

Executive board designates \$618,109; names staffers for Missions, Evangelism

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

Meeting at Middletown last week, the 169-member executive board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention appropriated \$618,109 of executive board funds and ratified the election of two staff associates whom its administrative committee had named.

The new employees fill existing vacancies in the Direct Missions and Evangelism departments.

W. Ken Forman, Maysville, director of missions in Bracken Association, will be associate director of the Direct Missions Department effective Feb. 15.

Billy Compton, pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green, becomes associate director of the Evangelism Department Feb. 1.

Forman, 61, a native of Cincinnati, Oh., is a graduate of Campbellsville (Ky.) College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Married to the former Wilma Pack, he is the father of four grown children. A businessman for 12 years before his call to ministry, Forman has been mission pastor, pastor and assistant pastor of three Campbellsville congregations. He was a mission pastor in Celina, Oh. and of two missions of First Church, Shelbyville, Ky. Before going to Bracken Association in 1977 he was assistant pastor at Campbellsville Church eight years.

Compton, 40, is married to the former Sue Ann Bailey and the father of a girl and boy. A native of Glasgow, Ky., he holds degrees from Campbellsville and Southern and is pursuing the DMin de-

gree at Fuller Theological Seminary.

His pastorates, all in Kentucky, include Antioch, Knob Lick; Hardyville; Pleasant Valley, Uno; Calvary, Glasgow; and Living Hope, Bowling Green, since 1980.

Meeting at the state Baptist Building Dec. 12-13 the executive board designated \$100,000 of the \$618,109 appropriation for a Baptist Building operating and improvements fund. The fund is currently at about half its "desirable" level based on "conservative depreciation schedules," board members were told.

The second largest single appropriation, \$92,542, went to the board's international partnerships fund. The fund is specifically designated to coordinate Kentucky volunteers in accomplishing project assignments in Brazil. A Kentucky-Espirito Santo (Brazil) partnership has been approved beginning in late 1989.

Other uses of the executive board monies include \$76,135 for an interstate partnerships fund, linking groups, churches and associations in mission opportunities in other states; \$75,000 for a student center major repairs and replacement fund; \$60,000 each for equipment replacement and a "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You" evangelism fund for planning, promoting and coordinating 1990 simultaneous revivals; \$55,000 for executive board program priorities; and \$50,000 for Western Recorder endowment.

The remainder appropriated by the executive board includes \$19,463 for implementing a major church extension and new work effort called "Mission Kentucky"; \$15,000 for outside professional assistance in reviewing and updating the board's personnel policy manual in light of the "changing legal environment"; and \$14,969 for a ministers in need fund, offering temporary emergency financial assistance and financial aid for professional counseling. This applies to eligible church staff ministers forced out of their positions and restores this fund to a target balance of \$25,000.

In other money matters, after some discussion the board designated a \$10,000 contribution to Citizens Against State Lottery (CASL) to apply toward present indebtedness. There was some dissension.

Without discussion, the board approved a one time only request of trustees of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, for \$7500 to be applied to the school's audit expenses.

A motion by the board's business and finance committee to increase daily meal rates at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek Baptist assemblies, while passed, was not unanimous. The new non-camp rate plan to be established June 1, 1989 raises meal costs from a present \$11.25 per person to \$13 per person per day. Lodging fees in dormitories and motels at both assemblies were reduced by \$1.75 per day. The adjustment does not affect room rates at Boone Lodge and service building at Cedarmore and the adult/youth motel at Jonathan Creek.

The executive board approved a revised indemnity resolution. A previous resolution, adopted in 1981, indemnified convention officers, members and



Chairman Jim Jones, Campbellsville, presides at the board meeting.

employees of the executive board and members of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation board. The revision, adopted without discussion, expands that to include officers, members and employees of the boards of Western Recorder and Woman's Missionary Union.

In a final money-related matter, the executive board voted to express to the SBC Annuity Board its displeasure with modified insurance coverage and notification stipulations which go into effect Jan. 1. The board instructed its executive secretary-treasurer, William W. Marshall, to communicate dissatisfaction over the issue to Annuity Board president Darold Morgan and two Kentucky trustees of the Annuity Board.

In several housekeeping matters, the executive board instructed convention officers to release minutes and other data from the previous Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting by Feb. 15 each year in order for printed annuals to be produced earlier; recommended that the "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You" statewide coordinating panel consider implementing a free 800 telephone line into the Baptist Building during the 1990 simultaneous revivals so persons may immediately receive counsel and information; and heard a progress report on a study begun in 1987 on providing training and services for adult mentally retarded persons.

The board voted 55-39 to hold a called meeting before its next regular meeting date of May 8-9 should candidates for three staff positions become available prior to that date. The vacancies include director of the Administrative Services Department; director of the Camps and Assemblies Department (who is also manager of Cedarmore Baptist Assembly); and manager of Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly. The Administrative Services Department became vacant when Richard Carnes, director, was elected last month as executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. The two assemblies positions will be vacant Mar. 31 upon the retirements of Marshall Phillips at Cedarmore and George Gray at Jonathan Creek.

In his traditional report to the executive board, executive secretary-treas-

urer William W. Marshall reviewed the current financial picture. He pointed out that in the first two months of the fiscal year (September and October) Cooperative Program giving fell 13% below the previous year at the same time. The operating budget was running 18.7% behind budget at that point.

Elatedly, he observed that "we had the best November in our history," with giving running 7.3% ahead of the same point a year earlier. At the close of that month, "We are still 9.1% behind budget, but I'm very optimistic," he intoned.

The remainder of Marshall's time was devoted to partnerships with Baptists in Ohio and Espirito Santo, Brazil.

He announced that Ohio Baptist leaders had identified four "hot spots" in which they would like to have Kentucky Baptist concentration during a proposed five-year extension of the Ohio-Kentucky Partnership. The four areas of geographic witnessing emphasis would be Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Dayton. Marshall said a definite proposal would be brought to the executive board at its November meeting and will be announced at both state convention meetings in annual session that month.

Marshall recalled his recent visit with a KBC staff committee to Espirito Santo, calling the people there "generous" while noting they are "so modest in their financial ability." His impression, he said, was that the "warmth and excitement" of the Brazilian churches "is not phony—it runs deep."

Marshall reported that one church boasted 1500 persons present in Church Training. At least 70% of its members are tithers, according to its pastor.

He then related some social needs, reflecting on how the Kentuckians observed hosts of children at San Pedro picking from among garbage and eating what they found. "In all my travels worldwide," he added in a hushed voice, "I had never seen that before."

Concluding, Marshall urged, "Somehow as we think of San Pedro and the meaning of Christmas let us think of sharing instead of keeping Christmas."

The board heard from its agency and institutional heads in a new format at last week's meeting. Rather than delivering 5-10 minute reports each as in the past, the executives were seated and asked to tell their agency or institution's greatest challenge over the next five years. The three senior college presidents were in an out-of-state collegiate meeting and were represented by other staff members.

At last week's meeting of the executive board, 136 of the 169 members were present. With 34 staff members, agency and institution personnel and visitors, total attendance exceeded 180. According to Marshall, this is believed to be the largest attendance at a December executive board meeting in at least six years.

The meeting was presided over by chairman James E. Jones, pastor of Campbellsville (Ky.) Baptist Church, who is also president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Members of the board's administrative committee: Curtis Warf, chairman, Richmond; Mark Hopper, Doug McCall, both of Louisville; Rebecca Clark, Robert Lowery, both of Hopkinsville; Phil Basinger, Hawesville; Brad Johnson, Springfield; Jim Haskell, Bowling Green; Tom Stokes, Whitesburg; Phil Potter, Cattelletsburg; Don Mathis, Corbin; Becky Loyall, Hodgenville; Hoge Hockensmith, Lexington; ex officio members Jones and Marshall.



Forman

Compton

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December 20, 1988

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No paper next week

In keeping with tradition, there will be no Western Recorder Dec. 27. Look for the next issue Jan. 3.

sanford's perspectives

Who are the Baptists?



Jack D. Sanford

The current furor in Frankfort over the nativity scene on the capitol lawn raises some serious concerns for Baptists, for we are split on the issue. Many of us support the governor in his attempt to interject the Christmas story into current events and public life, while many more of us believe he has gone beyond the limits and violated the sacred principle of absolute separation of church and state.

Perhaps we should all make a new year's resolution that we will learn something of our Baptist history so we will be able to more intelligently live out our life as the people of God. There is no question in our mind about the need for this among many of our people who, in recent years, have taken what appear to us peculiar stands on religious-government issues.

This idea for renewed study of Baptist history has been stimulated by the appearance of the new book by Baptist historian Leon McBeth. Broadman Press published his massive volume, *The Baptist Heritage*, and his retelling of our story has stimulated us to do more study of who we are and what it means to be a Baptist.

Our first encounter in full time ministry was as a professor of Baptist history in one of our Baptist colleges. The source material was limited but we did the best we could under the circumstances. There the volumes by Torbet and Vedder were used and a good base was laid for knowing who Baptists have been in the past and who they should be in the future. McBeth has gone beyond these brothers to give us a challenging, in-depth look at ourself in a massive volume.

The apparent ignorance of Baptist history among us today is a compelling reason why leaders in the churches must be concerned enough to at least try to educate our people about our past.

