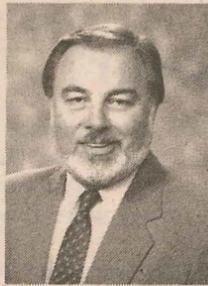


Bisagno



Cross



Harris



Hunt



Jagers



Moore



Pollard

Bowling Green Eastwood hosts evangelism meet

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

For what is believed to be the first time, the state evangelism conference will be held at Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Feb. 27-28.

The conference has moved from Louisville's Walnut Street Church and Elizabethtown's Severns Valley Church only once in at least 15 years. The meeting at Eastwood essentially establishes a new precedent for the first time in a decade.

In addition to a new meeting site, the conference will be directed by a new leader, William D. Jagers. Jagers was elected director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Evangelism Department in November. He succeeded Jay Brown, who retired at the close of 1987.

Program personalities have been announced by Jagers. Theme of the five-session event is "The Imperatives of Evangelism."

Sessions are set for Monday at 2 and 7 p.m. and Tuesday at 9 a.m., 2 and 7 p.m.

A total of eight men is scheduled to address the conference, some of them several times.

They include John R. Bisagno, Dale W. Cross, Richard H. Harris, Frederick D. Haynes III, T. W. Hunt, Jagers, Barkley Moore and Franklin D. Pollard.

Bisagno, pastor of the 20,000-member First Baptist Church of Houston, Tex., is author of 17 books. He is a past president of the Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference. At 54, the Augusta, Kan. native holds degrees from Oklahoma, Missouri and Houston Baptist universities. From 1965-70 he pastored First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., from which he went to the Houston church.

Cross is director of the Home Mission Board's Associational Evangelism Department, Atlanta, Ga. Born in Jackson, Mo. 51 years ago, Cross was educated at Baylor University, Southwestern Baptist and Westminster Theological seminaries. A public school teacher in Michigan before entering the ministry, he has been on church staffs in Texas and Michigan, associational missions director in Detroit and Chicago and in Home Mission Board evangelism positions since 1977.

Harris, 40, is a native of Somerset, Ky. and holds degrees from Cumberland College, Eastern Kentucky University and Southwestern Seminary. Now director of the Home Mission Board's Mass Evangelism Department, his pastorates included Kerby Knob Baptist Church, Sand Gap, Ky., 1971; Maxey Baptist Church, Paris, Tex., 1973-77; and Burgin (Ky.) Baptist Church, 1977-81. He was a part time consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Department in 1980-81 and has been at the Home Mission Board since.

Haynes, pastor of Friendship West Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex., did not supply biographical material nor photograph in time for publication.

Hunt is consultant on prayer in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Training Department, Nashville. For 24 years the Mammoth Spring, Ark. native was a church music professor at Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., before going to the board in 1987. He earned music degrees at Ouachita Baptist and North Texas State universities.

Jagers, 57, a native of Bedford, Ind., was associate director of the KBC Direct Missions Department four years immediately before his election as director of the Evangelism Department. His pastorates, all in Kentucky, include Rowletts Baptist Church, Hart County, 1955-58; First Church, Jackson, 1958-62; Irene Cole Memorial Church, Prestonsburg, 1962-77; and Cynthiana Church, 1977-84. He was educated at Georgetown College and Southern Seminary.

Moore has been president of Oneida (Ky.) Baptist Institute, his alma mater,

since 1972. He returned after six years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Iran and a stint as skill recruitment chief of the federal agency, ACTION, in Washington, D. C. He is a law graduate of the University of Kentucky and holds an honorary doctorate from Cumberland College.

Pollard is, for the second time, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss. He filled that pulpit 1974-80, then the pulpit of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., 1980-83, and was president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Cal., 1983-86. He returned to Jackson at that time. Born in Olney, Tex. 54 years ago, Pollard holds degrees from Texas A&M University, Southwestern and New Orleans Baptist Theological seminaries, plus doctorates from California Baptist and Mississippi colleges. He has also pastored Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex., was "Baptist Hour" radio preacher 1976-86 and host and Bible teacher for "At Home with the Bible" TV series 1978-83.

Chiles starts 39th year writing SS lessons

by Beth Wyatt
State Correspondent

H. C. Chiles is believed to have written comments on the Sunday school lesson for a Southern Baptist newspaper longer than any other writer.

Late in 1949 Chiles, pastor of First Baptist Church, Murray, received a letter from R. T. Skinner, editor of Western Recorder: "The Board of Managers has voted to ask you to write a commentary on the Sunday school lesson weekly in the Baptist newspaper."

Chiles accepted the opportunity and his first lesson appeared Jan. 1, 1950. It has been published in each issue since.

The Bible expositor had not talked with anyone about writing for the paper. "The idea had never crossed my mind until the letter came," he said.

In the early days the paper contained 32 pages and the Sunday school lesson was a full page. The Life and Work series came into existence in May 1967 and doubled his duties. The two commentaries combined filled one page. Over the years the lessons have decreased in size on the printed page but not in quality or demand.

Denominational workers testify to recalling teachers who entered the classroom with Bible, quarterly and Western Recorder in hand. Others have seen the commentary cut out and taped to the quarterly.

According to Chiles, the study and writing is just as common place to him as washing dishes is to a housewife. He is comfortable with at least four months' advance copy at present.

Over the years he has written a number of small books, pamphlets and for a time wrote for the *Zondervan Pastor's Annual*. Over a million copies of a tract on the Holy Spirit have been distributed by the Sunday School Board. All his writing for the denomination has been by invitation.

The legendary writer has taught the January Bible Study preview since its inception.

In addition to writing Chiles has been widely used in Baptist work. He served First Baptist, Barbourville, 15 years, and First Baptist, Murray, Aug. 1, 1948 until his retirement Nov. 22, 1970.

