

'Invitation only' gathering in Atlanta gets group 'hepped up' for Las Vegas

by Dan Martin and Greg Warner

About 100 Southern Baptist conservatives discussed evangelism and politics during a five-hour invitation-only gathering in Atlanta Mar. 3.

The meeting, called by four former presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention and held in First Baptist Church of Atlanta, also dealt with revival, missions giving and featured an hour-long prayer meeting.

According to a news release issued following the meeting, "Prayer, fellowship and reflection regarding the state of our churches and denomination have motivated this assembly of pastors and laymen from across the nation."

One of the participants, James C. Hefley of Hannibal, Mo., said that while "there was a lot of talk about evangelism in Las Vegas," Nev., site of the 1989 annual meeting of the SBC, the meeting was "more like a rally . . . to get people hepped up to go to Las Vegas."

Although organizers said the meeting had been planned for some time, participants discussed a recent news conference by Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention in which the group announced it likely will organize for Las Vegas and support a presidential candidate to oppose incumbent Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., and SBC president 1979-80, and 1986-88, when asked why 100 men from 20 state conventions would pay their own way to attend the one-day meeting, said, "I think it was because of the shenanigans of the (Southern Baptist) Alliance compounded by the intentions of the erstwhile group now calling themselves 'centrists,' and seeing they might be trying to unseat Jerry Vines."

Rogers added, "The meeting was not primarily a political meeting. It was an exhortative meeting, a revival meeting, a soul-winning meeting, a meeting to discuss the state of the convention. It served to show us we have to keep our

lives keen and our hearts warm."

James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Tex., and SBC president 1982-84, told Baptist Press, "This is the first meeting we have had since the last convention. We wanted to assess where we felt we were and to encourage our people to participate in the convention in Las Vegas . . . to encourage them to come ahead of time and be involved in the witnessing" project planned by the Home Mission Board.

Fred Powell, senior associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, and one of the meeting's organizers, said there "was a lot of discussion about various aspects of how important it is to go to Las Vegas, for them to pick their 10 messengers right now and get a commitment from them to go. And to train them in soul winning, right now."

Powell said participants heard messages from three presidents, as well as "brief remarks" from host pastor Charles Stanley, SBC president 1984-86. They also participated in an hour-long prayer meeting, listened to a panel of Stanley, Draper and Rogers and heard a tape recording of a confrontation between Richard Jackson of Phoenix and Houston Judge Paul Pressler.

"Jimmy (Draper) affirmed missions giving through the Cooperative Program; Adrian (Rogers) talked about recommitting ourselves before God; Jerry (Vines) powerfully admonished us that soul winning must be what we are about," Powell said.

The meeting was called by Stanley, Rogers, Draper and Bailey Smith, an Atlanta evangelist and president 1980-82, who was unable to attend, reportedly because of a previous engagement at Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.

Vines said he was invited by the four past presidents and stopped over in Atlanta enroute to a Bible conference in Alabama.

Hefley said conservatives are concerned Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention "will come up with some (presidential) candidate" who could defeat Vines, who announced in late February he is willing



Draper



Rogers



Smith



Vines

to be nominated for a second one-year term as president.

"Those fellows (Baptists Committed) sort of laid down the gauntlet and said they were going to make a battle in Las Vegas," Hefley said.

"In Atlanta, the people were concerned that the conservative resurgence could be reversed and it could start in Las Vegas. Many people thought Las Vegas was going to be a routine convention but it is going to boil down to who can get out the votes."

Draper said, "Our desire is to see Jerry (Vines) reelected. At this point, there is no announced candidate (to oppose him) and our hope is that there won't be one. We recognize that may be wishful thinking but we are still hoping."

Hefley was one of two reporters allowed at the meeting. The other was Robert M. Tenery, pastor of Burkemont Baptist Church, Morganton, N. C., and editor of the Southern Baptist Advocate. Both men are closely identified with the conservative movement in the SBC.

The meeting was not off the record, Hefley said, and added he will include an account in volume four of his "Truth in Crisis" series, which concerns the conservative resurgence in the SBC. The volume is expected out in advance of the 1989 annual meeting.

Powell said neither Tenery nor Hefley was invited as "a reporter, but because of their commitment to the (conservative) movement."

Baptist Press asked to be allowed to attend the meeting but was refused permission. Another reporter, Everett Hulum of Atlanta, representing the Florida Baptist Witness, newsjournal of the Florida Baptist Convention, was turned away at the door because his name was not on the invitation list.

Powell said organizers sent out 120 invitations. "We asked friends in every

state to send names," he said.

Rogers said he "did not know how the (invitation) list was drawn up. It probably was just pieced together." Pressler declined to comment on the meeting.

The panel discussion by Rogers, Stanley and Draper was moderated by Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas.

"We offered to field any questions," Draper said, "but there really weren't any questions they wanted to ask. They did ask to be updated on some of the matters in the convention."

Robert Crowley, pastor of Montrose Baptist Church, Rockville, Md., and chairman of trustees at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., briefed participants on events at the seminary, which has been involved in controversy regarding accreditation.

Participants also listened to a 20-minute tape recording of a confrontation between Pressler and Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church Feb. 21.

Jackson lost presidential elections to Rogers in 1987 and was defeated by 340 votes by Vines in 1988.

Hefley, who made the recording and provided copies to Pressler, Jackson and Powell, said it was played "as an awareness thing to let them know what is going on." He said he did not ask that it be played at the Atlanta gathering.

"There was no spirit of anger. I think the spirit was one of sadness and tiredness that it was all going to crank up again in Las Vegas. No one is looking forward to it or is going forth eagerly to battle.

"The big emphasis was that we have got to go back and get our people to Las Vegas to do two things: support Jerry Vines and have an evangelistic emphasis." (BP)

\$250,000 grant awarded to SBTS to define 'qualifying ministers'

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is one of 10 religious organizations nationwide selected to initiate a large-scale plan for strengthening the quality of candidates for the ministry.

Lilly Endowment Inc., an Indianapolis-based private philanthropy with a long-standing interest in religion, has awarded the Louisville seminary \$250,000 for the project. A panel of independent judges selected the 10 proposals out of 47 submitted.

Recipients include four other theological schools and the offices of five American denominations.

The purpose of Southern's program is to "determine what Southern Baptists mean by 'quality minister' and how the seminary can nurture the call to ministry," said project director Daniel Aleshire, professor of psychology and Christian education at Southern Seminary.

In addition, Aleshire said, the seminary will review the issues that define the context of ministry in the Southern Baptist Convention and evaluate recruitment practices and curriculum in light of the study's findings.

"We have a concern that some of the best God-called people may not respond (to their call) because of the denominational crisis," said Aleshire.

The first phase of the study will include a survey of 1500 to 2000 Southern Baptist ministers and lay people in seven states to determine how they define "quality ministers." In the second phase, the seminary will gather information from ministers who are identified as "quality ministers" by people surveyed. The study's final phase will deal with student recruitment and an evaluation of several seminary programs. (BP)



Daniel O. Aleshire

Street _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

March 14, 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

Do we love missions?



Jack D. Sanford

Ask almost any Southern Baptist what stands as our top priority and the answer will usually be, "Missions."

We have had a love affair with missions since the very beginning of our work in 1845. In fact, the call of foreign missions was one of the major factors which helped create the Southern Baptist Convention. And it has been a strong point among us until recently. It appears we may have lost our first love.

We have been so caught up in political in-fighting we seem to have lost our sense of mission purpose. That is reflected in the action taken in the February meeting of the SBC Executive Committee. This body adopted a budget for presentation to the Las Vegas meeting of the convention which represents a 2.0 percent cut in funds for the boards, agencies and institutions of the SBC. That is bad, but worse is the fact that in the same meeting in which the Executive Committee cut funding for existing entities, they also voted to create an unnecessary new agency called the Religious Liberty Commission. Conservative estimates of start up costs for this new venture range from \$500,000 to \$700,000 with continued need for funding in the years ahead.

We thus demonstrate our lack of compassion and care for lost people in the most dramatic way. We do it at a time in American history when our nation is reeling under the onslaught of deeply entrenched sin. Note the conditions in America and reflect on what is needed from Southern Baptists. We are a nation in the grips of an unprecedented crime wave; chemical abuse is the hallmark of our society; sex is exploited in everything we do; poor and homeless people abound and are increasing with each passing day; and racial injustice is rampant. This is America and our leaders propose we spend tithes and offerings for a new agency which at best will duplicate what we already have and at worse will be a showcase for

our political prejudice and ignorance.

Both Keith Parks and Larry Lewis, presidents of the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board respectively, have expressed concern about a new agency since its creation comes at a time when the missionary needs of America and the rest of the world are growing, not declining. Yet our leaders prefer to cut mission funding and use money we do not have to create something we do not need.

Note that our lack of passion for missions is reflected in our giving. Last year we gave 18 cents for home missions. That means that more than 167 million Americans who are strangers to Jesus Christ were worth only 18 cents each to Southern Baptists. Yet we want another agency to contend for religious liberty when we do not spend pocket change on lost people? Reason says that is not missionary concern and we best stop kidding ourselves.

Yet we have a chance to stop the decline. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering needs at least \$39 million to meet the goal of this organization we have asked to represent us in the name of Jesus to America. That means if every Southern Baptist would contribute about 23 cents to this offering we would make the goal. Again, pocket change translates our sense of mission need and we ought to be ashamed if we fail to make the goal.

We venture there will be more passion, more rhetoric, more genuine concern over the creation of a new agency than there will be over the plight of a lost America. That passion, rhetoric and concern will simply reflect where we are as a people.

We may have started well in mission concern, but we have fallen by the wayside and seem to have lost our sense of direction and purpose. May God help us recover our lost love and stir us once again to give our best efforts to giving so we can proclaim the gospel to lost people in America and around the world.

What is the Alliance all about?

A couple of years ago when the Southern Baptist Alliance came into existence the stated purpose was to provide fellowship for those who did not agree with the ultraconservative agenda. Ostensibly the moderate brothers were looking for a place within Southern Baptist life to express ideas and not face constant attack.

Now the Alliance has employed an executive director, laid plans to establish a theological seminary and is acting like a brand new denomination.

Is the Southern Baptist Alliance a new denomination? Is it just another splinter group within the Southern Baptist Convention? Can we expect to see the Alliance strive to promote the work of cooperative missions within the framework of the SBC? Will the Alliance go its separate way and stay aloof from SBC programs and ministries?

These questions are significant because the answers will tell us just what the Southern Baptist Alliance is all about. Larry McSwain, professor

at Southern Seminary, noted most of the talk at Greenville last week centered on the Atlantic states, not the Southern Baptist Convention.

John Dunaway, pastor in Corbin, Ky., counseled the Alliance to go slowly and not commit itself to an irreversible agenda but wait and see if they could help the SBC stay together and progress in the work of the Lord.

