



**CHRIST ON CAMPUS.** This theme for Student Day at Christmas will surface across the Southern Baptist Convention in December. Participating in a BSU discussion at Blue Mountain (Miss.) College are Dianne Homan (l), of North Clarendon, Vt., and Mandy Campbell, Baldwyn, Miss.

## Two-party SBC system 'doesn't work'; Virginia Baptists proposing alternatives

Virginia Baptists approved a six-part response to the Southern Baptist Convention's "denominational crisis" during the Baptist General Association of Virginia annual meeting Nov. 15-16 in Virginia Beach.

The response was the report on the ad hoc president's task force on the denominational crisis, created by BGAV president Neal T. Jones this summer.

The report notes many Virginia Baptists "feel betrayed and are asking hard questions about the future of our cooperative relationships in the larger Southern Baptist family. . . . Virginia Baptists must take action to assure the continuation of both our cherished heritage and our unique way of working together."

The six recommendations involve:

1. Religious liberty and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The first recommendation asks the SBC to "maintain its historic relationship with the BJCPA and to continue to fund its ministries." It also declares Virginia

Baptists will continue to support the BJCPA "as a 'shared ministry' until we are assured that full SBC support will be continued."

2. Mission support and the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget. The Virginia Baptist budget committee was asked to revise the association's 1989 budget "to show how the SBC portion of the BGAV budget is allocated to each of the SBC ministries." This item facilitates Virginia churches' ability to exercise "negative designation" of contributions away from SBC agencies they feel they cannot conscientiously support.

3. Theological education. Virginians affirmed "sound theological education" characterized by "serious academic scholarship, openness of inquiry that encourages independent investigation of the truth, balance in theological approach, responsible freedom within the bounds of historic Baptist confessions of faith."

4. Ex officio membership on the BGAV general board. The resolution changes the status of Virginia's representatives on the SBC Executive Committee from full membership to ex officio, non-voting membership on the general board. The change disallows their participation as officers of the board's committees or subcommittees.

5. SBC representation. This action directs the BGAV committee on boards and committees to nominate two people whom Virginians could ask SBC president Jerry Vines to place on the SBC committee on committees on behalf of Virginia Baptists. They are J. Harwood Cochrane, a layman from Richmond, and Jones, pastor of Columbia Baptist Church, Falls Church.

6. "A new style of life for Southern Baptists." The final recommendation authorizes the incoming BGAV president to appoint a nine-member committee to study the relationship between the BGAV and the SBC, represent the BGAV in discussions with SBC officials, report developments to the BGAV through its newspaper and report to the 1989 and 1990 BGAV annual meetings with recommendations regarding the relationship.

That recommendation also authorizes a memorial, "a formal communication summarizing the facts," to be presented

to the 1989 SBC annual meeting "and respectfully request(s) an intentional return to the principles of mutuality and consultation upon which our cooperative mission partnership was founded and by which it has thrived."

The memorial notes in part: "We desire to continue to carry out our part of the partnership, to cooperate with integrity and to support the work generously. But our ability to do so is diminished by the SBC's abandonment of consultation and consensus leadership. The two-party system of recent days has not worked. It does not work because it leads to division and because bipartisan participation has not been permitted by those controlling the SBC."

The memorial also asks SBC messengers "to consider and respond" to five issues:

1. "That the SBC maintain its historic relationship with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and continue to fund its ministries."

2. "That the SBC develop a plan that permits a church, on conscience grounds, to choose to omit from its Cooperative Program gifts selected SBC budget items through a carefully developed plan similar to the BGAV 'negative designation' procedure."

3. "That the SBC foster theological education that is characterized by" the four principles outlined in the report's statement on theological education.

4. "That the SBC president appoint to membership on the 1989 SBC Committee on Committees those persons proposed by the BGAV (Cochrane and Jones)."

5. "That a new style of relating be developed on the partnership principle so that genuine healing may take place and advance be achieved in our cooperative mission enterprise. We affirm the principles of autonomy for each body. . . . We request creative and redemptive dialogue with SBC leadership on the issues. We believe that negotiations between the partners are appropriate and urgent."

In other business, Virginia Baptists elected Jean Woodward, a past president of the state's Woman's Missionary Union, as BGAV president. She is a member of River Road Baptist Church, Richmond. (BP)

## Printer who set type for BSSB felt led to be a Southern Baptist

After six months of setting type for Sunday School Board literature in 1944, John Rollins decided to become a Southern Baptist.

"Old linotype number eight convinced me I should be a Southern Baptist," laughed Rollins, who went on to have a dual career as a full time printer and a bivocational pastor in rural churches of Missouri. He retired in 1977.

Now 76, he teaches a Sunday school class, using the denomination's literature he first encountered at the linotype, and does supply preaching.

Rollins, his wife, Doris, and their two young sons moved from Monett, Mo. to Nashville in 1944 so John, then 32, could attend college. He got a part time job as a linotype operator for E. T. Lowe Publishing Company, setting type for Southern Lumber Magazine, Farmer's Almanac and Ladies' Home Journal, as

well as literature produced by the Nashville-based Sunday School Board.

"These fellas that wrote Sunday school literature shook me up sometimes and made me mad," Rollins recalled, especially when writings differed from the tenets of his own faith.

However, after several weeks of setting type and also thinking about what he had read, Rollins said, "I began to get some statements out of the literature that helped me."

He found himself copying paragraphs he wanted to think more about.

After six months Rollins and his family returned to Missouri, where, in 1945, he was baptized into the First Baptist Church of Monett and ordained to the ministry the next year.

He left his first full time pastorate in 1949 to accept the invitation of T. W. Medearis, executive secretary of the Missouri Baptist Convention, to purchase equipment, organize and become the first manager of Missouri Baptist Press, Jefferson City.

He soon stepped out of the leadership role of the press operation, which had primary responsibility for printing Word and Way, the Missouri Baptist state paper.

"I didn't want all that responsibility," said Rollins. "I became just one of the boys so I could pastor those country churches around here."

His longest pastorate, 14 years, was at Cole Springs Baptist Church near Russellville. At 58, he became pastor of Little Flock Baptist Church near Vienna, where he stayed until he retired at age 65, both from the church and the state convention staff. Altogether, he was pastor of 17 churches.

As a pastor, Rollins has used Sunday School Board literature in many settings.

Rollins now teaches a Sunday school class for couples 60 and older at Memorial Baptist Church in Jefferson City, using the Life and Work Series.

"We're a bunch of oldies, but we're having a ball," he quipped. (BP)

## Managers change at Owensboro

Bryan Howard, manager of the Owensboro (Ky.) Baptist Book Store since 1981, has been promoted to music marketing specialist in the book store Marketing Department for the 64-store chain, headquartered in Nashville.

Royce Dodd, director of the western region of Baptist Book Stores, said Howard's promotion is effective Dec. 1. Dodd has named Kathy Matthews, a

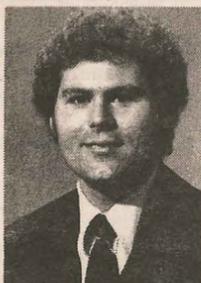
management trainee in the Tulsa, Okla. store, to succeed Howard.

A native of Greenville, Ky., Howard joined the book store management program after two years' experience in sales for the Nashville Baptist Book Store. He is a graduate of Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green.

Miss Matthews, a native of Little Rock, Ark., earned the BS degree from William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.

She began management training in July 1988, following 18 months of sales experience in the Independence (Mo.) Baptist Book Store.

Baptist Book Stores are owned and operated by the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. In addition to the Owensboro store, other Kentucky retail outlets are located in Louisville and at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.



Howard



Miss Matthews

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November 29, 1988

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# sanford's perspectives



Jack D. Sanford

## The top priority

Last week the 1987-88 report of vital statistics came to us and the baptism record of Kentucky Baptists is reason for concern and alarm.

The record shows we have been in a steady decline in reported baptisms since 1983. In 1983 we baptized 17,595 but we only baptized 14,829 in 1987.

The only year in the last five when we showed an increase was 1986, the year of the Good News simultaneous revivals. Even that increase was modest, only 16,769 baptisms, or 827 less than 1983.

The top priority among us must be evangelism which produces converts who are enlisted in the life of a local church. Nothing else is as important to our ministry as reaching lost people and bringing them into the Lord's kingdom and the Lord's church. In fact that is our ministry.

We are encouraged by what we heard our new evangelism director say in his acceptance of this important post. Bill Jagers declared his intention to keep evangelism church-centered and said he felt the best way to reach people for Christ was by starting new churches.

Starting new churches may be the best way to win lost people. At least it is in keeping with the spirit of the New Testament and our forefathers in the faith. Baptists have always felt the need to

expand the horizon of work and we know the best way to do this is to launch new ventures in areas where no church exists.

The effort to increase our baptismal rate and do this with new church starts will demand the best from all of us. We must be unselfish in our own church life. For example the church where we are members has suggested the possibility of a new mission venture several miles from our base though in the same county. That means some of us who love the church where we serve will be called upon to cut loose from home and be part of the new venture. It will demand much from us but we must be willing to pay the price if we are to do what is necessary.

The same holds true for churches across the state. Some loyal members of the local church must be willing to go into another section of the area and be part of a new work. They will no longer have the luxury of a settled church life, but will be pioneers in creating new traditions in another place. This is what is necessary and our prayer is that the Lord of life will inspire all of us to do more to reach our lost world.