A graduate of Georgetown (Ky.) College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, he has preached by invitation in 118 of Kentucky's 120 counties; has served the executive board of the state convention a total of 24 years and the SBC Executive Committee two terms of three years each; was president of the state Pastor's Conference two years, addressing that body five times; is a former Georgetown trustee (12 years), the Kentucky Child Care Board (12 years) and Golden Gate Seminary (10 years). During those 10 years he never missed a regularly scheduled board meeting of the Mill Valley, Cal. seminary.

Additionally he was president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, 1954-56, and moderator of Blood River Association two years. He has served that association as clerk the past 29 years and never missed an annual meeting.

"My first pastorate began Jan. 1, 1925 and I was never without a pastorate until I retired," he smiled.

Since 1974 he has put 208,000 miles on his automobile traveling across the state preaching and teaching.

A native of Pendleton County, the active professor at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, grew up in a family of eight children. "We worked six days a week. My father did not work on Sunday nor did we get Saturday afternoons off," he related. "Upon entering college I went to school and worked six days and preached on Sunday."

He joined the faculty of Clear Creek as distinguished professor of New Testament in August 1982.

Previously, he served Boyce Bible School, 1975-82, as professor of New Testament interpretation. Chiles has been an interim pastor throughout the commonwealth.

He has been married to the former Elizabeth Mitchell of Georgetown 60 years. They have one daughter, accomplished musician Shirley Chiles Humphreys of Lexington, and three grandchildren.

Chiles sums up his years of writing the Sunday school lessons in the words of the late Clifton J. Allen, editorial secretary of Sunday School Board: "You will never write anything that will be more far reaching in influence than Sunday school lessons. Sunday school teachers are looking for teaching materials to teach their classes, and they will use what you write."

Chiles is a believer in the printed page as a tool to spread the gospel. His Sunday school lesson is also broadcast over a number of radio stations through the Clear Creek Radio Department.



Chiles

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City _____
State _____ Zip _____

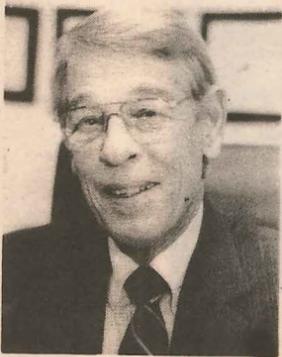
January 3, 1989

Are you moving?

Please give us three weeks' advance notice. Clip this portion with your old address label, supply new address above, and send to Western Recorder, Box 43969 Middletown, KY 40243

sanford's perspectives

What is ahead in the new year?



Jack D. Sanford

We believe personal reflections at the start of a new year are worth sharing with friends, so here is what we are thinking at the start of the new year.

We learned how deep and how dark some of life's valleys can be because we walked through two of them this year. What we learned is that though the darkness is real and cannot be denied, the grace of God is sufficient for those who know the Christ in personal faith. For this we give thanks and look forward to this new year with renewed hope.

We learned that friends are needed in time of stress and trial. Sometimes we act as though we can go it alone in this world but we learned that even the strongest of us needs a helping hand occasionally. We discovered that Christians in our church, on our job and in our neighborhood are friends indeed who care as Jesus cared and who will help in time of need. For this we give thanks and look ahead with hope.

We learned that some of the day-to-day stuff which bothers us and irritates us is really not worth all that trouble. The great issues of life and death, sickness and health, which we often do not address, are constantly there to call us from the mundane and the trivial. When one walks the dark valley one learns that the important things in life are family, friends and the Lord Christ. All else is secondary and pales in comparison.

We learned that we do not have a hint of what a day will bring. We make large plans, carefully noting details and covering all the bases which we know about, but then the unexpected happens and all our carefully laid plans are down the drain. Jesus said it clearly when he declared, "Take no

thought for the morrow." We learned his words mean that all the thought and all the care we take in planning life will not stop the unexpected. We are often caught totally unprepared by some crisis we did not foresee.

So what is ahead in this new year? Who knows with certainty? All we can say is that the new year will bring the unexpected and catch us unawares. It may be that another dark valley will beckon us along its torturous course but it also may be that there is a brilliant, sun-kissed mountain of joy just across the horizon. Life is full of the unexpected and not a single person knows what a day will bring.

We do know that even in the unexpected God is there with his gentle spirit of love and support. The care of the heavenly Father is promised in scripture and those of us who have walked those dark valleys of life know his promise is true. We can count on this and that gives courage and hope for whatever is ahead.

So what is ahead in this new year? Who knows with certainty? All we can say is that the Lord Jesus will be with us in whatever comes our way. That should be enough to give courage and hope to even the weakest of us.

Personal reflection confirms the continuing love and presence of God in the life of his children. We have learned this again this past year and for that we are thankful and look to the days ahead with renewed confidence and renewed commitment to him who loved us and gave his life for us. That is enough to send us out into the new year with hope. Can any of us ask more?

Our goals for the future

We have set what we believe are realistic goals for Western Recorder for the next three years. One of them has to do with increased circulation and the other has to do with financial structure of the paper.

The first of these goals, to increase circulation to the point where we circulate 75,000 copies each week, will take the active help and participation of many local churches. We cannot increase circulation without many churches including our paper in the annual budget.

In order to achieve this goal we intend to make a proposition which local churches cannot afford to ignore. We will offer the back page of the paper as a vehicle for the weekly church newsletter at a price which will save the church money every week throughout the year. We can prove this and call upon you to give us a try.

The second goal is to establish an endowment fund which will produce funds every year until Jesus comes and thus release Cooperative Program funds for other mission causes in Kentucky and throughout the world. We believe our people want the paper to have a solid financial base and are willing to make contributions to an endowment which will insure that kind of base.

We have started this fund and have had some modest success to this point. But we need many more individuals who are willing to make a small investment in the future of the paper and match their willingness with a check. Of course if you want to make a large investment in the paper we would welcome that as well.

Thus we have set some realistic, reachable goals. We will continually remind our readers of these goals and we will continually offer opportunity to participate with us in reaching these goals. It is no secret the paper belongs to the Baptists of Kentucky and surely the Baptists of Kentucky want the paper to be strong financially. It is our hope they also want the paper in the homes of the Baptists of Kentucky so that all our people are informed of the work God is doing among us across the state and in other regions of the nation and world.