It seems we must also wait and see. The Alliance sounds like a splinter group, ready to launch out on its own to establish new ministries apart from cooperative effort with other Southern Baptists. If that is the case then we have trouble indeed because we have that already in abundance. If, on the other hand, the Alliance is truly a group of disillusioned Baptists who want more opportunity to share in SBC affairs and are trying to find a way to work with other Baptists to see the gospel proclaimed, then we owe them time to get their act in order.

western recorder

(ISSN 0043-4132)

JACK D. SANFORD, Editor
JAMES H. COX, Associate Editor
RAY L. HAYES, Business Manager
C. R. DALEY, Editor Emeritus

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 Hulette, Frankfort; Don Mantooth, Morehead; Isaac McDonald, Hodgenville; John Searcy, Franklin; George Smith, Leitchfield.

mountains to the mississippi



Rev. and Mrs. J. Charles Hedrick Jr.



Rev. and Mrs. Gary West



Dr. and Mrs. James R. Sexton Jr.

missions

Rev. and Mrs. J. Charles Hedrick Jr. were among 20 people named missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board Feb. 14 at New Bridge Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

As missionary associates the Hedricks will live in Nigeria, where he will be working as a church growth consultant and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1981 Hedrick has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon, Ky.

Born in West Milford, Oh., Hedrick is the son of the late John C. Hedrick and Mrs. Hedrick of Pleasureville, Ky. A native Kentuckian, Hedrick considers Mt. Vernon his home town and First Baptist Church his home church.

Hedrick received a BA degree from Campbellsville (Ky.) College and a ThM degree from American Bible College, Pineland, Fla. He also attended Kentucky College of Business, Lexington, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

He has been pastor of Central Baptist Church, Maysville, Ky.; Bracken Association; Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, Ky.; Christian County Association; Concord Baptist Church, Hartford, Ky.; Ohio County Association; and the mission sponsored by Campbellsville Baptist Church, Taylor County Association. He was a Baptist Student Union summer missionary in Kentucky.

Born and reared in Maysville, Ky., Mrs. Hedrick, the former Carrie Stears, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allan Stears of Germantown, Ky. She considers Germantown Baptist Church her home church.

Mrs. Hedrick received a BS degree from Campbellsville (Ky.) College. She has been a teacher in Maysville, Ky. Since 1983 she has been a teacher with Rockcastle County Board of Education, Mt. Vernon, Ky.

The Hedricks, who have three grown children, will go to Rockville, Va., in March for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

Dr. and Mrs. James R. Sexton were named missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board Feb. 14 at New Bridge Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

The Sextons will live in Uruguay, where he will start and develop churches.

Born and reared in Tuscaloosa, Ala., Sexton is the son of Reuben Sexton and the late Betty Sexton. He received a BS degree from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and MDiv and DMin degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Sexton has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Wetumpka, Ala., and Bethel Baptist Church, Ft. Deposit, Ala.; and associate pastor of Poplar Level Baptist Church, Louisville, Long Run Association.

Born and reared in Winfield, Ala., Mrs. Sexton, the former Evelyn Davis, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln Davis. She received a BM degree from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and has taught piano in Louisville.

The Sextons have three children: Eric James, Justin Davis and Amy Elizabeth.

Rev. and Mrs. Gary M. West were appointed missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board Feb. 14 at New Bridge Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

The Wests will live in Mexico where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1985 West has been pastor of Glencoe (Ky.) Baptist Church, Ten Mile Association.

Born in Richmond, Va., West is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Horace West of Birmingham, Ala. He received a BA degree from Samford University, Birmingham, and a MDiv degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Born in Athens, Tenn., Mrs. West, the former Nell Fleming, is the daughter of the late Wilber and Maxine Fleming. She received a BS degree from Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, and took graduate courses in social work at Southern Seminary. She has been a social worker in Crittenden, Ky.

The Wests have two children: Nathan Mills and Amanda Elizabeth.

Correction

In the Feb. 21 issue Western Recorder incorrectly stated that J. Adele Adeleru was a student at Jefferson Community College. Adeleru is a student at Southern Baptist Seminary. We apologize for any embarrassment this may have caused.

congregations

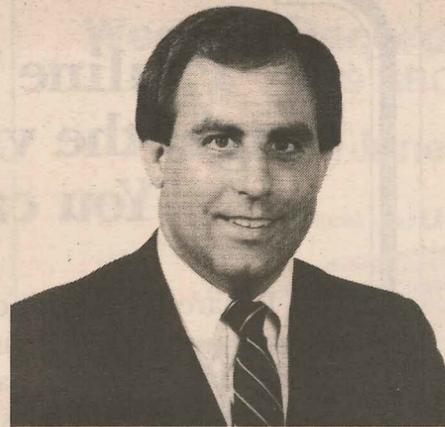
Cropper Baptist Church, Shelby Association, has taken a bold step to reach the community surrounding the small rural congregation in Shelby County.

The church dedicated a family life center in services Sunday, Mar. 5, 1989. The multipurpose building includes a gymnasium, Sunday school rooms, rest rooms, a kitchen and baptistry. Total cost to the church for the building, valued at more than \$225,000, was \$160,000 with most of the labor donated by members of the church. Total debt on the building is less than \$85,000 and the congregation is determined to pay off the debt within the next year.

Pastor of the Cropper church, Steve Galyon, declared the goals for the new building are four-fold: worship, education, fellowship and recreation. It is significant that during the worship service of dedication, a baptismal service was a prominent feature of the festivities. It is the intention of the congregation to use the new facility to reach young people for Christ and salvation through recreation programs.

Rich Shaw was chairman of the long range planning committee which called the church to consider the project. Gene Witt was chairman of the building committee and Tommy Eldridge was chairman of the building finance committee.

personnel



Coltharp

H. Garrison (Gary) Coltharp, pastor of First Baptist Church, Madisonville, Little Bethel Association, has resigned to accept a call to be pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Tenn.

Coltharp has been pastor at Madisonville since 1981 and will begin his ministry in Jackson, the city of his birth, Easter Sunday, Mar. 26, 1989.

He began his ministry as associate pastor of West End Baptist Church, West Union Association, in 1967. Since then he has been pastor of Zenas Baptist Church, Butlerville, Ind.; First Baptist Church, Fisherville, Ky.; Central Baptist Church, Paris, Ky.; and First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

Coltharp is a graduate of Murray State University and Southern Seminary. He has served Kentucky Baptists as a conference leader, member of the executive board, member and chairman of the board of directors of Western Recorder and a member and chairman of the resolutions committee of the KBC. He also was a volunteer in the Kentucky-Kenya project in 1986 and 1987.

He is married to Martha Terry Coltharp and they have one daughter, Paula Michelle.



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

It might as well be spring

English poet Percy Bysshe Shelley inquired, *If winter comes, can spring be far behind?* The calendar says it's only a matter of days till spring is here, which traditionally marks an end to winter's doldrums.

Some of my best friends are winter-fanciers. They welcome the ice and snow and low temperatures and brush aside what for the rest of us are discomfiting experiences.

I prefer warm days and warm nights and could thrive in that environment forever. Summer is, and always has been, my favorite of the four seasons. While autumn may be the most beautiful (at least, for a week in late October when the trees reach their ultimate splendor), spring certainly runs a close second among the seasons for me.

Spring is an "anticipatory" time of year. It assures that we've survived another season of staying home and staying put and staying indoors and that there's a day coming to get out and experience God's beautiful world. As the icy fingers of winter release their grip on mother earth to the warm rays of sun, a transformation occurs.

Springing to life from the soil are buttercups (jonquils, to the true horticulturist) and tulips and the green grass that has spent a season looking withered and pale. The dogwoods blossom in pink and white profusion creating a strong visual runnerup to autumn's blaze of glory. Those April showers bring May flowers all right. As roses and violets proliferate, white blooms upon the strawberry plants remind us it won't long before nature bears its edible fruit again.

The robins and cardinals return with a variety of feathered friends who've winterized in warmer climes. Their joyful noise is like a praise song to their creator, another reminder of God's abiding presence in his world.

Spring is a promise of things to come. Good things. Good feelings. Good times—with good friends.

Even if you haven't felt the change in temperature, you know it's close when Daylight Saving Time begins (Apr. 2). Millions of working Americans who cherish the great outdoors take solace in its benefits with an extra hour of sunlight every warm day.

Poet Robert Browning, writing in *Pippa Passes*, said it well:

The year's at the spring...

The hillside's dew-pearled;...

God's in his heaven—

All's right with the world.

There was a popular song in my boyhood called "It Might As Well Be Spring." My sentiments exactly. I marvel at God's infinite creations. And I think he may remind us of them more at this season than any other.

baptist news in brief



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

clear creek chronicle

Books

Books are essential for quality education and more effective gospel communication. Paul desired his "books and above all the parchments" (II Tim. 4:13). Emeritus foreign missionary Mary Lucille Saunders, long time publications missionary, noted in a Clear Creek chapel message, "A drop of ink on paper can make a million think. A book doesn't get migraine headaches nor its feelings hurt and it doesn't change its message."

The Clear Creek library occupies a central location on our campus. The 2014 square foot facility is open five days a week and supervised by director of library services Carolyn Brooks. Mrs. Brooks has a MLS degree from Union College. Five student assistants are employed with workshop funds. The Correll brothers of Somerset provided the building which houses the library. The collection totals 18,974 volumes.

The library must be expanded to meet accreditation guidelines by 1991. Reaching this goal will require adding 3000 volumes each of the next two years and 2000 volumes annually the following three years. A 35' x 28' addition will be needed to provide adequate space for the stacks and study areas.

Friends remember us by donating books. KBC director of evangelism Bill Jagers sent six boxes. I returned from a speaking engagement at Oneida Institute with several boxes of books given by George Sleeker. A retired couple in Orlando, Fla., receive the Western Recorder and read this column weekly. They recently sent me a list of books from their family library and we could use all of them. Do you have good books no longer needed? Clear Creek would be glad to receive them. If our library does not need them they are placed in the bookstore for student purchase. Our pastors are able to build their library with minimum cost. The funds derived go to the Agape Fund for emergency student needs.

The next time you visit the Baptist Book Store you might want to purchase a gift certificate for Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. We will be able to use it without paying tax and purchase a book for our library.

Alliance ok's a new seminary

The Southern Baptist Alliance has voted to start its own seminary. Alliance members ratified the proposal 462-42 during their annual convocation Mar. 1-3 in Greenville, S. C.

The Alliance is an organization of Southern Baptist moderates, claiming almost 44,000 members from 40 states. They have vowed to remain in the Southern Baptist Convention but have charged current SBC leaders with rejecting principles and causes they hold dear.

