

Network sale fails; RTVC to continue ACTS

by Al Shackelford and Dan Martin

Friends of Acts Inc. is unable to meet the financial requirements for its proposed purchase of the ACTS television network.

Center Atkins Jr., president of Friends of ACTS, said the group was unable to raise the \$34 million to purchase ACTS from the SBC Radio and Television Commission.

The announcement was made during a closed-door 37-minute called meeting of the RTVC executive committee and followed a meeting of Friends of ACTS and a five-member RTVC committee to direct final negotiations and ensure trustee involvement in each step of the process.

Following the announcement, the executive committee voted "to continue to operate ACTS at its present programming level . . ."

Richard T. McCartney, executive vice president of the RTVC, said the executive committee "instructed us to continue to operate the network."

Jimmy R. Allen, president of RTVC and ACTS, said trustees indicated they will consider any other possible sale, but that "any deal that walks in will be considered on its own merits."

Baptist Press was unable to contact Atkins for comment on the failure of Friends of Acts to raise the money and to amplify on other details.

The original agreement was that Friends of ACTS would pay the RTVC

\$34 million for the network, including \$11 million at closing and \$2 million per year for 11-and-a-half years. In addition Friends of Acts would pay a three percent override on "gross receipts" for 30 years.

Friends also was to give the RTVC five hours per day of air time on the network without charge for 30 years and would operate in line with ACTS' originally stated purposes.

At the Mar. 14 meeting the executive committee adopted a revised budget which will provide continued operation of ACTS, including use of a broadcast transponder on the Galaxy III satellite. During the time the proposed sale was pending, Atkins leased a transponder on the satellite at a cost of \$85,000

per month for use by the network.

The RTVC, McCartney stated, "is running about on our receipts right now," although the agency has borrowed operational funds already in the 1988-89 fiscal year, which began Oct. 1. The RTVC has a \$7.7 million annual budget, including about \$5.5 million from Cooperative Program funds.

The network has been in financial trouble since it began. In addition to high operating costs, ACTS has not been successful in fund raising. At one point the commission had spent about \$600,000 more on fund raising efforts than it had received. The commission has ceased its fund raising efforts but continues to receive payments on outstanding pledges.

Macedonian call may lead Kentuckians to Utah-Idaho

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

The vast expanse separating the northern boundary of the state of Arizona and the Canadian border is more than 1500 miles via the most direct route.

In the two states directly above Arizona—Utah and Idaho—lives a population of nearly 2.4 million citizens. Of this number, 510,000 are "unchurched," professing no outward tie to any faith of any type.

These people are the primary target of the very small Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention.

They may also become a target of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in a matter of months.

Four members of the KBC executive board staff traveled to Salt Lake City earlier this month to begin preliminary discussions with that state convention's headquarters staff on a possible link between Kentucky and their convention. Such a proposal, initially seen as a three-year partnership project beginning Jan. 1, 1990, would first be approved by messengers to both state conventions this fall.

KBC executive secretary-treasurer William W. Marshall, Middletown, led the exploratory team to Utah-Idaho. Accompanying him were C. Benton

Williams, director of the KBC's Missions and Church Services Division; Robert Jones, director, Direct Missions Department; and Calvin Wilkins, partnership missions director, Direct Missions Department.

The four plan a more extensive return visit to Idaho-Utah in April. Traveling with them will be two additional Baptist Building staff members—Dee Gilliland, executive director, Woman's Missionary Union; Robert Y. Simpkins, director, Brotherhood Department—and two Kentucky pastors—Philip Majors, First Baptist Church, Stearns, McCreary Association; and Mark A. Keith, Hebron Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association. They will break into three groups, accompanied by Utah-Idaho convention staff members, and tour distinctly different geographic regions of the dual state convention's territory.

Calvin Wilkins shared his impressions of what he encountered on the initial visit with Western Recorder shortly after his return from the first trip.

Said Wilkins: "Flying over, my first impression was of a vast expanse of space and a lot of wasteland and mountains. There wasn't much sign of human habitation." (Utah averages 14 people per square mile; Idaho, 11.)

Wilkins went on: "On the ground, I was overwhelmed with the magnitude of Mormonism (the area's predominant religion). It affects the lives of those people in so many ways. Mormon employers and employees discriminate against Baptist pastors and their wives, most of whom must hold secular jobs in order to carry out their ministry. Children of Baptists and other religious faiths feel isolated by Mormons, and the truth is we lose some of our young people to Mormonism."