We ask you, at the beginning of this year, to join us in reaching our goals. See that the paper is in your church budget for all members and send us your check for our endowment fund. Together we can make this an even greater paper and an even greater tool for witness and Christian growth in our Baptist family.

western recorder

(ISSN 0043-4132)

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James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

Winds of change, I

The decade of the eighties, heralded for unparalleled opportunities only a short while ago, will soon be a thing of the past.

As we begin the final year of the decade, consider where Baptists were 10 years ago. Issues of Western Recorder from 1979 provide background for this article and a second part to be printed Jan. 17.

By the close of the seventies, Southern Baptists had become accustomed to national media exposure, thanks to Jimmy Carter. After the Georgia Baptist layman was elected President it seemed Southern Baptists were recognized and scrutinized by almost everybody.

Within the denomination, personalities dominated the scene in 1979 as the old guard changed at several agencies: Harold Bennett succeeded Porter Routh at the Executive Committee; James Smith followed Glendon McCullough at the Brotherhood Commission; Keith Parks replaced Baker James Cauthen at the Foreign Mission Board; and Jimmy Allen filled Paul Stevens' chair at the Radio-TV Commission.

In Kentucky in 1979 Baptists were visibly embroiled in a statewide controversy over placing the 10 commandments on the walls of public school classrooms. It was the year we invited Jimmy Allen and J. D. Grey to address our evangelism conference and Bailey Smith and Baker James Cauthen to do the same at our state convention. T. Hicks Shelton presided at the latter; John Dunaway was elected to succeed him. Kentucky Baptist women—well ahead of their Southern Baptist counterparts—launched a second century of organized women's work.

1979 was also the year a Sunday School Board official, Morton Rose, addressed a futuristic seminar in Louisville, reviewing the previous decade and predicting what would occupy Baptists' attention in the eighties.

Rose claimed training church leaders had been our primary concern in the seventies, the years of implementing a new coordinated grouping-grading plan in the churches. But in the eighties, he surmised, the "most critical issue" facing Southern Baptists would be family life. Sophisticated research, he allowed, suggested this area would receive priority emphasis by churches and agencies. "Before the decade of the eighties is over," he concluded, "denominational leaders will begin moving from age level specialization to a family and peer-oriented specialization in their programming attempts."

Meanwhile, other winds of change were beginning to blow signaling the start of an era of unrest, distrust, turmoil and upheaval. A more definitive look at its beginnings Jan. 17.



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

homes for children

Thank you

To Whoever Receives This,

I grew up at Pine Crest in Morehead during the 1960s. Even though I always loved it there, I never fully realized until years later how fortunate I really was.

Now, at 30 years old, I am finally in the position where I can return some of what was given me.

I would like to make this donation in the memory of Miss Emily Yocum who was a housemother there and passed away this year. She was the most important person in my life.

Since some of my fondest memories are of Christmases I spent there, if possible I would appreciate it if this money could be used for the holiday season.

Thank you.

James M. Pelfrey

There is no more important letter we can receive than a thank you letter from the children that we have served.

Since I did not have the opportunity to know Miss Yocum, I asked some long term staff about her. She worked for us from 1954 through 1969, primarily at the Pine Crest home in Morehead. At her retirement in 1969 she was making the grand sum of \$190 per month plus room and board.

By our world's standards she was not a wealthy lady, but her contribution to the lives of James and scores of other children makes her one of this ministry's greatest benefactors.

At her retirement she stated, "Even after all of the hard work and the problems, these have been happy years and I wouldn't exchange them for anything else I could have done."

Thank you, James, for your gift and for sharing with us about such a special person.

This ministry is dependent upon many very special people. The staff, children and board members are the most visible ones, but our work could not be accomplished without the thousands of individuals praying for us and supporting us as they are able.

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for your tremendous support of the food drive, the Thanksgiving offering and special Christmas gifts. Without your support this work would not be possible. My words are inadequate to say how much we appreciate you.



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

clear creek chronicle

Look, work, rejoice!

Many churches will study the gospel of John during January. It is difficult to ignore John's evangelistic and missionary theme which will be a good follow-up to December's foreign mission emphasis. "Joy to the World" will probably not be sung again until next Christmas, but giving joy to the world is a continuing concern. Disciples who look at the ready waiting fields and work those fields will rejoice. The deepest joy comes in reaching people for Christ. We are sent to do Christ's will and finish his work (John 4:34-38).

Recent guests have helped the Clear Creek family maintain a world mission vision. Sixteen missionaries participating in the Mt. Zion Association World Missions Conference spoke in classes. My college classmate, missionary Takahiro Oue focused our concern on the needs of Japan. Two Foreign Mission Board representatives presented opportunities and interviewed prospective candidates. Emeritus missionary Mary Lucille Saunders drew from her rich experience in China and Philippines. Campus WMU leaders set a challenging \$1000 goal for the Lottie Moon Foreign Mission offering. \$1400 was given!

Pastor Ray Edwards and members of the Lyttleton church, Manchester, know the joy resulting from mission vision and work. They saw the need for a mission at Chop Bottom and worked the area with VBS and outreach. Dec. 11 was Chop Bottom night at the mother church. A full house heard the singing of 30 children who attend the mission and witnessed the first mission convert baptized. I experienced the joy of Mission Kentucky. Pastor Edwards participated in the Kenya partnership. Members of the church have also gone to Kenya, Burkina Faso and India. Nine percent of the Lyttleton church budget is channeled through the Cooperative Program and a monthly amount comes to Clear Creek. The pastor wants to hold an extension training center operated by Clear Creek for students unable to do campus study. Booneville Association director of missions is a Lyttleton member and a 1973 Clear Creek graduate. When you look at the world as Jesus sees it and work the fields white unto harvest the joy will certainly come.



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

on mission together

Somewhere out there

From the comfort and security of our bus, we rolled slowly by one of those places most people prefer not to know about.

Just outside Vitoria (Brazil) is a slum—a word Americans both understand and abhor. Slums exist most everywhere but especially on the inner and outer skirts of big cities.