Last September, the Alliance board of directors created a theological education fund to support "alternative ministerial training." In November, it voted to raise \$250,000 in 1989 for theological education and determined 5 percent of undesignated gifts will support the cause.

Theological education committee chairman Tom Graves presented the proposal. He defined three purposes of the new school: "The seminary would be distinctively Baptist in terms of the Baptist heritage, but it would be racially and gender inclusive, with an ecumenical commitment

and global perspective. The seminary, while stressing classical theological disciplines, would include in its curriculum opportunities for hands-on practice in ministry. And the seminary, while seeking excellence in scholarship, would provide for and encourage the spiritual growth of its faculty, staff and students."

The seminary "would be a cooperative venture" with the three schools that comprise the Richmond Theological Center consortium—the School of Theology of Virginia Union University, a predominantly black American Baptist school; the Presbyterian School of Christian Education; and Union Theological Seminary, a Presbyterian school—and the three American Baptist seminaries, "if they are so disposed," the task force report said.

The Alliance's vote means the organization can take three steps, Graves said: "We will make official contacts with the other institutions. We can begin to collect funding. And we can name a provisional board of directors." (BP)

FMB guidelines allow more age flexibility

More flexibility to consider older candidates for career missionary appointment will result from a revised statement of qualifications at the Foreign Mission Board.

The updated document removes all references to upper age limits for missionary service. Former guidelines said candidates for career appointment could be no older than 45.

Foreign Mission Board staff members presented the changes in February to trustees on the board's mission management and personnel committee, which approved the new document.

"Less emphasis will be placed on the age of the candidate and more emphasis upon the candidate's ability to meet the assignment on the field," said Harlan Spurgeon, vice president for mission management and personnel.

The board still must consider certain factors in evaluating such candidates, Spurgeon noted. These include fluency in the necessary foreign language or the ability to learn the language, and the time required for a candidate to become proficient in a given assignment.

Of the 3853 missionaries now assigned to 114 countries, 3371, or more than 87 percent, are in the career category. The average age of career appointees in 1988 was 32. (BP)

"The Lord called me to ministry in BTN."

Pauline Tyner has caught the vision of BTN. You can, too.

"As I share BTN with others, it makes us a better church and better Christians as we reach out to the unsaved," she says about Horseshoe Bend Baptist Church, Horseshoe Bend, Arkansas.

Take it from Pauline. BTN is truly a ministry. To your church's leaders and members. Perhaps for you.

For more information on how your church can benefit from BTN — and on how you can be involved — write or call

BTN

127 Ninth Avenue, North
Nashville, TN 37234
(615) 251-2283

Serving Southern Baptists
Through Satellite Telecommunications



What's A Safe Investment Today?

When you invest, you want the assurance that your money will be secure—no matter what happens to the market.

Ministers Life's Flexible Annuity Plans offer you competitive, market-rate returns, and guarantee a minimum rate of return. So you can relax and watch your investment grow—safely.

Ministers Life has provided quality, affordable products to the religious community since 1900. For more information on how you can make a safe investment today, give me a call. *At Ministers Life, we're serious about being the insurance company right for you!*

Janneke Smith
Senior Representative
173 Sears Ave., Suite 283
Louisville, Kentucky 40207
(502) 893-3700

ML **MINISTERS LIFE**
Serving those who serve

SBC Executive Committee approves new Religious Liberty Commission

Creation of a new Religious Liberty Commission has been approved by the Southern Baptist Executive Committee on a 42-27 secret ballot vote.

The vote came during the Feb. 20-22 meeting of the 76-member Executive Committee after a seven-member study committee recommended creating the new entity as "an alternative to accomplish the program and funding" of the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The action, however, specifies that the SBC "would continue its relationship with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs through the Religious Liberty Commission."

In order to create a new entity, messengers to two consecutive SBC annual meetings will be required to approve the action by majority votes. Thus, messengers to both the 1989 annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., and the 1990 annual meeting in New Orleans must give their assent.

Members of the Executive Committee approved a package that includes the recommendation to create the new agency, along with a charter, program statement and preliminary bylaws.

Under the proposal, messengers to the Las Vegas convention will be asked to approve creation of the new entity. Then, messengers to the New Orleans annual meeting will be asked to vote on the matter again and also ballot on a charter, program statement, funding, and election of 27 trustees to the new organization.

New Orleans messengers also will be asked to dissolve the 18-member Public Affairs Committee, a standing committee through which the SBC relates to the BJCPA.

All of the votes to create and organize the new commission will be simple majorities; only the vote to dissolve the PAC will require a two-thirds majority.

Members of the Executive Committee—and messengers to the annual meetings—were presented the total package "in order to give them a total view" of the scope and work of the new entity.

"We are providing the total package in order not to ask messengers to vote without having all of the information," said Harold C. Bennett, president of the Executive Committee.

The BJCPA and its executive director, James M. Dunn, have been under fire from convention conservatives who charge the BJCPA is unresponsive to the wishes of Southern Baptists and is unaccountable to the SBC because it has only a third of the trustees while providing the majority of the funding. In recent years, the BJCPA has narrowly survived efforts to defund or withdraw the SBC from participation.

The action of the study committee that recommended creation of the new entity also is controversial, as Dunn protested not being invited to participate in the deliberations that resulted in the recommendation.

Dunn said he was not asked to provide input until the study committee met Monday, Feb. 20, and called the process that resulted in the recommendation "shabby, unfair, unethical and improper."

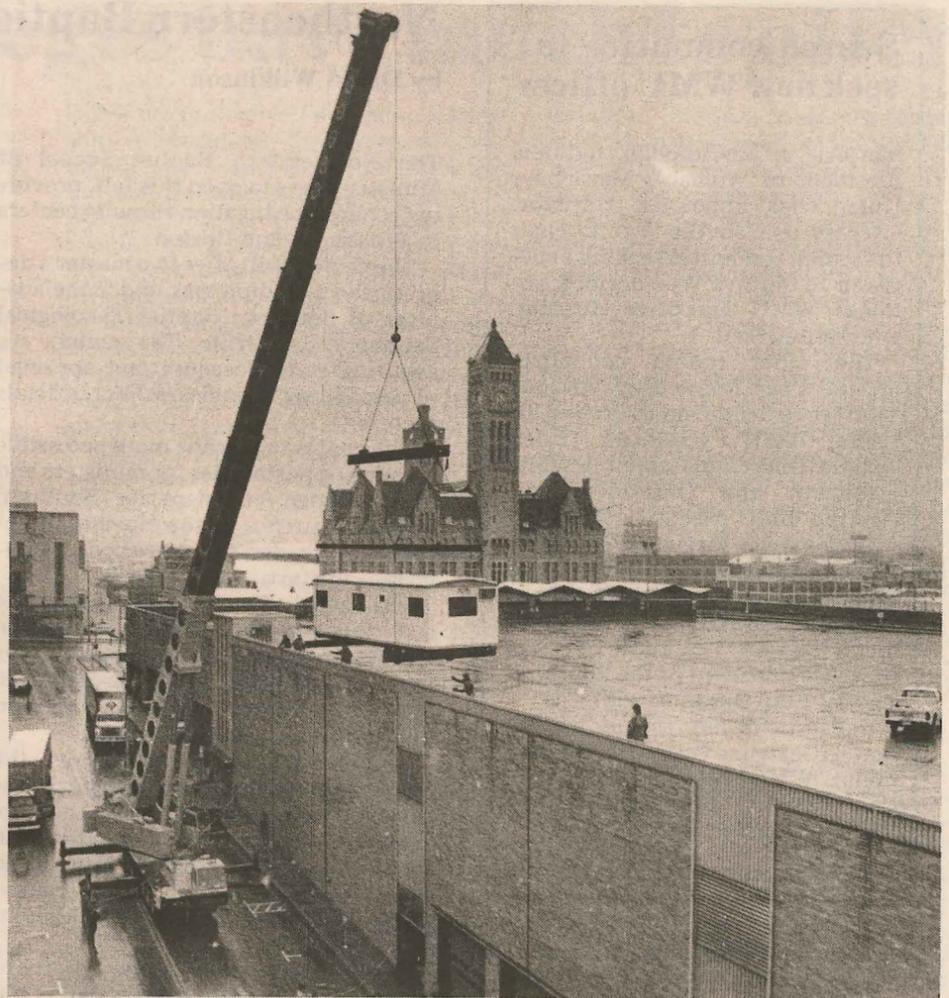
The recommendation to create the new entity involved action by all three of the Executive Committee's three subcommittees and featured nearly an hour and a half of debate before the final vote.

During plenary session discussion, Executive Committee members questioned whether the body was acting properly in proposing an action.

During discussion, R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, said he believes creation of the new entity will be divisive and "is not a wise thing to do." He cited the cost to missions, the reduction in influence in Washington and the perception that we are not willing to cooperate, even with other Baptists.

As for the reduction of influence in the nation's capital, Parks commented: "We think Southern Baptists are pretty big stuff, but I don't think people in Washington share that impression."

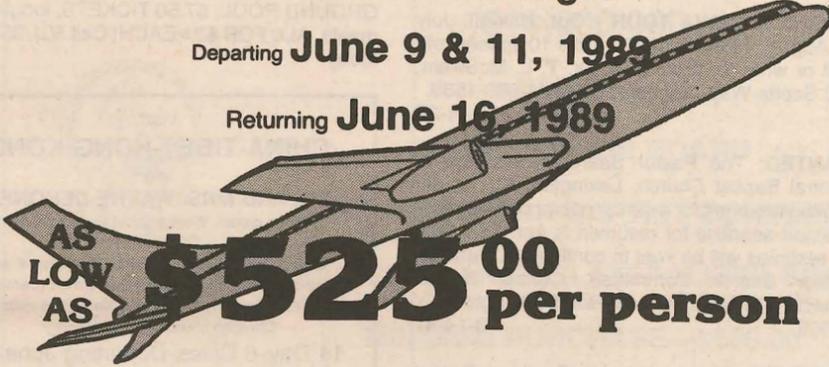
He pointed out the SBC "is in a terrible budget crunch and everybody says the Cooperative Program (the SBC unified budget) is in terrible shape, plateaued at best and declining at worst." He then questioned the wisdom of establishing a new agency that will cost from \$500,000 to \$750,000 when the cost will be borne by missions agencies. "Half of it will come from foreign missions and 20 percent from home missions," he said. (BP)



One of four trailers is hoisted by crane from a Nashville street to the top of the Sunday School Board's operations building where construction is about to begin on a nine-story office/conference tower scheduled for completion in the fall of 1990.

9th annual
Western Recorder Charter Express
 1989 SBC—Las Vegas

Departing **June 9 & 11, 1989**
 Returning **June 16, 1989**



AS LOW AS \$525.00 per person

Price includes: 7:30 p.m. departures, round trip airfare, ground transportation from airport to hotel, lodging at Las Vegas Imperial Palace, walking distance to the SBC convention site, fellowship with Kentucky Baptist Messengers.