For example we have Baptists who are willing, even eager, to give up the cherished right of the congregation to decide its own affairs under the leadership of the Lord. Now some Baptists want the pastor to be sole spokesman for the church and make whatever decisions he deems necessary. This may make for an efficient church machine with a smooth operation, but it is a far cry from what Baptist churches have been throughout history and what Baptist churches should be in today's world.

It is important to know that McBeth's emphasis on religious freedom as our forefathers knew and practiced it is far from what many Baptists profess and practice in our day.

For example it is impossible to believe such Baptist giants as John Clarke, Isaac Backus, Lewis Craig and John Waller would ever support an effort to include prescribed prayer in the public schools or government construction of a nativity scene on state property. Craig and Waller were jailed in Virginia for preaching the gospel and knew the absolute necessity for the state to stay out of religious matters entirely. Many of our people have forgotten this, if they ever knew it,

and some of them would gladly sacrifice the freedom to worship God without interference for some sort of government involvement in religion.

To read McBeth and see what is happening in our Baptist family today would cause you to wonder if we are Baptist in fact, if we are indeed descendants from Roger Williams and John Smyth, or did we spring from some other branch of God's vine and mistakenly take the name Baptist?

McBeth's emphasis upon the absolute dependence of Baptists on scripture points out the historic principle of obedience to the written word of God as the only rule for life for Baptists. His study reveals this principle is one of the great hallmarks of Baptists in years gone by. No creed was ever established by a Baptist body since none was needed. Baptists had the Bible as the absolute guide to faith and practice and that was enough. Some modern Baptists seem to have forgotten this, if they ever really knew their own history, and would trade the Bible for some man-made interpretation of scripture and some man-made set of rules and regulations to govern belief.

Perhaps we could find room in our crowded calendar for a week of study on Baptist history. Many people, young and old alike, do not know who our forefathers were, what they did to establish our faith in this world nor how these spiritual pioneers helped shape the nature of our own country, especially the concept of religious freedom which is a significant matter in the United States Constitution. It would be an interesting study and it just might turn us back to the ways our predecessors felt were right ways.

McBeth's book would not do as a text for a churchwide study since it spans 400 years of Baptist history and consumes 850 pages. At best it takes a week or more just to read it, if one reads nothing else during that week. However the book is a gem and will be around for a long time since the subject is important to all people who want to know who Baptists are and what Baptists are supposed to be about. Every pastor should have the book in his personal library and keep it close by for reference. Also every church media center should have the book and advertise its presence among the congregation.

Perhaps we should take up the crusade for more study of our Baptist history. At least we would thus take the opportunity to challenge and inform our children about our past. Unless we get to it quickly it may be that in another generation or so no one will really know what a Baptist is nor what a Baptist should be about.

That is not as far fetched as it may seem because we now wallow in a sea of absolute ignorance of our heritage and as a result act in ways not in keeping with our Baptist history and tradition. If we continue to deny our history by redefining it, we will not be around very long. And that will be a loss for everyone, most particularly those who cherish our heritage and our honored way of life.

western recorder

(ISSN 0043-4132)

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

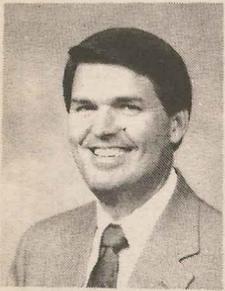
Postmaster: Send address changes to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Middletown, KY 40243.

Subscriptions: Single, \$7.88; foreign, \$8.50; church budget, \$6.00. Payable in advance, except church accounts, which require tax exemption number.

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

Directors: Richard Bridges, Bowling Green, chairman; Greg Earwood, Murray, vice chairman; Glenn Mollette, Pikeville, secretary; Bill Crosby, Erlanger; Denzel Dukes, Owensboro; Glenn Durham, Harlan; Paul Godsey, Burlington; Garnett Huette, Frankfort; Don Mantooth, Morehead; Isaac McDonald, Hodgenville; John Searcy, Franklin; George Smith, Leitchfield.

mountains to the mississippi



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

clear creek chronicle

Christmas memories

Christmas experiences at Clear Creek have been as varied as the gifts under your tree. Booneville Association launched the season with nearly 400 bags of groceries. Bruce Alvis, 1987 alumnus and pastor of Island Creek, Manchester, directed this Brotherhood project which brought a response from all 24 churches in the association. Campus excitement increased daily as the annual Shopping Spree approached. With money donated by WMU groups, Sunday school classes, churches and individuals, my wife had purchased gifts for several weeks. Wayman Hayes, 1963 alumnus, sent many toys from his Bowling Green craft shop, including ten wooden rocking horses. Early Dec. 6, staff members began a day of work which made the Kelly Hall lunch room look like a department store. Alumni and friends brought in merchandise throughout the day. Faculty made last minute trips for dolls and sleds. Each item was given a coupon value and one member of the family shopped by exchanging coupons for items chosen. At 4:30 p.m. the first students lined up for the doors to open at 6 p.m. The first fifteen minutes they browsed to see what was available. Dean Charles Rice led in a prayer. Twenty minutes later the tables were empty!

Two days later the Communication Arts class led a worship experience which featured a Christman tree with beautiful symbols of Christ made by students. Singing carols, we walked across the bridge with lighted candles. Lights on a huge pine tree were turned on and from speakers atop Kelly Hall the majestic "Hallelujah Chorus" sounded across the valley. The Young Disciples, a campus youth group, staged a live nativity scene for six nights. Many people from the surrounding area drove by the beautiful setting.

During finals weeks we paused to enjoy "Turkey Day." Alumni had provided a turkey and \$20 for every student family. Each staff family also received a turkey. After the last exams were completed on Dec. 16 student families began to leave to share the holidays with their relatives. The campus will be very quiet for two weeks but the memories will enrich every Christmas to come.

personnel

Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville, Long Run Association, marked the 20th anniversary of pastor **James B. Lewis** Dec. 4 by giving him and his wife Alois an expense paid trip to the Holy Land.

A native Louisvillian, Lewis is in his third Louisville pastorate, having previously served Ormsby Avenue and Rockford Lane churches. In 1984-85 he was president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The Lewises were guests of honor at a surprise reception following the morning services in which several members and former members recounted his two decades of service at Westport Road.

Larry Holland resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, Russellville, Bethel Association.

Bob Kersey is retiring after 22 years on the staff of First Baptist Church, Paducah, West Union Association.

Presentations recognizing him and his family were made during the Dec. 4 services. He and his wife Joyce were honored with a reception Dec. 4 in the fellowship hall.

Former pastor John Wood, now of Waco, Tex., was guest speaker for the morning service. Current pastor of First Baptist is J. Robert White.

Mary Johnson is retiring as director of preschool ministries after 20 years on the staff of Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Long Run Association.

Since 1968, the preschool ministry has expanded to include a ministry to internationals, a mother's day out program, a full Wednesday night program, Church Training and evening services.

After graduating from Georgetown College, Miss Johnson worked with the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Louisville until 1957. She has also worked with the Sunday School Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and on several church staffs. She is also a graduate of Southern Seminary.

Pastor of Walnut Street is Kenneth Chafin.

Keith Decker is the new pastor at Corn Creek Baptist Church, Mt. Zion Association. He replaces **Geral Wells** who resigned last summer.

New Salem Baptist Church, Laurel River Association, called **Joe Miller** as pastor. He goes from Tennessee.

Burgin Baptist Church, Mercer Association, called **Jerry Shepherd** as minister of music, youth and children. He begins the first of the year. Pastor of Burgin is Jon R. Roebuck.

Carl Hess accepted the call as pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Boones Creek Association.

First Baptist Church, Irvine, Boones Creek Association, called **William Bush** as pastor.

Mitch Vader accepted the pastorate of Spring Street Baptist Church, Boones Creek Association.

David S. Kolb resigned as minister of education and administration, Third Baptist Church, Owensboro, Daviess-McLean Association. He has been called as pastor of Parkdale Baptist Church, Columbia, Mo.



Lewis



Kersey



Rosas



Baker

Rosas holds BA and BBA degrees from Baylor University, an MDiv from Fuller Theological Seminary, and is a May 1988 PhD graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He held staff positions in churches in California and First Baptist Church, Shelbyville, Ky.

Robert Jordan was called as pastor of Putney Baptist Church, Upper Cumberland Association.

Park Street Church, Columbia, S. C., called G. Michael Greer as pastor. Greer is a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He completed requirements for a PhD degree from Southern this month.

Greer and his wife Elaine are former foreign missionaries to Israel. Since 1985 he has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Bracken Association, Carlisle, Ky.

congregations

Kentucky alumni of Boyce Bible School held an inaugural meeting with a luncheon at Yellow Creek Baptist Church, Owensboro, Nov. 15. Fifty-nine attended.

The following were chosen as officers: President, Douglas Sharon, pastor, Stanton (Ky.) Baptist Church; president elect, Wilma Simmons, Ekron, Ky.; secretary, Dudley Moseley, pastor, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Hodgenville.

First Baptist Church, Franklin, Simpson Association, held "Floy Jacobs Day" Nov. 13 in honor of the retired missionary to China.

Nov. 13 was officially declared "Floy Jacobs Day" by the mayor and county judge executive in a proclamation read by moderator G. William Leach Jr.

The 97-year-old Mrs. Jacobs and her late husband Robert A. Jacobs were missionaries in China from 1920 to 1943 and were reassigned to Hawaii prior to his death in 1953.

