

Kentucky Baptists rise in 10 areas over five years

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

Statistics released by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Computer Services Department for the last five calendar years show gains in 10 of 12 comparative studies representing 2250 Kentucky Baptist churches.

While some additions over the five-year period (calendar years 1983-87) were minimal, four—all of them in financial giving—were significant increases.

At the same time, the most disturbing aspects of the report reflect radical slippage in number of baptisms and a decrease in Sunday School enrolment across the Bluegrass State.

Based on Uniform Church Letters for individual years supplied by cooperating churches to the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, the Kentucky report was prepared and released in Middletown by Douglas D. Hays, KBC Computer Services Department director.

The sharp decline in baptisms shows a drop of 15.7% over the five-year period. In 1983, there were 17,595 baptisms recorded in Kentucky Baptist churches. With the exception of one year since, every year 1983-87 shows a steady decline, dropping to 14,829 in 1987, a decrease of 2766 baptisms annually based on the figure five years earlier.

There was an increase in baptisms in 1986, the year of simultaneous "Good News America" crusades which heavily emphasized evangelism. That year, the number of baptisms jumped slightly, from 15,575 in 1985 to 16,769 in 1986. This was a numerical increase of 1194 and a percentage increase of nearly 7.7%. But those gains slipped badly in 1987, when the baptism rate fell by 1940 candidates, a 11.6 percent drop.

C. Benton Williams, director of the KBC's Missions and Church Services Division, observed that "when we have a special evangelism emphasis, baptisms do go up."

He called attention to another special emphasis on evangelism projected for 1990. Kentucky Baptists have selected the time frame of Mar. 18-Apr. 29 for its churches to choose dates to partici-



Williams



Stricker



Miller



Marshall

pate in a Southern Baptist convention-wide simultaneous revival plan called "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You."

"We can turn our baptism rate around when we make winning people to Christ a priority," said Williams. "It is not easy. It does take effort. But when we make this kind of commitment we can see by our record baptism rates will be turned around."

The most significant increases in the five-year comparative figures released by the Computer Services Department show substantial contribution giving in four categories. Three of them are up by at least 23 percent:

—*Gifts to local Baptist associations, up 23.9%*, from \$2,420,607 in 1983 to \$2,999,288 in 1987, an increase of \$578,681;

—*Cooperative Program giving, up 23.6%*, from \$12,562,745 in 1983 to \$15,526,117 in 1987, an increase of \$2,963,372;

—*Giving to all missions endeavors, up 23%*, from \$22,491,278 in 1983 to \$27,664,304 in 1987, an increase of \$5,173,026; and finally,

—*Undesignated gifts, up 19.5%*, from \$109,272,255 in 1983 to \$130,642,445 in 1987, an increase of \$21,370,190.

Asked to interpret the figures, Jesse Stricker, KBC Stewardship Department director, suggested that those in the churches who are accountable for these significant financial gains are "largely the same ones" who are also "investing themselves" in the church.

He said he believes part of the healthy increases in financial contributions may be attributed to successful communication through two conventionwide stewardship emphases, "Planned Growth in Giving" and "Witnessing Giving Lifestyles." Both have been heavily promoted in the commonwealth in training workshops involving church staff and lay leaders.

Meanwhile, four of the five church program organizations showed at least minimal enrolment gains over the five-year period 1983-87, with two—Brotherhood and church music—posting fairly healthy growth rates.

Brotherhood showed the largest percentage increase among the organizations, up 5.56%, adding 1287 members to its rolls. The gain recorded an increase from 23,166 in 1983 to 24,453 in 1987.

Enrolment in on-going church music activities across Kentucky recorded an upturn of 4.46%. There was a gain in participation by 3684 persons in choirs and related groups, from 82,653 in 1983 to 86,337 in 1987.

Church Training enrolment increased by 1796, up 2.47%, from 72,679 to 74,475.

Woman's Missionary Union achieved a net gain of 1035 members, up 1.76%, from 58,739 to 59,774.

Sunday school was the only casualty among the church program organizations, down 1.42%, from 377,423 members in 1983 to 372,053 in 1987, a net drop of 5370 members in five years. While this organization had registered significant gains in 1986, the year of the simultaneous crusades, enrolment declined by 4661 in the following year.

The downward trend comes at a time when Baptist Sunday School Board officials are pushing hard for an increase in Southern Baptist Convention Sunday school enrolment. Adopting the theme "Challenge 10/90," the board is heavily promoting strategies to reach 10 million persons through on-going Bible study ministries by Sept. 30, 1990. SBC Sunday school enrolment stood at 7,942,106 at the close of calendar year 1987. To meet the national goal of 10 million Sunday school enrolment, 33 months remained at the start of 1988 to reach and enlist more than two million new members.

Commenting on the disappointing downturn in Kentucky's record, state Sunday School Department director Chip Miller laid some of the blame on deleting names of poor attenders.

"We're fighting the idea here and in other states that if they don't attend, you drop them," he said. "While we've shown some very positive gains in enrolling new people, that record is offset by so many churches dropping those who

aren't present very often."

Miller went on to express his belief that the negative baptismal rate is "very definitely connected" to the Sunday school. "If you don't enrol them, you aren't going to baptize them," he discerned. "It's just that simple."