Kentucky Baptists' first priority is to win people to Christ. We must accept this challenge and give our best efforts.

## Supporting the ad hoc committee

The motion to refer action on support for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs was a proper way to handle what could have been a divisive time in the Kentucky Baptist Convention meeting.

The motion to refer called upon president Howard Cobble to appoint a seven-member committee, with himself as chairman, and report back to the annual meeting in Frankfort next year. In response to this motion, Cobble appointed a banner committee composed of outstanding men representing every section in our state.

Committee members, including Cobble, are James Jones, Campbellville; Don Mathis, Corbin; Eldred Taylor, Louisville; Ted Sisk, Lexington; David Nelson, Owensboro; Eugene Siler, Williamsburg; and Bill Marshall, Louisville, ex officio.

The committee includes the former and present president of our convention; former presidents of

the convention; a prominent layman and the executive secretary. Only the most obtuse would find fault with this committee.

Tempers run high whenever the BJCPA is the subject of conversation. For that reason it would have been a mistake for the entire convention to deal with appropriating funds. This sort of proposal, regardless of which side you are on, demands careful and prayerful thought and discussion. We believe the committee assigned the task of study in this matter is a good committee and will do a good job for all of us in their deliberations. When they report we can be assured they have thought through all the ramifications of not only this particular action but also what may be possible down the road in similar situations.

We commend the president for a wise selection of committee members and we commend the convention for wisdom in agreeing to refer a potentially explosive matter.

## Take a second look at Lottie Moon

The life line for Southern Baptist foreign missions is the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This offering has fallen on hard times and that has created cut backs in our mission program.

It is past time we took a second, hard look at what we are asked to do this year. Unless we do better than we have done in past years we will see our mission program across the world reduced even more. We cannot let this happen.

I recall a seminary professor whose family keep a "Christmas Club" for Lottie Moon. Each week members of the family pooled their change, put it in the bank in a Christmas Club and made this

their Lottie Moon offerings. I do not remember the amount of money they gave but the fact the entire family shared in the year-long planning was impressive to me. It illustrates the spirit we had toward foreign missions in other days.

We must recapture that spirit and let our renewed concern in worldwide evangelism show itself in a generous offering this year. Unless we respond more generously than we have in the past we can expect the mission budget to be cut and missionaries now on the field restricted in what they can do for the Lord. Surely this is not what Southern Baptists want.

**western recorder**

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# mountains to the mississippi



Edna McCormick, left, and Elenor Eades, members of First Baptist Church of Henderson, Ky., do a skit about the California raisins at the Oct. 24-28 senior adult Chautauqua talent show, held at Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist Conference Center. The Chautauquas are sponsored by the senior adult section of the Sunday School Board's Family Ministry Department.

## ordinations

Pinckard Baptist Church, Versailles, Elkhorn Association, licensed **Steve Bruce** as minister Nov. 6. He is youth minister and Doug Simpson is pastor.

Lancaster (Ky.) Baptist Church, South District Association, ordained **Charles Davis Stallard** and **Steven Green** as deacons Oct. 23. Pastor is Bob Rush.

**Roger McCaleb** was ordained Oct. 23 as deacon by First Baptist Church, Greenup, Greenup Association. Pastor is Darrell Stephenson.

Thirteen were ordained as deacons by Lyndon Baptist Church, Louisville, Long Run Association, Oct. 30. Those ordained were: **Leroy Brewer**, **Jim Caverder**, **David Chen**, **Mark Driskill**, **Mabel Felts**, **Dan Kelly**, **Barbara Landgrave**, **Christi McDonald**, **LuAnn McQuaig**, **Ron Nichols**, **David Sims**, **Judy Swim** and **Mike Whelan**. Pastor of Lyndon is Hugh Goldsby.

## personnel

Bashford Manor, Long Run Association, called **Gregory Pearson** as pastor.

Brittians Creek Baptist Church, Upper Cumberland Association, accepted the resignation of **Willard Wynn**. **Bill Moore** has been called as pastor.

Union Grove Baptist Church, Sulphur Fork Association, called **Stan Reedy** as pastor. He is a student at Southern Seminary from Orlando, Fla. He and his wife Linda Lou have two children.

Pioneer Baptist Church, Mercer Baptist Association, called **Sherman Ramsey** as pastor.

Canmer Baptist Church, Liberty Baptist Association, called **Paul Lambert** as pastor.

Louisa Baptist Church, Greenup Association, pastor **Leon Greer** resigned.

Airline Baptist Church, Green Valley Association, welcomes **Kenneth Stone** as minister of music.

Poole Baptist Church, Green Valley Association, welcomes **David J. Burke** as pastor.

Robards Baptist Church, Green Valley Association, welcomes **Bill Fowler** as minister of music.

Spottsville Baptist Church, Green Valley Association, called **David Cook** as pastor.

Zion Baptist Church, Green Valley Association, called **Mark Slaughter** as part time minister of music.

Pleasant Run Baptist Church, Booneville Association, called **Mike Taylor** as pastor.

Dycusburg Baptist Church, Ohio River Association, pastor **Ronnie Hooks** resigned.

Grand Rivers Baptist Church, Ohio River Association, called **Curtis Harrell** as pastor.

**Richard Trumbo**, former pastor of Ver-trees Baptist Church, accepted the call of Napoleon Church, Northwest Ohio Association.

Gradyville Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association, called **Mark Lyle** as pastor.

Roadside Baptist Church, North Concord Association, pastor **Gary Daughtery** resigned.

Green Road Baptist Church, North Concord Association, called **Ronald Riley** as pastor.

**John Engel** resigned as pastor of Himyar Baptist Church, North Concord Association.

**Steve Ross** has been called as pastor of Artemus Baptist Church, North Concord Association.

West Cumberland, North Concord Association, pastor, **David Bullock** resigned and will go to Hartford. **Joe Cody** is now pastor of West Cumberland.

Pine Hill Baptist Church, Rockcastle Association, called **Carl McCray** as pastor.

Allendale Baptist Church, East Lynn Association, called **Tom Coffey** as pastor.

Hopewell Baptist Church, Long Run Association, called **Harry Sherrer** as pastor.

Portland Avenue Baptist Church, Long Run Association, called **Ron Lee** as pastor.

**Emery Fields** resigned as pastor of Slaty Point Baptist Church, Bracken Association.

**Tim Mathis** has been called as pastor of First Baptist Church, Danville, South District Association.

**Harold Hendrick** has been called as pastor of Slate Hill Baptist Church, London, Laurel River Association.

**Robert Johnson** resigned as pastor of Old Salem Baptist Church, Laurel River Association.

## congregations

**Eastwood Baptist Church**, Bowling Green, celebrated a friend day emphasis Oct. 30 with a record Sunday school attendance of 628 and worship attendance of 944. In the past three months Eastwood has had 70 additions including 24 professions of faith and baptisms. **Jim Haskell** is pastor.

**Gardenside Baptist Church**, Lexington, Elkhorn Association, and **Central Baptist Church**, Corbin, Mt. Zion Association, completed an eight-week Sunday school growth contest. Gardenside was the official winner of the "Race for the Crown." Both churches increased over 100 in average attendance and more than 45,000 contacts were made.

**Hopewell Baptist Church**, Mercer Association, dedicated its new sanctuary Oct. 30. Sunday school attendance was a record 242. Morning service was followed by dinner on the ground. Former pastor **Gilbert Sapp** preached the afternoon dedication service and former pastor **Earl Hacker** was guest speaker. **Barry Jude** is pastor.

**Ellers Memorial Baptist Church**, Mercer Association, had a record Sunday school attendance of 251 Oct. 30 in a designated high attendance day as part of a Sunday school growth campaign. There were three professions of faith, four baptisms, 55 special guests and 14 enrolled in Sunday school that day. **William Vaught** is pastor.

**Calvary Church** redecorated its sanctuary and remodeled its old parsonage into Sunday school rooms, kitchen and library. **James Cason** was called as pastor.

**Henderson Memorial Baptist Church**, Hopkinsville, Christian County Association, will celebrate its 25th anniversary Dec. 4. Former pastor **Norris Smith** of the Baptist Sunday School Board will deliver the morning sermon. Other activities include dinner on the ground and an afternoon praise service led by **Ronnie Boyd** and former music directors. Charter member **Lawrence Calvin** will serve as deacon of the week.

Former pastors include **Garland Sills**, **Roy Field**, **Doyle Eddings** and **Smith**. **Marvin Freeman** is interim pastor.



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## homes for children

### The haircut

During the convention of Kentucky Baptists I had the opportunity to talk with **Rick Clark**, pastor of Graefenburg Baptist Church. He shared with me a very interesting experience which he had during a revival at Tunnel Hill Baptist Church near our Elizabethtown Crisis Group Home this past summer. He and the pastor of the church, **Harmon Popham**, went out to visit the boys at the home.

While there they met one young man with fairly long hair who had just arrived at the home that day. Of course they did not discuss the length of his hair, but did invite the young man and the other boys to the revival.

The next evening when the boys arrived at church, the young man would not go into the building, but instead asked to talk with Brother Clark. When **Rick** talked with him, he said, "I am not coming in because of this," and pointed to his long hair. He went on to say that he had grown his hair long because his parents did not want him to, and he now realized that it was wrong to rebel against authority that way. He asked Brother Clark to cut his hair.