Arrangements made through Woodside Travel

Enclosed is \$75 per person deposit for the

7-nights Las Vegas tour at \$575 per person

5-nights Las Vegas tour at \$525 per person

Ray, please contact me with additional information

Make check payable to: Western Recorder-Travel, Attn. Ray Hayes
 P. O. Box 43969, Middletown, KY 40243

Name _____

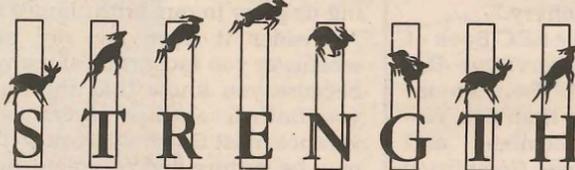
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Home (____) _____ Office (____) _____

Church _____

MAY 1-5, 1989
THE JOY OF THE LORD ... MY



S T R E N G T H

... My Security, My Solace, My Song!

1989 ANNUITANT CONFERENCE
 RIDGECREST CONFERENCE CENTER, RIDGECREST, NC

Mail reservations to: Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center
 Box 128
 Ridgecrest, North Carolina 28770

Total Cost: \$120.50 per person (Based on double occupancy)
 \$ 20.00 per person registration fee
 (applies to total cost)

Southern Baptist **AB**
 Annuity Board

baptist news in brief

Search committee to seek new WMU officer

Marjorie J. McCullough, national president of Woman's Missionary Union, has appointed Christine Gregory of Danville, Va., to chair the search committee seeking a successor to Carolyn Weatherford, national WMU executive director, who retires Sept. 1.

The other search committee members are Roena Day, Arizona WMU president; Donna Brewer, Illinois WMU president; Ellen Teague, District of Columbia WMU president; and Dorothy Pryor, Georgia WMU executive director.

Gregory was Virginia WMU president and a member of the national WMU executive board from 1971 to 1975. She was national WMU president from 1975 to 1981. She was first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1981-82.

Suggestions and resumes may be sent to Christine Gregory at the national WMU headquarters: P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL. 35283-0010. (BP)

Northeastern Baptist school opens in fall

by David Wilkinson

The Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry plans to open this fall, providing seminary education through centers in Pittsburgh and Boston.

The centers will offer two master's degrees and two diplomas under the auspices of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. The centers are awaiting state licensure and approval of accrediting agencies, school officials reported.

The goal is to provide more accessible training opportunities for ministers and more trained ministers for Southern Baptist churches in the Northeast, according to leaders who have been instrumental in starting the school.

The school of ministry is the result of a partnership in theological education involving the five Baptist conventions in the Northeast related to the Southern Baptist Convention, the Home Mission Board and the six SBC seminaries.

The school was proposed by the Northeast task team on theological education, created in 1984 by the five Southern Baptist state Conventions in the region: New England, New York, Maryland-Delaware, Pennsylvania-South Jersey and the District of Columbia.

Southern Seminary, one of those seminaries, has been designated as the "lead" seminary through 1993. Southern Seminary will offer two degree programs, the MDiv and MA/CE. Also di-

ploma programs in theology and Christian education will be offered for students without college or university degrees.

Admission requirements and standards are the same as those for students who study on Southern Seminary's campus, seminary administrators said. The application process will be administered by the Northeastern school under the authority of Southern Seminary and subject to the seminary's admissions office.

Instruction will be provided by Southern Seminary faculty and people from the centers' areas with academic degrees comparable to professors who teach at Southern Seminary.

Funding for the program is to come from student fees, individual donations, the five Baptist conventions, the Home Mission Board and the SBC Seminary External Education Division. SEED, through the presidents of the six SBC seminaries who comprise its governing board, also will assist in planning the centers' educational programs.

Committee approved to hear concerns of SBC

A special committee of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee will be appointed to receive Southern Baptists' communications of concern about developments in the denomination.

Action to create the special committee came during the Feb. 20-22 meeting of the Executive Committee in Nashville. Any recommendations of the special committee would be reported for consideration to the Executive Committee through its administration and convention arrangements subcommittee.

Creation of the new body was recommended as a process for responding to a "memorial" from messengers to the 1988 Baptist General Association of Virginia meeting, Nov. 15-16, in Virginia Beach to messengers to the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention meeting, June 13-15, in Las Vegas, Nev.

The memorial—a formal statement whereby one body expresses concerns to another body—was part of a report of the president's task force on the denominational crisis adopted by Virginia messengers.

The memorial states: "The present crisis in Southern Baptist life calls for a reexamination of the partnership (between the SBC and state conventions). . . . We earnestly desire a relationship in which no faction—right or left—can be arbitrary and exclusionary."

Also to be printed in the SBC Book of Reports will be a "Conservative Response" to the memorial. The response has been signed by more than 800 Virginia pastors, staff members and laypeople, said Executive Committee member T. C. Pinckney, a retired Air Force officer from Alexandria, Va. Pinckney had mailed the response to Executive Committee members prior to the February meeting.

BGCV executive director Reginald McDonough told Baptist Press he was satisfied with the process established by the Executive Committee. Since the memorial is addressed to messengers to the 1989 SBC, McDonough said, a member of the president's task force will introduce it as a motion for consideration in Las Vegas. He said BGAV representatives likely will not meet with the special committee until the matter is brought to the attention of SBC messengers. (BP)



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

homes for children

Good luck on all your tests

Those were the words which my mother used every day as my brother, sisters and I left for school. She still uses that admonishment occasionally when we leave after a visit.

Now I do not wish to debate the theology of "good luck." Smarter people than I can give a discourse on the concept of luck. My mother's point was not on luck but the recognition that each day brings challenges and tests which must be faced and overcome.

In my earlier school years I faced tests in school. These were designed to see if I had learned what had been taught. I usually knew when the tests were and had time to study for them. Though I did not realize it at the time, those were some of the easiest tests in life.

As an adult Christian I know our Lord is with me through his Spirit but in the end I am responsible for answering each of the questions which life presents to me. There are many times when I wish I could find a pat answer to some tough questions but all I can do is lean on my training and experience and on the knowledge that my Lord has promised to be with me.

Pat answers really would not help in the long run. The tests and trials we face in life actually serve the purpose of helping us grow in our faith. James tells us, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." (James 1:24, NIV).

It is very hard to consider some of the trials we face as pure joy and I confess I am not there yet. It is also very hard for me to accept some of the tough questions which life presents to our children.

My first response is to rush in and answer the questions for them. Rescuing children and at times staff, is something which I continually fight. If they do not learn to answer life's tough questions on their own, while they are with us, there will be no one around to help them when they begin taking the final exam which is life itself.

Pray for us to have the wisdom to know when to help and when to let life's experiences be the best teacher.

—classified ads—

FOR SALE: Commercial Satellite Dish. Like new. Make offer. Contact Rev. Jim Shaw. 606-254-5264 or write 4867 Versailles Rd., Lexington, KY 40510. 2-28-4T

FOR SALE: Story & Clark Grand Piano, 5' 4", natural wood case. For information or appointment to see call 452-2681 Bethany Baptist Church, 2319 Taylorsville Rd., Louisville. 3-14-2T

ORIENT & CHINA TOUR - Opt. Hawaii. July 18-Aug. 1, 1989 for \$2250. Only 10 spaces left. Call or write for brochures. Dr. T. L. McSwain, 420 Scotts Way, Augusta, GA, 404-860-1586. 3-14-2T

WANTED: The Pastor Search Committee of Central Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky., is accepting resumes for a senior pastor position. Requested deadline for resumes is Apr. 15, 1989. All resumes will be kept in confidence. Send to: Pastor Search Committee, Central Baptist Church, 1644 Nicholasville Road, Lexington, KY 40503. 3-14-4T

FOR SALE: Need a ticket to Southern Baptist Convention. One Airline ticket from Louisville to Las Vegas leaving June 10 7:30 a.m. Returning June 15 2:30 p.m. Super saver fare. Contact Rob Carr 502-245-4101 ext. 319. 3-14-3T

SEE THE GREAT PASSION PLAY & STAY AT KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT (for Groups of 12 or more) Rt. 4, Eureka Springs, Ark. 72632. NEW AIR CONDITIONING, IN-GROUND POOL, \$7.50 TICKETS, lodging, and meals. ALL FOR \$21 EACH! Call 501/253-8418 today! EOW

VISIT
CHINA-TIBET-HONG KONG
with
DR. AND MRS. WAYNE DEHONEY
(retired pastor, Walnut Street Baptist Church)

Beijing-Great Wall-Ming Tombs-Shanghai-Xi'an-Hotse Soldiers' Excavations-Guangzhou (Canton)-Guilin-Cruiseon Li River-Hong Kong-Plus visits to Christian churches and seminary.

14 Day-6 Cities-Departing June 21

Plus Optional 8 Day Extension to TIBET
Write or call for free brochure: Heritage Travel,
1204 S. 3rd Suite A, Louisville, KY 40203
(502) 636-9211



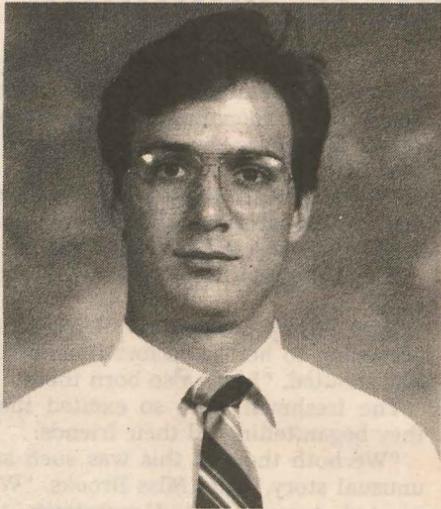
Kentucky Baptist Church Training
New Start Project

August 21-25, 1989

Say YES when contacted by your association's contact person

viewpoint

Kentucky Baptist colleges have much to offer



Samuel Coad Dyer Jr.

by Sam Dyer

When I was living on the plains of eastern New Mexico, finishing my master's degree and applying for jobs all over the country, I never thought I would end up working in southeastern Kentucky in the Appalachian mountains. The past three years I have been teaching at a Kentucky Baptist affiliated liberal arts college called Cumberland College. I consider these some of the most important years of my life.

As I prepare to depart Cumberland College to continue my graduate studies, I believe there are some important things Kentucky Baptists need to know about the kind of work being done with

your help at Cumberland College. Although the positions I take are based on my experience at Cumberland, I'll wager you'll find the same good work going on across the state.

I think Baptists in Kentucky have some special things going on in their colleges. I found out what those things are first hand by working for one of them. Those special things are great teaching, great academic leadership and involved spiritual leadership.