Miller said his department will give heavy emphasis to keeping members "on the rolls" at a Sunday school convention in Louisville Apr. 14-15, 1989 for pastors and church staff. "You're never going to win those you lose," he concluded.

Rounding out the comparative figures distributed by the Computer Services Department, two other areas in Kentucky Baptist life showed slight gains over the five-year period.

Membership in Kentucky Baptist churches improved by 1.55%, an increase of 11,726, from 756,548 to 768,274.

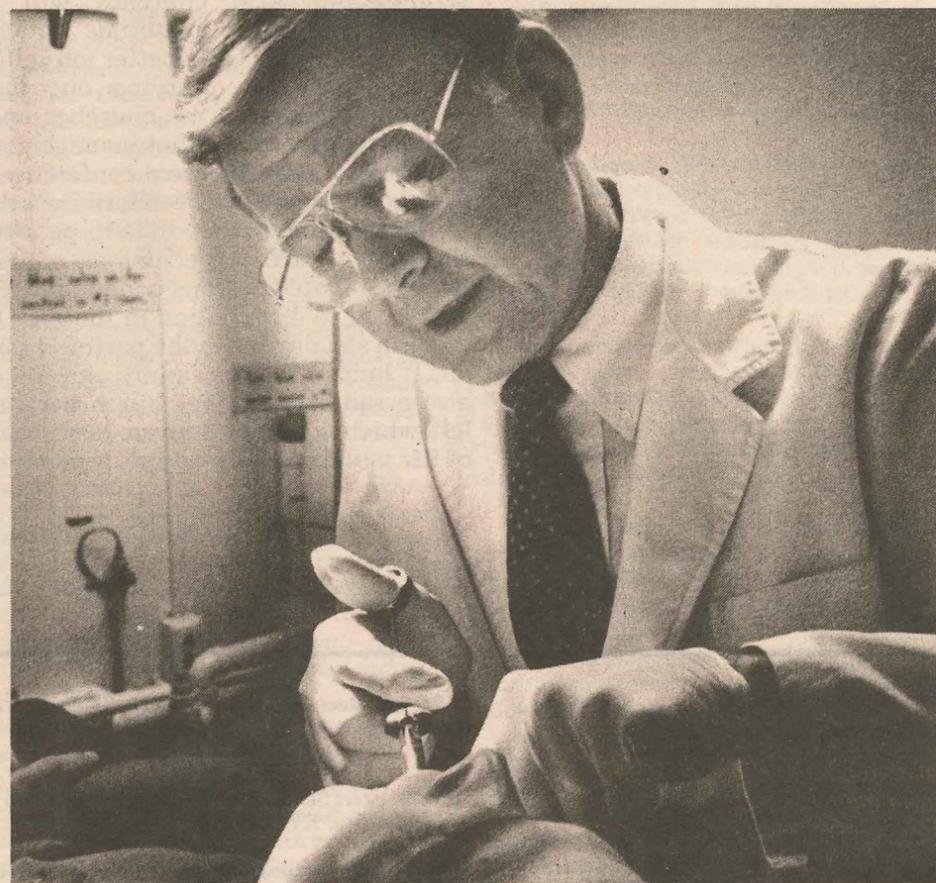
At the same time, resident membership is up 1.43% in the commonwealth, a gain of 7692 persons, from 538,849 to 546,541.

Commenting on all of the five-year statistics, KBC executive secretary-treasurer William W. Marshall said the figures represent cause for "rejoicing and concern."

"Rejoicing," he said, "because in most areas Kentucky Baptists are showing vital signs of growth and progress.

"Concern," he went on, "because baptisms continue to slide downward and Sunday school experienced a sharp drop. Since Sunday school is the vital arm of church evangelism, when it is down, baptisms are likely to be down also," Marshall declared.

He is hopeful with many new church starts presently occurring in the state, plus "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You" revivals in 1990, "we will experience an upward turn in baptisms beginning in 1989 and on into the new decade."



"Showing God's Love through Ministry to Others," theme of the 1989 adult January Bible Study of John's gospel, is typified by David Morton. The Clarksville, Tenn. dentist uses his skills in the Good Samaritan Medical-Dental Ministry for low income families sponsored by Clarksville's First Baptist Church.

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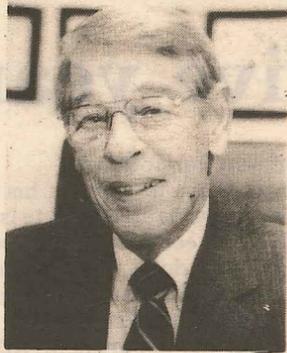
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sanford's perspectives



Jack D. Sanford

When the tie is broken

A chilling statistic emerged last week from the office of Norris Smith, consultant on forced termination for the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Smith, a former Kentucky pastor, declared there are 116 Southern Baptist churches across the nation which fire a pastor every month. That represents a 31 percent increase over results from a 1984 report of pastoral firings.

In Kentucky there have been 25-30 forced terminations each year for the past four years, according to Guy Futral, consultant in the Church/Minister Relations Department of the KBC.

The SBC report, which came from discussions and a survey among directors of missions, indicated the main reason for termination of the pastor was lack of communication. Second on the list of reasons for termination was immorality.

However, more than 44 percent of firings came from such causes as performance dissatisfaction, authoritarian leadership style, power struggles and personality conflicts.