Wilkins noted that Baptists are "definitely in the minority" in that area and "aren't as well accepted as they are in the Bible belt." They are "outsiders" and Kentucky Baptists who may go there to do volunteer mission work will realize that in advance.

"I don't anticipate any kind of harassment," said Wilkins, "but it certainly is a possibility."

The Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, organized with 50 churches and 6479 members in 1964, grew out of a regional fellowship of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention. With state headquarters now situated in Sandy, Utah, a Salt Lake City suburb,

the convention presently claims 95 churches and 38 missions in 11 associations. Total membership is approaching 20,000.

Six persons comprise the dual state convention's headquarters staff. In addition, there are four full time directors of missions and one part time. Baptist campus ministers are all volunteer (unpaid) personnel. Most of the churches have bivocational ministers (supporting themselves with part or full time secular positions). Many of the churches and staff members are supported in part by direct supplements from the Home Mission Board.

The convention's budget of \$1,504,000 is supported by the Home Mission and Sunday School boards.

Wilkins said that if a partnership arrangement is approved by messengers to Kentucky and Utah-Idaho conventions next fall he would hope to see some Utah-Idaho pastors visit Kentucky. He sees associational world missions conferences as a logical forum for presenting needs of the area to Kentucky Baptists.

Some of those needs, he suggested, include one-on-one witnessing and leadership training in church program organizations (Sunday school, Church Training, church music, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood) and stu-

dent ministry. Revivals, vacation Bible school, backyard Bible club, starting new work, door-to-door surveys would all be part of the project. At least for now Baptists there are not requesting construction teams, he observed, but that is a possibility for later.

Wilkins said there will be work for volunteer laymen, women, pastors, youth, college students, retired persons—"nearly everybody can make a contribution," he allowed.

He said most Kentuckians would pay their own expenses, although lodging could be provided in homes of some Utah-Idaho Baptists for some volunteers. He indicated that families or church groups may wish "to drive out on vacation," seeing more of the country, including some of the large national parks out there. Wilkins also observed that, when planned well in advance, a trip by air "need not cost a prohibitive sum" for many Baptists.

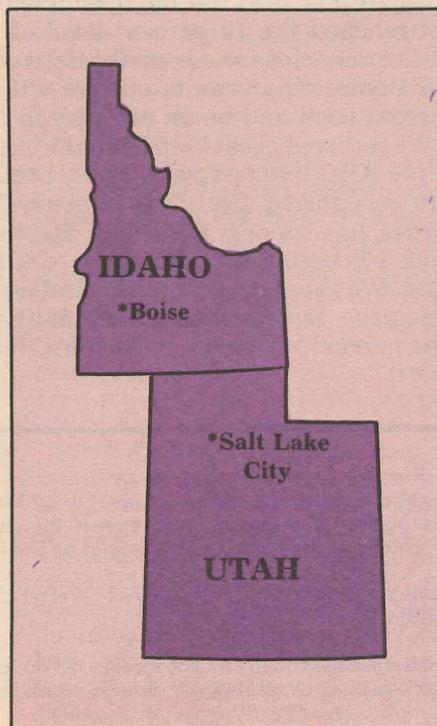
If the partnership becomes reality, attendance at an orientation training program will be required of every volunteer before going. "We will devote a major emphasis on dealing with Mormonism," Wilkins allowed.

"People need to hear the true gospel," Wilkins summarized. "Those who go out there need to have a love for the people and be willing to answer the Macedonian call. Baptists there want us to come over and help them."

Pointing out another result of partnership programs, Wilkins suggested that the current denominational controversy is "not nearly as prevalent" when people are actively involved in volunteer missions. "They become convinced," he said, "there are more important things than politics and strife." He said he also believes giving to missions is "significantly strengthened" when people volunteer their time, their money and themselves.

Wilkins noted Utah-Idaho state convention staffers emphasized that prayer support is the "most essential thing we need" right now. "If nothing ever develops from your trip out here," Darwin E. Welsh, retiring executive director-treasurer and state editor, told the four Kentuckians on their visit, "just know that we are encouraged by the fact you took time to come."

Welsh said they were not requesting financial help but prayer and people. "Your being here is evidence of your commitment," he concluded.