There is genuinely good teaching going on at Cumberland College. I was impressed by the amount of time faculty members are available to students. My experience as an undergraduate at a major state university in the midwest was professors are tough to get in touch with outside of the classroom. The emphasis at Cumberland is on teaching and working with student needs individually as well as corporately. Learning is not limited to lecture hall classrooms and I was delighted to find no such classrooms on Cumberland's campus. The student to teacher ratio is 17 to one at Cumberland. That translates into accessible professionals for students available in far too few places in higher education.

I can tell you from personal experience there is nothing worse than lecture hall sized classes with 600 students and one professor. Kentucky Baptists can be proud of the academic leadership that defines that kind of teaching situation as less than effective for students.

At Cumberland College I found there

is genuinely involved academic leadership. All during my three years at Cumberland, the academic administration of the college was actively involved in working with me to be the best teacher I could be. I had frequent and lively meetings with the chief academic officer at Cumberland College. I can tell you from first hand experience that leadership is sound. This administration is one thing you don't find at a large state university. They are accessible. Almost every time I picked up the phone to ask a question about a student or a policy matter the administration was there. But they weren't just accessible to me as a faculty member, they were also accessible to the students. I think that's an important difference. It's a difference that Kentucky Baptists can be especially proud of because it's all of Kentucky Baptists working together to help make that kind of college experience available to students.

What is important to an effective and growing institution of higher learning is an administration with a sense of direction. Institutions of higher learning need well defined courses of direction for academics, athletics, buildings and endowments. Without that kind of direction an institution is doomed to stagnation or even failure. Cumberland College is growing in all of those areas. And there's something that Kentucky Baptists can be assured of in that sense of direction—it's tempered by the cross of

Calvary. The academic leadership I worked with were all committed Christians and fine examples for young people and young teachers like me.

That brings me to my final point. There is genuinely involved spiritual leadership at your Kentucky Baptist affiliated colleges. Cumberland College has required chapel attendance. Every student is required to attend one of the three weekly chapel services sponsored by the religion department. I have spoken at eight of those chapel meetings over the past three years. When I looked out over the 600 or so students gathered for that Wednesday convocation I saw young people wanting to hear what I had to say about the good news of Jesus Christ for their lives. Whether it's in chapel, in the active organizations led by a lively and energetic campus minister, or in the lives led by a concerned faculty, students at Cumberland College are going to hear about Christ.

I believe lives are being changed for the better at Kentucky Baptist affiliated colleges. I've seen young people grow under competent tutelage and concerned administrative and spiritual guidance. Cumberland College has its problems but there is one thing I'm confident about—it has the capacity and the leadership to do something about them. With your help Cumberland College will continue to be an important institution of higher learning in the years to come.



Dear Friends:

If you were asked the question "who is the greatest lover of all time," what would your response be?
Casanova? Valentino?
Paul Newman Tom Cruise?

Being associated with the Baptist Hospitals Foundation, causes me to believe that the greatest lover of all time has to be Jesus Christ. His love is never ending and he is available to everyone.

An Extension of his love is the healing ministry given in the BHI hospitals. We would like very much for your church and your family to join us in Jesus's healing ministry.

The gifts from the Sunday School Charity Fund are used to assist in underwriting a portion of the indigent patient's bill at all of our hospitals. Some churches have a special offering for the Sunday School Charity Fund on Mother's Day every year. Others include the Sunday School Charity Fund in their yearly budget. Your gifts to the Sunday School Charity Fund are needed all year.

So, be a lover and experience the greatest love affair of your life! Send your check in the amount of \$100.00, \$50.00 or \$25.00 today to the Sunday School Charity Fund to the following address, you'll be glad you did!

Baptist Hospitals Foundation
4007 Kresge Way
Louisville, KY 40207
(502) 896-5000

Thank you for your time and thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

James L. Hannah
Chairman

P. S. One of our representatives would be happy to make a presentation to your church or group. Give us a call.

Baptist Hospitals Foundation

Serving

- Baptist Regional Medical Center
Corbin, Kentucky
- Louisville Baptist Hospitals
Louisville, Kentucky
- Central Baptist Hospital
Lexington, Kentucky
- Western Baptist Hospital
Paducah, Kentucky

This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of offers to buy any of these securities. The offering is made only by Prospectus.

\$10,000,000

SERIES D

HOME MISSION BOARD

OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

CHURCH LOAN COLLATERALIZED BONDS

MINIMUM PURCHASE—\$500.00



Proceeds from the sale of the Bonds, along with other available funds of Home Mission Board, will be used to make direct loans to Baptist churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention for the financing of sites and the construction of buildings in keeping with the Bold Mission Thrust emphasis of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Interest on the Bonds will be payable semi-annually. The Bonds will be offered with maturity dates varying from six months to fifteen years and the interest rate will vary from 8.5% to 10.5% depending upon the maturity date as set forth in the Prospectus.

Copies of the Prospectus may be obtained by calling or writing the Home Mission Board.

HOME MISSION BOARD, SBC
ATTENTION, CHURCH LOAN DIVISION
1350 Spring Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30367

1-800-HMB-BOND (462-2663)

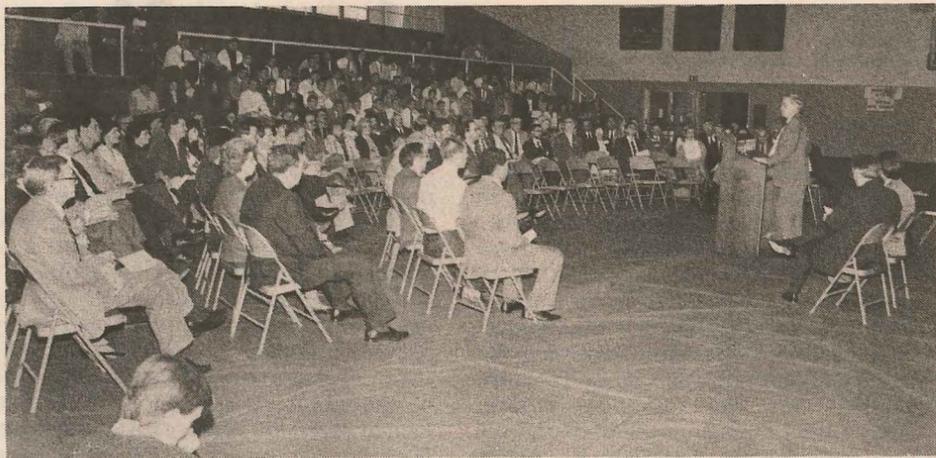
Please send a copy of the prospectus for the Series D issue of Home Mission Board Church Loan Collateralized Bonds.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

christian education



Mayor Robert L. Miller speaks before an audience of about 250 people during the dedication of the new football/baseball complex Mar. 2 at Campbellsville College.

Campbellsville College dedicates Tiger complex

Ken Winters, president of Campbellsville (Ky.) College, was one of several giving congratulations, thanks and praise as a newly-built Tiger football/baseball complex was dedicated Mar. 2.

The dedication ceremony took place in Powell Athletic Center followed by an open house tour of the complex. Approximately 250 attended.

"Not only does it benefit the people already here," said Winters, "but it will also help recruit new students."

The building includes two locker rooms with showers and rest rooms, training room, equipment room, two offices, public rest rooms and reception area.

SBTS students will serve in Philippines

Three Southern Baptist Theological Seminary students have been selected as summer missionaries to the Philippines.

Michelle M. Fincher, Roanoke, Ala.; Carl A. Pierce, Clinton, La.; and Scott M. Wiggins, Timmons-ville, S. C. will be involved in church planting activities in the Filipino cities of Luzon and Mindanao.

The students are sponsored by the seminary's summer missions committee in cooperation with the Foreign Mission Board.

Georgetown freshmen discover more than a room in common

by Marc C. Whitt

Georgetown College freshman Ruth Brooks wanted a roommate with whom she could share more than just a dormitory room. She hoped for someone who was bright, perky and enjoyed "the blessings of life."

As a result of an incidental decision made by dean of women Mary Donley, Ruth Brooks got her wish. In fact, Miss Brooks, of Frankfort, and her roommate, Jennifer Stroup of Somerset, were so similar that they were joined together at birth and didn't know it. And neither did their parents!

When the spring semester began in January the two coeds dove into a well of similarities. They were both from small towns in Kentucky. They were also adjusting to college life as do most freshmen. But these young women discovered that they were both born on the same day, the same year and at the same hospital only three hours apart!

"We were standing in the lunch line at the cafeteria," said Miss Brooks. "I asked Jennifer a few questions just to make small talk. For some reason I asked her about her birthdate."

Responding to the question, Miss Stroup said she was born in 1970 on the fifth of August.

With eyes and mouth wide open as if surprised by shocking news, Miss Brooks quickly replied that Aug. 5, 1970 was her birthdate too!

"When I told Ruth about my birthday she couldn't believe it. I mean, how many college roommates are placed together and share the same birthdays?" Miss Stroup mused.

"We forgot all about it until we sat down at the cafeteria table. I then asked Ruth where she was born and she said, 'Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington.'"

Miss Stroup jumped out of her seat, according to her Frankfort roommate. She shouted, "I was also born there!"

The freshmen were so excited that they began telling all their friends.

"We both thought this was such an unusual story," said Miss Brooks. "We wanted everyone at Georgetown to know," she laughingly said.

After comparing notes, Miss Stroup realized she was only three hours older than her roommate.

"No doubt we shared an even larger room at birth," Stroup noted as she referred to the hospital's nursery.

In addition, the two young women share common interests. They are both talented in the fine arts: Miss Brooks sings and Miss Stroup has had dance training.

According to Miss Brooks, "Jennifer and I are always in a good mood, even if it's seven o'clock in the morning! It's as if we've always known one another."

Miss Brooks is an elementary education major and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Brooks of Frankfort.

Miss Stroup is concentrating her studies in preengineering and is the daughter of Denny and Sheila Stroup of Somerset.

Southern Seminary dean withdraws resignation

William B. Rogers Jr. has withdrawn his resignation as dean of the School of Christian Education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and will continue in the position.

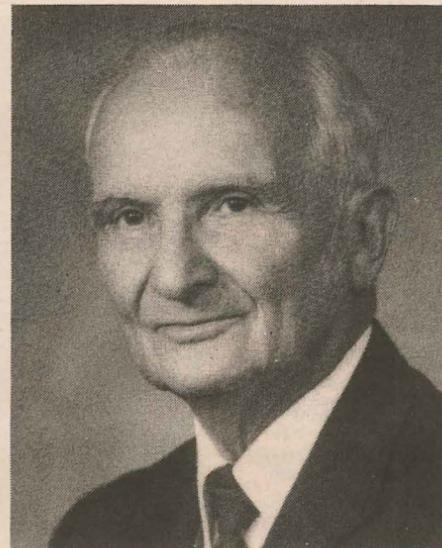
Rogers, dean since 1983, had announced his intention to resign from that position effective July 31 in order to return to full time teaching at the Louisville seminary. His decision to withdraw the resignation came after seminary president Roy L. Honeycutt was joined by the school's trustee executive committee and faculty in asking him to reconsider.