The pattern of firings indicate a lack of conflict management skill by both the church and pastor. In many instances the pastor and/or church will not address a problem until it has festered and is ready to explode. By then the pressure has built up and the opportunity for reconciliation has passed.

In 1983 the Southern Baptist Convention recognized the problem and adopted a motion requesting help for terminated pastors. The BSSB has begun to develop strategies for helping in this painful problem area which touches not only pastors but other staff members as well.

The program of help centers on directors of missions since they are usually the first people to whom pastors and churches turn when conflict begins. Two national conferences for mission directors will be held over the next five years and will provide training to equip mission directors to recognize and deal with problems when they arise.

An acceptable referral system is being developed to help pastors caught in the web of forced termination. Also churches will be trained through leadership materials which will help search committees do a better job calling a pastor, assist deacons in carrying out their task as spiritual leaders in the churches and aid other church leaders in conflict management.

Our own state has two conferences each year for persons who have been terminated. The design of these conferences is to help persons deal with the hurt, to affirm persons as ministers and to help terminated persons understand the dynamics which led to termination in the first place.

It is a sad day when the pastor is asked to move on. It hurts him, his family and his career. It is also a sad day for the church because scars are left which sometimes never heal. Yet the reality of life is that pastors and staff members are fired

and it happens more frequently with each passing year.

The survey reveals the highest number of terminations across the convention were reported by churches with less than 300 members. Since a majority of our churches fall into this category we do indeed have a problem of major proportions which must concern all of us because the life of many people is touched in damaging ways.

There are no easy answers, perhaps no final resolution, but basic to any solution is care in making the bond between pastor and church in the first place. Careful investigation of pastoral candidates is essential. Equal care should be given by the pastor in his research of the life and ministry of any church which seeks his services as minister. Too often we jump at the first chance to make a connection only to rue the day. Out of personal experience we know how vulnerable we can be to a call from another place when we feel isolated and stuck in a ministry situation which has gone a little stale.

High on the list of first things is to take seriously the words of Jesus, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." It is ancient wisdom with the touch of God about it and it must be the way we conduct our affairs if we are to see an end to forced terminations. Brothers and sisters in Christ must be treated with respect, love and care.

Finally we must accept the fact pastors are human beings capable of mistakes. Even though we are in an era when some few pastors convey an authoritarian, pontifical attitude, most pastors know they are sinners saved by grace. Let us treat them as brothers who need love and compassion, not as objects of scorn because they make mistakes. If Jesus treated us as we treat others what would be our fate?

By the same token there are no perfect churches. Even the best congregations have members who are mean and self-centered, ready at the drop of a hat to engage in combat. Let us acknowledge this and act with wisdom, caution and love toward even the most dull congregation. When the call comes to a particular church any minister owes it to himself, his Lord and his future to search for as much information as he can find about the church before he agrees to become identified with the people for what may prove to be a long time.

And let us pray. No power is equal to the power of God available to his people as they pray. Terrible wounds can be healed through prayer. The time spent in prayer rather than in debate could save pastoral careers and advance the ministry of many churches. It is past time we prayed more and cared more and loved more and argued less. Only as we increase our contact with the heavenly Father will we see the trend of broken ties between pastors and churches stopped. May God hasten the day!

western recorder

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

baptist news in brief

Indiana board deletes seven jobs to save dollars

Seven staff members were laid off, another was offered a transfer until retirement and \$235,000 was cut from the budget of the executive board of State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

The executive board met a week after the annual meeting of SCBI, which had heard reports of financial problems.

The adopted budget projects \$1,841,197 will be contributed by congregations, a figure newly elected executive director-treasurer Mark Coppenger thinks is too high. He said a more realistic figure is about \$1.6 million.

He explained the convention will end the 1988 budget year "about \$90,000 in the red" and that occurred with four major staff vacancies. The executive director and state missions director resigned in March of 1987 in a dispute over

use of designated funds; the editor and director of Christian ministries—who were "coadvisors" in administering the state staff—subsequently resigned.

In order to balance the budget, Coppenger said, the executive committee eliminated five staff, one maintenance and two clerical positions.

Four professional staffers were told they would be laid off by Jan. 31, 1989, a fifth staffer was offered reassignment until retirement in 1990, one secretarial position will not be filled and a secretary and maintenance man were told their employment had been terminated.

One staff vacancy has been filled. F. Jack Redford, director of associational missions in Cisco, Tex., will return to Indiana as state missions director. Redford was secretary of the state missions

department 1962-67.

Redford replaces Glen Ray, who resigned in March 1987, in a dispute over the use of designated funds. Then executive director, R. V. Haygood, also resigned.

Subsequently, two other staffers, Indiana Baptist editor David Simpson and church growth and ministries director Lew Reynolds, also resigned.

One staff member, James Abernathy, who has been evangelism/stewardship director, was offered reassignment as head of a slimmed down Sunday School/Church Training Department.

Evangelism/stewardship responsibilities will be assumed by Coppenger.

Four other staffers were told their jobs would be eliminated. They are:

—James Erlich, language missions director. His duties will be assumed by Redford.

—W. J. Davis, church music/Church Training. His duties will be absorbed by the new Sunday School/Church Training office.

—B. J. Watts, administrative assistant to the executive director. His duties will be absorbed by Coppenger and the bookkeeping office.