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sanford's perspectives

What is the CLC doing?



Jack D. Sanford

In the January 24 issue of Western Recorder we expressed the hope that the Christian Life Commission was trying to build bridges and ease some of the tension in Baptist life. We made this observation since the program personalities at the conference on race relations included Foy Valentine and Lynn Clayton, formerly associated with the CLC. We apparently were wrong and we apologize to our readers.

We have concluded the first impression was a mistake because of what is on the agenda for the CLC annual seminar scheduled Mar. 27-29 in Kansas City. The program personalities who will deliver major addresses at the conference make us believe the CLC is captive to the mind-set of the ultra conservatives now in control of convention agencies and institutions and has no intention of easing tension or building bridges.

The program, "Life in the Balance," deals with abortion and pornography, among other issues, yet not a single woman is on the program. This seems chauvinistic when abortion and pornography are issues which impact and exploit women. This just may be an oversight, or it may be there are no women capable of discussing these topics, or it may be we do not want women in places of leadership. You draw your own conclusions, but the fact remains, no women are on the program to discuss two of the chief moral problems of our day.

Another matter which confirms the suspicion that the agenda is set by those in control without regard to other points of view is the make up of

the program itself. Several educational institutions are represented on the program, among them Criswell College, Dallas Theological Seminary, University of Michigan Medical School, Friends University and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. No college, university or seminary under Southern Baptist direction is represented on the program. Another oversight? Or is this by design? It hardly seems possible that such a combination could occur without careful planning and that helps confirm the suspicion that the CLC has an agenda which will not build bridges nor lessen tension in the SBC. The total disregard for scholars from Southern Baptist institutions on this particular program illustrates what we mean.

We have no problem with educators from institutions other than our own on the program. On the contrary, we could learn much from others and there are others who have something of significance to say to us. But we surely have someone in Southern Baptist educational institutions who has insight and expertise in these areas and could make a contribution to the CLC program.

At a time in our national history when moral and ethical problems are rampant it seems childish and juvenile for any of us to ignore the needs and ideas of fellow Christians who just might have a word of help. Surely there are competent Southern Baptists, including many women, who could help us deal with the problems of "Life in the Balance." We regret the CLC has failed to tap our own rich resources of scholarship to help in the annual seminar.

You can do a good thing now

A check came to Western Recorder this week from Brazil. The people who sent the money are readers of our state paper and wanted to share in our endowment fund drive.

Every week we find checks in the mail from people all over America and now from other countries. They have heard our cry for help in establishing a fund which will outlive all of us and they want to help. We are grateful for this show of support and thank God for people who are willing to share life's blessings with our ministry.

We started our drive for endowment funds last year so that we could build up a reserve against the encroachment of rising postal and print costs and thus save Cooperative Program dollars. Our ultimate goal is \$1 million in endowment. We have not reached the 10 percent level of our goal but we are very close and contributions come in steadily. Before this year is out we will pass the 10 percent level and be on our way to our goal.

We received great help from the executive board of the KBC late last year. These brothers and sisters recognized the vital ministry Western Recorder has among Kentucky Baptists and they made a generous appropriation to our endowment fund. We thank these people, and especially KBC executive secretary-treasurer William Marshall who carried the cause of Western Recorder to the board.

Now we remind all Kentucky Baptists that a gift to the Western Recorder Endowment Fund will be a gift which produces results for Christ until our Lord returns. The money sent to us will be deposited with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation for investment. Earnings will accumulate for now, and we hope for several years to come, before we have to draw on the principal to offset rising costs.

By judicious management and careful monitoring of costs we have not only stayed within our budget each year for the past several years but we have been able to lay aside small sums to add to the endowment fund. We hope to be able to do this in the future yet we are in a situation now where our Cooperative Program allocation is fixed at the 1987-88 level for three years. That means we may have to dip into endowment funds for operating costs, though we will try to avoid that if at all possible.

What is important, even critical to us, is that we **have funds available in an endowment fund** when the need does arise. And mark it down, the need is just around the corner.