After some hesitation and a discussion with the boy's child care worker, it was decided that a neat trim of the back of the hair was in order, so **Rick** proceeded to do as requested. They then went on to church and afterwards in the pastor's study the young man made a profession of faith.

**Pastor Clark** told me he still has the hair as a reminder of a very important moment in his ministry. He also stated the young man "had learned in just a few minutes what a lot of Christians never learn—there is no room in the heart for rebellion and relationship with God."

To me this incident so fittingly portrays our Lord's statement in Matthew 18:3-4, "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (NIV)

The truths of Christ's teaching are so simple a child can understand, but they call for such a change in our basic human nature many adults find it so difficult. Our Lord calls for a total surrender to him.

I fear that many of us need "haircuts" for we so often continue to carry symbols of rebellion into our walk with Christ.

# State convention reports

## GEORGIA

For the second straight year, Georgia Baptists turned out in record numbers and unseated an incumbent president by a razor-thin margin.

Registration for the annual meeting in the Macon Coliseum hit an all time high of 7064 messengers, surpassing last year's record of 4863 registrants. The 1988 registration is believed to be the highest registration ever for any state convention affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Dwight "Ike" Reighard, 37, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, unseated incumbent president Jim Pitts, pastor of First Baptist Church, Valdosta, receiving 3250 votes to 3190. The 60-vote difference mirrored last year's convention, when Pitts unseated then-incumbent Clark Hutchinson of Marietta by a 51 vote margin.

Both Reighard and Hutchinson are in the conservative faction in the convention while Pitts is regarded as the candidate of the moderate group. Reighard, the youngest man ever elected president of the GBC, was nominated by Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta and former president of the SBC.

A motion on an anonymous pre-convention publication, The Georgia Baptist Report also drew divided votes. The newsletter was circulated among some Georgia Baptists prior to the convention, urging the defeat of Pitts and election of conservatives.

Ches Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tifton, later presented a motion that "the convention go on record as deploring the Georgia Baptist Report and any other such publication that slanders and demeans the character of any other Christian, and that this kind of action on the part of any Georgia Baptist cease immediately, and that every means be used to rebuild trust among our Georgia Baptist people." The motion eventually passed, but not until messengers voted by ballot on whether to amend the motion to include the names of other specific publications such as SBC Today, the Southern Baptist Advocate, the Southern Baptist Cause and Baptist Laity Journal.

Messengers also adopted the largest Cooperative Program budget in Georgia history, approving on voice vote a budget of \$30.7 million, a five percent increase over 1987. The convention will continue to divide undesignated contributions 50-50 with SBC causes. Georgia is the only state convention to maintain the 50-50 division. Two other conventions—Florida and Oklahoma—had adopted 50-50 splits, but reduced SBC contributions after economic downturns. (BP)

## MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Baptists gave their junior college a financial reprieve during their annual meeting Nov. 14-16 in Jackson. But a floor fight over another Mississippi Baptist school was averted the day before the convention began.

Messengers also approved resolutions condemning racism and denouncing statements made by a Mississippi member of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission who had called the late Martin Luther King Jr. a fraud.

A record 1921 messengers voted 871-413 to give Clarke College at Newton a special allocation of \$200,000. Missis-

sippi College, which operates Clarke as a division but with separate financing, had threatened to return Clarke to the convention should the extra money not be forthcoming.

The increase to Clarke College necessitated a change in the overall Mississippi Baptist Convention budget, convention board president Donald O'Quin said. The budget had to be adjusted upward further to keep funding to Southern Baptist Convention causes outside the state at 37.5 percent of the budget, the convention-approved level and a 0.5 percent increase over the previous budget, he explained. The total increase to the budget after the Clarke vote was \$231,848, setting the new budget at \$20,103,541.

The floor fight that was averted would have been over allegations of financial and administrative mismanagement at William Carey College in Hattiesburg. (BP)

## NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Baptists passed a bylaw change that limits the appointive powers of the president and reelected all convention officers during their 158th annual session Nov. 14-16 in Fayetteville.

Convention president E. Leon Smith proposed the motion limiting the appointive powers of the president. Historically, the president has appointed people to serve on the convention's committee on committees and committee on enrolment.

His motion dictates that the president and two vice presidents comprise a committee to nominate members of the committee on committees and the committee on enrolment and that those nominations go before the convention's general board, which could ratify or substitute the nominations before presenting them to the convention for election. The motion passed 2054 to 2050 on a ballot vote.

Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church of Goldsboro was reelected president. He was challenged by Joe Brown, pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte. Smith received 2535 votes to Brown's 1626.

Smith was supported by the moderate group Friends of Missions which had supported him in his initial contest last year. Brown was supported by a group organized this year, known as Conservative Carolina Baptists, which publishes a monthly newsletter by the same name.

Messengers approved the record budget of \$29 million for 1989. Of that, 35.5 percent will go to support the worldwide causes of the Southern Baptist Convention after a priority item of \$1 million is exempted to cover the increased costs of the expanded annuity program for pastors and church staff members. After the \$1 million is exempted, the 35.5 percent share for the SBC will be \$9,940,000. The 1988 budget also gave 35.5 percent to SBC causes. (BP)

## SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina Baptists elected a moderate president, approved a record \$23.1 million budget and launched a three-year missions partnership with Baptists in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during their annual meeting Nov. 15-16 in Spartanburg.

Douglas Baker, pastor of Berea First

Baptist Church, Greenville, won a run-off ballot 1350 to 1028 over conservative candidate Michael Hamlet, pastor of First Baptist Church, North Spartanburg.

The budget contains a basic section of \$21.1 million for operations and capital needs coupled with a "Bold Mission Challenge" of \$2 million. In the basic budget, \$12.8 million, or 61 percent, goes to state causes and \$8.2 million, or 39 percent, is earmarked for Southern Baptist Convention ministries.

In an unprecedented move, the messengers amended the report of the nominating committee concerning eight vacancies on the general board, which acts for the convention between annual sessions. The convention's nominating committee had nominated replacements for eight members—including the general board president—who were filling unexpired terms. Traditionally, people filling unexpired terms have been nominated to full terms. Messengers returned the eight people—two pastors and six laymen—to the general board.

Messengers also voted to budget funds in 1990 for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, which represents Southern Baptists in matters related to separation of church and state. The move to directly fund the embattled organization passed on a narrow vote and did not specifically set an amount to be budgeted. (BP)

## ARKANSAS

Arkansas Baptists conducted their business in virtual unanimity during the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Nov. 1-2 at Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock.

Unlike last year's annual meeting, which was dominated by speculation about plans for a "conservative" takeover of the state convention's offices and boards, this year's meeting passed with little debate. Messengers unanimously reelected their president, host pastor S. Cary Heard, and adopted without debate most of the recommendations and resolutions presented to them.

Messengers approved a \$13 million 1989 budget that will send \$5.3 million, or 40.8 percent, of Cooperative Program unified budget receipts on to the worldwide mission causes of the Southern Baptist Convention, keeping \$7.7 million, or 59.2 percent, in Arkansas for state mission concerns.

Another recommendation adopted by messengers called for Arkansas Baptists to join hands with Guatemala Baptists in a partnership mission project from 1989 through 1992. The proposal already had been approved by the Foreign Mission Board and Guatemala Baptists.

A third recommendation set six priority goals for executive board programs in 1989: beginning 200 new Sunday school units, equipping 500 congregations through the emphasis, "A Call to Baptist Basics;" beginning 45 new churches; training 200 youth leaders to lead Youth Christian Life Seminars; and involving 638 churches in the "Year of the Laity" emphasis.

One resolution, adopted by messengers, affirmed Baptists emphases on soul competency, religious freedom, and the believer's priesthood and added that such an emphasis "should not be interpreted to mean there is an absence of certain definite doctrines" at the heart of Baptist faith. It noted the autonomy

of the local church, which operates "through democratic process under the lordship of Jesus Christ" and that, while members are equally responsible, the "scriptural offices" of the church are pastors and deacons. It closed with an affirmation of the Holy Spirit's leadership over both pastor and congregation to "carry out the Great Commission in a spirit of cooperation, harmony and love." (BP)

## ILLINOIS

Illinois Baptists adopted a 1989 budget of \$6,269,905 and elected a new president during their annual meeting Nov. 2-4 at Calvary Baptist Church in Alton.

The Illinois Baptist State Association budget includes a goal for Cooperative Program unified budget gifts from Illinois churches of \$4,662,218, the same as in 1988. Of that amount, \$1,875,767 is earmarked for Southern Baptist Convention ministries, a reduction of \$156,960.

Messengers voted by a 3-2 margin to approve two "preferred" items taken off the top of the budget, and thus exempt \$360,000 from being divided by the state's Cooperative Program ratio. Those items help pay for ministers' retirement and the Illinois Baptist newspaper. Their exemption caused the reduction in funds leaving the state. The remainder of funds received toward the Cooperative Program goal will be divided by the same ratio as used in 1988—43.6 percent to SBC causes and 56.4 percent to remain in Illinois.

Messengers also approved a plan whereby Cooperative Program gifts above the \$4,662,218 goal will be divided 50 percent to the SBC, 25 percent to Illinois new work and 25 percent to the state convention's general budget. The Illinois convention's board of directors presented the preferred item plan as the least of three evils. The other options were to adjust the ratio itself to increase the Illinois share and reduce the SBC share, or to slash state convention services to churches. (BP)

## OHIO

Ohio Baptists mirrored the U. S. electorate Nov. 10, when they elected their vice president to a term as president.