—Bill Harrison, family ministries/Brotherhood. Family ministries goes to the Sunday School/Church Training office and Brotherhood to Missions.

One staff vacancy remains to be filled, editor of the state Baptist newspaper. These duties will be combined with student work.

Under the reorganization, the staff will include Coppenger, Redford, a Sunday School/Church Training director, an editor/BSU director and the director of Woman's Missionary Union work, Margaret Gillaspie.

There are nine clerical workers. (BP)



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

clear creek chronicle

Ohio alumni

One hundred Clear Creek alumni now live in Ohio. The second highest number of students at Clear Creek are from the Buckeye State.

Executive secretary Tal Bonham and other convention leaders are supportive of our ministry and frequently recommend prospective students. The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio grants scholarships to assist and encourage individuals from convention churches who are preparing for Christian service and need financial assistance. Some of these grants come each year to our students. Clear Creek has made a vital contribution to the Kentucky-Ohio Mission Partnership by sending pastors to help start new churches.

Fifty alumni and friends gathered at Grace Baptist Church, Dayton, for the alumni convention luncheon hosted by alumnus Dale Denton, 1980. Jerry S. Lewis, 1973, Marion, was elected president.

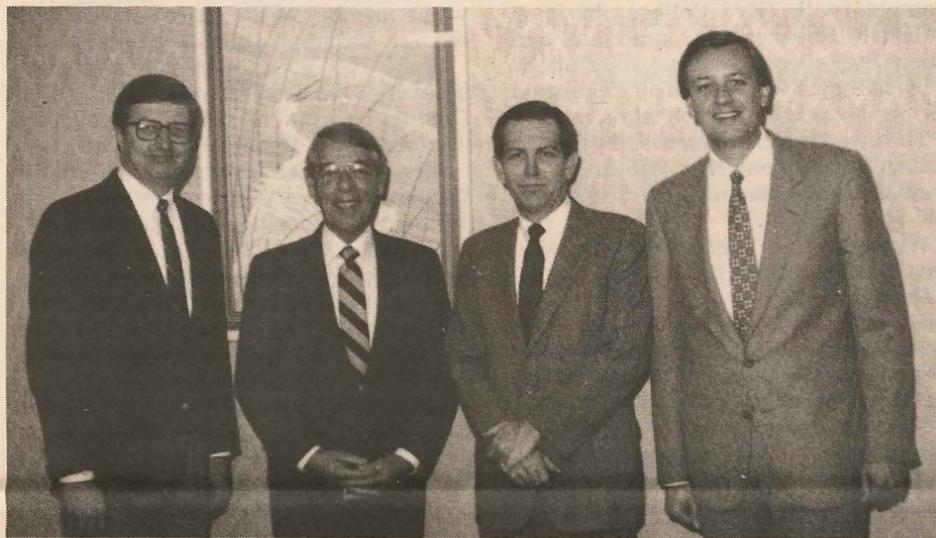
New Lebanon, Oh. alumnus Edward D. Baker Sr. recently wrote and sent a gift. He completed three years at Clear Creek in 1949. He recalls Dr. Kelly "a wonderful man and his wife, too, was a scholar as well as a wonderful Christian."

Baker mastered a straight "A" average his entire three years. He interrupted his studies during the third year and went to high school for four months. He passed the GED test at Hazard with the highest score ever made in that division.

Preaching the gospel for over a half century Baker is grateful for the training he received at Clear Creek. His varied experience has included 10 years in the coal mines and working as a farmer, lumberjack and sawmill employe. For nine years he worked with the Kentucky Baptist mission program.

He now suffers from total disability derived from a World War II injury. In January Baker will be 86.

He closed his letter "a brother, because of Calvary" and noted I Peter 5:1-11. The passage challenges pastors to lead their churches in the spirit of Christ. Clear Creek's reputation grows when alumni faithfully fulfill this scriptural guideline.



New officers of Western Recorder directors are pastors of First Baptist churches (l-r): Greg Earwood, vice chairman, Murray; editor Jack Sanford; Richard Bridges, chairman, Bowling Green; Glenn Mollette, secretary, Pikeville.

baptist forum

Building fund a great success

Members of Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville, Long Run Association, subscribed \$317,764 during a 13-week Together We Build campaign. Plans call for construction of educational space and a recreation building estimated to cost \$600,000. Dr. Morris Nacke, a lay member of the congregation, was local director of the program.

In addition to the monetary value of the program the church experienced significant spiritual benefits. We have experienced true revival throughout the campaign. We've had more additions by baptism and letter during the TWB campaign than during any revival meeting. Testimonies of family commitments greatly influenced the unity and cooperative spirit of our church. New church leadership emerged during this time.

God did for us exactly what we needed through TWB and we give him all the glory.

Tom Curry
Louisville

Endowment is questionable

I have both listened and read with interest regarding the establishment of an endowment to underwrite Western Recorder and alleviate a burden on Cooperative Program funds. I have two concerns.

First, when we eliminate or even les-

sen the opportunity of Kentucky Baptists to directly support a Baptist state publication with Cooperative Program gifts we tend to discourage on going giving by our churches. I sense the establishment of an endowment may lead some churches to take the attitude that "maybe we don't need to give as much to the KBC because the endowment fund is picking up the expense" or "let's give a one time gift to the endowment and cut CP giving because funds are no longer needed for Western Recorder."