Mrs. Jacobs was presented with a bouquet of roses and letters of appreciation by the Girls in Action. Pastor Ray Cummins presented a scrapbook with letter from present and former staff members, church members and friends. A plaque was presented by WMU director Elizabeth Dunn, recognizing the missionary accomplishments of the Jacobs family. The plaque was placed in the foyer of the church. Cummins stated, "May God raise others up among

us like Floy Jacobs who will carry the torch of missions around the world."

Mrs. Jacobs will move to Mississippi to live with her daughter.

First Baptist Church, Fisherville, honored its pastor, L. Joseph Rosas III, in recognition of his completion of the PhD in Christian philosophy at Southern Seminary. The congregation purchased a robe, hood and tam as a graduation gift for the pastor.

Rosas' dissertation title was "The Function of Scripture in the Thought of Soren Kierkegaard." He previously pastored Chaplain Fork Baptist Church, Nelson Association, and churches in Tennessee.

revivals

Russell Adkisson conducted a revival at **Burkesville Baptist Church**, Freedom Association, in November and at First Baptist Church, Frenchburg, Red River Association, in October.

First Baptist, Frenchburg, reports seven professions of faith and 20 decisions. Pastor of First Baptist is John Rankins. Pastor of Burkesville is Phillip Rowan.

ordinations

First Baptist Church, Loyall, Upper Cumberland Association, ordained **Kenny Watkins** as deacon Nov. 27. Pastor of First Baptist is C. Keith Rogers.

J. Kyle Duncan was ordained Nov. 27 by First Baptist Church, Murray, Blood River Association. He is pastor of Ridgeville Baptist Mision, Ridgeville, Ind. Greg Earwood is pastor of First Baptist.

First Baptist Church, Kuttawa, Caldwell/Lyon Association, ordained **Richard Guill**, **Otha Munsey**, and **Clem Wethington** as deacons. Pastor of Kuttawa is Tony Tench.

East Frankfort (Ky.) Baptist Church, Franklin Association, ordained **Larry Ellis** and **Earl Edington** as deacons Nov. 13. Pastor is Robert Whitworth.

deaths

George Winston Halbrooks died Dec. 6 at Methodist Evangelical Hospital, Louisville, after an illness.

He was a native of Tuscaloosa, Ala., and a member of First Baptist Church, Belem, Brazil.

His father, Fred E. Halbrooks, is a former associate director and director of Kentucky Baptist Convention Sunday School Department and is now part time director of missions in Nelson Association. Halbrooks' parents, Fred and Hazel, were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board as missionaries to Brazil prior to coming to the KBC in 1975.

R. D. Baker, state Sunday school director in Illinois, died Dec. 3. He was involved in an automobile accident but there is strong suspicion he suffered a heart attack prior to the crash.

Baker was pastor of First Baptist Church, Morehead; First Baptist, London; and was director of missions in Laurel River Association. Baker was a past president of the Pastor's Conference of Kentucky Baptist Convention.

baptist news in brief

Retired RTVC official Clarence Duncan dies

Clarence E. Duncan, retired senior vice president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, died Dec. 3 in Ft. Worth, Tex.

Duncan, 66, was one of three employees who moved with the commission from Atlanta to Ft. Worth in 1955. He was senior vice president for personnel at the time of his retirement in 1985.

A native of Savannah, Ga., Duncan was a long term resident of the Nashville area. He was a general assignment reporter for the Nashville Banner and public relations director for Belmont College before joining the Radio and Television Commission staff.

At the time of his death, Duncan was teacher of a men's Bible class at University Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, where he was a deacon and former Church Training director. He had been treasurer of Tarrant Baptist Association 30 years.

He was a charter member and former president of the Baptist Public Relations Association. He is survived by his wife, Renita of Ft. Worth; one son, David R. Duncan of Alexandria, Va.; a daughter, Debbie Duncan Birdwell of Crowley, Tex., and four grandchildren. (BP)



Louis R. Cobbs, director of the Foreign Mission Board, begins a new assignment in January as special assistant to the board's executive vice president. Cobbs, 63, has directed processing of about 600 Southern Baptists for overseas missionary service in the last 20 years.

Baptists assist Armenia earthquake victims

Baptists have offered \$30,000 to help victims of the Dec. 7 earthquake in Soviet Armenia.

The Foreign Mission Board has offered \$20,000 for medicine, warm clothing and housing. The Baptist World Alliance, through its Baptist World Aid program, has made \$10,000 available,

Mississippi exec director sets August retirement

Earl Kelly, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for more than 15 years, has announced his retirement Aug. 15, 1989. He was 66 Dec. 16. The announcement was made during the board meeting Dec. 6 in Jackson.

Kelly came to the Mississippi Baptist post from the pastorate of Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Jackson. Before that he had been pastor of First Baptist Church, Holly Springs, Miss.

Under Kelly's administration, the annual Cooperative Program unified budget for participating Baptist churches in the state has risen from \$5.2 million to more than \$20 million for 1989. Kelly also initiated a \$40 million endowment campaign that was completed this year for Mississippi College, William Carey College, Blue Mountain College and the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village.

Kelly is a graduate of Sunflower Junior College, Mississippi College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. (BP)

Endowment increases

The endowment fund for Western Recorder increased by \$50,000 last week as the executive board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention approved a special grant for the state paper.

Executive secretary-treasurer William W. Marshall recommended the grant to the business and finance committee which, in turn, approved the request and brought the matter to the full board. Without discussion the recommendation passed and Western Recorder thus received the largest gift to date toward the establishment of a significant endowment fund. Marshall declared, "Hopefully, the allocation from the executive board will stimulate further responses from individual donors."

Western Recorder seeks to increase endowment funding to provide operating income from investments so Cooperative Program dollars may be used for other mission purposes. The drive began in the spring of 1988 and several hundred Kentucky Baptists have already made contributions. Editor Jack Sanford stated the funds are coming into the office regularly, from persons in every section of the state in increments ranging from \$10 to \$1000.

The endowment effort has the full support of the directors of Western Recorder and will continue to be a major emphasis of the paper in the years immediately ahead.

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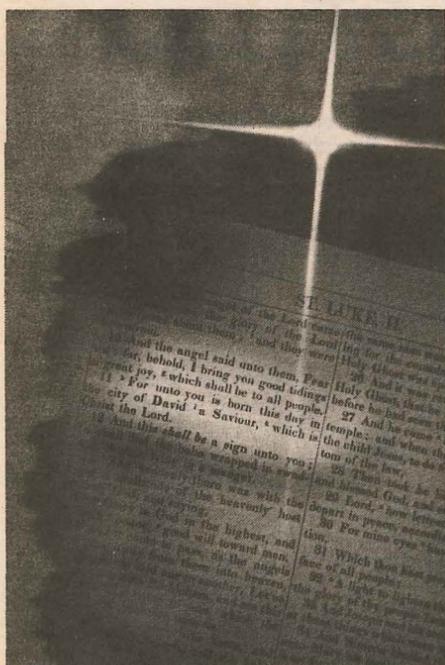
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Annual Report for the Daviess-McLean Travis Estate Fund from 10-1-87 to 9-31-88

I. Elderly Baptists		Medical expenses	2,649.13
Medicine	\$1,213.56	Crises	1,400.00
Medical expenses	5,969.39	Total	\$4,049.13
Wheelchair	1,500.00	Total expenditures for I & II	\$11,675.08
Utilities	243.00	III. Other expenditures	
Monument engraving (Mrs. Travis' grave)	50.00	Attorney fees	3,369.55
Total	7,625.95	Office supplies	7.03
II. Ministers and Families		Total	\$3,376.58
		Total for all sections	\$15,051.66

Paid advertisement



The birth of the savior is central focus for Christians around the world at Christmas.

Missionaries increase, offering falls short

As of December, Southern Baptists had deployed their largest number of home missionaries ever but failed to meet the goal for their annual home missions offering.

Home Mission Board president Larry Lewis told the agency's executive committee 3841 missionaries now serve across the U. S. and its territories.

Lewis also told the board gifts to the 1988 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions will fall nearly \$7 million short of the goal. Receipts as of Dec. 6 were \$30.6 million, 82 percent of the \$37.5 million goal. (BP)



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(An Agency of the SBC Home Mission Board)

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1-800-552-9243

Journeyman program sets Jan. 15 deadline

College graduates who want to work as journeymen with the Foreign Mission Board must have their applications postmarked by Jan. 15.

The journeyman program is for college graduates with four-year degrees. They must be 26 years old or younger by the deadline and interested in using their skills to assist missionaries on overseas mission fields for two years.

Positions are available in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and South America. They include assignments in music ministry, youth work, student

work, vocational skills teaching, medical technology, pharmacy, chapel construction, library work, health care, media, agriculture, business, speech therapy, nursing, computer programming, secretarial work and elementary and secondary teaching.

Applicants selected by the FMB will attend training July 5-Aug. 8 at the board's Missionary Learning Center, Rockville, Va., and leave for overseas assignments later in August. The board commissioned 63 journeymen last January to work in 36 countries and approved 28 journeymen in December to work in 21 countries.

Those interested in applying for the 1989-90 program should contact the Foreign Mission Board immediately. Call Pamela Smith in the Personnel Selection Department at (804) 353-0151 or write to the department at P. O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va., 23230.

BSSB to work with states in critical areas

Pledging even greater efforts at team relationships between the Baptist Sunday School Board and state convention leaders, board president Lloyd Elder outlined an "undaunted sense of direction we are trying to communicate."