Thus we call upon you to help us. Send a check to Western Recorder Endowment Fund and we will be grateful to you. We promise good stewardship of your gifts and will do all in our power to continue to produce a quality newspaper for all Kentucky Baptists.

western recorder

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mountains to the mississippi



Curtis C. Mooney
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10801 Shelbyville Road
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homes for children

Violent families

Over the past year I have followed the Steinberg trial in New York City where a father was convicted of manslaughter in the beating death of Lisa, his six year old illegally adopted daughter. If you have followed the case, you know that the adoptive mother told a tragic story of violence and oppression which had gripped the entire family. One has only to see the mother's picture to realize what a violent situation it was.

For many of us it is hard to believe that such graphic violence actually takes place within the family but unfortunately we are learning that many families are indeed far different from the ideal which we want to believe.

Actually, violence between husbands and wives is more frequent than child abuse. One half of all murders among family members involves spouse killing spouse. It is estimated that one couple out of every four engages in at least one violent episode during the course of a marriage. In a survey taken in Kentucky it was found that 10% of the women surveyed had experienced abuse the previous year and 21% had experienced at least one violent episode of abuse.

Violence is more likely to occur in younger families who are isolated from both the community and other family members. Stress, role conflicts and growing up in a family where the parents fought contribute to the likelihood of family violence.

Many of us ask why doesn't the wife just leave and the answer is that many try but there is often no place to go. Shelters for abused women are a very recent phenomenon and are not readily available. Many times the wife cannot return to her family. She usually is very dependent upon the husband economically so there seems to be no real way out.

Our ministry serves many children who have known such violence. Our job is to help them see another way of life and hopefully break the cycle of violence and abuse which passes from generation to generation.

Our work, however, is not enough. We need new ways of reaching out to these families. As church members we need to become more aware of the problem and seek to find ways to minister to these families. As a ministry we need to explore ways of helping the whole family before the child has to be removed.

personnel

Milton Judd resigned as pastor of Three Forks Bacon Creek Baptist Church, Lynn Association. He is available for supply, interim pastor or pastorate and revivals. He may be contacted at Star Route, Summersville, KY 42782, 502-932-5472.

congregations

Beechmont Baptist Church, Long Run Association, will present "The Living Scenes of Easter" Mar. 22-26 at 8 p.m. Admission is by free ticket by calling the church at 368-5806 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri. G. Allen West is interim pastor.

Brookside Baptist Church, Elkhorn Association, has been organized in Jessamine County. The church was begun Jan. 15 with 155 charter members. Tom Miller is pastor.



Randy Fehrer portrays Jesus in "The Living Scenes of Easter."

Minister honored on 100th birthday

by Chris Barnett

Members of Burlington (Ky.) Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association, honored William Madison Smith on his 100th birthday.

Smith, born Mar. 7, 1889, is an ordained minister who has made an impact on his community both spiritually and through his leadership in bringing electricity to Boone County.

The seventh of eight children, Smith pursued interests which he shared with his family and boyhood friends. He loves to read, write poetry, and he swam every day until 1986 when his doctor advised him against it.

He recalls being called to the ministry in 1907. "I went to church that day to see the pretty girls," he says with a warm smile. "Preaching 70 years ago was quite a bit different than it is today. Salaries were low, the congregations were smaller, the people weren't educated so the greatest thing they had was their faith."

After his ordination, Smith went to college at Georgetown and then graduated from the University of Louisville. In 1922 he completed his theological studies at Southern Seminary.

Following ordination and completion of his education, Smith entered



Central Baptist Church, Winchester, breaks ground for new church.

In a special ceremony Sunday, Feb. 26, **Central Baptist Church**, Winchester, Boone's Creek Association, broke ground for its new \$2.9 million 1500-seat sanctuary.

Bill Jagers, director of evangelism, Kentucky Baptist Convention, led the dedicatory prayer as the congregation gathered to break ground. Dan Francis, pastor, and Mrs. Ruth Cowan, daughter of the first pastor, George W. Shepherd, turned the first shovel of dirt. Another unique groundbreaking feature was the use of a plow with two 250 foot ropes

pulled by hundreds of members.