It is my understanding the CP was established to support all areas of our Baptist program so we need to challenge and encourage our churches to support the CP more, not less.

Secondly, the idea of accountability of Western Recorder to the KBC is a concern of mine and other pastors. If cooperative funds were no longer needed or used only to a limited extent, would Western Recorder remain under the direction of, and fully accountable to, the KBC? I would appreciate a positive response to both these concerns.

D. A. Borden
Corbin

Editor's note: We are glad to respond to your concerns. (1) If churches are so weak in their commitment to cooperative giving that they would see an endowment as an excuse to cut giving, nothing we can do will help them. If endowment is rightly understood it will be

seen as an asset, strengthening cooperative giving because it will provide funds during down times, such as now, and take some stress off those who must administer these funds. If Western Recorder had had sufficient endowment last spring we would have been able to adequately absorb a postal increase of more than \$88,000 per year. We had to use Cooperative Program dollars to help meet this unexpected expense. (2) Western Recorder is fully owned and operated by the KBC through a board of directors elected by the convention. No amount of money in an endowment fund would change this since we are bound together by a legally binding covenant. Should Western Recorder ever cease to exist or attempt to exist on its own, all assets now held by the paper would revert to the KBC, even the money in an endowment fund. Your second concern should be no concern since the KBC is sole owner of the paper. Your first concern may present a problem for a few churches but most of our people recognize the wisdom of adequate endowment funding.

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.

christian education



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

A labor of love

I realize most Kentucky Baptists don't get to attend very many statewide or regional events put on by the staff of their Baptist Building in Middletown. There are those people, however, who with some frequency attend some of these offerings that encourage, train, support and undergird the ministries and ministers, laypeople included, of our churches.

Any long time reader of this publication knows we make a serious effort to inform our people about such meetings. We do it through newsworthy stories which tell about a calendared event of major significance that may attract several hundred persons. Our objective is not to be a promotional mouthpiece for the state operation. Rather, we work hand-in-glove with our Baptist Building colleagues to call attention to the good products and services they offer you. All the while we realize you are the people who called them and us to our places of service and who ultimately pay the bills for us all.

We will follow up these stories about meetings-to-be by frequently being on the scene at several statewide events every year, including six conventions: evangelism (February); WMU (April); BSU (September); Brotherhood (October); international students and KBC (November). In addition, we occasionally report from certain smaller one-time-only or infrequent events. Examples: church media library retreat (April); deacon-pastor-spouse retreat (twice in February, twice in September); Sunday school conventions (sporadic); and Haworth Conference (October).

We cover three annual meetings of the Kentucky Baptist executive board (May, November, December). We report the major auxiliary meetings surrounding annual sessions of the November state convention (pastors, educators, musicians, directors of missions, etc.). And we make every effort to give prominent space to summer assemblies—Cedar-moore, Jonathan Creek and a host of regional encampments.

It's a big job. And it never ceases. But I can tell you it is an exciting task, too. Something is always happening to make our labor of love rewarding. After years of meeting deadlines, I find no two days are ever the same. News simply doesn't work like that. Even the conventions we report are different. Speakers, emphases, issues, goals are constantly changing.

Thank you for allowing me to be your servant in this exciting day in which we report. It is my prayer that the words you read and the pictures you see on these pages will stimulate you on your personal walk of faith in Christ's name.

Norman Shumate elected to Boyce Bible school post

Norman M. Shumate of Vine Grove has been elected secretary of the Boyce Bible School Board of Overseers.

Shumate is the technical director for the U. S. Army Armor School, Ft. Knox. Other officers elected: Dorothy Sample, president of the Woman's Committee of the Baptist World Alliance, chairman, and R. Quinn Pugh, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New York, vice chairman.

Oratorio to perform Handel's "Messiah"

The Oratorio Chorus of Georgetown College, under the direction of Stephen King, will perform Handel's "Messiah," Dec. 8 in the John Hill Chapel, 8 p.m.

This year marks the 65th performance by the Oratorio Chorus. Past and present students will perform as soloists. In addition, a string ensemble will accompany the chorus.

The performance is free.



President Bill D. Whittaker presented eight Kentucky WMU scholarships in chapel at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. Receiving the awards were students (l to r): Leslie Ellison, Florence; Milford Stanley, Oneida; David Evans, Corbin; William Rogers, Stanford; Dan Stallard, Danville; Greg Humpert, Cawood; Darly Jessie, Glasgow; David Foley, Dry Ridge.

Campbellsville's alumnus awarded

Campbellsville (Ky.) College physician Forest F. Shely, a 1943 graduate, and his wife, Roberta (Bobbie) Hale Shely, a 1942 alumna, were given distinguished service awards from their alma mater.

The awards were presented by Campbellsville president Ken Winters at an annual alumni banquet Nov. 4. About 300 were present.

Winters said, "This alumni couple have invested their lives in the Campbellsville community. They have befriended the college in many ways. Their involvement in their church, Gideon work and the medical community has distinguished their careers."

Shely has been a member of the trustees at Campbellsville about 25 years and chairman of the board six years. He

was a member of the search committee for a new Campbellsville president.

Shely has been in private practice since 1963. He is chief of staff at Taylor County Hospital and member of the Taylor County Board of Health.

