I have seen that a core curriculum keeps you going in the same direction as a body of believers in the local church," said Ligon, who is also associational Sunday school improvement support team leader for the Denver association. Also, "using Southern Baptist literature we have a sounding board to complain when we don't like something."

For Elaine Keisling, director of children's ministry for the past nine months, the Foundation Series of Sunday school curriculum helps parents and workers "see that we are building a foundation and that there is continuity of education. They see the value of children getting a good foundation and understanding of the Bible in six years."

"She praised the spirit of the Riverside

members.

"The Sunday school is the cornerstone of our ministry," she said. "The most encouraging thing to me is that people are very open and excited to do something new and that we have a goal and a purpose."

Phil Sallee, director of youth ministry for two years, said the strength of the youth Sunday school division, which includes three departments and approximately 150 youth, is the bond and common sense of purpose among the workers.

"They are my friends," said Sallee. "They understand the total period teaching philosophy and plan incredible Sunday sessions."

As part of training efforts, 58 workers attended a Glorieta Sunday school leadership conference in 1987 with 32 going in 1988.

"The Sunday School Meeting the People Challenge in 1987-88" is the theme for the church year which began with Preparation Week in which leaders set goals for enrolment, attendance, professions of faith and leadership diplomas.

Ligon described the educational ministry as "beginning to jell, but it has been a gradual process of teaching the leadership and loving them along the way."

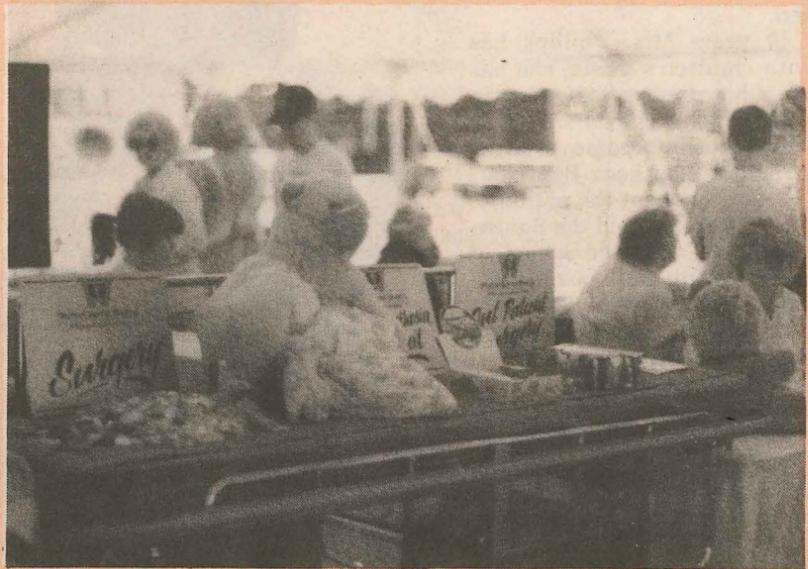
Bruce predicted that strengthening of foundations currently underway will enable the church "to explode and claim a large part of this city for Christ."

And Warren described his feelings as "expectantly frightened. I believe this church is just now what God had in mind for reaching this city when he established it 35 years ago."

Western Baptist Hospital's Children's Hospital Carnival

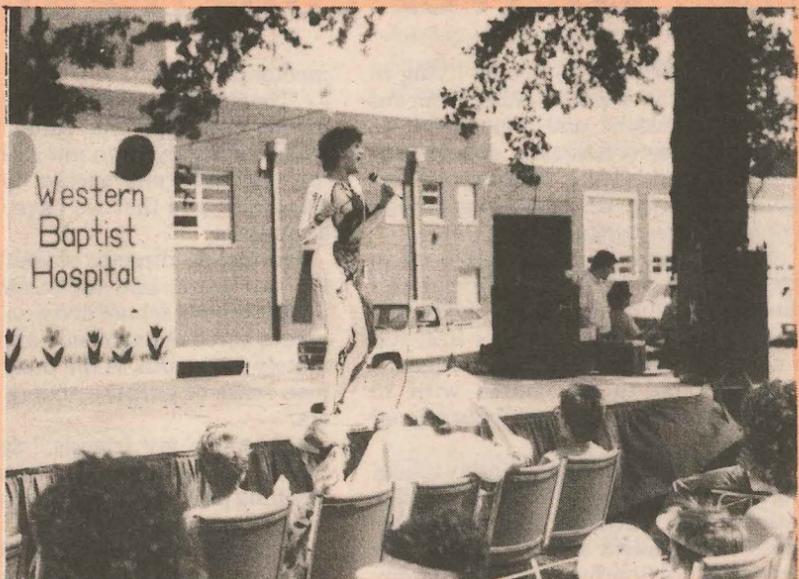


On June 4, Paducah Tilghman practice field became the stomping grounds for over 800 kids and parents interested in learning about health care, easing children's fear of hospitals, playing games, and watching entertainment.



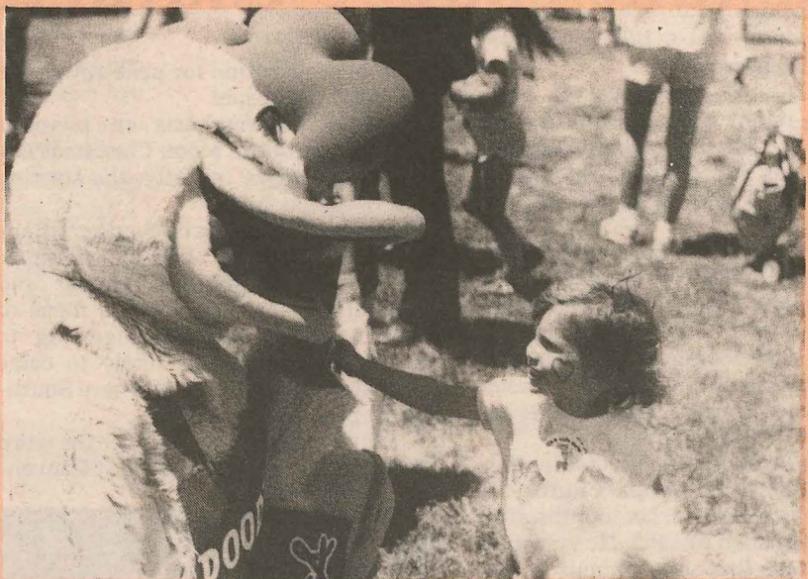
Mary Ellen Pfost, President of the American Cancer Society, said "I am really impressed. This helps adults as well as children." Ms. Pfost said that many adults came by to pick up literature on smoking and lung cancer to try and help their spouses quit smoking.

Another volunteer, Georgetta Riddle, from Martin Marietta Safety Department, explained that they were "using the safety approach this year. Prevention is the key."



Bill Strong, Slim Goodbody's best friend, sang to the children about their different kinds of muscles and how to keep themselves healthy. He had the audience exercising, deep breathing, and getting involved with the show.

"I think this whole day is just great. I seem to be having almost as much fun as the kids," said volunteer Tina Balentine, from the McCracken County Health Department.



Many hours of hard work by volunteers and WBH employees helped ease children's fears of hospitals and doctors. From all observations, the children's smiles and laughter proved the 1988 WBH Children's Health Carnival was a huge success and produced great memories for children for years to come.



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