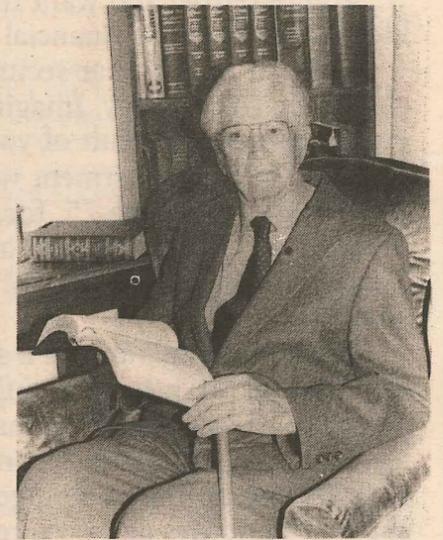
On the following Sunday, Mar. 5, the church honored Dr. and Mrs. Francis on his fifth anniversary as pastor.

Child Lures, a seminar on the prevention of molestation and abduction, will be held at **Lyndon Baptist Church**, Long Run Association, Sat., Mar. 25, from 9:30-11 a.m.

Registration will begin at 8:45 a.m. and reservations should be made in advance by calling 425-3325 (days) or 897-0460 (nights and weekends).



Sunday, Feb. 19, Murray First Baptist, Blood River Association, hosted 68 international guests from 25 nations as part of the congregation's "First loves Murray" emphasis. Greg Earwood is pastor.



Will Smith

the pastorate. Smith pastored Southern Baptist churches at Petersburg, Addyston, Oh., Silas, Cane Run, South Elkhorn, Warsaw, Sparta, Ten Mile and Oakland.

For 63 years he was married. He mourns deeply over the passing of Isabelle but with a spirit of optimism he says, "But I'm happy in the Lord."

One of the fondest memories he has is baptizing his youngest of three children, Mary Belle. Mary Belle still lives near him in Burlington.

His pastor, Paul Godsey, recounted a story which describes Smith's trust in God. Godsey met Smith in front of the post office one day, a point to which Smith walked daily. Looking up, Smith drew his pastor's attention to a liquor store which was just opening. "I don't know what to do about that," Smith said, "but I'm gonna pray about it." Six months later the liquor store was out of business!

While he has touched the lives of countless persons he is equally known for pioneering work in extending electrical service to Boone County residents. Smith helped organize this service to the rural parts of the county. He was director of the Owen County R.E.C.C. for several years and later president of its board of directors. During his tenure he had service extended to some 600 farms.

Today Smith lives by himself in a Burlington apartment. He spends winters in California and Florida.

When asked what the secret to his longevity is, Smith replied, "Becoming a Christian and working hard."

His thick wavy white hair, sharp green eyes, and physical stature hide his age. But the wisdom which has come to him through 100 years of living cannot be hidden. His hope for the future, contributions to his community and stamina are a legacy to all who know him.

baptist news in brief

State conventions report 953 new missions in 1988

Southern Baptists started 953 church-type missions nationwide in 1988, according to figures reported to the convention's Home Mission Board by state church extension leaders.

Charles Chaney, vice president of the

HMB extension section, explained that Southern Baptists must show a net gain of 1075 churches and church-type missions each year to reach the 50,000 goal. Although 1988 figures are below that number, they show a positive trend that will enable the denomination to meet its goal, he said.

Texas led the nation in number of mission starts for 1988, with 206. Texas Baptists started one mission for every 20 constituted churches. Other states in

the top 10 numerical group, listed with number starts and ratio of churches to starts, are California, 100 (10-1); Florida, 62 (27-21); North Carolina, 47 (73-1); Georgia, 40 (75-1); Missouri, 39 (45-1); Kentucky, 37 (59-1); South Carolina, 28 (62-1); Louisiana, 26 (51-1); and New York, 26 (6-1). (BP)

Media director named for Philippine congress

Jim Newton, news and information director for the Home Mission Board, has been named media director for the Lausanne II evangelism congress in Manila, the Philippines.

Newton, director of communications for the Lausanne committee for world evangelization in 1987, has been loaned by Southern Baptists to Lausanne for the congress, scheduled July 11-21 in the Philippines.

Under a similar arrangement, Newton worked with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in directing news and press operations for the Amsterdam '83 international conferences for itinerant evangelists. He also has directed media operations for the Baptist World Alliance in Tokyo and the First World Congress of Baptist Men in Hong Kong.

Newton will coordinate the broadcast center, press center, daily newspaper for participants and photography services during the congress. (BP)

Cooperative Program tops previous pace, lags behind inflation

Southern Baptists' unified budget continues to stay ahead of last year's pace, but it lags more than 1.5 percentage points behind inflation.