In a February meeting the trustee executive committee asked Rogers to reconsider his decision on the basis of his "exemplary service" as dean and "the need of Southern Seminary and the School of Christian Education for his continuing leadership."

Rogers said his decision to continue as dean "came not out of a sense of pressure but out of a sense of renewed commitment to the goals of the School of Christian Education."

Honeycutt welcomed Rogers' decision as "good news for me, for the seminary and particularly for the faculty and students in our School of Christian education. We are delighted that he has decided to continue in his effective role as both professor and dean."

Rogers, a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., taught at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary before going to Southern. Earlier, he worked on ministerial staffs of Baptist churches in Virginia and Texas.



George Redding

Georgetown College to establish chair of Bible

Georgetown College is seeking to raise \$500,000 to endow a chair of Bible in honor of long time religion professor, George W. Redding, announced W. Morgan Patterson, president.

Redding, who died Jan. 29 at age 83, was chairman of Georgetown's Bible department, 1943-73.

According to J. Richard Carlton, vice president for development, Georgetown will be contacting former students and pastors throughout the nation who were influenced by Redding and his teaching. The college is currently securing a chairman to spearhead the funding campaign as well as seeking volunteers who can promote the cause.

Those interested in the George W. Redding Chair of Bible may contact Carlton by telephoning or writing: Vice President of Development, Georgetown College, 400 E. College St., Georgetown, KY 40324, (502) 863-8041.

**KENTUCKY'S FIRST
PASTOR/STAFF
SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION**
April 14-15, 1989 Walnut Street Baptist Church
Louisville, Kentucky

Foundations
for the Future



PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

FRIDAY-

- 2:00 Registration Open
- 3:30 Early Bird Conferences
- 5:30 BANQUET
- 7:00 Opening . . . General Session
- 8:30 Conferences

SATURDAY-

- 8:30 General Session
- 9:30 Conferences
- 11:00 Conferences
- NOON BREAK
- 1:20 Conferences
- 2:30 General Session . . . Closing

Three Major General Sessions...Speakers...Music...Testimonies

Twenty-five Plus Conferences led by choice leaders who will give all who attend workable ideas and plans

Free Banquet for first 350 who pre-register by sending your name to the Sunday School Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown

Complete Sunday School curriculum Display with Baptist Sunday School Board Consultant available to answer your questions

Extensive Baptist Book Store

Free On Site Parking

Motel list available upon request



Young



Sanders

Longtime employe of KBHC retires

by Beth W. Prassel

Harold Holderman, long time employe of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, retired Jan. 31 as eastern region coordinator after more than 16 years with the agency.

Throughout his years in child care work, Holderman expressed commitment to the ministry of KBHC. In the October/November 1986 issue of the Baptist Children's Messenger, the Springfield, Ky., native wrote about his experiences as a child care worker. "I am strongly convinced that without Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and the many opportunities it provides for children, many... would not become contributing members of society." Holderman saw deprived children given the chance to become "whole and worthwhile individuals."

"This is the heart of ministry," he wrote, "and the reason I am involved with Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children today.."

"It's been an experience I wouldn't

take anything for. I'm still very deeply committed to the ministry of child care." After retirement, he plans to demonstrate continuing commitment through volunteer work with various groups.

Holderman ministered to young people long before coming to KBHC. From 1952, he served through the Home Mission Board working with children in Spanish-speaking villages in New Mexico and with Indian children along the Rio Grande River. Prior to joining the Glenn Dale staff, he taught Bible, English and history at Oneida Baptist Institute beginning in 1960.

Holderman first joined KBHC in 1972 as social worker for Glen Dale Children's Home. In 1975, he became superintendent for that institution.

He moved to KBHC's Development Office in 1980. As assistant to the Development Office director, he helped raise funds for the homes.

From 1983, Holderman served as eastern region coordinator in Winchester, where he counseled and worked with



Harold Holderman has begun retirement after 16 years in children's home ministry.

families and social workers. He provided guidance in determining appropriateness of KBHC programs for individuals.

A graduate of Campbellsville (Ky.) College, Holderman received the BA degree from Eastern Kentucky University,

Richmond, and the MDiv and MRE degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Holderman and his wife Betty belong to Gilead Baptist Church, Glendale. They have three daughters and three grandchildren.

Kentucky VBS clinics

Association	Area VBS Clinic Attending	Assoc. Clinic Location	Date Time	Association	Area VBS Clinic Attending	Assoc. Clinic Location	Date Time
Allen	Elizabethtown & Bowling Green	Scottsville B. C.	5/1 6:30 pm	McCreary Co.	NO VBS		
Anderson	NO VBS			Mercer	NO VBS		
Bell *	Corbin	Middlesboro W. Cumberland B. C.	5/8 6:30-9 pm	Middle Fork	NO VBS		
Bethel *	Bowling Green	Russellville Second B. C.	4/25 8:30-11:30 am	Monroe	Elizabethtown & Bowling Green	Tompkinsville First	5/8 6:30-9 pm
Blackford *	Elizabethtown	Lewisport Chestnut Grove B. C.	3/30 7 pm	Mt. Zion *	Corbin (area)	Corbin, Greenland	5/15 6:30-9 pm
Blood River		Benton, Hamlet B. C.	5-8 7-9 pm			Jellico, Tannery Hollow	5/16 6:30-9 pm
Boones Creek		Murray First B.	5/9 7-9 pm	Muhlenberg	Bowling Green	Central City	4/18 6-9 pm
Booneville		Winchester Corinth B. C.	5/1 7-9 pm	Nelson *	Elizabethtown	Temple B. C.	
Bracken	Lexington			Northern Ky. *	Lexington	Bardstown B. C.	4/24 7 pm
Breckinridge	(same as Blackford)	Maysville Central B. C.	4/24 7-9 pm			Shepherdsville First	5/18 7 pm
Caldwell-Lyon		Princeton Hopewell B. C.	5/1 7-9 pm			Covington	4/1 9:30-12 noon
Casey County	(same as Lincoln)					Latonia B. C.	
Central						Alexandria	4/3 7-9:30 pm
Christian County		Hopkinsville Second B. C.	5/8 7 pm			Grants Lick B. C.	
Crittenden		Williamstown Williamstown B. C.	4/24 7 pm	Northern Concord	(see Lynn Camp)	Highland Heights	4/10 7-9:30 pm
Daviess-McLean *		Owensboro Buena Vista B. C.	5/1 9-11:30 am	Ohio County *	Owensboro	First Baptist	4/22 9:30-12 noon
East Lynn		Campbellsville Life Gate B. C.	5/4 7:30 (E.D.T.)	Ohio River		Burlington	
East Union	NO VBS			Ohio Valley *	Owensboro	Burlington Baptist	4/25 7-9:30 pm
Elkhorn	Lexington	Lexington Gardenside B. C.	4/25 7-9:30 pm	Owen Co.		Independence	
Enterprise		Prestonsburg First	4/10 7 pm	Pike		Hickory Grove B. C.	
Franklin		Frankfort Buck Run B. C.	5/1 7-9 pm	Pine Mtn.	NO VBS		
Freedom	Bowling Green	Albany Stony Point B. C.	3/27 6:30-8:30 pm	Pulaski		Hartford	5/18 7 pm
Gasper River		Aberdeen Aberdeen B. C.	5/1 7:30-9:30 pm	Red River	Lexington	Hartford B. C.	
Goshen	NO VBS			Rockcastle	Corbin	Smithland	4/20 7 pm
Graves County *	Mayfield	Mayfield First	3/11 10-12 noon	Russell Co.		Dyer Hill B. C.	
Grayson	NO VBS			Russell Creek *	Elizabethtown	Sturgis	5/16 6:30 pm
Green Valley *	Owensboro	Henderson Airline B. C.	5/1 9-12 noon	Salem		Grangertown B. C.	
Greenup		Raceland First	4/25 6:30-9 pm	Severns Valley		Owenton	4/24 7-9:30 pm
Henry County		Ashland Second	4/27 7 pm	Shelby Co.	Lexington	Owenton First	
Irvine	(same as Booneville)	Grayson First	5/1 7 pm	Simpson	NO VBS		
Jackson County	NO VBS	Henryville	5/8 7-9 pm	South District		Danville	5/16 7 pm
Laurel River	Corbin	Henryville B. C.		South Union	(same as Mt. Zion)	Lexington Ave. B. C.	
Liberty		London Hart B. C.	4/13 7 pm	Sulphur Fork	Elizabethtown	LaGrange	4/24 7-9 pm
Lincoln County *		Corinth B. C.	5/6 9 am-noon	Tates Creek *	Lexington	DeHaven Mem.	
(ASSISTeam)				Taylor Co.		Richmond First	5/6 9 am
Little Bethel *		Glasgow Glasgow B. C.	4/18 6-9 pm	Ten Mile		Campbellsville	4/25 7-9:30 pm
Little River		Waynesburg Fairview B. C.	4/27 7 pm	Three Forks		Lowell Ave. B. C.	
Logan	(same as Bethel)	Providence Victory B. C.	4/25 7-9 pm	Union		Glencoe	5/1 7-9:30 pm
Long Run		Madisonville First	4/26 9-12 noon	Upper Cumberland		Glencoe B. C.	
Lynn		Cadiz B. C.	5/15 7-9 pm	Warren		Hazard	5/2 7-9 pm
Lynn Camp	Corbin	Valley Station B. C.	4/25 7-9 pm	Wayne	Corbin	Lothair B. C.	
		Parkland B. C.	5/11 9-12 noon; 7-9:30 pm	West Ky.	Mayfield		
		Hurstbourne B. C.	6/8 1-3:30 pm			Bowling Green	4/25 6:45-8:45 pm
		Munfordville B. C.	5/2 6 pm CT (7 ET)			Greenwood B. C.	
		Corbin	4/24 7-9 pm	West Union		Clinton	5/2 7 pm
		Calvary B. C.		Whites Run	Lexington	2nd Baptist	
						Paducah	4/28 7-9:30 pm
						Lone Oak B. C.	



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Agonizing decisions

With less than four hours sleep, I was awakened in the wee hours before dawn to help decide whether our swimming team at Eastern Kentucky University and the academic team for the academic "Sweet 16" regional at Morehead University.

It had been snowing through the night, our first large snow of winter, and the roads were icy. Despite the road conditions and weather, I was informed that both events were being held.