Mrs. Shely has been "an active participant of trustee wives groups," said Winters. She has belonged to the Kentucky Education Association and has been past Parent-Teacher Association president and chairman of fund raising for the group. She's also been a member of the Taylor County Hospital Auxiliary.

Campbellsville's first honorary alumnus named

After working a quarter of a century at Campbellsville College, Spencer Parker has been named first Campbellsville College honorary alumnus.

"Spence" as he's known, as college president Ken Winters said, an institution. Winters presented Parker with the award at the annual Campbellsville College alumni banquet Nov. 4 during homecoming.

Since 1963 Parker has greeted students and employes of Campbellsville College with a friendly "how are you?" or "good morning." He's a maintenance worker who usually collects trash early in the morning.

Parker was "real proud and excited" to receive the honor.

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Seminary prof awarded for excellence by OBU

Mrs. Molly Marshall-Green, associate dean of the School of Theology, Southern Seminary, received an Alumni Profiles in Excellence Award during Oklahoma Baptist University's homecoming Nov. 11 and 12.

The award, presented annually to 12 OBU alumni, recognizes excellence in professional or business life or in service, and is the second highest award given by the OBU alumni association.

Mrs. Marshall-Green was named associate dean in August, becoming the first woman to be promoted to that post in Southern Seminary's 130-year history. She also is assistant professor of theology.

She has written several journal articles, including "Women Making a Difference," "Women in Ministry" and



Mrs. Marshall-Green

"Family: Male and Female."

She earned her doctorate and master's degrees from Southern Seminary and is married to J. Douglas Green.

SBTS reports slight decline in fall enrolment

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary experienced a slight decline in fall enrolment compared to a year ago.

At the close of registration, the seminary had 2088 students compared with 2152 at the same time last year. The loss represents about 2.9 percent fewer students.

Final enrolment figures for the fall semester will not be determined until Southern's off-campus centers are included in the count. Last year the total fall enrolment was 2659.

If the present trend continues, the seminary's total nonduplicating enrolment for the academic year will be slightly less than the 3253 students who took classes last year, according to David Britt, the seminary's director of admissions and student records.



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

homes for children

Giving thanks

Our family enjoyed Thanksgiving with extended family this year for the first time in several years. It was a very special time to give thanks for all that God has done. As I heard expressed so ably by Ken Murphy of the Glasgow Baptist Church, Thanksgiving is our one holiday which has not become commercialized. It is truly a time when our nation pauses to give thanks to God for his blessings.

The Kenneth Howard family of Radcliff had a very special Thanksgiving this year. They, more than most perhaps, had a very poignant reason to give thanks. Their daughter Stephanie, 16, was on the church bus enroute home from Kings Island this summer when the fatal bus accident occurred near Carrollton. Stephanie was spared her life but continues to work through the many feelings that follow when one experiences the loss of friends and peers so tragically.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard have given thanks continually to God for Stephanie, their only child. Mrs. Howard contacted Glen Dale staff some time ago expressing a desire to provide Thanksgiving dinner for Glen Dale residents and staff in celebration of Stephanie's life. As they gathered for the annual Thanksgiving celebration on campus Nov. 22, these special people along with their pastor, brother Boswick of the First Assembly of God, and other friends joined the children and staff to express their thankfulness for the many blessings of this year with song, testimonies and poems. Their prayers were lifted up in memory of the young people who had lost their lives or were injured and for their parents and friends.

Our children heard the Howard family story and can no doubt identify with this family and for at least a period of time see beyond themselves and their problems. As our children grope to work through their webs of conflict, surely they will find more to be thankful for as a result of seeing others coping with problems and yet celebrating in Christ with thanksgiving for life and his love.

We appreciate the gift from the Howard family and the opportunity to celebrate in behalf of their daughter. Their thoughtful gesture epitomizes the spirit of Thanksgiving.

Worley art exhibit at Campbellsville College

Madelyn Worley of Route 1, Gravel Switch, is presenting an art exhibit Nov. 28 through Dec. 16 at Campbellsville College's Gosser Fine Arts Center Gallery.

She will be exhibiting wheel thrown, stoneware functional pottery.

Miss Worley attended John Carroll University, Cleveland, Oh., where she received the BA degree. She has exhibited work in the juried exhibition at St. James (Belgravia Court) Art Fair, Louisville; Arts and Crafts Foundation juried exhibitor; Marion Guild Show, Wilderness Trace; Kentucky Arts and Crafts gallery; Beverly Arts Center, Chicago, Ill.; and Christmas Connection, Cleveland.

Of her functional pottery, Miss Worley said, "I want my pottery to be used frequently and enjoyed fully—not placed on a shelf and merely admired."

Times for the exhibit are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. until noon and 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. or by appointment.

Mississippi school votes to keep president

William Carey College trustees voted 7-4 Nov. 3 to rescind an earlier action to retire president J. Ralph Noonkester at the end of the current school year when he reaches his 65th birthday. The action took place at a special board meeting called by three trustees who opposed the forced retirement. The college, an institution of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is located in Hattiesburg.

During a closed door session Sept. 29, trustees voted 5-4 not to extend Noonkester's contract past his 65th birthday, but did not give a reason for the action, nor would they say

what had been discussed in the 30-minute trustees-only session.