"If the Sunday School Board is successful in working with state conventions to embrace all the churches, it may be the most unifying force we can implement," Elder told state Sunday school, Church Training and church building leaders meeting at Nashville.

The Sunday School Board and state conventions must work together because "the work is worth it. The strength we get from one another enables us to better do the work God has called us to do," said Elder. (BP)



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

homes for children

Christmas is for families

At Christmas times all of us want to be with our families. Across the state of Kentucky this holiday season thousands of children will return to their hometowns to visit parents and other relatives.

I can remember few Christmases in the past when I have not been with family. My first Christmas away from my parents was when I was stationed in Okinawa while I was in the Air Force. I remember just two days before Christmas being on a mission off the coast of North Vietnam, watching B-52 bombers going in below us to renew the bombing in 1972. It seemed so far from what Christmas should be. SuEllen was with me that year and we enjoyed Christmas together, though we were halfway around the world from our home.

The next Christmas was even worse for me as I was stationed on a remote base in Thailand and SuEllen could not be with me. Somehow the pressed turkey loaf in the chow hall missed by a long way the special Christmas meals off my youth. I cannot remember a time when I felt more alone than that Christmas.

Families must establish their own traditions. Our daughter Andrea's first Christmas was a very special one for us. We captured the day on video tape and we have played it many times. Now with Jason and Andrea we are building their positive memories of Christmas.

Christmas is such a family time that for those who do not have or who cannot be with family it is very difficult. It is especially hard for families who face their first Christmas without a loved one who has died or face a Christmas in a broken home.

For the children at your Baptist Homes it is a time of mixed feelings. Many will return to their families for brief visits, but for these children not all of the memories are pleasant ones and it may be a difficult time. For those who cannot return home we will try to make it as happy as possible, but of course we can never totally replace the child's concept of family.

Christmas and families go together. For some it will be a wonderful, happy time; for others it will not be so. However, because of the first Christmas when a special child was born, we have a constant hope no matter what our circumstances.

Merry Christmas from the Mooney family and all of the staff and children of your Baptist Homes.



HEAR
Gary Young
Pastor
Phoenix, AZ

Pastor/Staff Sunday School Convention
April 14-15
Walnut Street Baptist Church
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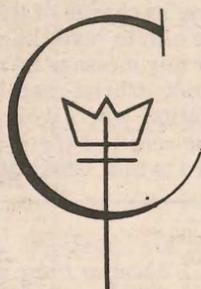
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Living Christmas tree represents more than a season

by Virginia Flanagan
State Correspondent

For most of us the Christmas tree is merely part of our celebration of the Christmas season. But to Liberty Baptist Church in Russell Springs the "Living Christmas Tree" that was begun during the Christmas season of 1987 there is more being represented than just a Christmas project.

Liberty Baptist's road to being able to accomplish such a project as a living Christmas tree began in April of 1986. With a average Sunday school attendance of 50 the church voted to borrow \$75,000 to purchase the old First Baptist building in Russell Springs and renovate it from paint to new pews.

From that point in time in April it has

been a success story all the way.

The living Christmas tree is representative of that success. The 28-foot-high structure might not be such a big project for a church with a large membership and budget. But even with Liberty's growth to a current membership of 110, this was a big, big event and took the total church membership to accomplish.

The project was headed by chairman of deacons C. A. Crews. Crews, along with pastor Jerry Howerton, traveled to Knoxville to visit First Baptist Church. There Howerton's son Lance is minister of student work. The two wanted to see how the living Christmas tree is presented by that church.

Returning home, they decided the church could not afford a metal structure. Crews and his Royal Ambassadors agreed to build one of wood, even with

circular handrails.

After the structure was completed and tested to determine if it would hold 28 singers, the rest of the church went to work.

The choir under the direction of Dean McKinley had already begun rehearsing the music. Nina Dunbar made the many bows that decorated the tree. Bernie Kearns and Ronald Hooper spent two days gathering greenery. The total church membership worked to prepare the church for the performance.

There were three performances to capacity crowds each time. The only complaint the church received was there were not enough opportunities for the community to see the performance.

So the Liberty Baptist Church geared up to present the living Christmas tree

again this season. It will take everyone in the church to make the performance a success.

Howerton said that when they started the project last year they weren't positive they could complete it. But the completion and success of it has helped solidify the church and illustrate the spirit of the church in growth.

The "Living Christmas Tree" performances Dec. 18 through Dec. 21 are exemplary of the church's growth. Howerton summed up his church's enthusiasm saying, "There is no limitation on what a small church can do, maybe not on the scale of a larger church, but activities can still be done."

Liberty's chairman of deacons and Christmas tree builder Crews added, "There's no hill too tall for a high stepper."



The Living Christmas Tree "before" shows the wood railing constructed by the Royal Ambassadors of Liberty Baptist Church, Russell Springs.



Liberty's Living Christmas Tree "after" shows the greenery and how decorated structure. The 28 singers are under the direction of Dean McKinley.

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR JAN. 1, 1989

Life and work series

Harmony in Christ

I Cor. 1:1-13 Upon receiving accurate information from the household of Chloe that factions had developed within the membership, Paul appealed to them to cease their wrangling and quarreling and eliminate their divisions. He was anxious for them to be united in their thinking and testimony.

There were divisions in the church at Corinth over the question of whom was the greatest preacher—Paul, Apollos, Simon Peter, or Christ. Paul rebuked all of these factions. In his denunciation of their spirit and conduct, he pointedly reprimanded his own party by exalting the very idea of the undue exalta-

tion of him, and reminded them that whether it was hearing or believing the gospel, all of it was centered in Christ alone. Paul reminded the Corinthians that it was Christ who had been crucified for them, therefore he was the only rightful one for them to worship and serve. Paul reminded the Corinthians that fellowship with and obedience to Christ is the secret of a radiant personality, a basic element in ascertaining the will of God, the secret of effective service and the secret of the overcoming life.

International series

Anointed to preach good news

Luke 4:16-21 After his entrance upon

his public ministry, Christ made a preaching tour into Galilee and returned to Nazareth with a longing to make known the way of life to his own townspeople. He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath to join in public worship.

It was the custom when a distinguished guest was present in the synagogue the one in charge of the service would invite him to read the scriptures and deliver any message he might have for the people. Christ readily accepted the invitation when it was extended. When the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him, Christ turned

to chapter 61 and read the verses which declared God's purpose in sending the Messiah.

After reading Christ gave the scroll back to the attendant and sat down to speak. He made the explicit and startling declaration that Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled in him. As soon as the crowd began to think about his claims for himself, his listeners became very angry. Refusing to believe the truth which he spoke, they rejected both the Messiah and his message.

Luke 4:40-42 In Capernaum crowds flocked into the presence of Jesus bringing with them numerous relatives and friends who were the victims of various diseases. Christ laid his hand on them one after another and healed them. He conveyed that it was the believers' duty and responsibility to witness for Christ to all who were in need of salvation.

These lessons are included this week for Jan. 1 because there will be no issue of Western Recorder printed Dec. 27.

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.

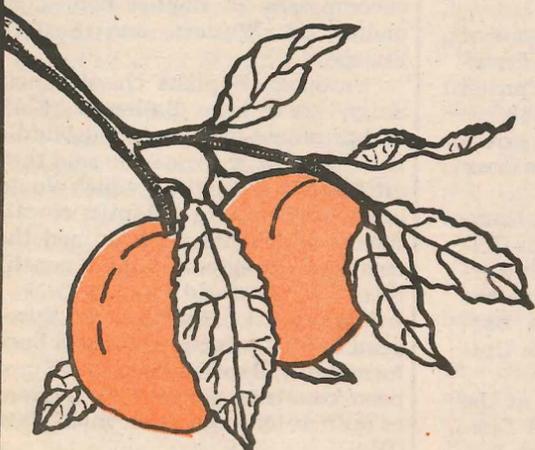
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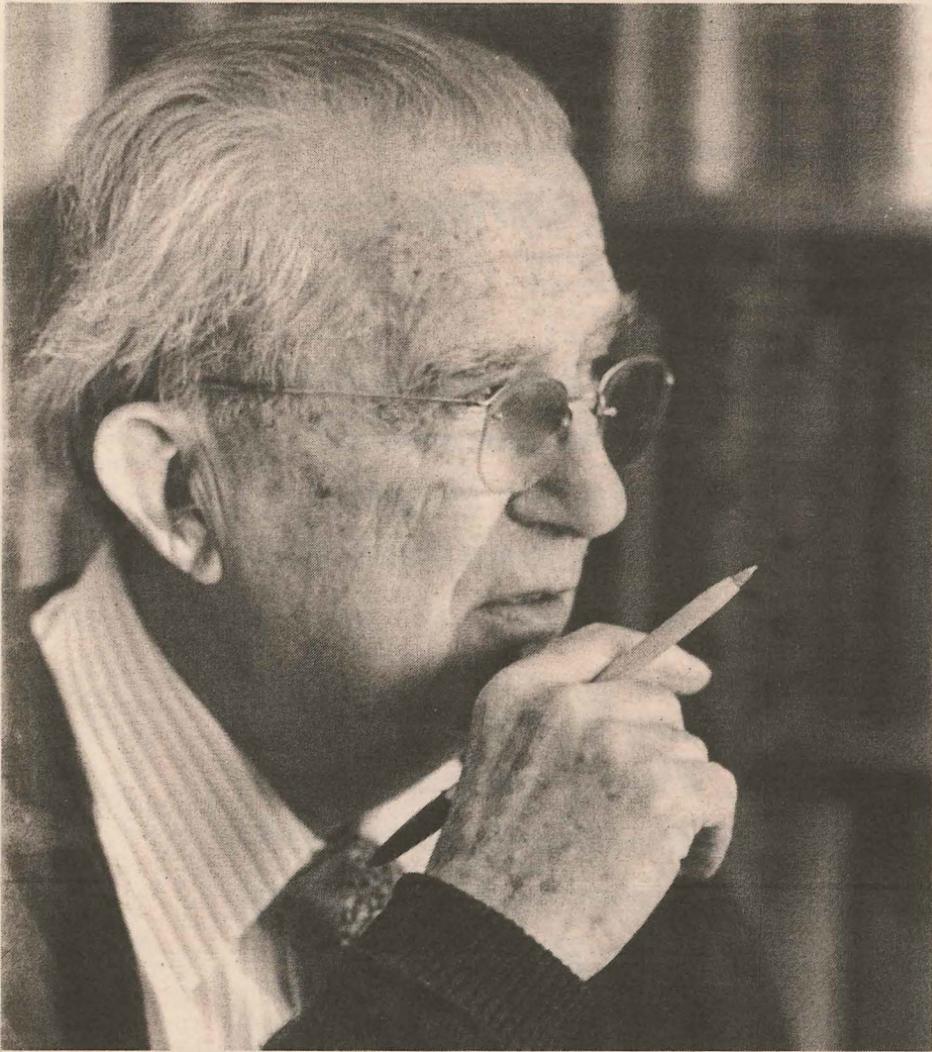
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christian education