San Pedro (St. Peter) is acres of landfill, mostly garbage, which forms the floor for hundreds of hovels constructed from the waste of the more affluent.

When we begin our partnership with Brazil, no doubt we shall want to have a project in San Pedro, where we watched children and adults picking through the open garbage and feeding themselves from it. The First Baptist Church of Vitoria has a small ministry there. They will, most likely, welcome our assistance.

But in the meantime—back home—here—where we Kentuckians live... we have the poor with us. More and more I sense that Baptist churches are joining others in attempting to meet the needs of the poor. It is a hopeful sign, not only for the poor and destitute, but for us.

I was reminded again of that reality through a poem by Norma L. Gill in the Courier-Journal, Wednesday, Dec. 7:

Street People

"There are many who have a half a loaf,
But many more have none,
And there are those who hate to see
The setting of the sun;
For always when the sun goes down
Cold air becomes much colder,
And rats patrolling darkened streets
Become a little bolder.
A cardboard box is not a house,
This half-loaf not a meal,
But it's better than the nothing that
A survey would reveal.
Oh sure, I once had a job,
I had a family too,
We had a house to live in,
And we ate reg'lar too.
But then the plant moved out of town,
The first of my hard knocks,
I lost my job, I lost my house,
I barely own my sox.
My wife and kids, they went back home,
Her father has a farm,
It's good to know my kids can eat,
And that they're sleeping warm.
But these old streets are lonely
When the night is closing down,
And a cardboard box is not a home,
And it's not so hot downtown."

"Oh Lord, translate our pity into the dignity of love and long-suffering help."

baptist news in brief



SBC president Jerry Vines (center) greets Foreign Mission Board trustee Eloise Bryant of Virginia and her husband, Harvey. Vines addressed the trustees during their December meeting.

Affirmation marks FMB meeting

Foreign Mission Board trustees unanimously affirmed the FMB's president, staff, missionaries and their approach to missions in a six-point "resolution of commitment" during the board's December meeting.

The resolution responded positively to a challenge from FMB president R. Keith Parks for trustees to clear up misperceptions about themselves, staff and missionaries that threaten the survival of foreign missions.

Parks expressed regret that conflict in the Southern Baptist Convention has caused some Baptists to think missionaries and staff are not theologically and evangelistically sound.

Many fear, Parks said at that time, that trustees will purge staff and missionaries; show no commitment to co-

operative missions; reject the principle of indigenous missions; reject ministry to physical human need in favor of evangelism only; seek to control overseas Baptist conventions; appoint only missionaries who have a certain political position; and coerce staff into politically-based missions decisions.

Besides affirming the soundness of staff and missionaries, the resolution promised faithful trusteeship. It also affirmed cooperative missions and giving, appointment of all qualified missionaries, continuation of both evangelism and human-needs ministries, adherence to the principle of developing indigenous leadership overseas, cooperation with Baptist leaders overseas as "equal collaborators" and commitment to world evangelization. (BP)

Financial needs labeled 'urgent' by FMB

Hit by the one-two punch of decreased income at home and a weaker U. S. dollar overseas, the Foreign Mission Board voted Dec. 14 to send its trustee chairman to Nashville to inform Southern Baptist Convention budget decision-makers of the urgency of its financial needs.

The board unanimously approved a motion by trustee Paige Patterson that asks chairman Mark Cortis to accompany president R. Keith Parks and vice president for finance Carl Johnson to the January meeting of the SBC Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee, when SBC agencies will present their needs for the 1989-90 budget year. The subcommittee makes its recommendations in February to the full Executive Committee, which in turn sends the budget to messengers to the convention's annual meeting for final approval.

Patterson said he thinks the board must make the Executive Committee aware of the "strategic time we're in right now" in global evangelism and to "state particularly the critical nature of the (financial) need at this moment."

Earlier in the meeting, Johnson told the trustees that if the exchange rate of the Japanese yen to the U. S. dollar went down from its present rate of 122 yen to the dollar to a rate of 100 to the dollar, as proposed by some economic advisers to President-elect George Bush, the FMB would have to spend an additional \$1 million a year just to pay for the Japan missionaries' cost-of-living in-

creases. Similar cost increases would occur in other countries if the dollar weakens further.

The falling dollar has hit foreign missions at the same time income has dwindled from its two major funding sources, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Cooperative Program unified budget Johnson said. Cooperative Program receipts for October and November, the first two months of the the 1988-89 fiscal year, are 2.45 percent below last year. "We are counting very much on the Cooperative Program" to offset the decrease in budget from anticipated Lottie Moon funding, Johnson said.

The strong expression of budget concern came during an otherwise upbeat meeting in which trustees affirmed the FMB president, staff and missionaries and their approach to missions in a six-point "resolution of commitment"; approved Hungary as the 114th country where Southern Baptist overseas personnel are stationed; appointed 31 new missionaries; and applauded SBC president Jerry Vines in his first address to the board.

Trustees sent a message of sympathy to Soviet Baptists and to all people in the Soviet Union "in the loss of lives and in other destruction resulting from the recent earthquake in your country." The board has released \$30,000 to assist the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in their Armenian relief efforts and pledged hunger funds if needed. (BP)

The Boy Who Never Forgot that January is make your will month

George Dame lived in Little Rock Arkansas as a child.

His family faced difficult times on several occasions. Gifts of food and clothing from the Second Baptist Church helped his family.



When he became an adult, Mr. Dame never forgot the expressions of love shown by the church. At his death in 1981 the church was notified that a perpetual fund, setup in Mr. Dame's Will, would provide income for the church to minister to needy families during the Christmas season.

Each year, church leaders, following the guidelines of the fund take needy families shopping with an allotment of approximately \$75 per child.

Year after year the fund has grown. In 1987 more than 950 children had a happier Christmas because Mr. Dame did not forget them in his Will.

If you do not have a Will make one this month. Plan to invest in some ongoing ministry through the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

Contact us today and let us help you help others.