The Nov. 3 action, proposed by trustee Jod Dale from Prentiss declared that the resolution passed Sept. 29 is "rescinded and ordered expunged from the minutes of this board." During discussion trustee chairman Billy McKay ruled that contract decisions cannot be changed after parties involved have been notified. However, Dale protested, noting Noonkester does not have a signed contract. Trustees supported Dale and overturned McKay's ruling, 7-4.

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Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

She stomped her feet

A father of one our girls recently sent a \$200 donation over and above our monthly room and board fee. We must have many such donations because no child is charged the true cost. Even though what we charge is only a fraction of actual cost, many are not able to pay even that. That is where people like you make the difference and enable us to minister.

In addition this Catholic father wrote: "I can recall January 1988 when we first came to Oneida as a way to help our daughter. Since then it has been a learning process for all of us.

"Sue has tried us many times over. However, when I visited Oneida for homecoming I noticed a change in her that I thought I might never see. She handed me a hymnal during the services as she began to sing. In my conversations with her she includes God from time to time. This is the same child that three years ago stomped her feet and frowned inside the Catholic church when I asked her to sing.

"I thank every one of the people who have taken the time to help Sue. I know your rewards will come later in another time. I am enclosing a donation. I know it is not nearly enough considering what has been done for my family. May God bless you."

Last summer we had to ask a young man to leave our school after much work with him and many difficulties. But seeds were sown and a long letter to one of our staff indicates that perhaps the

effort was not in vain. He writes: "God gives us choices between what is right and wrong. In the past few months I have abstained from all mind-altering drugs and from smoking. Please don't misunderstand. I have not been a perfect angel. I still ask God everyday to help me on the right track. I have also given up the so-called 'friends' that I used to run with. I realized this was the only way. You have taught me a lot of things. I am grateful to you."

This from Owensboro: "I visited OBI campus with a group during the summer of 1987. I was impressed with the operation of Oneida. Enclosed is a check for \$200. Please add me to your mailing list to receive your paper, the Oneida Mountaineer. Of course, his was a donation to help girls and boys. We send the paper to anyone wishing to get it without charge.

Friends and donors of many years recently visited from Mt. Sterling and then wrote: "Each time we visit we are more impressed with the school, the students and the work you are doing. As you know we give \$100 monthly to you through our church, but we feel led to send you this extra money."

A grandmother writes: "A few years ago I had a granddaughter there. Her mother and father are good Christians active in the church. But Jean had gotten in with the wrong crowd. If it had not been for Oneida and your work there could have been lots more trouble. But she graduated from Oneida a changed girl. Back home she was in church and Sunday school and stayed away from the old friends. She has now been in the Navy a year and thinking of going to officers training. She sends her money home for banking and has a sizable amount for her future. I am a widow and have little income. But I want to share with Oneida and am enclosing a small amount."

A 1977 graduate writes from California: "It was more than a decade ago when I was at Oneida. Even though it was only one short year, Oneida has a special place in my heart. For the past 11 years I have received the Mountaineer that has kept me in touch. I am so excited about the color video that is available. Please find enclosed \$25 for it as well as a donation. I went on to the University of Texas and graduated with a BA in computer science and then my wife and I moved to Los Angeles. While working full time I managed to get my MBA. Now I am working for a large company and am in charge of all its computer and data operations."



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

The rumor trap

The following editorial was written by Robert Allen, editor of Maryland's **Baptist True Union**. I believe every Kentucky Baptist would benefit from its reading:

"No, it isn't a joke, and if it were it wouldn't be funny.

"A news story in this issue that the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board is setting up a telephone hot line to respond to misinformation and rumors about its work is for real. It is a sad commentary that trust levels among Southern Baptists have fallen so low that such a waste of administrators' time would be ordered. What is worse is it is doubtless a legitimate need.

"FMB President R. Keith Parks is to be commended for proactive leadership in the face of a growing public relations problem. In a nutshell, the board is caught in the middle in Southern Baptists' theological/political donnybrook.

"Convention moderates until this decade

set the agenda for the denomination and perceive they are the ones who built agencies and institutions now being controlled by leadership with a different agenda. Some fear Parks and other FMB administrators are selling out by enacting policies contrary to established missions strategy in an effort to appease 'fundamentalist' board members who— they say—are motivated more by political agenda than commitment to missions and will make the doctrine of biblical inerrancy a shibboleth for future missionary appointees.

"On the flip side, some convention conservatives apparently suspect many FMB missionaries and staff are theologically unsound and not fully committed to evangelism and sound biblical doctrine.