Our academic team members were all dressed up, dresses or suit and tie. The large swimming team was excitedly having milk, orange juice and several types of doughnuts in the warmth of our heated indoor swimming pool.

Getting to Morehead is farther and more difficult to reach, even in good weather, than is Richmond. With only time enough to get there, were road conditions normal, the academic coaches and I decided against that trip much to the disappointment of our students. They had remained here through a four day monthly "break" to participate in that important tournament.

Listening to a radio scanner getting reports on road conditions west of us, we decided to go ahead with the swim trip to Richmond. We still had twice the amount of the normal time required to get there. Instead of taking a school bus as planned, we took one of our heavy former Greyhound buses driven by our most experienced driver. On the bus with him were his wife, our assistant

dean of boys and assistant dean of girls and another staff couple who work regularly with the team and work in our print shop.

Our swim coach, accompanied by his wife, small son and five students followed the large bus in a van. The tournament normally lasts about eight hours, so the van is taken to shuttle different groups between various competitions out to eat.

It is our custom before every bus trip to have prayer. As I watched them bow their heads in each vehicle, I offered up my own silent prayer in the swirling snowflakes. I returned to my quarters just as daylight was breaking thinking of the dangers involved on the highway whatever the weather conditions. Our girls have a record of 8-2 and our boys a win-loss record of 9-0 with one tie for the regular season. Our last home meet was a victory over Lexington Catholic.

After morning bath and breakfast, I started across the campus to my office to begin another Saturday. Our chimes began to play "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." They play for fifteen minutes each morning, noon and early evening and I always get a spiritual lift from hearing them.

One hundred and seventy-five students stayed here for the "break" while about 350 went home. Our agriculture class went to the national farm machinery show in Louisville, the nation's largest. Our boys' varsity basketball team stayed to win several more games prior to the tournament for a current record of 18-8. The girls varsity won a narrow victory in Breathitt County while both boys and girls junior varsity and our freshman teams lost several hotly contested games.

Half of our choir stayed here to sing concerts at Monticello First Baptist and at Richmond First in the evening.

Oneida had made all preparations to host and feed 200 students from 14 different schools in the Governor's Cup Middle School Regional. Several schools called to say they couldn't come, so we will host the event next Saturday. Our Oneida team won our district's "quick recall" competition last week.

Between practices and competitions during this 4-day "break," our students have been very busy working. The floors have been carefully mopped and waxed in our three largest academic areas. The hallways and bathrooms of our administration building have been freshly painted, as have all the hallways and room doors of our two older boys dorms. Never a dull moment!



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR MAR. 19, 1989

Life and work series

Testing the use of spiritual gifts

I Cor. 14:1-4, 12 Spiritual gifts have been imparted for the edification of the members of the church. Some of the members in the church at Corinth prized and exalted highly the gift of tongues because it attracted attention and brought great glory to its possessor. Speaking in tongues was a spontaneous, ecstatic, emotional utterance in a tongue which was not identified with any language ordinarily spoken by man and had to be interpreted before it was of any value to any hearer.

The Holy Spirit, through Paul, reminded the Corinthians how much better it would have been had they been active in edifying, building up and strengthening their fellow believers in the Lord. He insisted on the superiority of other things, such as prophecy, or preaching, because it gives a strong incentive to righteous living and effective Christian service.

I Cor. 14:18-19 Paul reminded his readers that in the event he should come to them and speak in tongues, his visit would not profit them or him in the least unless someone was present to interpret what he might say. Paul declared he would rather speak five words which his hearers could understand than to speak 10,000 words in a tongue which they could not understand.

I Cor. 14:23-25 Paul admonished the participants in a worship service to test the value and the means of worship by the extent to which they edified believers in the Lord and influenced unbelievers to become Christians. Out of place is anything in the Lord's house which is an obstacle to unbelievers receiving Christ and his salvation.

International series

Warning against false teaching

Col. 2:6-19 Paul rejoiced with the Christians at Colosse that they had experienced salvation because of what Christ had done for them. However, he was fearful they might be captivated and led astray by deceitful philosophers who had left God out of their lives and were propagating that which they called "wisdom." Local heretics claimed the advantage of intellectual knowledge but what they propagated was nothing compared to the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that resided in God the Father and in Christ the son.

Paul emphasized through daily fellowship with the Lord Jesus the believer is safeguarded against the seductive influences that surround him. By death and resurrection our Lord triumphed over his enemies and over ours also.

Gnostics and other philosophies focused on the assumption that the cultivation of the mind was sufficient. Paul reminded his readers that the acquiring of knowledge does not guarantee the acquisition of salvation.

The Judaizers promised the Colossian Christians they would experience real fulfillment provided they would heed elaborate teachings. To this offer Paul responded with the reminder they had already come to fullness of life in and through Christ. Apart from a personal trust in Christ as Saviour one need not expect to be saved.

Paul did his best to persuade the Colossian Christians to reject the teaching of anybody who sought to enlist them in approaching God through intermediaries. He emphasized the fact Christians have always had direct access to God through Christ their Saviour and Lord.

In the act of scriptural baptism the believer announces he has repented of his sins, died to sin, buried his previous life of sin and has received from Christ a new and victorious life. He intends to live a life of Christian fruitfulness to the glory of God.



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

on mission together

Westward ho?

It's a long way from Louisville to Salt Lake City. If one drives, it takes three days. The Delta non-stop from Atlanta takes three hours and twenty minutes.

Four of us took the shorter route on Thursday, Mar. 2, to initiate discussions for a possible partnership with the Baptists of the Utah-Idaho Convention.

By the time of our return on Sunday, Mar. 5, Bob Jones, Calvin Wilkins, Benton Williams and I had experienced a glimpse of their great need for someone to help them. While numerous groups have gone there from time to time on special projects, no state convention has ever partnered with them.

The need is there. Approximately 2.6

million people live in the two states of Utah and Idaho. Currently, 92 churches comprise their convention. Another 30 plus missions constitute the cutting edge of Baptist work there. There are no Baptist institutions.

Mormonism, especially in Utah, is the greatest challenge to the evangelical church. Beneath a clean-cut facade is a heretical cult whose beliefs would shock most Southern Baptists were they adequately informed. Baptists and other evangelicals in Utah experience the impact of this in a way most of us will never understand. Kentucky Baptists who spend any time there will experience a culture shock.

The **geographic spread** of the convention presents another challenge. From its northernmost touch with the Canadian border to its other extremity touching Arizona in the south, one counts more than 1500 miles. To encounter these realities is a tiny state convention staff—four, full time persons, including the executive director. There are only

four directors of missions and one church starter-strategist. There are several part time personnel.

Their total operating budget is 92% funded by the Home Mission Board. Isolation, loneliness and rejection often accompany the daily struggle of pastors and their families. Most find it essential to have another job or a second wage earner in the family.

Three small groups from Kentucky will travel there again in April covering designated areas to visit with pastors, church leadership and missionary personnel to "look at and listen to" the needs first-hand and on-site. Following that visit, we hope to develop a partnership concept for our executive board to consider.

It's a long way from Kentucky to Utah-Idaho. But the Lord has put in the hearts of Kentucky Baptists to become more directly involved in missions. As we partner with Brazil and Ohio, our hearts and human resources seem adequate to include Utah-Idaho as well.

Teenagers look to parents for morality models

Parents who want to influence their teenagers' attitudes about dating and sexuality have a responsibility to model lifestyles equal to their expectations, according to experts participating in a live teleconference Feb. 6.

"Dating Today," a two-hour teleconference for parents and workers with youth, offered help for parents as they seek to understand problems encountered by youth in the areas of dating, sexuality and teen pregnancy.

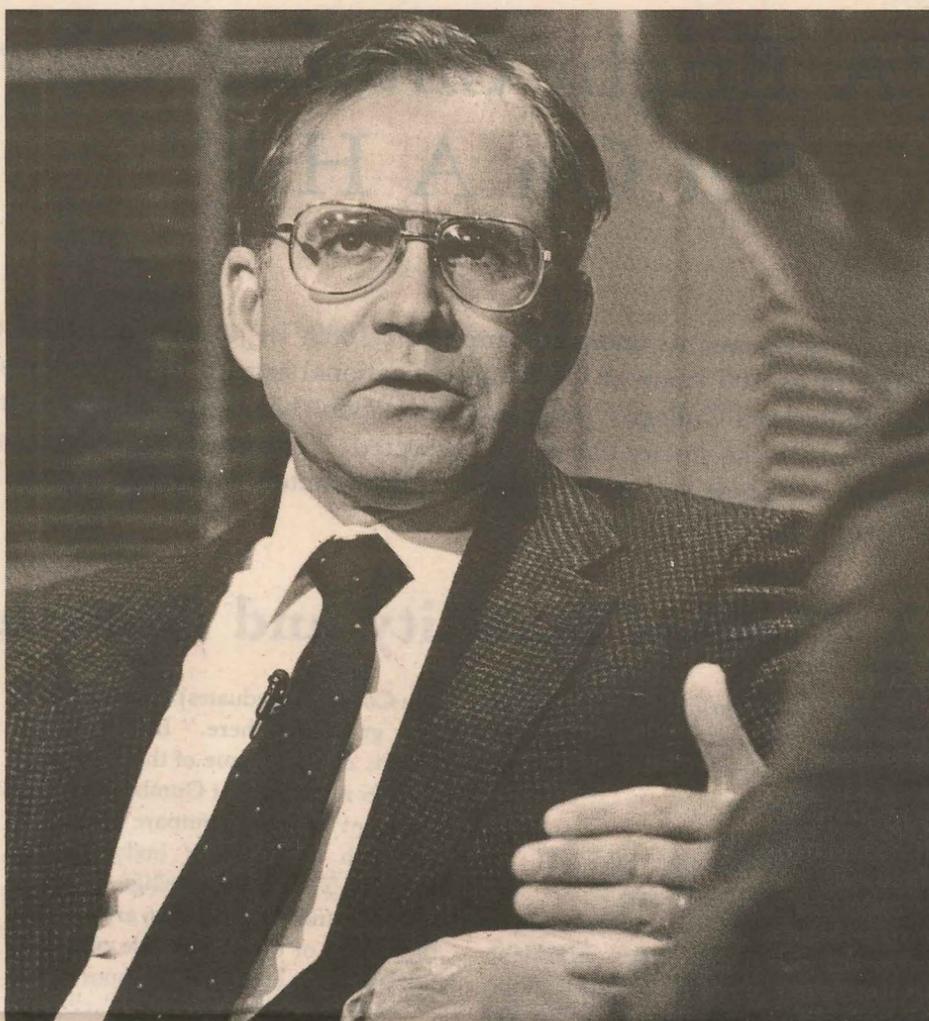
Each of the four half-hour segments of the national teleconference transmitted live on the Baptist Telecommunication Network featured questions from viewers seeking advice on concerns about relationships. The teleconference was sponsored by the Family Ministry and Church Administration departments of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Subjects covered in the question and answer times included AIDS, limits for physical contact while dating, abortion, proper age for dating, involvement of parents in dating life of teens, responsibility of churches in sex education and communication between parents and youth.