Richard G. Carnes
Kentucky Baptist Foundation
P.O. Box 43433
Middletown, Kentucky 40243-0433
(502) 245-4101

- I would like more information on Wills and Estate Planning.
- I would like more information on the Foundation and the services it offers.
- I would appreciate a visit from a Foundation representative (without cost or obligation).

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CHURCH _____

Missionary appointments down 12% says FMB

With 31 new Southern Baptist foreign missionaries appointed Dec. 13, total appointments came to 358 for 1988, compared to 407 in 1987—a 12 percent decrease.

Despite the drop in missionary appointments for the year, Southern Baptists still can reach their goal of 5600 missionaries in 125 countries by the year 2000, a Foreign Mission Board statistician predicted.

"We are naturally disappointed that appointments in 1988 fell below 400 for the first time in four years," said Harlan Spurgeon, vice president for mission management and personnel. Yet appointing 358 people to missionary service in one year is a high achievement, Spurgeon noted, adding, "A drop in appointments in one year is not uncommon, and the factors are not always identifiable."

Southern Baptists should not stop praying for the appointment of new missionaries because of the convention's "financial crunch," Parks said. "We believe that the sending of missionaries will generate support, and we desperately need more missionaries."

The Southern Baptist Convention's theological/political controversy is "sometimes discussed among candidates," Parks said. However, "we don't have any indication that it has had a measurable impact on our appointments at this point."

"Missionaries do not come for appointment by accident," Brendle said. "It takes a deliberate effort on the part of the board, on the part of Southern Baptists in their praying, supporting, giving and their creating that environment in which those who would offer themselves for missions are clearly aware that Southern Baptists are still a missions people. If that is called into question at any point, then that's the most serious threat to the appointment of missionaries that we would have." (BP)

—classified ads—

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FOR SALE: Grand Piano—Schubert and Son—Antique—good condition—\$1500. 606-287-7561 12-20-2T

western recorder
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the news!

Baptist Men's Teleconference

Jan. 7, 1989, 12 p.m. EST
Broadcast Over ACTS & BTN
Missions Involvement
Through
Evangelism

Hodnett joins staff as WR writer intern

Mississippi native Greg Hodnett, 33, has been named to a journalism internship at Western Recorder effective Feb. 1.



Hodnett

A Southern Baptist Theological Seminary student who now calls Indianapolis, Ind. home, Hodnett hopes to invest his life in Christian communications, according to James H. Cox, associate

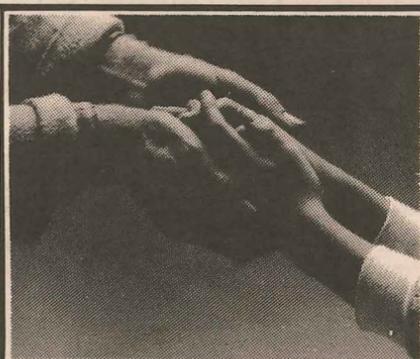
editor, who announced his appointment.

A graduate of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, with ThB degree, Hodnett has filled several pastorates: First Baptist Mission, Oneida, Tenn.; Trinity Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.; and Curdsville (Ky.) Baptist Church. He has served in volunteer and interim positions on several church staffs.

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CLC announces new media consultant

Texas journalist Louis Moore will become a media relations and publications consultant for the Christian Life Commission, effective Jan. 1, announced CLC executive director Richard Land.

Moore, who lives in the Dallas area, on an interim basis will edit the agency's various publications, including Light magazine; manage the news operations of the commission's regional and national meetings; participate in program planning; and work with the CLC trustees and staff to plan mass communications for the agency, Land said.

Moore, 42, was religion editor of the

Houston Chronicle from 1972 to 1986 and was editor of the Plano (Texas) Star Courier from 1986 to 1988. He currently is professor of journalism at Collin County Community College and writes for a variety of religious and secular publications. From 1984 to 1986, Moore was president of the Religion Newswriters Association, the professional journalism society for reporters who cover religion for secular newspapers, news-magazines and wire services.

Moore is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. (BP)

Pastor and Laypersons

Are you planning to attend the Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas. **Vacation Station, Ltd.** of Murray, KY has arranged a special just for you. For the very low, low price of \$450.00 per person, one will receive round-trip transportation from Louisville on American Airlines on June 10 and return June 16, ground transportation from airport to hotel, lodging at Circus Circus-double occupancy, walking distance of the convention site, and most of all, fellowship with other Baptist messengers. Deposit of \$80.00 is due Jan. 7, 1989 to reserve space. A personal check or cashiers check is acceptable. With your deposit please send the following information: name, phone number where you may be reached during the day and roommate preference. Make check payable to Vacation Station, Ltd. Send your deposit to Rev. Mark C. Fields, Vacation Station, Ltd., P. O. Box 325, Murray, KY. 42071-0325. For Western Ky. pastors and laypersons, depart from Nashville on June 10 and return June 15. All of this for the very low, low price of \$435.00, with the same transportation from airport to hotel, lodging at Circus Circus-double occupancy, walking distance of the convention site, and most of all, fellowship with other Baptist messengers. Deposit of \$65.00 is due Jan. 7, 1989 to reserve space.

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Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Home for Christmas!

Yes, it is 'home for Christmas' for the more than 500 girls and boys of Oneida. They have been away for the past two weeks.

If our students are not in their own homes as the great majority are they are in someone else's home. It is impossible for most of our foreign students to go back to their nine respective countries because of distance and cost. But we found a place for each of them.

Also there are some of our American students who cannot be in their own home for varying reasons. Some really have no home because of the death or physical incapacity of their parents. For many others, the physical, emotional or financial conditions are such that it is better for the child to be elsewhere.

But every child has a "break" from the usual Oneida routine for these two weeks. Equally important, our hardpressed and overworked staff have a little more time for their own individual families, some undisturbed rest and renewal of physical and emotional strength for the second half of the academic year.

But well before it is time for the students to return on Sunday, Jan. 8 for the start of the new semester, many of them will be "homesick" for OBI and will pester their parents for an earlier return. Even if their parents don't say "no," we do! We normally miss them as much as they do us, but this time is needed for recouping!