T. B. Maston, professor emeritus at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, and author of 23 books, died this year.

Maston's secretary: bridge to professor

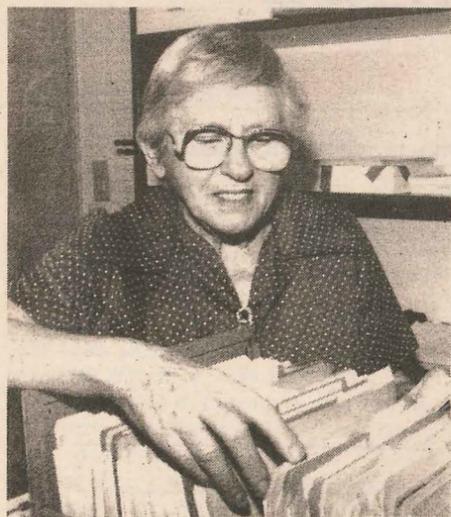
Dora Etta Bridgford was one of few women to serve in the U. S. Navy during World War II and one of the first women who pursued a doctorate at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

But perhaps her greatest distinction is the ability to read the late T. B. Maston's handwriting.

Until the late professor emeritus at Southwestern died this year, Miss Bridgford was his part time, volunteer secretary. She typed all but two of his 23 books and helped him correspond with thousands of people.

"I first began working with Maston during the summers as a seminary student," she said.

Miss Bridgford moved from Pensacola, Fla., to Ft. Worth in 1939 to attend Southwestern. One of her first classes was "Recreation in the Church," taught



Dora Etta Bridgford looks through a file of material belonging to the late T. B. Maston.

by Maston.

"I became friends with the Mastons through the classroom and our mutual membership at Gambrell Street Baptist Church," she said.

Following graduation from Southwestern, Miss Bridgford moved to Houston to serve as youth director at Baptist Temple. A year later, she joined the Navy as a communications officer and was stationed in Memphis, Tenn. All the while, she remained in touch with the Mastons.

Miss Bridgford also decoded messages—something that was handy when she returned to Southwestern in 1950 and resumed working for Maston.

"He said nobody could read his handwriting but me," Miss Bridgford said. "And I used to tell him, 'If I can't read it, I'll just make something up and put it in.'"

Occasionally Miss Bridgford helped Maston think up titles for his books. But she thinks her greatest contribution to Maston's work was simply being a diligent decipherer and helping him "put his books on paper."

"About two-and-a-half years ago, my doctor told me to drop everything. I told him I'd stop everything except working for Maston. No one else could come in and pick up where I left off because I knew the people he corresponded with, and I knew how he said things," she said.

Miss Bridgford currently is collecting and organizing Maston's correspondence, sermon notes and hand-written first drafts of his books. She also has prepared Maston's personal library for presentation to the Baptist seminary in Calgary, Canada.

"In my opinion, the work I am doing now is some of the most important work I have done for Maston," Miss Bridgford said.

Budget crisis hits Mercer University; Godsey's administration challenged

Mercer University trustees discovered a short-term debt twice as large as they previously had been told but reaffirmed Mercer president R. Kirby Godsey during their Dec. 1-2 meeting in Macon, Ga.

Meanwhile, two groups of Mercer faculty members have asked for the resignations of Godsey and other administrators whom they believe hid the deficit.

The Georgia Baptist school incurred a \$10.8 million debt during the past five years, with projections of an additional \$4.5 million to \$6 million this year, said trustee chairman Robert Steed.

Godsey admitted he made an error in judgment by not sharing complete financial information with trustees before the December board meeting. Trustees responded by passing unanimously a resolution reaffirming their support of Godsey's leadership.

However, the trustee finance committee accepted the resignation of Robert A. Skelton, vice president for finance.

In separate meetings Dec. 6, the faculties of the College of Liberal Arts in Macon and the College of Arts and Sciences in Atlanta called for the resignation of Godsey and other top aides.

Macon faculty passed a no-confidence resolution 74-14, and their Atlanta colleagues adopted their resolution unanimously. Citing the possibility of faculty

firings, the Macon chapter of the American Association of University Professors has announced it is exploring legal recourse the faculty may use to keep their jobs.

During the trustee meeting, Godsey attributed the deficit to a combination of factors, including the school's rapid expansion, faulty assumptions related to projected income and sources of income.

Steed, an attorney from Atlanta, told reporters Mercer as a whole is in sound financial shape, even though the financial problem is serious. Trustees and administrators agreed budget cuts of \$7 million will be necessary this year. Faculty and administrators will be affected by the cuts, Godsey said, reporting no specific number of layoffs had yet been decided.

Mercer's total indebtedness, including long-term loans, is about \$70 million, school officials said. (BP)

Europeans accept Ruschlikon seminary, discuss confession

Leaders of the Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon, Switzerland, have approved a transfer of ownership of the seminary's property to European Baptists and have begun discussion of a possible statement of religious principles the continent's Baptists hold in common.

In accepting the seminary property, Knud Wumpelmann, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation and chairman of the seminary board, said the decision to transfer ownership "has been met with gratitude and enthusiasm all over Europe."

Trustees of the Foreign Mission Board voted Oct. 12 to transfer ownership of the seminary to European Baptists and made several recommendations, including the possibility of a statement of religious principles.

During a Nov. 25-26 meeting, the seminary's executive board approved the property transfer, as well as the FMB recommendations. Members also adopted a recommendation of its own, calling on the European Baptist Federation to form a study commission "to produce a concentrated statement of Baptist principles which are common to European Baptists."

Initial deliberations on the seminary board's request likely will come next April when the European Baptist Federation's six-member executive committee meets. The federation encompasses 26 Baptist bodies, or unions, in Western and Eastern Europe.

"European Baptists cherish their unity," said Isam Ballenger, FMB vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. He said they are "fearful of anything which would bring division into a Baptist constituency which has been termed the most united regional Baptist constituency in the world."

Although no statement of European Baptist principles has ever been formulated, Baptists in various European countries adopted confessions of faith as long ago as the mid 1600s. (BP)

HMB exec leads state church growth meeting

Wendell Belew, former missions ministries division director for the Home Mission Board and vice president for interpretation and strategy, spoke to approximately 60 Baptist pastors on the dynamics of church growth at a Baptist pastors' fellowship Nov. 29 at Georgetown College.

Belew, a 1943 Georgetown graduate has experienced how churches are started and what makes them grow, commented Steve Cook, Georgetown director of church relations.

Belew discussed principles in leading churches to help other churches grow. He interacted with those in attendance on both the successes and failures in the church growth process.

The Baptist pastors' fellowship was begun in 1980 at Georgetown to focus on ministry. "It is hoped by giving attention to challenges faced by pastors and needs related to the local church Georgetown College will contribute to the task of evangelism and education," said W. Morgan Patterson, president of Kentucky's senior Baptist college.

Cumberland art professor to exhibit for state show

Richard Hamwi, assistant professor of art at Cumberland College, has a drawing accepted in the statewide juried exhibition "Kentucky Graphics '88."

A panel of nationally known jurors selected pieces for the exhibit from more than 500 entries.

Hamwi is in his second year at Cumberland. He has a BA from Queens College, New York; an MA from the University of New Mexico; an MFA from the University of California, Santa Barbara; and a PhD from Penn State University.

The exhibition will be shown at the Headly-Whitney Art Museum in Lexington from Dec. 11, 1988 through Jan. 29, 1989.

Samford University names Beeson School of Divinity

The divinity school at Samford University has been named the Beeson School of Divinity, to honor benefactor Ralph Waldo Beeson of Birmingham, Ala., and in memory of his late father, John Wesley Beeson.