Darrel Gabbard, two-term first vice president of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, was elected to the convention's top post during its annual meeting in Dayton. Gabbard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Perrysburg, a Toledo suburb, is the first convention president from the northern part of the state in two decades.

For each of the past 14 years, the Ohio convention has increased the percentage of its budget receipts it sends to Southern Baptist Convention causes by one-half percent. But the 1989 budget will allocate 42 percent of its receipts from the churches—the same percentage as the 1988 budget—to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget.

The 1989 Ohio Baptist budget is \$5,302,086, of which Ohio churches are expected to contribute \$3,117,919. The balance primarily is to come from the Home Mission and Sunday School boards. If the convention meets its budget, 42 percent of the receipts from churches will yield \$1,309,526 to Southern Baptist causes around the world. (BP)

## MISSOURI

Missouri Baptists affirmed the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs during their annual meeting Oct. 24-26 at Tan-Tar-A resort in Osage Beach.

The resolution, submitted by D. Leslie Hollon, pastor of Wornall Road Baptist Church, Kansas City, "assured the dedicated laypersons who undergird this convention's work . . . that our convention respects, honors and intends to preserve these principles."

The resolution responded to action taken by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting last June. A resolution passed at the national convention had been interpreted by some Southern Baptists to undermine the traditional Baptist doctrine that each person is equal and can interpret scripture for the individual self. The national resolution also had been interpreted to give this authority to pastors.

In his resolution, Hollon urged pastors and other ordained ministers to encourage church members "to exercise the privileges and rights of believers as priests and to participate fully in deciding matters of concern to one's congregation."

Messengers also affirmed the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the Washington-based religious liberty watchdog organization comprised of nine Baptist denominations. The resolution, presented by Rudy Pulido, pastor of Southwest Baptist Church in St. Louis, also appeared to be in contrast to action taken on the national level.

In passing the resolution with no discussion and limited opposition, messengers resolved to "oppose any and all efforts to weaken the work and witness of the Baptist Joint Committee through the withdrawal of funds."

Missourians also encouraged the SBC Executive Committee to "look with disfavor on any and all efforts by the Public Affairs Committee to draw from Cooperative Program funds" money which would "duplicate or usurp" the work of the Baptist Joint Committee.

In other business, messengers adopted a record \$15 million budget for 1989. The budget is only slightly higher than the 1988 budget of \$14.75 million. (BP)

## TEXAS

Texas Baptists reelected Ft. Worth pastor Joel Gregory as president and adopted a record \$68.5 million Cooperative Program unified budget for 1989 during the 103rd annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Austin.

With "Share Jesus Now" as their theme and their goal for 1989, more than 4700 messengers from many of the state's 5000 Southern Baptist churches and missions met for the annual business meeting. "Share Jesus Now" is a plan to have 89,000 trained Christian witnesses sharing their faith with 1 million non-Christian Texans during 60 days next February and March.

Phil Lineberger, pastor of Richardson Heights Baptist Church, Richardson, was elected first vice president and James W. Hatley, director of missions for Austin Baptist Association, was elected second vice president.

In his presidential press conference, Gregory said he is "not a card-carrying member of either the moderate or the fundamentalist camp" within the

Southern Baptist Convention. The 40-year-old pastor underscored his refusal to be "coopted" by any faction and reaffirmed his desire to be a "centrist" and "bridge-builder" among Texas Baptists. (BP)

## LOUISIANA

Louisiana Baptists increased their budget for 1989, which included an increase in the national Cooperative Program unified budget percentage; reelected the president; and heard a report from the state's governor on his commitments to moral stands.

The 1989 budget of \$15.9 million is an increase of \$300,000 over the current budget. The percentage to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program was increased from 34.75 to 35 percent of all receipts except funding of the Southern Baptist retirement program for ministers. That total should be \$5,454,785.

Calvin Phelps, pastor of First Baptist Church, Winnfield, was reelected president by acclamation for a second one-year term.

Louisiana Gov. Buddy Roemer thanked Louisiana Baptists for their prayers and support during the past year in his efforts to bring education and economic reforms: "I thank you for being involved. Moral stands by citizens and their involvement in government is what makes government beneficial to all citizens." (BP)

## WEST VIRGINIA

A record 352 messengers and visitors attended the 18th annual meeting of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists at First Baptist Church, Fairlea, Nov. 4-5.

Messengers adopted a 1989 budget of \$1,549,264, a 3.2 percent decrease from the 1988 budget of \$1,601,863. The decrease came about when the convention changed the process in which the salaries and benefits of associational directors of missions are paid.

Messengers voted to send 26 percent, or \$167,070, of the churches' contributions to support the worldwide missionary, evangelistic, educational and ministry causes of the Southern Baptist Convention and to retain 74 percent, or \$552,429, for work in West Virginia.

Messengers elected Odell Clay, pastor of East Williamson Baptist Church, Williamson, as president. (BP)

## MARYLAND/ DELAWARE

Maryland/Delaware Baptists rejected a recommendation to add the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement to their constitution and bylaws and averted a contested presidential election, choosing each of their officers by acclamation during their annual meeting Nov. 14-16 in Frederick, Md.

Messengers to the 153rd annual session of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware also approved purchase of a \$2.1 million building to be remodeled for relocation of convention offices from Lutherville, Md. to a more centrally located site in Columbia, Md.

In other action, Maryland/Delaware Baptists denounced apartheid, supported the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and appointed a task team to address ways to help new missions acquire land sites in areas with high real estate costs.

Messengers rejected a recommendation of the convention's general mission board that a section be added to their constitution adopting the Baptist Faith and Message as the convention's expression of faith. The negative vote came after an amendment was added specifying "with the understanding that this convention has no authority to prescribe this statement as a statement of faith for any church, association or individual."

Predictions about contested presidential elections by leaders of both conservative and moderate theological/political organizations within the convention failed to materialize. Host pastor Burnis Barrett of First Baptist Church of Fredericksburg received a nearly unanimous vote for president. (BP)

## OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Baptists approved a zero-growth budget for 1989 but kept their gifts to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget at 44 percent of their own budget during their annual meeting Nov. 14-16 in Bethany.

The state's budget for 1989 is \$16.5 million, the same as this year's goal. If the goal is reached, \$7.26 million will be channeled to Southern Baptist Convention ministries through the Cooperative Program.

In addition, messengers approved resolutions on the priesthood of the believer and support of church staff members who have been terminated.

Elected president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma was Hoyt Aduddell, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church, Tulsa. (BP)

## FLORIDA

Florida Baptists focused on two hallmarks of Southern Baptist life—evangelism and the Cooperative Program—and honored their retiring executive director during the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention Nov. 14-16 in Lakeland.

In 1985, Florida was the first state convention to divide Cooperative Program funds evenly between state convention needs and SBC causes. Currently, only two states—Florida and Georgia—divide Cooperative Program gifts equally between state and SBC concerns.

But Florida Baptists voted to send 47.65 percent of their \$23,353,188 budget for 1989 to the SBC and keep the remaining 52.35 percent for missions and ministries within the state.

Messengers also recognized the retirement of Dan C. Stringer, executive director-treasurer of the convention since 1979 and who will retire in early 1989. Stringer received a lap-top computer, a 1989 four-wheel-drive vehicle of his choice, two books of letters and a resolution of appreciation inscribed on a plaque.

Although the decision to reduce the SBC percentage was approved overwhelmingly, program speakers and messengers from the floor decried the decision and encouraged churches and individuals to increase giving to get back to the 50-50 status.

Messengers chose Bill Billingsley, pastor of Sheridan Hills Baptist Church, Hollywood, as convention president. Billingsley considered himself the "peace candidate," he said, since he was not identified with either side of the political/theological controversy. (BP)

## TENNESSEE

Messengers to the 114th annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention approved resolutions on parimutuel betting, priesthood of the believer and support for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; elected Calvin Metcalf president; and honored Tom J. Madden, retiring executive secretary-treasurer.

The convention, meeting in Jackson Nov. 15-17, also approved a mission partnership with the Philippines and voted to begin a Baptist residential care ministry to developmentally disabled adults.

Messengers also approved a 1988-89 budget of \$25,281,000. After subtracting a \$1,088,240 "preferred item" to help fund the new expanded annuity plan for the state's ministers, Tennessee Baptists will give 37.5 percent of their budget, or \$9,072,285, of their budget, to support the worldwide causes of the Southern Baptist Convention. That percentage is a 0.25 percent increase over the previous budget.

Dillard Mynatt, retired pastor of First Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, moved to alter the budget so that \$500 per month would be sent from the Tennessee Baptist Convention to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The motion was defeated, but messengers later passed a resolution supporting the BJCPA.

Metcalf, pastor of Central Baptist Church of Fountain City, Knoxville, was nominated by another Knoxville pastor, James McCluskey of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, a former TBC president. Metcalf has been pastor at Central 13 years.

Metcalf defeated Charles Sullivan, 586-524. Pastor of First Baptist Church, Lenoir City, since 1982, Sullivan was nominated by Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, and three-time president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Sullivan is chairman of the SBC Executive Committee.

Madden, who will reach the mandatory retirement age of 70 in April, and his wife were honored during an evening program and reception. He has been executive secretary-treasurer 10 years. (BP)

## ALABAMA

Alabama Baptists elected a new president, celebrated the state Woman's Missionary Union's 100th anniversary and held a historic joint session with four predominantly black Baptist conventions at their 166th annual meeting in Birmingham Nov. 15-16.