Experts who responded to the 38 questions answered on the air included Wayne Grant, a pediatrician and layman from Trinity Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., who specializes in adolescent medicine; Lane Powell, associate professor of family life at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.; and Richard Ross, youth ministry coordinator in the board's Church Administration Department and part time youth minister at Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Nashville. Jimmy Hester, editor of *Living with Teenagers* magazine in the Family Ministry Department, was host of the program.

A total of 193 questions were called in from 92 viewing sites in 21 states. Trinity Baptist Church in Cayce, S. C., had 200 people watching the teleconference, which was one of the largest groups reported.

A common theme for the evening was



Wayne Grant, a specialist in adolescent medicine from San Antonio, Tex., was one of three panelists who answered questions on a Feb. 6 live teleconference about teens and dating on the Baptist Telecommunication Network.

honest, open communication between parents and teenagers.

Ross encouraged parents to talk about how their sexual values were formed, particularly in light of moral expectations parents hold for teens.

As an example, Ross said, "I guarantee a teenager will listen to you as a parent, if at the end of a situation comedy on television, the parent turns to the

teen and says, 'I'd like to tell you why I decided that I would never sexually cheat on your mother (or father).'"

While teens might be embarrassed to engage in a conversation about sexual expectations, personal insights from a parent about how he or she arrived at a decision is likely to make a lasting impression, Ross said.

Grant encouraged parents to be in-

involved in programs at church and provide opportunities for teenagers to be with peers there. Teenagers who attend church regularly will be less likely to experiment sexually because of the strong moral and Christian values they hear while at church, he said.

Parents need to "reaffirm the self-worth of teens and their ability to make decisions," Powell said. "Most teens are shy to talk about sex, but don't wait until they ask; provide information at different points, like books and other materials."

Concerning dating and proper conduct, the panelists agreed that maturity and a solid set of values are vitally important. For instance, they warned one questioner about the danger of a seventh grade girl dating a high school senior.

Parents also were urged to encourage teenagers to make decisions about limits of physical contact before they begin dating, so decisions will not be made during a time when emotions are high.

"Teenagers should not think of kissing as recreation but a form of communication of feelings with the opposite sex," Ross said.

Churches have responsibility to provide a setting for discussion between parents and youth, and to minister to youth who have made wrong decisions, the panelists agreed.

Particularly in the area of teen pregnancy, churches must provide caring and friendship to a girl who has become pregnant out of wedlock. Too often, they warned, the girl and her family are shut off from contact with church members. The result often is that the girl and her family drop out of the church because of a lack of support.

Parents and youth leaders who are struggling to build successful parent-teen relationships that point youth in a responsible direction need to remember "we serve a God of second chances," Ross said. "There is hope."

A videotape of the teleconference may be ordered by calling the Sunday School Board's toll-free telephone number, (800) 458-BSSB. (BP)

Screening for childcare workers:

Not mandatory for churches but well-advised

Churches should consider screening all childcare workers, as well as other employees placed in direct contact with children, to verify they have not been convicted of child-related crimes, advised a Baptist church-state attorney.

Oliver S. Thomas, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, said churches would be wise to determine whether such employees have been convicted of sex offenses or other crimes involving children or of committing acts of abuse or neglect.

Thomas pointed to a current court case involving a Norfolk, Va., congregation. The parents of a 10-year-old girl, who was raped and sexually assaulted repeatedly by a church employe, sued the church and its pastor, charging that the church knew or should have known of the employe's past child-related criminal offenses.

"Traditionally, claims against a church for the abusive acts of its employes have met with little success," Thomas explained. "Such acts are said to lie outside the employe's 'scope of employment,' and, therefore, the church

has not been held accountable. The rationale is that the employe's actions are so bizarre—so beyond the employer's reasonable expectations—that normal principles of agency do not apply.

But the case involving Victory Tabernacle Baptist Church—a nonSouthern Baptist congregation—is different, Thomas said. Rather than asking that the church be held responsible for the acts of its employe, the plaintiffs are asking that the church be held responsible for its own act of placing an unfit person in a job involving an unreasonable risk of harm to others, he explained.

"Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case," he said. "More than 100 claims involving sexual abuse of children already have been filed against churches nationwide and the numbers appear to be increasing. While we may not want to admit it, the unspeakable is occurring in religious as well as in secular childcare centers"

The information needed to conduct a screening, Thomas said, should be a matter of public record and available through local criminal and civil court clerks. In some localities, both criminal

and civil records are handled by a single clerk often designated as the "circuit" or "district" court clerk, he said, adding that in other jurisdictions, records are available through the sheriff's office.

"At worst, the screening process should require no more than a brief trip to the courthouse," Thomas said. "Once there, the question is rather simple; 'Has John Doe ever been convicted of a crime involving children or found to be abusive or neglectful?' The minor inconvenience to the employer will be outweighed by the knowledge that he has taken extra precautions on behalf of the children placed under his care and has protected the church from potential liability."

Some states already have acted to make such screening mandatory, Thomas said, citing as an example Florida's recent enactment of legislation requiring childcare centers to screen employes to determine whether they have committed particular criminal acts or acts of abuse or neglect as recorded in the Florida Abuse Registry.

Although not suggesting a formal screening process for all Sunday school

teachers, choir workers and other lay volunteers, Thomas advised churches to exercise extreme caution in selecting anyone who is to have frequent and direct contact with children.

Churches also should provide training for their childcare workers to equip them to protect children from other potential abusers, Thomas said, explaining that one legal theory commonly advanced in child molestation cases is that employers have been negligent in training and supervising their childcare workers. He suggested providing a brief course on preventing youth exploitation such as Kenneth Wooden's "Child Lures."

"The time to act is now—both to protect our children and to protect our churches from excessive personal injury claims. I suspect that if we do not take steps to police ourselves soon, a number of states may decide to do it for us. As a church-state practitioner, I would prefer the former."

This article is based on a column in the February 1989 issue of Report from the Capital magazine.

Cumberland College

Centennial Celebration

“A Bright Shining City Set On A Hill”

Cumberland College in Williamsburg opened its doors on January 7, 1889. In January of 1988 Cumberland College began a year long Centennial Celebration in honor of its 100 years of Christian educational service to its students.

As a part of this celebration, Cumberland College's president Jim Taylor has compiled and written a history of the College, “A Bright Shining City Set On A Hill” from which the stories below are excerpted. Continuing for several months, Cumberland College will feature brief stories taken from the history. These stories will appear approximately every two months as Cumberland College receives its allotted space in the *Western Recorder's* Back Page Cycle.

A Time of Stability and Growth

JAMES LLOYD CREECH: A GENTLEMAN AND A SCHOLAR

James Lloyd Creech (1884-1955) was a native of Poor Fork in Harlan County, Kentucky. He was graduated from the Williamsburg Institute in 1908 and attended the University of Michigan Law School. He was admitted to the Kentucky Bar in 1912. Creech also earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Columbia University and did further work at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Columbia University. He received an honorary doctorate from Georgetown College in 1938.

Creech served as a teacher in rural schools of Kentucky and also as a teacher in the Barbourville Institute. In 1913, after having been president of Barbourville Institute for one year, he became a member of the faculty of Cumberland College.

While a student at the Williamsburg Institute, Creech had been involved in the school's activities. He served as treasurer of the class of 1907; vice-president of his graduating class; member of the Gatliffian Literary Society, glee club, and the oratorical association. After joining the College's faculty he directed a large mixed chorus while serving as an instructor in the teacher's department. He later served as dean of the teachers' department and as superintendent of the grades. After becoming president he was listed among the education and psychology faculty.

The years served by Dr. Creech as president of Cumberland College were difficult years, for it was during the time that this great nation faced an economic depression and

the Second World War. It was only through the tight-fisted integrity of President Creech that the College was kept alive.

FINANCIALLY SOUND FOR ITS DAY

At the June 29, 1927 meeting of the Board of Trustees, President Creech reported that he expected the College to have a surplus of \$6,000 the coming year and that although the College did have a small debt that it was amply provided for. Later President Creech recommended that a portion of the surplus be used to employ a physical education director “who would also take active leadership in providing for our student body that social life which has so long been needed in our college.”

STUDENT LABOR PROGRAM

President Creech had a personal concern for the students and a conservative fiscal policy for the College. The Student Labor Program as refined by President Creech exemplified his feelings and ideas.

Students were employed to perform janitorial and housekeeping duties that had previously been performed by hired help. This policy saved the school hundreds of dollars while at the same time provided a means for the youngsters to secure an education.

The program was well-supervised, and students were required to meet certain scholastic requirements before being employed. Because of the high scholastic requirements set for the youngsters in this program, the College earned an “enviable reputation . . . in higher institutions of learning to which they

[the College's graduates] transfer[ed] after graduating here.” In fact, the March 21, 1929 issue of the *Western Recorder* reported that Cumberland's “student body will compare favorably with any student body anywhere.” They are “intelligent and tractable and many of them are from the homes of the elite, while others are from the homes of the poor.”

Of the work program Creech said, “If I were in the field to raise money, I had rather this single fact than any other feature of the school.”

CREECH INCAPACITATED

In the latter part of 1945 President Creech suffered a stroke and was unable to perform his duties as president. James M. Boswell, a member of the College's faculty who had served 39 months of active duty in the United States Navy as a commissioned officer, was contacted and asked to seek an early discharge so he could assume the position of dean of administration and help run the College during Creech's recuperation. Boswell complied.

THE MAN WITH A GOLDEN HEART

In 1929 the following was said of President Creech, “If it were possible for a golden heart to beat, his would be a heart of gold.”

Creech's presidency was marked as a period of stability and growth. There was an increase in enrollment; two new buildings were added (a gymnasium and a home economics building); the College became a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; the College became

free of debt and operated on a balanced budget; a highly skilled and competent faculty was employed; an emphasis remained on moral and religious values; the Student Labor Program was refined; and the Rural Betterment Program was begun.

These accomplishments were seen during a period of depression when many colleges faced difficult times. President Creech, however, provided sound leadership, and Cumberland College “became an institution with a broader and stronger base academically and financially.”



JAMES LLOYD CREECH

(Material used in this story is contained in Cumberland College, Board of Trustees, *Minutes*, April 28, 1926, December 1, 1926, May 12, 1928, May 15, 1930; *Western Recorder*, March 21, 1929; James M. Boswell, “An Evaluation of the Contribution of J.L. Creech to Cumberland College While Serving as President of the Institution,” *The Kentucky Baptist Heritage*, Vol. X, No. 2, November 1983.)