The national Cooperative Program received \$11,428,715 in February, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the denomination's Executive Committee. That amount is a 1.74 percent increase over February 1988.

At the end of five months of the fiscal year, the Cooperative Program's year-to-date total is \$58,670,856, Bennett reported. That total is 3.18 percent more than receipts for the first five months of 1987-88.

"I am glad that the amount received in February was not less than February of last year," Bennett said. "I still hope that the churches will increase Cooperative Program giving."

If Southern Baptists are to reach the Cooperative Program's \$145.6 million goal for 1988-89, national receipts must average \$12,418,449 for the seven months remaining in the current fiscal year. Only four months have exceeded that amount in the budget's 62-year history. (BP)

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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

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GEORGETOWN
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Stewardship budgets \$2.3 million for 1989-90

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

In its two-day annual business session Mar. 14-15 the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a proposed 1989-90 budget of \$2,393,700, an increase of \$65,750 over the current total.

Meeting in Morristown, Tenn., commissioners also voted to request a Cooperative Program allocation of \$550,000 for 1990-91, up from \$480,395 anticipated in next year's budget.

The body endorsed a recommendation calling for a study of the feasibility of providing stewardship and fund raising materials for certain ethnic groups. That study will be begun by the commission's

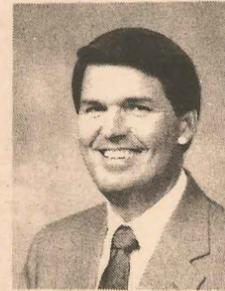
executive committee in conjunction with commission staff members.

The group also received results of another study commissioned earlier which focused on Southern Baptists' perceptions and definitions of tithing. The 488-page printed stewardship marketing program was condensed into a 10-point verbal presentation by commissioner Joe E. Burton of Radford, Va. The report was the result of a three-year study conducted by an Atlanta research firm on behalf of the commission and the SBC long range planning committee.

The Stewardship Commission reelected John Wallace, a Morristown,

Tenn. businessman, to a second one-year term as chairman. Serving with Wallace are Gary D. Collins, executive director, Missouri Baptist Foundation, Jefferson City, elected vice chairman; and Dan T. Stowe, a Mechanicsburg, Oh. dentist, reelected secretary.

In other business, the commission adopted a bylaw change allowing its immediate past chairman to remain on its executive committee, greeted two persons attending their first commission meeting, recognized seven others rotating off the commission and set next year's meeting for Mar. 15-16 in Nashville.



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

clear creek chronicle

A father's example

When you visit our campus plan to attend the 10:20 a.m. chapel and catch some of our good spirit. Enthusiastic congregational singing and special music presentations can be expected. The spoken word rotates among alumni, area pastors, directors of missions, convention leadership, evangelists, missionaries, faculty, staff and students. A fourth year student usually preaches on Friday. Occasionally we are blessed by a film or impromptu testimonies of our Lord's grace. Each chapel helps to deepen the spirituality of our campus family.

On Feb. 15, Burney Manning Sr., Somerset, preached his first chael message since leaving Clear Creek in 1949. His spirited sermon on "The Christian's Armor" will remain a highlight of the year.

"In New Guinea during World War II the Lord gently touched me and made something out of nothing." Believing the Lord's call to preach was a call to prepare, Manning came to Clear Creek in 1946. Claude Fox and LeRoy Peterson were classmates. He preached at a church in Creech's coal camp in Harlan county where he met the church secretary, Doris Bennet. They were married the next year.

"We had our honeymoon in Kelly Hall and started marriage with \$40.

Founder R. P. Mahon and a young man named D. M. Aldridge taught Manning. The campus enjoyed good fun and humor from the Somerset veteran. Professor Aldridge came to class one morning and saw Psalms 119:99 on the blackboard: "I have more understanding than all my teachers." Manning raised rabbits for extra income and once sold Aldridge half of a big buck. Emeritus president Aldridge still remembers that tough meat.

Manning challenged our students to emphasize the good going on among Southern Baptists.

"Try to bring something fresh when you preach. We don't need a 15 year old sermon for this modern age. You can never preach or teach above your experience of grace."

First year student Burney Manning Jr. is discovering God's sufficient grace in ministry training at Clear Creek. With his wife Gayle and sons Bryan and Jackson another generation creates memories. He certainly has a good model.