Samford trustees approved the new name Dec. 6, recognizing Ralph Beeson's contributions to the Alabama Baptist school. A plaque on a new statue of Beeson on the Samford campus notes: "In a spirit of love and Christian stewardship, he gave away all that he possessed to the glory of God. In the halls of this university, and in the hearts of its sons and daughters, the Christian charity of Ralph Waldo Beeson lives on forever."

While Samford is a Baptist institution, the Beeson School of Divinity is interdenominational. President of Samford, Thomas E. Corts said Beeson told him: "You Baptists do a lot of good, but you can learn from others. And you ought to share with others what you already know."

The divinity school, which opened this fall with a class of 32, offers a curriculum leading to the MDiv degree, the standard graduate-theological degree in ministry. The program is open to people

Nurturing conference set Jan. 12-14 at SBTS

Ernest White, director of Southern Seminary's Dehoney Center for the Study of the Local Church, announced a special conference to equip local church leaders to nurture those whom God has called to ministry and missions.

The conference is set for Jan. 12-14 on the campus of Southern with registration fees of \$25 per person, \$50 for team registration for a local church.

The conference will explore the biblical meaning and basis of nurture, how to create a climate of nurture in the local church, what resources are available for nurture and how to develop key skills and become effective in nurture relationships.

SBC foreign mission board personnel, including Timothy Brendle, Joyce Deridder, John Mills and Harlan Spurgeon, will lead seminars and discussion groups. KBC will be represented by Benton Williams, Vernon Cole and Dee Gilliland.

Additional information is available from the continuing education office of Southern Seminary.

Southern Seminary seeks social work professor

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has invited interested persons to submit recommendations for a teaching position currently vacant in the Louisville, Ky., school's Carver School of Church Social Work.

Consideration will be given to persons who are Baptists and who hold an MSW degree and a doctoral degree in social work or a related discipline. The candidate must also be a graduate of an accredited seminary or have significant social work experience in a church or church-related setting.

The person selected for the position will be expected to begin work in August 1989. Rank and tenure are negotiable.

Recommendations should be submitted in writing to C. Anne Davis, Dean, Carver School of Church Social Work, Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington, Road, Louisville, Ky., 40280.

of all Christian denominations. Enrollment ultimately is expected to approach 180, Samford officials said.

Beeson, 88, joined Heralds of Liberty, a life insurance association, during the 1920's and helped build the organiza-

Campbellsville begins "adopt-a-room"

Ken Winters, president of Campbellsville College, is encouraging the "Adopt-a-Room" program which will completely refurbish the dorm rooms on campus.

Winters said college personnel are asking families, individuals, businesses, alumni classes or any agency to "adopt-a-room" by providing funds to buy new furnishings for that room. An inscribed plaque will be on the door with the names of those who have donated toward the room's furnishings.

"There are two basic purposes of the program," said Winters. "First, we want to create an attractive and fun living environment for the students. We also want to establish a partnership with another family or business out in the state."

The cost of redecorating a dorm room is \$2900 with \$1450 for one student space. The refurbishings will consist of a new bed, desk, chair and chest per student. The cost also includes new floor covering, new paint, new lights and new blinds.

Although the program is only beginning, Winters said he has received in excess of \$23,000 which will furnish eight rooms. The cost of furnishing the college's three dorms will be \$790,000.

Winters said classes from the 1940s have given the college a head start on

refurnishing North Hall, one of the dorms. They have given about \$6000. The project was under the guidance of Hollis Mitchell ('41) of Cincinnati, Oh., and Everette Lee ('42) of Campbellsville.

"We're doing the 'Adopt-a-Room' project in an effort to bring student housing up to a level everyone is pleased with," said Winters.

Winters sees the improvement of the dorms as a "high priority" toward student retention. He wants the better living conditions to help students stay in school and to help prospective students in their decision to come to college.

Winters said the donations in the "Adopt-a-Room" program will be used for dorm rooms only, and the college will use other income to upgrade the dorms' lobbies and other support facilities.

Winters said the next major initiative toward the project will be the mailing of a brochure explaining the project to pastors who can help identify families who might be able to help. Winters said he hopes to start work on the renovation in the summer of 1989.

Any individual or group wanting to participate in the new Campbellsville College program can call Winters at (502) 465-8158, extension 6202, or financial development at (502) 465-8158, extension 6216.

baptist forum

Discrimination not in the Bible

I am concerned with the positions some of our Southern Baptist agencies have on women in ministry. It is clear some will discriminate against women because of their views of the Bible. Scripture has been used to support and denounce discrimination. I remind us scripture was once used to support slavery.

Scripture ought not be used in ways that oppress other people. If there is one truth we can learn from the life of Jesus it is that all persons are equal. If there is scripture that says women are not to be pastors then we must face up to the fact it is wrong.

It is time for Southern Baptists to realize our heritage which we are losing. When we try to deny others the right to do what they believe they should do, we go against the priesthood of the believer.

If a church chooses not to have a pastor, that is up to them. Agencies of the Southern Baptist convention, in order to represent all Southern Baptists, should not discriminate on the basis of sex. Let it be left to the individual to make the choice to be a pastor.

Paul J. Cook
Louisville

Supports Mid-Continent Bible School

The Ohio River Baptist Association is one of 15 associations in Western Kentucky which supports the ministry at Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College.

The executive board of the association voted on Nov. 21, 1988, to reply to the

recent decision at the state convention which voted down the convention-wide Christian Education report. The report included Mid-Continent as an institution worthy of our attention.

The college at Mayfield is meeting a very valuable need in Western Kentucky. In this association, 29 of our pastors are bivocational. These men are unable to travel great distances, leave their families, leave their jobs and go to one of our Baptist colleges in this state. You can be assured a quality education is being received at Mayfield.

We would like to remind Kentucky Baptists that for many years there was no Baptist institution east of Elizabethtown. We now have a temporary child care shelter in Dixon, a child care representative in Madisonville, a Baptist hospital in Paducah and Mid-Continent at Mayfield.

Even though Mid-Continent is not receiving Cooperative Program funds it is still a viable institution. We commend LaVerne Butler, the president, for stepping in at a very important time in its history.

Executive Board
Ohio River Association

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.



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

The Word made flesh

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord . . . Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men (Lk. 2:11,14). The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (Jn. 1:14).

Let me introduce you to my friend Jesus, who offered himself for the world, and was born in a lowly stable.

He taught me how to love. Encountering multitudes of people, he compared them to sheep having no shepherd. His heart was touched with compassion for them. So it should be with me, as daily I meet multitudes and individuals.

He taught me how to pray. His model prayer helped me know how to address his Father—my heavenly Father—the creator and sustainer of all life. He prayed often and tirelessly for a world of lost sinners. He calls me to do the same.

He taught me how to be his follower. He asked me to become a fisher of men. The great commission urges me to "go . . . teach . . . baptize." I learned I could commit my life, give of my income and tell of him wherever I am.

He taught me some valuable precepts for living. Among them:

Love your enemies, bless them that curse you (Matt. 5:44).

Whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain (Matt. 5:41).

There are more. All of them help make my life count for something.

His Father said of him: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17).

Jesus declared that he came from heaven not to carry out his own plans but those of his Father. Yet, his own received him not. Jesus was despised and rejected, often finding no place to rest his head. But when this sinless lover of all humanity laid down his life for me on a humble cross, he asked his Father to "forgive them." He knew that those who put him to death could not comprehend what they were doing!

Jesus loved me with a powerful, unwavering love, the depth of which I can never grasp, no matter how I try. When my maker sent his only Son he asked that I believe in him in order to share in his presence forever. On that cross he gave his life for my sins. All he asks is that I believe in him in order to have eternal life. I gain so much by honoring his small request!

Jesus has been called "Wonderful," "Counselor," "The mighty God," "The everlasting Father," "The Prince of Peace." He is the "Lily of the Valley," "The Bright and Morning Star," "The Fairest of 10,000 to My Soul." Yet he is more than that to me.

He is my savior.

I'm so very happy he came to earth that day!



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

The excitement of Christmas

There were many activities before the "break" that were Christmas related.

For several weeks, a different piano student played a Christmas carol as the prelude for our daily morning chapel service. Several of these had only started taking piano lessons last August. It is something to perform before over 600 people no matter how many years of practice one has had.

Our students, up to 72 daily, get in five hours of practice each week with Mrs. Sherry Tillman. Our students pay not a dime extra for this wonderful Oneida opportunity.

Also, during the month, we have had various foreign missionaries speak during our chapel services. These have served in China, the Philippines, Kenya, Trinidad, Liberia. Some of these missionaries are present or former staff members of Oneida.

With the emphasis on foreign missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas offering, it is good to have these first-hand accounts of the Lord's work in distant lands.

On Tuesday of the week our students leave to celebrate Christmas at home or elsewhere. Our elementary children led the morning chapel with a musical they had worked on for weeks. These 21 girls and boys are all children of staff members we teach in our own staff school and range from elementary through fifth grades. I remember when I was their age and performed in chapel, recit-

ing scripture, singing and sharing poems.

Tomorrow our Middle School choir performs in chapel. We have over 100 students in grades six through eight, and about a score of these are in the choir. They always do a fine job under the direction of Mrs. Trish Schmittendorf who is in her fourth year of teaching with us. Her husband in in charge of our water purification and sewerage treatment plants. Mrs. Schmittendorf also works with the kindergarten through grades five in music.

Then, at the end of classes on Thursday, we have our final worship service immediately prior to boarding the buses and beginning the great exodus. This is always one of the highlights of any Oneida year, and our 70-voice high school choir under the direction of Richard Burns always has a wonderful program of music and scripture to share.