In a gesture of support for downtown churches, the convention met at Central Park Baptist Church and elected Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Birmingham, president by acclamation.

After his election, Carter said he is a "centrist" and "bridgebuilder" whose appointees would be "balanced and representative of the best of Alabama Baptist life."

The highlight of the convention was the historic joint session between black Baptist denominations and the predominantly white Alabama Baptist Convention, affiliated with the SBC.

The session drew more than 1500 worshipers to the state fair arena, where they listened to pledges of cooperation from denominational representatives and heard sermons by Carter and by Julius Scruggs of Huntsville. (BP)

# baptist news in brief

## Northeast moves closer to education goal next fall at Boston and Pittsburgh centers

Members of the Southern Baptist Northeast Task Team on Theological Education heard progress reports on the first two educational centers in their area and elected new leadership during their fall meeting in Pittsburgh.

Applications have been filed with state agencies in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts to offer the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian Education degrees through the centers to be

set up in Pittsburgh and Boston, announced Willis Bennett, provost at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. The centers are to begin operation in fall 1989, Bennett said.

The presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention's six seminaries have designated Southern Seminary as the lead seminary to work with the Northeast team in opening the Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry. The task team is made up of representatives of the Baptist state conventions of New England, New York, Pennsylvania/South Jersey, Maryland/Delaware and the District of Columbia.

The Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry is a joint project of the task team, the Home Mission Board and the six seminaries. Doran C. McCarty coordinates the project as part of his assignment as executive director of the convention's Seminary External Education Division.

David D'Amico, executive director of the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, was elected task team chairperson. He assumes a role performed for the past two years by Larry Martin, executive director of the Greater Boston Baptist Association.

Introduced as director of the Pittsburgh center was Wilmer Bennett, a retired school administrator from Washington. Bennett and his wife, Miriam, will work with the center as Mission Service Corps volunteers. (BP)

## Wife of disaster relief director dies at home

Joyce Byler, 62, wife of Cameron Byler, the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission's disaster relief and Baptist Men's director, died in her sleep Nov. 14 at the couple's home in Memphis, Tenn.

Mrs. Byler was born in Wharton, Tex., and held degrees from Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., and Texas Tech University, Lubbock. The Bylers served Southern Baptists in Texas and Alaska before coming to the Brotherhood Commission in 1985.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church, Memphis, where she taught a senior women's Sunday school class. Survivors include her husband; a son, Chris Byler of San Antonio; a daughter, Barbara Garland of Salina, Kan.; three grandchildren; and three sisters. (BP)



Mrs. Ona Jones

## Retired missionary dies in house fire at 57

Retired Southern Baptist missionary Ona Jones died early Nov. 9 in a fire inside her San Angelo, Tex., home. She was 57.

The two-bedroom home, one of about 80 houses on the grounds of the Baptist Memorial Center, was extensively damaged. The origin of the fire was undetermined, but officials estimated it began around 2:30 a.m. Mrs. Jones' husband, Sam, was attending a meeting out of town.

The Joneses, missionaries to Zimbabwe for 32 years, retired in August 1987, shortly after he became 65. They had lived in the 75-acre San Angelo retirement and medical care community for about two years.

The former Ona Knight, Mrs. Jones grew up in Palestine, Tex. She married Jones, of San Angelo, in 1951, and the two were appointed missionaries in 1955. They later pioneered Southern Baptist work in the city of Salisbury, Rhodesia, now called Zimbabwe. She received degrees from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

## Kentucky among top 10 in new Sunday schools

Southern Baptists started 861 new Sunday schools during 1987-88 church year, for a three-year total of more than 2600 new starts.

New Sunday schools for the year ending Sept. 31, 1988, represent an increase over the 826 new starts for 1986-87. And 944 new Sunday schools were started in the 1985-86 church year. The convention goal for 1985-90 is 8000 new Sunday schools.

New Sunday schools and churches are needed throughout the nation because the population is increasing at a faster rate than the number of churches, said Jim Finch, manager of the pastor, staff section in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School Division.

As metropolitan areas grow, new churches are needed to meet the needs of new communities, Finch said. In traditional convention states, major metropolitan areas such as Atlanta, Dallas, Orlando and Houston have been targeted for new Sunday school work.

With 273 new Sunday schools in 1987-88, Texas led the Southern Baptist Convention in new Sunday school starts. The previous year, Texas started 268 new Sunday schools. Coming in after Texas in new Sunday school starts for 1987-88 were North Carolina, 80; Florida, 56; Kentucky, 41; California, 39; and Georgia, 29. (BP)

## Jury finds Missourian innocent of abuse charges

Missouri pastor Keith Barnhart has been found innocent of charges of child abuse and sexual abuse. The jury verdict ended a 19-month ordeal for Barnhart, who was arrested Mar. 20, 1987.

"Obviously it's a great relief," said Barnhart, pastor of Cave Springs Baptist Church, St. Charles, Mo. "I'm very, very grateful for the final vindication and being able to have the judicial system work and to have my name cleared, as far as the charges are concerned. To hear the not guilty verdict read was like a thousand pounds just lifted off my shoulders."

Following his arrest Barnhart was charged with 15 felony counts of sodomy, child abuse, sexual abuse and kidnapping. The charges eventually grew to 19 felony counts until prosecutors dropped 17 of the 19 before going to trial.

The St. Charles County jury deliberated less than two hours before returning the not guilty verdict. The trial focused on alleged incidents with children attending a day-care center run by Cave Springs Church. Teachers at the day-care center, which closed after Barnhart was arrested, testified that Barnhart never had been alone with any of the children.

Barnhart said his biggest struggle over the past 19 months "was just waiting to get to the point to have it over with, to finally come to the point when you hear a not guilty verdict."

Voicing appreciation to individuals who have supported him and prayed for him, Barnhart noted that friends, family members and church members have contributed about \$52,000 to help meet legal expenses for his defense. Immediately following his arrest, eight church families posted their residences as bond for his release. "Hopefully, the Lord will give me some guidance and leadership of how this might be of practical use to others and things to beware of and avoid." (BP)

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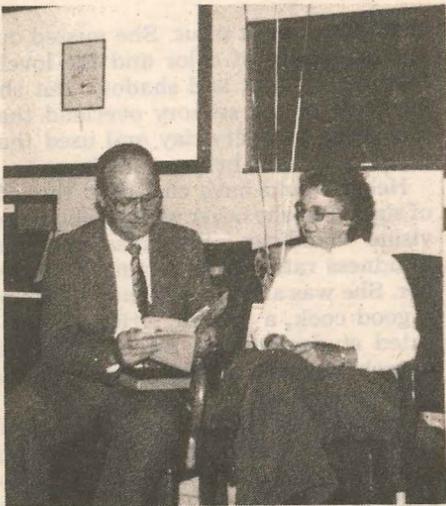
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Joe and Emily Thomas

### Philpot honors pastor Thomas on 10th year

Sunday, Nov. 6, Joe M. Thomas was honored by members and friends of Dawson Baptist Church, Philpot, Daviess-McLean Association, on his 10th anniversary as pastor.

A surprise reception was held to honor Thomas, who is the only pastor to have served as long as 10 years in the 83-year history of the church.

In addition to words of appreciation the congregation gave Thomas and his wife Emily an anniversary clock, a brief case, a camera, cash and other gifts.

The last five years have seen the Dawson church engaged in a struggle to preserve the fellowship during a time of great difficulty because of problems which have come about during the building of a new church building. Through it all Thomas has been a strong, stabilizing force in the life of the church and community. One member stated the surprise party is testimony of the great affection the congregation has for their pastor and his family.

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**WANTED:** First Baptist Church, Leitchfield, Kentucky, is accepting applications for a full time minister of education. Requirements: (1) MRE from an accredited Southern Baptist Seminary. (2) Satisfactory experience as a minister of education in a local church. Please send resumes to: Kenneth W. Ray, Chairman, Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, 106 E. Walnut, Leitchfield, KY 42754. Financial benefits package is negotiable. 11-29-2T

**FOR SALE:** 4 unit safety crib. Good condition. \$250. Call Lowell Avenue Baptist Church. 11-29-2T

## Land notes increased Baptist social involvement

Southern Baptists now feel free to address social issues because they no longer bear the shame of racial segregation, the head of the denomination's moral concerns agency claimed.

Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, told students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary that Southern Baptists were reluctant to speak out on social issues because of the fear of being criticized for their positions on race.

"I think we at least had the decency

at some level of consciousness to be ashamed of the segregation captivity of our churches for most of our history," he said. "We were not able to apply our ethical position on social issues until we were liberated from that."

Land addressed two student-led sessions—Student Evangelical Forum and the Ethics Luncheon—and lectured in Christian ethics classes at the Louisville school. His Nov. 16-17 visit to Southern's campus was his first speaking engagement at a Southern Baptist institu-

tion since assuming the Christian Life Commission post in late October.