Nearly 100 of our children are under the age of 14. Imagine getting that many

in addition to 400 older ones ready to go by car, truck, bus, train and airplanes in hundreds of different directions over the entire U. S. and to foreign lands. By the time they return they will have traveled, collectively, over one million miles.

Try to envision all that is involved in that many schedules, making and sometimes missing connections, last minute changes in plans, lost tickets, money that fails to arrive and a thousand other things. The planning for it all must begin weeks in advance.

Then imagine the sheer task of moving many tons of luggage in special buses and/or trucks to our nearest bus station forty miles away. Of course, there are the hundreds of excited students to get to the bus. Then follows the job of seeing to it that students going south are not on a bus going north, and vice versa.

When they return, the whole process must be done in reverse from London to Oneida. I remember vividly last year's return from Christmas. It was the only night of the winter we had really serious snow and ice. Buses were sometimes hours late. I could not rest easily until the last child and our more than 100 staff had safely returned or was accounted for. I tried to work in my office, but was so anxious that I spent literally several hours outside at the entrance to the campus praying each bus in, and stamping my feet to keep from freezing. But God blessed, prayers were answered, and each was safely back.

The above described scene is repeated on a smaller scale once every month, but 100-150 remain here for the shorter 3-day monthly "breaks."

At least 15 of our staff are involved directly in driving buses, supervising, etc. as the students leave and return.

The heroine of every such undertaking for years has been dean of students Erma Smith. She is one of the most remarkable human beings I have ever known. She is capable, hardworking and so very dedicated.

She and her husband John, our outstanding manual and computer drafting teacher, moved with their three elementary age sons and baby daughter into one of our boy's dorms on New Year's Day, 1975. For the next five years they were on duty 12-18 hours daily for 12 days and off two.

In 1980 I asked Mrs. Smith to be dean supervising all the other houseparents, in charge of all major disciplinary decisions, medical emergencies and transportation. She has done it all magnificently.



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR JAN. 8, 1989

Life and work series

The message of the cross

I Cor. 1:18 Paul recognized the difference between the message of Christ's gospel and the wisdom of the world. Unwilling that beautiful words or human eloquence should obscure the gospel of Christ, Paul was always careful to preach the "word of the cross." He preached the death, burial and resurrection of Christ in obedience to the Great Commission, as an expression of his personal appreciation, and as man's only hope of regeneration. He knew it was the only message that would bring pardon and peace to troubled souls, transform human lives and produce the desired results.

I Cor. 1:21-25 "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." Notice this verse does not say the preaching of foolishness. Much foolishness is passed out under the label of preaching, but what is meant here is the message of the cross is an absurdity to those who are worldly-wise. They reject his crucifixion as an atonement for the sins of men because the cross precludes any possibility of salvation through self-effort.

Here are three types of religious life. "The Jews require a sign," that is, an outward display of the spectacular and miraculous. "The Greeks seek after wisdom," that is, consider themselves the embodiment of culture in art, literature,

science and philosophy. Speaking for the Christians, Paul said we will stand by the Christ of the cross, who is the "power of God, and the wisdom of God."

I Cor. 1:26-31 Whereas unsaved men boast of their prowess, privileges and possessions, Christians should glory in the Lord, to whom they have committed themselves to doing his blessed will.

International series

Fishermen to followers

Luke 5:1-3 Christ was followed by a large number of people who were eager to hear what he might have to say. On the beach were two fishing boats from which Peter, James and John had gone ashore to wash their nets. Christ stepped into Peter's boat and told him to thrust it out from the shore, which he did readily. From it Christ preached to the crowds.

Luke 5:4 Christ told Peter to launch out into the deep water and let down his nets for a draught of fishes, a command that was contrary to all accepted rules of the craft, for night was the proper time for fishing.

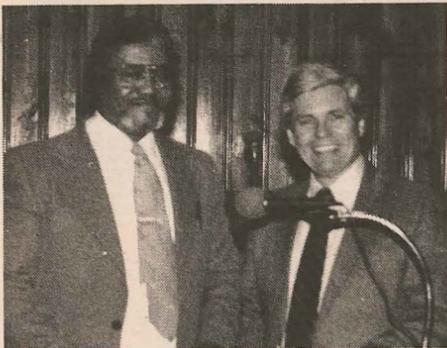
Luke 5:5 Peter's reply to Christ's command: "Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net." This is one of the finest expressions of obedience to Christ ever recorded. It was obedience in spite of physical exhaustion, doubt and failure.

Luke 5:6-7 As soon as they cast their nets into the water, their prompt obedience was richly rewarded. This incident teaches us there is always a blessing in obeying Christ despite appearances or adverse circumstances. To "trust and obey" is the secret of a happy, successful and useful Christian life.

Luke 5:8-9 Amazed at the draught of fishes which they had taken, Peter fell at the feet of Christ and cried: "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." His cry revealed he had received a two-fold vision—of himself and of Christ. His consciousness of sin and his contrition for sin qualified him for greater usefulness in the service of Christ.

Luke 5:10-11 Christ called these fishermen to his service and commissioned them to the same kind of work, but in another and higher realm. Instead of catching fish, they were to catch men for Christ, which was a far more worthy occupation. In response to his commission to the noblest work in the world, catching men for Christ, these men forsook all and followed Christ.

mountains to the mississippi



Prince of Peace Baptist Fellowship, Harlan, celebrated its new beginning with an open house worship service Dec. 8th. The fellowship is a two year dream of the pastor. T. R. McMillian. Harlan Baptist Church has received many helping hands to put the old church building in good shape. Roy Carlton is pastor of the Harlan Baptist Church.

personnel

A. J. Parrish resigned as pastor of Russell Creek Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association.

Ray C. Kuszman is new pastor of Gravel Switch Baptist Church, South District Association. He goes from Hardyville Baptist Church, Liberty Association.

Timothy Mathas is pastor of First Baptist Church, Danville, South District Association.