An exciting backdrop to the last three chapel services of the calendar year is the huge tree decorated by the choir each year. Finding it and getting the more than 20-foot tree through the chapel doors and onto the chapel platform is always a major and exciting undertaking. An audible sigh can always be heard when it is first seen, lit and in all its glory.

During the week leading up to this final program, there were many dinners given by various groups including Sunday school classes. Each dorm has its own party and its own tree. Some of the students even had their individual rooms decorated. Each boy or girl is given a special "treat" and the best wishes of their houseparents who are still hard at work as they host the party.

The girls and boys in our Home Economics classes worked very hard for weeks learning to bake and cook various delicious treats. Also they learned how to decorate, set the table for a reception and hosted a day-long reception for staff.

Not everyone is away for two weeks. For example, it is the busiest time of the year for our office staff as the heaviest volume of mail is at this time of year. Also there are many new students to be interviewed before the start of the second semester.

A portion of our maintenance and construction crew are busy every day except Christmas Day itself. There are many things that can only be done when most everyone is away. We are always rushing some new improvement to completion before the start of each new term.



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR DEC. 25, 1988

Life and work series

Celebrating Jesus' birth

Matt. 1:18-25 It was a terrible shock to Joseph when he was informed, during the time when he and Mary were betrothed, that Mary was to become a mother. An angel appeared unto him in a dream and assured Joseph Mary had not transgressed and his reputation could not be impaired by their marriage. His heart was filled with gratitude for the revelation the Holy Spirit was responsible for her condition.

Isaiah's prophecy, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel," had to be fulfilled in God's own time and manner. In the fulness of time and in the hour of man's greatest need, God sent forth his Son. He came to bring eternal life to all who would receive him as their Saviour.

In obedience to the command of the Lord through the angel, Joseph was immediately united in marriage with Mary. God's word plainly states that Mary retained her virginity until after the birth of Jesus. Mary was not sinless but she was chaste and upright. She possessed numerous traits of character which were highly commendable but it is wrong to attempt to deify her or to exalt her to the place of a mediator between God and men. Through repentance toward God and personal faith in

Christ people come into the possession of salvation and the right relationship with God.

Gal. 4:4-5 Before time was, God had it in his heart and mind to send Jesus Christ into the world. Like all other events in the divine chronology, there was a time appointed for the incarnation of Christ. The Saviour arrived exactly on time.

Christ came "to redeem them that were under the law." His supreme purpose in coming was to make atonement for sin and make us heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ.

International series

Celebrating the Saviour's birth

Luke 2:25-38 In compliance with the Mosaic law, Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day following his birth; and 41 days after his birth a ceremony of purification for Mary took place in the temple in Jerusalem.

After presenting their offering at the altar, Mary and Joseph turned to leave for their journey back to Nazareth, when a stranger named Simeon approached them to mingle his rejoicing with theirs. For a long time Simeon had been waiting for the appearance of the messiah, assured by the Holy Spirit that he would see him before he departed this life.

Now that his hope had been realized fully, Simeon was perfectly satisfied. He had been faithful to his duty and God had been faithful to his promise, so there was nothing for which he desired to live any longer. In an outburst of spontaneous adoration, thanksgiving and praise Simeon prayed: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

As Simeon concluded his earnest prayer and turned to leave, an aged widow, Anna, entered the temple. She heard his last words in the presence of the family, expressed her personal faith in Christ and proceeded to share the good news about Christ.

Both Simeon and Anna were deeply grateful to God for providing the long-promised salvation both for the Jews and the Gentiles. As in the case of these two devout people, the yearnings of any and all are satisfied completely when they exercise a genuine faith in Christ.

Let us be faithful in sharing the good news about Christ with all who need to know him as their Saviour.



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

on mission together

Scrooge's Christmas, sort of

Patches of ice glittered sparingly along the road home. A gray dusk was settling atop the leafless trees.

As I made the final turn up the hill, my headlights captured the carcass of a Christmas tree, lying on its side.

Tinsel, disheveled and limp, dripped like frozen tears from this castaway that had but a few days earlier delighted young children.

Lights in the windows, brightly colored doors, cheery wreaths—all gone now—back in boxes, piled in some silent corner until next year.

Turning into our driveway, it dawned upon me that Christmas was over.

I was back at work, busy with travel,

committee meetings and planning. I would be leaving tomorrow for a Sunday preaching engagement.

The house was hauntingly empty. I tried to pretend that the kids were still there and I could hear their voices. Silence.

I tried to make the family room table come alive with all of us laughing and playing the games we'd played for years. But the table was bare; the games back in the red chest.

I inserted a Christmas tape into the stereo and fast-forwarded it to one of my favorites. But it just wasn't the same.

I imagined the smell of cookies and spiced tea; of turkey and ham; of oyster casserole. Nothing happened.

Alice was out and the house was almost cold. The kitchen lights brightened the room but the coldness lingered.

As I climbed the stairs, I tried to make believe that Steve and Vanessa's clothes were still in the closet and their suitcases still on the floor. But the bedroom was empty and absent of any trace that

they had been there.

I changed into more casual clothes and warm slippers, then went back downstairs to light a fire.

Soon one danced before me. With a mug of hot apple cider I sat in the rocker, feet perched against the hearth.

Christmas had passed and I couldn't call it back—not in the sounds, the smells, the laughter—not the children. There were so many special things I wanted to say to each child but didn't. I was so preoccupied at times that I failed to hear what they were saying to me. How I wished I could have back that grouchy morning just before they left. How could I have been glad when they all said good-bye?

I have written what Christmas 1988 could be like—if I let it! But, my Christmas hasn't "happened" yet and our Christmas lights are still on. The kids are coming home—and I'm determined to be the best daddy I still have within me!

Lord, let it be!

Reynolds explains carol traditions

by William J. Reynolds

Whether by accident or by purposeful intent, James R. Murray almost succeeded in crediting the carol "Away in a Manger" to Martin Luther. Murray found the words in a Lutheran collection published in Philadelphia in 1885. He composed the tune and included words and music in an 1887 collection with his initials "J. R. M." on the page.

He also added the inscription "Luther's Cradle Hymn, composed by Martin Luther for his children and still sung by German mothers to their little ones."

In the decades that followed every subsequent collection of Christmas carols included both words and music with the heading "Luther's Cradle Hymn."

In the early 1940s, an American musician, Richard S. Hill, became curious about the song's origin. The result of his persistent probing revealed that the words of the carol were of American origin and the author was unknown. The music was composed by James R. Murray who died in Cincinnati in 1905.

The carol was unknown in Germany until someone made a German translation of the American carol, and then German mothers could "sing it to their little ones."

For sheer beauty and childlike simplicity the carol claims special attention. It is a gentle lullaby, tender and warm, especially loved by children, and when adults of any age sing it, they become children again.

John W. Work Jr., teacher of Latin and history at Fisk University early in

this century, heard some sing the refrain of "Go, Tell It on the Mountain." He shaped the melody, harmonized the tune, and added original stanzas.

The song was included in a small collection he compiled in collaboration with his brother Frederick J. Work and it was published in Nashville in 1907. "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" dates from this publication.

Christmas experiences at Fisk University as recalled by John W. Work III were exciting times. Early each Christmas morning about five the Fisk Jubilee Singers walked around the campus singing Christmas songs. Their favorites were "Go, Tell It on the Mountain," and "Glory to the Newborn King."

After the early morning singing, the students and faculty gathered in the dining hall for a brief Christmas service and breakfast. The tables were well decorated and glowing candles brightened the room. "Sunday clothes" were the order of the day.

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" is a joyful clarion call to proclaim from the highest peak that the Savior is born. Here is an expression of joy and ecstasy for the poor, the downtrodden, the lonely, and the insignificant. This declaration reminds us again at each Christmas that Jesus is in the world—that he was born in Bethlehem.

The joyful Christmas carol, "The First Nowell," is of unknown origin. The words are from an 1823 collection, and the music appeared a decade later. In this form it has remained basically unchanged for more than 150 years.

In its original version the opening line of stanza two contains an error that seems to have bothered no one. "They



William J. Reynolds is professor of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

looked up and saw a star" credits the shepherds with having sighted the heavenly body, yet scripture says only that the star was seen by the Wise Men (Matt. 2), not by the shepherds (Luke 2).

"Nowell" is the Old English form of the Old French "Nouel." The Latin form is "Natalis," the Spanish, "Natal," and the Italian, "Natale." This is an expression of great joy, originally shouted or sung enthusiastically to commemorate the birth of Christ.

Sing your "Nowells" during this Christmas season with great joy and make the rafters ring!

SWBTS alumni president directs concert of prayers

by Elizabeth Watson

Minette Drumwright's prayer efforts for missions are so successful, some people think she has a direct line to God.

The director of the Foreign Mission Board's International Prayer Strategy Office will humbly tell you she doesn't, but she will give you a toll-free number to dial for missionaries' latest prayer requests: 1-800-ALL-SEEK.

Mrs. Drumwright designs and coordinates programs to mobilize Southern Baptists to prayer involvement for foreign missions. She believes prayer is the most powerful tool Baptists have to support mission work.

"Although some governments won't let missionaries in, they can't keep the effects of prayer out," Mrs. Drumwright said.