In addition to overcoming embarrassment over the race question, Land said, a different understanding of the separation of church and state has caused a "sudden upsurge" in political involvement by Southern Baptists. "I think the separation of church and state was used as an excuse of not getting involved as much as it was a conviction over whether we should be involved," he explained. (BP)

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### "ON THE JERICO ROAD"

- LET THERE BE A RAINBOW
- CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD
- IT MAY BE AT MORN
- WONDERFUL GRACE OF JESUS
- THANK GOD FOR CALVARY
- THE KINGDOM IS SPREADING
- NOBODY KNOWS BUT JESUS
- THAT NIGHT IN GETHSEMANE
- WONDERFUL STORY OF LOVE
- SING OH SING HIS PRAISES
- ON THE JERICO ROAD
- JUST A LITTLE TALK WITH JESUS
- HE IS A FRIEND TO ME
- AN EMPTY MANSION
- TIME ENOUGH YET
- DON'T WAIT TOO LONG
- MEET ME THERE
- I'LL FLY AWAY
- BEAUTIFUL ROBES OF WHITE

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NEW

### "OLD TIME RELIGION"

- UNSEARCHABLE RICHES
- NEARER THE CROSS
- ONE BLESSED HOUR
- HE LEADETH ME
- THOU THINKEST LORD OF ME
- WHEN THE SUN OF MY LIFE GOES DOWN
- SWEETER GETS THE JOURNEY
- SEEKING FOR ME
- JESUS KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS
- MANSION OVER THE HILLTOP
- TIS THE OLD TIME RELIGION
- IN THE SERVICE OF MY KING
- THAT WILL BE GLORY FOR ME (GABRIEL)
- I LOVE MY SAVIOR TOO
- WITHOUT HIM
- LET THE LOWER LIGHTS BE BURNING
- THOUGH YOUR SINS BE AS SCARLET
- GLORY FOR ME (POLLOCK)
- BEYOND THE SUNSET

### "A TRIBUTE TO FANNY J. CROSBY"

- BLESSED ASSURANCE
- ALL THE WAY MY SAVIOR LEADS ME
- A WONDERFUL SAVIOR
- JESUS IS TENDERLY CALLING
- I AM THINE, OH LORD
- HIDE ME, O MY SAVIOR
- JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS
- TO THE WORK
- RESCUE THE PERISHING
- TO GOD BE THE GLORY
- CLOSE TO THEE
- PASS ME NOT
- HOLD THOU MY HAND
- TAKE THE WORLD, BUT GIVE ME JESUS
- I SHALL KNOW HIM
- REDEEMED
- WILL YOU COME?
- TIS THE BLESSED HOUR OF PRAYER
- WILL JESUS FIND US WATCHING?
- PRAISE HIM! PRAISE HIM!
- TELL ME THE STORY OF JESUS
- THOUGH YOUR SINS BE AS SCARLET
- SAFE IN THE ARMS OF JESUS
- THE HALF I CANNOT TELL
- SAVIOR, MORE THAN LIFE TO ME
- WELCOME FOR ME
- SPEED AWAY
- SOMEDAY THE SILVER CORD WILL BREAK

### "WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE"

- TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE
- WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE
- SONG OF WONDERFUL LOVE (WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL)
- EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING
- WE HAVE AN ANCHOR
- AM I NEARER TO HEAVEN TODAY
- WILL THERE BE ANY STARS
- FROM THE CROSS TO THE CROWN
- I'LL LIVE IN GLORY
- I'LL LIVE ON
- UPON THE BANKS OF JORDAN STOOD (ALL PARTS SUNG BY RAY WALKER)
- THERE IS A FOUNTAIN
- GLORY FOR ME
- BECAUSE HE LIVES
- JESUS IS ALL THE WORLD TO ME
- WHERE THE ROSES NEVER FADE
- SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY
- HEAVEN
- WHISPERING HOPE

### "IT IS NO SECRET WHAT GOD CAN DO"

- IT IS NO SECRET WHAT GOD CAN DO
- THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD
- TAKE MY HAND PRECIOUS LORD
- WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN
- I WANT TO KNOW
- BECAUSE HE LIVES
- AMAZING GRACE
- HE SET ME FREE
- BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC
- THIS OLD HOUSE
- PEACE IN THE VALLEY
- HOW GREAT THOU ART
- WHERE COULD I GO?
- JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE
- HE'LL UNDERSTAND AND SAY "WELL DONE"
- PRECIOUS MEMORIES
- WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN

### "MY GOD AND I"

- HE
- DO YOU KNOW THE SONG
- THE END OF THE WAY
- THE LAST MILE OF THE WAY
- THANK GOD FOR JESUS, HE'S MINE
- JESUS TOOK MY BURDEN
- MY GOD IS REAL
- HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
- SING AND BE HAPPY
- I'LL BE SOMEWHERE LISTENING
- I LOVE THE LORD
- MY GOD AND I
- I'D RATHER HAVE JESUS
- PUT YOUR HAND IN THE HAND
- THE HALF I CANNOT TELL
- THE HALF HAS NEVER YET BEEN TOLD
- SING OH SING HIS PRAISES
- OH I WANT TO SEE HIM

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## baptist forum



**Bill Whittaker**  
President  
Clear Creek Baptist Bible College  
Pineville, KY 40977

## clear creek chronicle

### Gifts

We are in the season of giving and receiving gifts. Clear Creek is fortunate to be the recipient of gifts throughout the year. Many gifts come our way and each one is received with thanksgiving, because they help campus families stretch their dollars to meet urgent needs.

During summer a load of delicious corn was followed shortly by 900 pounds of tomatoes. Two truckloads of potatoes were divided among students and faculty families.

Campus women recently received a thousand pairs of hosiery and our men are hoping some new ties will be forthcoming! A large truck from Florida comes each year loaded with clothes and many churches and families regularly send us good used clothing. This is sold in the campus thrift shop at 25¢ per item.

The annual family Christmas Shopping Spree is set for Dec. 6. WMU groups, Sunday school classes and individuals have sent us toys, merchandise and money to buy gifts. Alumni contribute to give each student and faculty/staff family a holiday dinner turkey.

Other gifts include the valuable expertise and time donated by volunteers. Georgia Mink, English instructor and academic tutor, has donated her services for several years. Members of Pineville First Baptist staff visit our thrift shop. Doctors visit the campus clinic without charge. A recently retired dentist gave us his equipment, which we hope will become a clinic staffed by dental personnel who desire to give a few days in mission service. Most of our students do not have the resources for preventive dental work.

Auditors call these non monetary contributions "gifts in kind." They enable us to do more with less cash flow and are very much appreciated. The utility bills cannot be paid with tomatoes, however, and faculty salaries cannot be met with potatoes. Gifts in kind cannot meet our 1.6 million dollar budget. This requires the continuing faithful support of Kentucky Baptists through the cooperative Program and the contributions of nearly 4000 friends. I am so thankful for all who know this and faithfully support our vital ministry. In this season of gifts Clear Creek appreciates the gift of your loving support.

### Ohio thanks Kentucky for help

I am enclosing a report from West Central Association which tells a tremendous story about the growth of the Ada Southern Baptist Church and the contribution Kentucky Baptists made to this young congregation.

The Ada church is one of the finest examples of what can be done in Ohio in the years ahead.

Thank you for your support and encouragement.

"The Ada Southern Baptist Church has a new building. It will hold 185 in the sanctuary, 155 for Sunday school. The first service saw 105 in attendance. Howard Cobble, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, Ky., was speaker at the dedication service with 174 in attendance.

"The church, started three-and-a-half years ago as a Bible study in the home of Lee Warf, moved to the police station and then to a pizza parlor. The group became a church May 17, 1987 and received aid from several Kentucky Baptist churches and associations. The Kentucky-Ohio link-up was a major reason for the growth and stability of the church."

Tal Bonham  
Columbus, Oh.

### Prayer for a brother

After reading a recent article (Oct. 25, pg. 10) regarding the resignation of a Dallas pastor I was moved out of concern and brotherly love to write a letter assuring him of my prayer support for his family, his church and himself. I agree with our brother from Lexington who recently wrote, "The Lord can again use him. . . ." (Nov. 8, pg. 8).

I did not interpret the resignation article as being unkind but as a message to brothers and sisters in Christ to lift up this pastor, family and church before God in prayer support.

If we covenant together our prayer support for God's healing in this matter, if that is our response, then the article will have promoted help for this man, his family and church and advanced the kingdom. Let us be obedient to James 5:16, ". . . and pray for one another, that you may be healed."

Phillip Rowan  
Burkesville

### Praise for a courageous lady

The world is a little less bright and heaven is dearer because Helen Parker went home the other day.

Blind from birth Helen had clearer

vision than most of us. She missed out on the beauty of color and the lovely textures of light and shadow. But she was free of the sensory overload that bombards us every day and used that freedom to keep her eyes on Jesus.

Helen would have cherished the gift of sight. But she never whined about her visual handicap. She mastered her blindness rather than letting it master her. She was a meticulous housekeeper, a good cook, a prolific writer, a dedicated student of the Bible, a faithful church woman, a soul winner and a popular speaker.

Her husband, J. S. Parker (known to friends as "Park"), has continued his career as a gifted craftsman in the basement of his home in Louisville. As we lament our loss of Helen, we will remember that Park is still with us.

Lucien Coleman  
Hong Kong

*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.*

## It ought to be required reading!

by Joyce S. Martin

It ought to be required reading for every Southern Baptist. It's about 100 pages long, filled with lots of information and not a bit boring for Baptists with a love for spreading the good news of the gospel around the world.

It's the "Partners in Missions Guide to Southern Baptist Foreign Missions" published by the Foreign Mission Board.