Hyattsville Baptist Church, South District Association, called **Everett T. Priddy** as pastor. He goes from Deep Creek Baptist Church, Mercer Association.

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

Slate Hill Baptist Church, Laurel River Association, called **Harold Hedrick** as pastor.

John R. Jones is new pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Laurel River Association.

New Salem Baptist Church, Laurel River Association, called **Joe Miller** as pastor.

Keith Adams resigned as pastor of Walker's Chapel Baptist Church, McCreary Association.

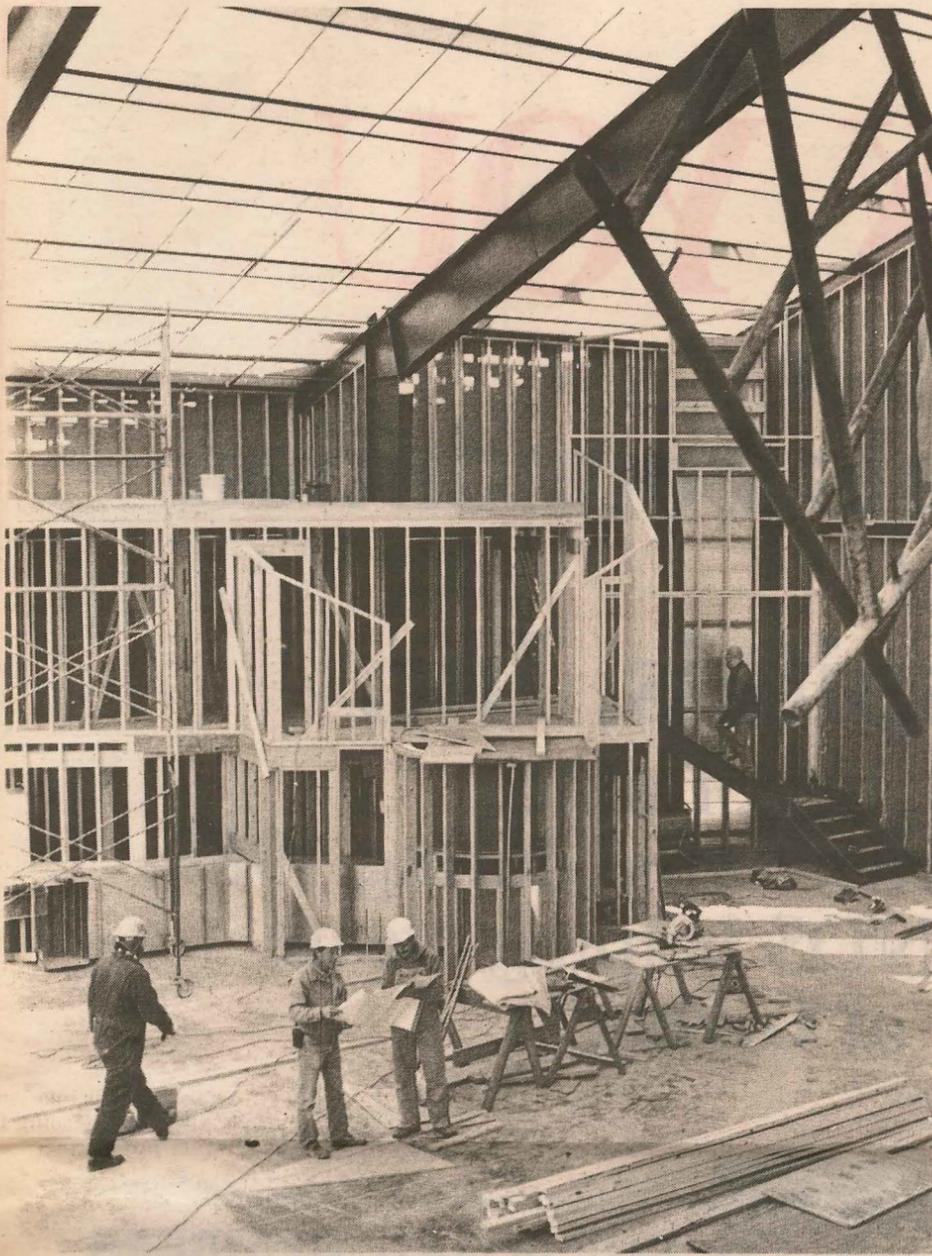
Faber Baptist Church, Mt. Zion Association, called **John R. Hash** as pastor.

David Hargis resigned as pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church, Pulaski Association. His address is Rt. 3, Somerset, KY. He is available for supply, interim, revivals and pastorate.

Michael T. Smith accepted the pastorate of Elsmere Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association, effective Dec. 4. He was pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association.

George Martin left in December as pastor of Kosmosdale Baptist Church, Long Run Association, to begin work with the Foreign Mission Board.

Paul Schmidt resigned as pastor of Second Baptist Church, Ashland, Greenup Association. He assumes the pastorate of Hyland Heights Baptist Church, Greenup Association.



Southern Baptist churches are incurring less debt and constructing more multiuse facilities, according to information gathered by the Baptist Sunday School Board's church architecture department.

Building trends: multiuse and less debt

Southern Baptist architectural consultants and designers who work annually with hundreds of the denomination's churches are seeing trends toward smaller building indebtedness and more multiuse facilities.

Gwenn McCormick, director of the Sunday School Board's church architecture department, said reports show building finances and facilities have changed since the mid 1970s.

"The relationship of debt to income has changed dramatically," McCormick said. "Church debt as a percentage of total gifts gradually decreased from 72.3 percent in 1975 to 42.7 percent in 1986."

He attributed the improvement in the debt to income ratio to capital fundraising, improved stewardship attitudes, the cost of loan interest and a generally higher level of affluence among Southern Baptists.

Also, the percentage of Southern Baptist churches reporting new construction decreased from 33.2 percent in 1975 to 26.4 percent in 1986.

"Only churches of 3000 or more members showed an increase in the percentage reporting new construction," he said. "Those increased from 39.8 percent in 1975 to 43.7 percent in 1986."