Mrs. Drumwright, who has worked at the Foreign Mission Board since 1982, is 1988-89 national Alumni Association president for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Her connections to Southwestern go back 40 years when she moved to Ft. Worth with her husband Huber L. Drumwright Jr. so he could attend seminary. Her husband taught New Testament at Southwestern 28 years. From 1973-1980, he was dean of the school of theology. He led the Arkansas Baptist Convention as executive director for a little more than a year before he died at age 57.

Being Southwestern alumni president compliments Mrs. Drumwright's mission at the Foreign Mission Board.

"Approximately half of the missionaries appointed by the Foreign Mission Board are Southwestern graduates," Mrs. Drumwright said. "I have encountered Southwestern Seminary graduates around the world. Southwestern Seminary and foreign missions go together."

Keith Parks, Foreign Mission Board president, said the ministry of prayer is crucial to the Foreign Mission Board's evangelistic efforts. "Minette's ministry is at the heart of what we're trying to do at the Foreign Mission Board—evangelism that results in churches," Parks said.

Parks said Mrs. Drumwright's move to the Foreign Mission Board was providential because of her previous missions exposure in Woman's Missionary Union, the Home Mission Board and as a seminary professor's wife.

"But the key to her filling the position was her own personal prayer life and commitment to her own spiritual development," Parks said.

"We found she had the dimension of a very deep personal involvement in prayer. She brought an intense participation from both the personal and the broader denominational standpoint," Parks said.

Mrs. Drumwright says God began preparing her for her present ministry during her "Southwestern days." As a professor's wife she directed WMU programs at her church, taught a Bible study for lower income women 12 years and worked as a volunteer at a home for unwed mothers. For several years Mrs. Drumwright led WMU conferences across the nation.

Following her husband's death, Mrs. Drumwright accepted an invitation from Bill O'Brien, executive vice president of the Foreign Mission Board, to join the staff.

In 1985 Mrs. Drumwright assumed her current position as director of the International Prayer Strategy Office.

Magician has no illusions about call to ministry

by Chip Alford

Though he makes his living by the sleight-of-hand, Bruce Chadwick says there is no illusion about his call to the ministry.

Chadwick, a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., is a magician who uses his talent to share the message of Jesus Christ.

Chadwick's interest in magic began at age 8, when his father bought him a box of magic tricks for his birthday. He soon discovered a magic shop in his hometown of Midland, Tex.

Chadwick earned \$5 for his first performance when he was 10. Years later he used his hocus pocus to finance two degrees from Baylor University, Waco, Tex.

Chadwick traces his call to a youth revival his junior year in high school when he made a public decision to combine his magic skills and Christian witness.

"I came to the realization that God was directing me toward an evangelistic ministry in order to share Jesus Christ with other people," said Chadwick. "I knew that when I performed magic I had the audience in the palm of my hand, so I decided to try using some of my magic as illustration tools to enhance verbal presentation of the Gospel."

Chadwick felt called to seminary to further his education. He enrolled at Southwestern and earned a master of divinity degree in 1985.

Chadwick does two basic shows—a one-man, 40-minute "Comedy Stand-

Up Show" and a stage illusion extravaganza he calls "Theatre of Magic." The latter requires help from his wife Frances who doubles as his assistant. The stage show, designed for larger audiences, features live animals and incorporates classic illusion effects such as sawing a lady in half, the sword cabinet, and, at times, floating a lady in the air.

Chadwick's approach to "gospel magic" is to entertain his audience with a good old fashioned family magic show filled with humor, mystery and excitement. Once he has established rapport, he takes 10 to 15 minutes for a verbal

presentation of the gospel, using magic tricks to visually illustrate his message.

Chadwick admitted he occasionally encounters people who are skeptical of mixing magic and evangelism. "But I really have very little difficulty with that," he added. "Most people in America today differentiate the supernatural from magic tricks and illusions."

Chadwick is performing quite well as a leader in magicians' organizations. He is current president of the Texas Association of Magicians and a member of the Ft. Worth Magicians Club.

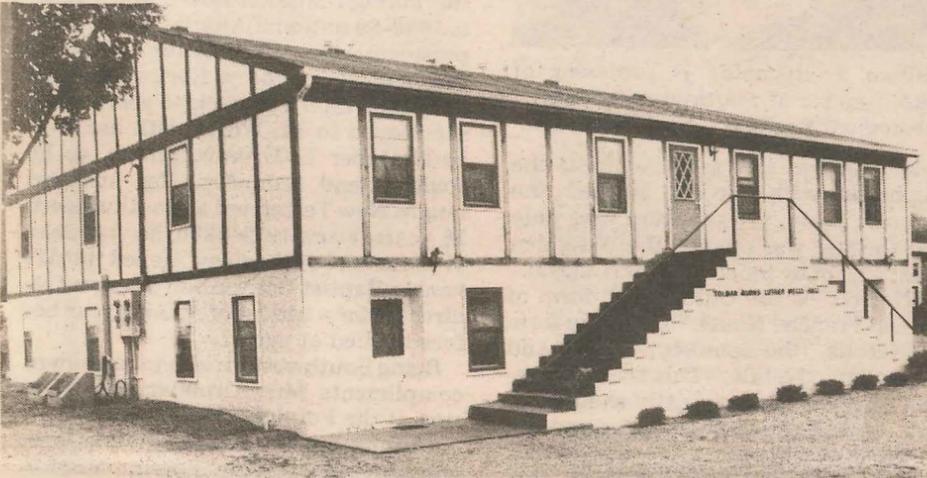


Magician Bruce Chadwick elevates his wife Frances as an illusions to share the gospel.

ONEIDA ENTERS 90TH YEAR WITH MODERN PHYSICAL PLANT



PRESTON & RUBY BAKER HALL, one of four large dorms which house a total of 512 girls and boys grades 6-12.



TOLMAN BURNS-LUTHER WELLS HALL, containing four family apartments. Approximately 95 staff members are housed in other school-owned houses and apartments.



SYLVIA W. RUSSELL HALL housing administrative offices, library, computer lab, print shop, piano lab and classrooms.



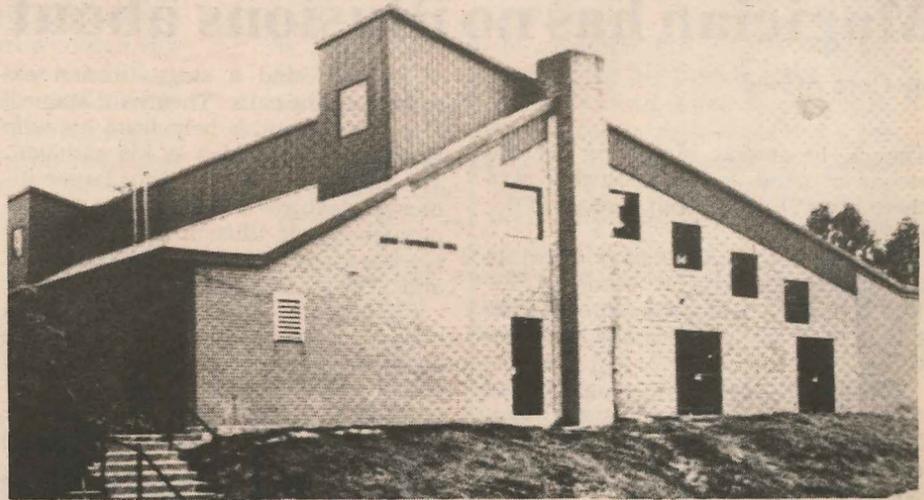
EMMA AYER DINING HALL and JULIUS HACKER DINING HALL adjoin. Nearby is the J.D. EMBRY GRILL.



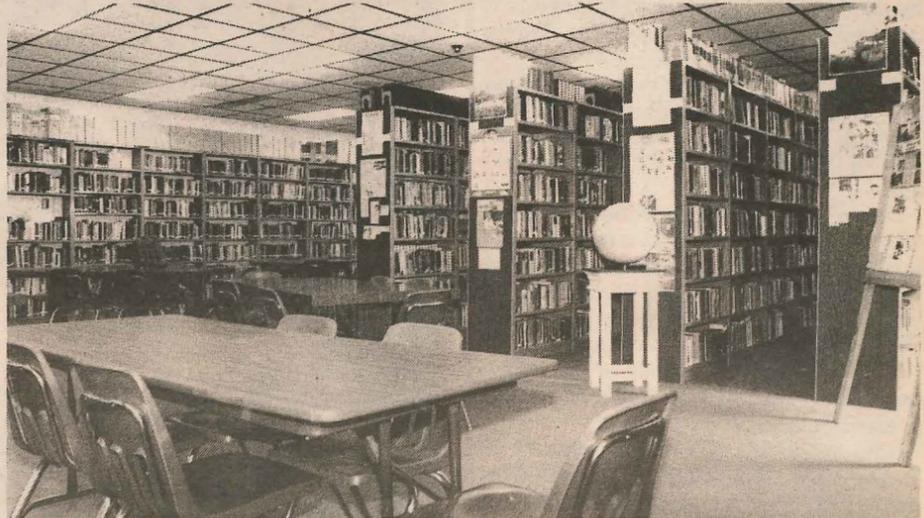
D. CHESTER SPARKS HALL, housing the school's gym and largest single classroom area. Classrooms are located in ten other buildings as well.



MELVIN DAVIDSON CHAPEL where Oneida students and staff worship daily. The seating capacity is nearly 900.



CHARLES GOINS-SAUL HOUNCHELL HALL, heated indoor swimming pool area, art complex and classrooms.



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