Recently I was reminded of how exciting reading that little volume really can be. I was working on an article for *Contempo* magazine about the ministry of Fred and Sami Sorrells, a missionary veterinarian and wife serving in Madagascar.

Now, I'll have to admit, I wasn't at all sure where Madagascar is. And I certainly didn't know what ministries we as Southern Baptists have there.

One thing I was sure about. Based on past experience I knew I could begin my research with the *Partners in Missions* guide. And sure enough, right there on page nine of the 1988-89 issues was "MADAGASCAR" in bold letters.

In just a few minutes I learned that Madagascar is one of the Indian Ocean islands off the southeast coast of Africa, Southern Baptist were invited by local Baptists to work there and the Foreign Mission Board assigned an agricultural missionary family—the Sorrells, I later learned—to Madagascar in May, 1987. I learned about population, major religions and the language.

But most importantly, I got excited about the Southern Baptist network of 3842 foreign missionaries in 113 countries around the world. I not only read about Madagascar, I literally "read around the globe" as I scanned the entire volume before returning to work on my writing assignment!

I remembered how as a girl growing up in Double Springs Baptist Church in Waynesburg, Ky., I had learned more about the world through the missions organizations in my rural church than I ever did in geography classes in school.

Once again I was proud to be a Southern Baptist and I was thankful for my Kentucky Baptist heritage.

Long ago the Englishman William Carey, pioneer among modern missionaries, heard missions opportunities in India described as "a gold mine . . . deep as the center of the earth."

Carey responded, "I will venture to go down, but remember that you must hold the ropes."

During this season of emphasis of foreign missions I am glad I can hold the ropes. And I am thankful for printed material and missionary organizations

which help me hold those ropes intelligently and with integrity.

The *Partners in Missions Guide to Southern Baptist Foreign Missions* is on my required reading list. It should be on yours!

*Mrs. Martin is editorial and production assistant for The New England Baptist, Northboro, Mass., and author of over 200 articles and two books. She and her husband Larry, a native of Eubank, Ky., are home missionaries serving Greater Boston Baptist Association.*

# LOTTIE MOON IS STARVING AGAIN.

# UNTIL JESUS COMES

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

Philippians 1:6

For more than 16 decades your state Baptist news journal, Western Recorder, has been the principal means of transmitting news of interest among Kentucky Baptists. It continues a proud tradition today, telling Baptists the facts—accurately, honestly, rapidly.

But escalating postal, paper and printing costs threaten that freedom in contemporary times. These culprits are demanding more and more dollars which otherwise would be available to missions causes. In a recent year Western Recorder had to rely on the Cooperative Program for nearly \$2 of every \$5 it spent.

There is a way to reverse the trend, however—through endowment. Gifts to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation in Western Recorder's name will help the paper hold the line on rampant inflation.

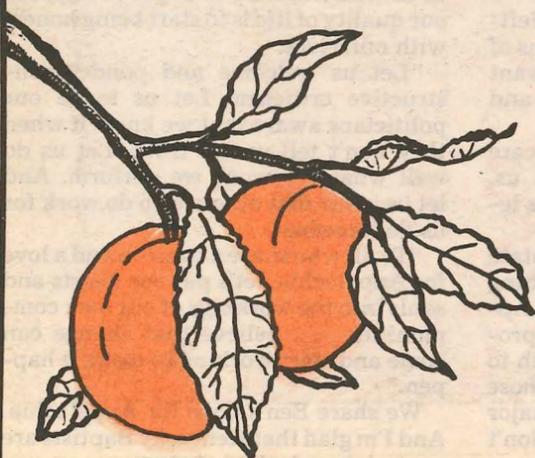
Your gift will provide a permanent informational supply line to thousands, even millions of readers yet unborn.

The interest it generates will underwrite Baptist communications needs from now until eternity.

Won't you help us by sharing what you can until Jesus comes?

Clip the coupon and mail it with your check to:

Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243



I want to share something with Western Recorder that will outlive me, providing for others until Jesus comes. Enclosed find my gift of (check one):

- |                                 |                                 |                                 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2500 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10   |

Another amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street/Box No. \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Gifts are tax deductible and will be acknowledged. If you would like to designate your gift as a memorial to individual(s) living or deceased, include name(s) here:



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

## oneida journal

### A happy result

"Last summer we sent our son to you to enrol in a math class and hopefully get over what I saw as a math phobia. Our local school had failed to help him all through grade school. I guess he saw himself as a failure.

"My husband and I had been reading your articles about Oneida in Western Recorder for quite some time and we were impressed. I wrote you a letter about our problem. Later I was surprised when you called our home personally! This is a rarity for the president of a school to take the time to do.

"My son, my husband and I visited the school and you gave us a personal tour and interview. When the summer term opened, our son, Jim, enrolled in Math I and became an Oneida resident for several weeks.

"I must give Mrs. Slone a standing ovation for the patience and understanding she showed when she taught Jim's math class. I never got to meet her. But I know that Jim finally became a good math student this past summer under her tutelage. He was allowed to go on the trips you arrange for Oneida's honor roll students at the end of each quarter. Best of all, Jim felt good about himself for a change. Please extend our thanks to this fine lady.

"Jim is now a husky six-footer who played varsity and junior varsity football as a freshman in our home school this year. But the best part of this whole story is that he has made the academic honor roll for both the first and second

six-weeks' grading periods. We are in the third grading period and when I ask his teachers they say only good things about his performance. I give a great deal of credit to Oneida for giving him the pattern for such success. You all really turned this young man around!

"Enclosed is a check that we know you know how to put to good use. We will always be grateful that Oneida came into our lives, even for one summer term. Thanks to you and each one of your staff who care so much about young lives and are doing something about it."

The enclosed \$200 check was "frosting on the cake."

Jim came to us with a poor self image. We set about changing that from our initial contacts. Much of our initial interview and orientation is designed to that end. When a student can be persuaded to think can not can't, all things are possible.

Of course, the real work is done in the hour by hour work of our classroom teachers, our deans working in the dorms in our "home away from home" situation, those who supervise our students in their daily work responsibilities and the coaches working so hard on the playing fields and in the gym.

We work very hard to involve every child, to help each enjoy success in something. In the process, miracles happen in so many lives. Eternal miracles. For those who are led to a saving knowledge of Jesus, the angels of heaven rejoice over each one.

On a plaque marking Abraham Lincoln's birthplace near Hodgenville is recorded this scrap of conversation:

"Any news down to the village Ezry?"  
"Well, Squire McLain's gone to Washington to see Madison swore in, and ol' Spellman tells me this Napoleon fella has captured most of Spain. What's new out here neighbor?"

"Nuttin', nuttin' a'tall, 'cept fer a new baby born over to Tom Lincoln's. Nuthin' important ever happens around here."

The Bible tells us we have entertained angels unaware. Often we are unknowingly associated with great people or significant events without understanding their significance at the time. More times than we can ever know, someone might have gone on to do great things if we had given just a bit of help at the right time.

Reprinted from *Western Recorder* Jan. 22, 1985.



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

## sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR DEC. 11, 1988

Life and work series

### Relating to Christians

**Philemon 7-20** It is assumed that Philemon was a native and an inhabitant of Colossae in Phrygia who became a Christian under the ministry of Paul. The ties of love which bound them together ever after were a source of great joy and comfort to Paul.

This well-to-do man owned one or more slaves. One of them, Onesimus, appropriated some of Philemon's property and ran away. Fearing punishment for his crime, he fled to Rome hoping to get lost in the crowd. Through divine providence this fugitive came into the presence of Paul, who introduced him to Christ. Paul then sent him back to his Christian master, Philemon, to confess his sin and to become "a beloved brother."

Paul urgently requested Philemon to receive Onesimus into his household in full standing and as a "brother in Christ." His request implied that it was not only eminently desirable for him to do so, but as a Christian, Philemon was under obligation to do so. Had he refused Philemon would have been chargeable with neglect of his duty.

Paul's letter revealed a tenderness toward the offender and at the same time a full awareness of the guilt of Onesimus and his real need to make restitution. Because of what the transforming power

of Christ had done for Onesimus, Paul assured Philemon he was then able to prove himself profitable to him as a Christian servant and brother in Christ.

Paul expressed his personal willingness to assume entire responsibility for any indebtedness which Onesimus had incurred if he could not pay it. In substance he said, credit me with what you think of him and look upon him as you look upon me or reckon him to my merit. Paul voluntarily took upon himself the task of reimbursing Philemon for any loss which he had suffered on account of the theft which had been perpetrated by his slave if Onesimus could not pay it.

Paul presented Onesimus as an example of one whose life was dedicated to the task of making his redeemed personality profitable in the service of others.

International series

### God's promise to Mary

**Luke 1:26-31** Mary, a devout and godly Jewish maiden, and Joseph, a noble and devout young carpenter, were betrothed. Among the Jews in that day betrothal was not a light thing which could be broken off upon some slight pretext but was as sacred as marriage. During that interval unfaithfulness on the part of the young lady was punishable by death.

The angel Gabriel suddenly appeared in Mary's presence in Nazareth and informed her that through the grace of God she had been chosen by God as the one to conceive and to become the mother of a child. His name would be "Jesus," according to Isaiah 7:14. This promise was the most wonderful one ever made to any woman.

**Luke 1:32-33** For the encouragement of Mary Gabriel also predicted the greatness of her son, Jesus Christ, and the perpetuity of his kingdom. This "Son of the Highest" deserves to be recognized as both saviour and sovereign.