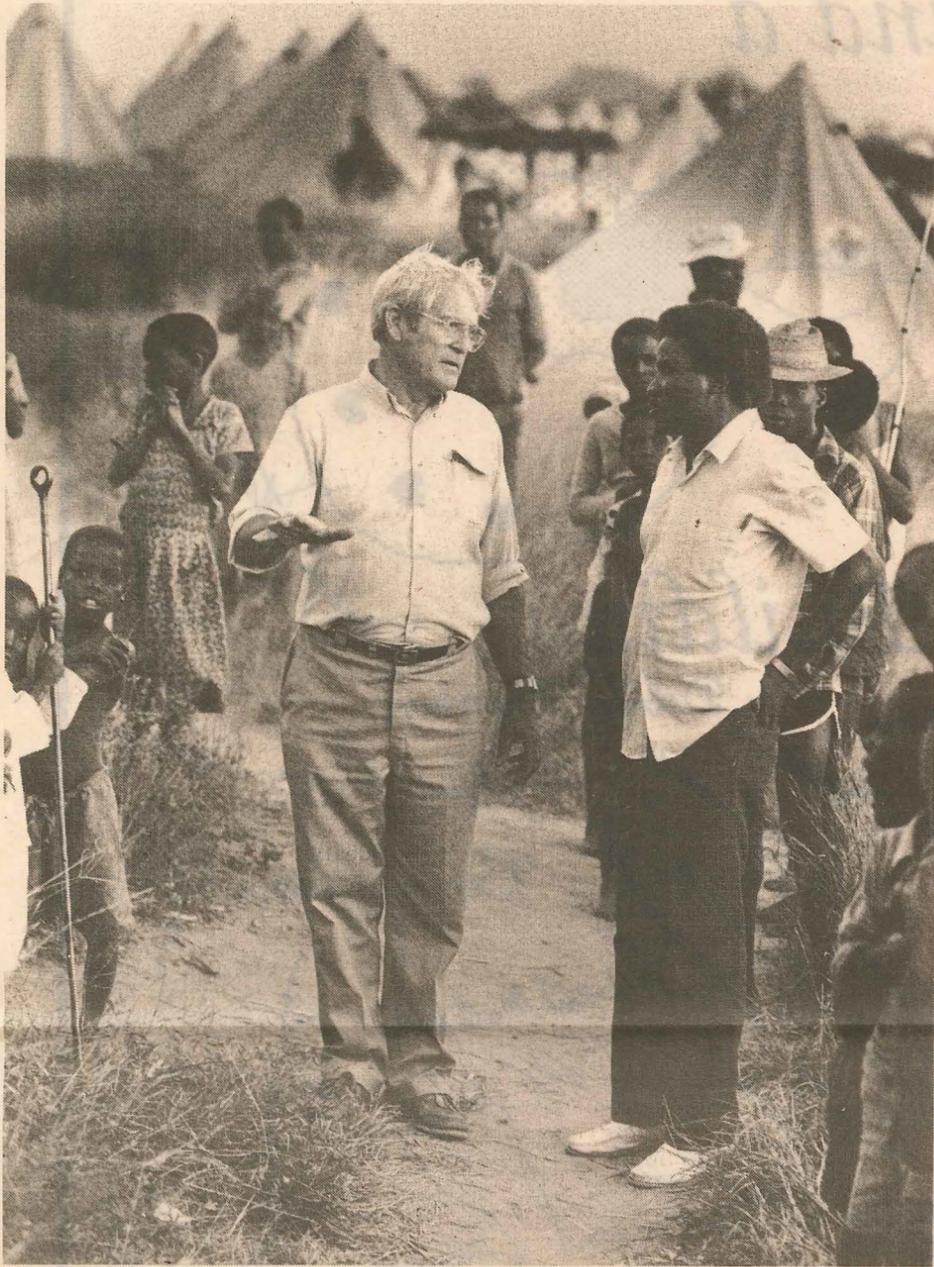
"Parks has vehemently denied all such charges, and showed great statesmanship at the FMB's Oct. meeting in Richmond when he put the responsibility for clearing the board's name where it belongs—with the trustees. He urged

trustees to go on record as affirming current missionaries and staff and assuring Southern Baptists that criteria for appointment of missionary candidates are unchanged.

"Parks did not overstate when he told trustees 'if the mission enterprise ever falters or loses credibility among Southern Baptists, the future of the Southern Baptist Convention is as much in jeopardy as a body with a damaged heart.'"

"A committee appointed by FMB chairman Mark Corts is scheduled to draft a response to Parks' challenge in time for the board's Dec. 12-14 meeting. At that meeting, trustees face a historic opportunity to—in Park's words—'call (Southern Baptists) above the controversy, with its misconceptions and its suspicions and distrust', and to—as Corts charged them—'(affirm) to all the Baptist family our personal and corporate commitment to biblical missions, based upon sound theology, cooperative spirit and sacrificial stewardship.'"

Foreign missions efforts reach needs around world



Southern Baptist volunteer Richard Cockrum (left) talks to R. Zengeya, director of the Nyangombe Refugee Camp near Zimbabwe's northeastern border with Mozambique. Cockrum is working with the government to organize response from Southern Baptists.



Southern Baptist missionary Albert Sutton (standing, center) and an agricultural technician meet with farm families at a well in a drought-stricken area of Brazil to show them better farming methods and share the gospel. It's all part of a \$3 million Southern Baptist hunger relief project called "Living Water" which has introduced irrigation to farmers in the region.



Southern Baptist missionary Albert Sutton (right) and agricultural technician Au-disio Malaqueis examine lemon trees on a farm in a drought-stricken area of Brazil. They give tree seedlings to area farmers and demonstrate how to cultivate them. This model farm is part of a \$3 million hunger relief project implemented by missionaries and Brazilian Baptists in northeastern Brazil.



Brazilian workers, some barefooted, toss 7-pound hollow-core bricks like loaves of bread, with tons more ready to unload from kilns and stack for shipment. Southern Baptist missionaries started this brick factory as part of a \$3 million "Living Water" hunger relief project in drought-stricken northeastern Brazil.

Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year from Your Staff at the Kentucky Baptist Building



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