For churches reporting new construction, the average amount reported was \$50,477. By church membership size, averages ranged from \$5,911 for churches with fewer than 50 members to \$951,285 for those with 3000 or more members.

In the area of facilities trends, McCormick said, the denomination's architectural consultants and designers receive more requests for multiuse facilities, where multiple Sunday schools and worship services may be held. Smaller churches often discover when the same space is used for education, worship, fellowship and recreation the size of the building can be reduced 25 to 30 percent, he explained.

Churches now want more vestibule space, more gathering room for fellowship before and after worship services.

Flexibility is the watchword for the 1990s church design, he reported. In the 1940s, McCormick recalled, one denominational publication appealed for a "Baptist architecture," a colonial design.

"Today there is more interest in diversity of design," he said. "More congregations build fan-shaped worship facilities or designs that bring seating closer to the platform than do rectangular buildings."

Along with an increased variety in architectural styles, a movement is being made toward concern for function rather than a fixation on appearance, he said.

"There should be a desire that the design provides a distinctive witness," McCormick observed. "There is no longer a reluctance to use Christian symbols to identify our buildings."

Among other trends he said architectural consultants report are:

—Increasingly strict local codes enforcement.

—Greater sensitivity to access for the physically handicapped.

—An increased sensitivity to having adequate property for growth.

—Greater emphasis on flexibility in the choir/pulpit area for drama and music, even in smaller churches.

—Increasing complication of legal requirements and design standards.

—A trend toward improved master planning that locates first units in a logical place for future development.

"Today's church facilities incorporate the technology, construction methods, materials and energy concerns of the times," McCormick said. "More importantly, they represent the sense of mission and priorities of the congregations who build and use them." (BP)

Baptist Men: a legacy of missions involvement

Win a man—win his family . . .

by Jim Burton

Recently while attending a Catholic wedding reception, the mother of a young man who was contemplating entering the priesthood felt compelled to explain to me what a difficult decision it is to become a priest. There are many sacrifices, she explained, that other ministers don't have to make.

That may be true, but the decision of a married man to enter ministry is no less difficult. He is affecting not only his life, but the live of a spouse and children. It can be a tremendous burden to ask a spouse and children to accept and support your call.

Among the greatest responsibilities men face today, whether laity or clergy, is discerning their life's direction. One thing is clear—the direction chosen by a man has profound effects upon his children and future generations.

The following statistics remind us of how much a family's Christian commitment depends upon the father.

—When both parents attend Sunday school regularly, 72 percent of the children attend when grown.

—When just the father attends Sunday school regularly, 55 percent of the children attend when grown.

—When only the mother attends Sunday school regularly, 15 percent of the children attend when grown.

—When neither parent attends Sunday school regularly, only six percent of their children attend when grown.

Though related to Sunday school, the survey's message is clear to Baptist Men—your children (and grandchildren) need you to model Christianity for them. The greatest sermon your children will ever hear will be preached by your life of faithfulness in word and deed.

The biblical model is for a family to worship and minister together. But there are fewer and fewer biblical models in our society. Broken homes have fragmented the family. Single-parent families make up 26.3 percent of American households, accounting for nearly 63 million children under the age of 18.

The impact of a Christian father on his children should come as no surprise.

There are many ways Baptist Men can model Christianity for their family, including disaster relief, volunteer church building, food-closet ministry, and short-term overseas missions projects.

This month as the Southern Baptist Convention recognizes the contribution of Baptist Men to evangelism on Baptist Men's day, target the inactive men of your church and unchurched men in your community for membership in your Baptist Men's unit and other church programs.

When you win a man, you win his family.

A legacy of faith . . .

by Jim Burton

By 10 a.m., the Mid-South was covered with a muggy blanket of heavy air. The temperature was rising, so I took refuge in the back yard with my three-year-old son in his store-bought, blue plastic swimming pool.

We had some catching up to do in the time department. I had returned the evening before after a week away. It was time to splash, laugh and giggle.

As we escaped the day's menacing heat, my wife came to the back door and called out, "Jody died last night."

The message didn't connect with my son. He didn't know Jody, nor did I very well. I had only seen him at church and visited him once in the hospital. When he needed blood, I gave him a pint.

Jody was a 16-year-old victim of leukemia.

As I sat under a pine tree getting reacquainted with my son, Leon was saying good-bye to his.

Jody was a mirror of his father, entrenched with Christian faith and values; Leon and his wife, Pat, had never given up hope during their son's 18-month ordeal.

The next day at the funeral home, I searched for the right words of condolence. There weren't any. To say that I knew what he was going through would be a lie because I didn't.

But as he stood next to his son's casket, Leon talked about how much better Jody was now. No tubes. No pain. No suffering.

And Leon talked about ministry. There are other families at that hospital that we can help because we know what it's like, he said.

Leon represents the legacy of faith that exists within the body of Christ. Baptist Men are vital to that link. From generation to generation, Baptist Men are keepers of the faith and sharers of the faith.

I know if I face a similar day, there will be a Leon there who is older and much wiser. And he'll say, "I know what it is like. Let me help you through this time."

**Baptist Men's
Teleconference**

Jan. 7, 1989, 9 a.m. PST

Broadcast Over ACTS & BTN

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Through

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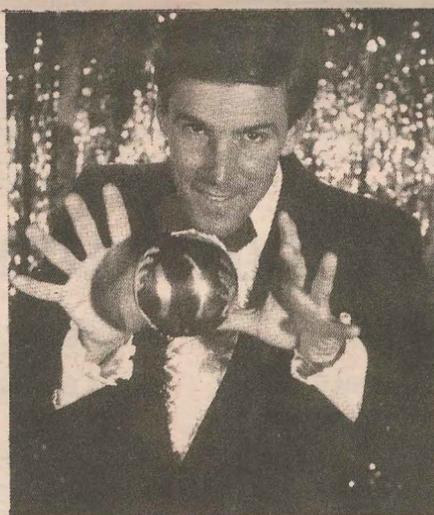
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