**Luke 1:34-37** Knowing she was a virgin, the puzzled Mary inquired: "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" Gabriel informed Mary that God had the ability to make possible the virgin birth. He convinced her God could and would carry out his plan and accomplish his purpose.

Mary dismissed her perplexity and fear. She then believingly and submissively yielded herself to the will of God and remarked: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."



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

## on mission together

### A heart for Appalachia

The Lexington Herald publishes a weekly feature entitled "Appalachian Voices." Its purpose is to reflect upon life in eastern Kentucky.

Its October 2 feature was written by Ben A. Baird, well-known Kentucky Baptist pastor of First Baptist Church, Hazard. Kentucky Baptists may appreciate some excerpts:

"One can pick up many amusing stories in the mountains and about the mountains. Some are true and some are either fictitious or greatly exaggerated.

"Progress in Appalachia will be achieved to the extent that we look at the region objectively and honestly.

"The narrow and often dangerous roads that wind through mountain communities cast upon one a feeling of confinement and isolation. For those of us who live here, it is not true that on a clear day you can see forever. Instead,

on a clear day you can see the next mountain. The absence of easy travel tends to work against a sense of community.

"A new Appalachia is emerging. We are beginning to believe in ourselves, to make things happen and to renew our faith in God and in each other.

"We don't want the pity nor the leftovers from the more affluent sections of the commonwealth. But we do want their help. We want partnership and cooperation.

"To those from outside who don't care about us, don't pontificate about us. Don't accept the stereotypes of us as ignorant or backward.

"I once suggested to some state leadership that we institute something similar to the Peace Corps for Appalachia. I was thinking of retired professionals, those with enough wealth to afford such a venture and those whose work already spans this area. The major response I got was that 'people don't want to live in this area.'"

"Many people who make their living here live elsewhere and deprive the community of their resources.

"There is a stigma attached to Appalachia that can be changed only with the help of those from the outside who care about us. A good place for those of us who live here to begin to improve our quality of life is to start being honest with ourselves.

"Let us welcome and ponder constructive criticism. Let us make our politicians aware that we know it when they don't tell us the truth. Let us do well whatever work we perform. And let us insist that others who do work for us do likewise.

"To all who share a concern and a love for Appalachia, let's put our hearts and souls into the workings of our own communities . . . believe that change can come and start working to make it happen."

We share Ben's hope for Appalachia. And I'm glad that Kentucky Baptists are part of Appalachia's future.

## Missionaries carry crosses in Utah's land of Mormon spires

by Mark Wingfield

Southern Baptist missionaries serving in the Utah Valley carry the cross in a land of spires.

Churches now dot the landscape of a dozen small communities around Provo. But spires, not crosses, pierce the sky from their steeples.

That's a subtle distinction not everyone would notice. However, Southern Baptist home missionary Ron Smith says it symbolizes the struggle he faces.

"We're dealing with people who think they're saved but who don't know who Jesus Christ is," he says, explaining that the crucifixion of Christ is not central to Mormon theology, as it is for Baptists.

Mormonism teaches that Jesus is the son of God and that Satan is his half-brother, Smith says. Jesus' death was sufficient to cover only some sins, according to Mormonism.

Nearly 90 percent of the valley's 240,000 residents are members of the Mormon Church. One survey found only 2200 Christians, less than one percent of the population.

Payson, a town of 6000 people, has 15 Mormon wards—one within walking distance of every home. It also has two small evangelical Christian churches, one of them a Baptist chapel where Southern Baptist missionary Don Carrothers is pastor.

Carrothers and Smith are church planters, although a more appropriate title would be church replanters. Like the rugged mountain terrain, the dominant Mormon culture forms hard soil for growing new Baptist churches, they say.

"Nobody comes to our church to gain status in the community," Carrothers says.

He has scheduled four appointments with the president of the local Chamber of Commerce to inquire about joining. Each time the president has been unable to attend.

Such difficulties are the result of zealous individuals rather than organized persecution by the Mormon Church, reports Bruce Gardner, director of missions for the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention.

It's not the kind of situation where they catch you and beat you up in the alley," he says. "People do not know us. They're suspicious of outsiders with religions they've never heard of."

Other than the Middle East, Utah is the most difficult Baptist mission field in the world, John Meador, pastor of First Baptist Church, Provo, claims: "The question out here is not, 'Should Christians go to dances?' but 'Who is Jesus Christ?' That's a major question, even on the third- and fourth-grade level."

Smith and Carrothers use Bible studies, social work and community involvement to address those questions in their communities. Some people who will not attend a nonMormon church will attend a Bible study. Others just need the assurance that Baptists have come to town to stay.

The Mormon Church has an extensive social program but gives assistance only to church members in good standing. Migrant farm workers fall far short of the qualifications, Smith says.

Through the food pantry of the Pleas-



Ron Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pleasant Grove, Utah, kneels in the church sanctuary to pray for God's power in reaching his Mormon-dominated town with the gospel. Smith dreams of the day crosses will replace spires on Pleasant Grove's churches.

ant Grove church, Smith has given the workers food, clothes, beds and Spanish-language New Testaments.

This illustrates a point Gardner makes about Utah: "Mormons are not the only ones who need Christ here. We're here to spread the gospel to anyone we can get to listen."

"From the secular point of view, our work may not be worthwhile yet," Carrothers explains. "But Southern Baptists are being faithful to the Great Commission to reach every person with the gospel."

"We're called to make disciples in all the world. Numbers are important because they represent people, but I'm glad we haven't put a stipulation on how big a place has to be before we send missionaries."

Even without visible results, the Smiths and Carrothers stick to their call because the need is so great.

Smith dreams of the day crosses will replace spires on every church in Pleasant Grove. "My vision is that every building that's called a church will become a church of Jesus Christ," he says.

## Conversion costs former Mormon dearly

by Mark Wingfield

"Dad said I could have committed murder and he would have liked that better than me becoming a Christian," former Mormon Ruth Cox recalled.

In small, Mormon-dominated com-

munities around Provo, Utah, Mormons who leave the fold likely will be cut off from family, friends and jobs.

However, Mrs. Cox said that's a price she and other converts gladly pay to get answers to the spiritual questions they've carried for years.

Mrs. Cox was raised in Utah in a Mormon family and is a descendant of Mormonism's founder, Joseph Smith.

Her testimony of accepting Christ at age 35 is typical of many Mormons who join evangelical churches. It also illustrates the challenge small Southern Baptist churches face in an area dominated by thriving congregations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

As a 15-year-old, Mrs. Cox attended a worship service at First Baptist Church, Provo, that would change her life 20 years later. She was the babysitter for a Baptist family who lived across the street.

When the neighbor child was to sing in church one Sunday night, Mrs. Cox reluctantly agreed to attend. The "warm and friendly atmosphere" stuck in her memory for the next two decades.

Mrs. Cox married, had children and went on with her life in the Mormon church. When marital problems struck, she determined to solve them by becoming a better Mormon, one eligible to enter the sacred temple with her husband.

She began to read the Bible and the Book of Mormon and noticed inconsistencies, she remembered. But no one would answer her questions, she said, noting she was told not to question church authority.

At the height of her frustration, Mrs. Cox remembered the Baptist church and warily attended a Sunday service. "I was scared to death," she said. "I sat on the next-to-the-back row so I could get

out the door when the devils starting coming toward me." Her strict Mormon education taught her that all nonMormon churches were of the devil.

Five visits later, Meador finally beat her to the door. She flatly refused his offer for prayer or a visit.

However, with each passing month, Mrs. Cox became more interested in what she saw at the Baptist church. She checked out every activity, including a Wednesday business meeting.

"That was the first time I had ever seen a church tell its people where the money was going," she said. "It was a wonderful experience."

Six months after her first visit, Mrs. Cox left a Sunday evening service in turmoil. She drove to a nearby lake and sat in her car. "I didn't know if God was still alive," she said.

She cried out to God in desperation, "If you really can do what you say, go ahead and save me."

When she got home, she found her Bible, opened it and understood it for the first time. "It was like it was alive for the first time," she said. "I was so thirsty, I devoured it."

The next Sunday, Mrs. Cox literally ran down the aisle of First Baptist Church to make her decision public.

Mrs. Cox is now secretary at First Baptist Church. Her children and mother have been converted through her witness.

In retrospect, Mrs. Cox said, "I'm convinced God's scripture is right when it says, 'My word will not return to me void.'" (BP)



Ruth Cox, whose family descends from Mormon founder Joseph Smith, became a Christian at age 35 after the Mormon church could not answer her spiritual questions. Mrs. Cox found the answers she sought at First Baptist Church, Provo, Utah, where she is now the church secretary.

# LOTTIE MOON IS STARVING AGAIN.

Just 76 years ago, foreign missionary Lottie Moon literally starved to death. She refused to see the Chinese people she loved go spiritually or physically hungry. So she gave all she had to give—from her food to her last ounce of strength.

Motivated by her example, Southern Baptists have given to foreign missions through an offering that bears her name. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. It's been six years since we've met the offering goal. Lottie Moon is starving again.

The 1988 goal is \$84 million. If each Southern Baptist gives \$10, we will not only reach, but surpass the goal. But if we don't, what happened to Lottie Moon could happen to foreign missions.

How much will you give to keep foreign missions alive?



BECAUSE WE HAVE  
BEEN GIVEN MUCH