Hawaii Baptists elect new executive director

O. W. (Dub) Efurd has been elected executive director-treasurer of the Hawaii Baptist Convention. Efurd was elected unanimously by the HBC executive board in a called meeting Mar. 9.

A missionary with the Home Mission Board's Metropolitan Missions Department, Efurd has been director of missions for the Central Leeward, Honolulu and Windward Baptist associations on the island of Oahu since 1986.

Efurd was president of the convention from 1982-84. He also has been a member of the HBC executive board and was the convention's interim executive director in 1982-83. He has been pastor of churches in Hawaii, Texas and Oklahoma. He is a graduate of Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex. (BP)

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Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Back from a living death

I first knew Mohammad (not his real name) as a 14 year old Turkoman in a northern town in Iran not far from the Russian border. I taught him English when he was a 7th grade child in a class of 67 students.

His father had died when Mohammad was quite small. He fell from his horse, his foot caught in the saddle stirrup and he was dragged to death. Mohammad's mother and two older brothers had never been in the town, had never seen electricity, had never seen asphalt streets.

But Mohammad, the youngest son, had been sent into that provincial town, as had many hundreds of others students from as many outlying districts, to get an education. There these children rented small rooms, lived 3-4 to a room, cooking and caring for themselves in order to have the opportunity to go to school.

I taught Mohammad several more years and watched him grow to be nearly six feet tall. He had a keen mind, an engaging smile and a growing enthusiasm for the English language.

It was my privilege to go with Mohammad several times across the plains, into the mountains, to spend a few days in their traditional Turkoman "yurt" or tent. These Mongol descendants of Ghengis Khan lived as their forebears had lived for over a thousand years in their "yurts" with their sheep and goats,

moving every several months in a yearly cycle following the water and the grass. I watched them milk the camels and the goats and drank the milk of both. It was an exciting time in the life of this Kentucky hillbilly as I experienced that ancient nomadic life.

Then I returned to Kentucky 1½ years later was president of Oneida. In the intervening 18 months, I had received over 1300 letters from my former students in Iran, and several score of those were from Mohammad.

As the years went by he became increasingly fluent in English and guided foreign tourists. Mohammad began to work with the Japanese Embassy, became a black belt in karate and was among the elite guard of the Shah. Then the chaos of the revolution came, and the last I had heard he was arrested shortly after the hostage crisis for aiding foreign journalists.

In the years since, I sought news of him but heard nothing. I feared he was dead. Then several weeks ago a letter came. Across the front of the envelope were the words: "to the U. S. mail authorities. Please do me and favor and give my letter to my teacher and former peace corps volunteer though the address is not perfect. Thank you." Then followed his imperfect address. The letter safely arrived. He wrote:

"This is Mohammad writing to you. I hope you'll remember me. I've been trying to write you since a long time ago. But I left your address in Iran. I'm living in Japan for more than six years. I'm married and have two children, a girl who is three and a boy who is going to be one year old.

"I sometimes talk about you to my wife and daughter, and I'll talk about you to my son. I owe my life and my success to you. I am grateful to you, great teacher.

"We are happy in Japan. We buy land and build our own house. We are waiting to host you with lots of offerings. I hope you get my letter."

With blurred eyes and great joy I wrote back giving my telephone number. Last night he called me at 10:45 and we talked for one and a half hours, our word stumbling over one another, both talking at once part of the time. He told me of his more than two years in prison, of nearly being blinded in the process and of the executions of many dear friends. He teaches English today to eager Japanese, and is doing quite well. He is now 34 years old and it had been over 18 years since we had heard one another's voice. My heart is full.



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR MAR. 26, 1989

Life and work series

The glorious resurrection

I Cor. 15:20-26 Verse 20 enables us to turn aside from the dark path of incredible assumption and stand again in the light of the resurrection and rejoice in the words "But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept." When our Lord Jesus Christ was raised from the dead the glory of the event consisted in its being the pledge of the resurrection of all believers. He pioneered victory over death and the grave in which all Christians will share. Historic fact, spiritual experience, transformed lives and unimpeachable testimony are against his being yet in death's dreary dominion or the tomb.

Just as in Adam all die, even so all of the people of Christ shall be raised from among the dead and be made alive. Christ's triumphant victory over death and the grave is the pledge and guarantee of the victory of his followers over the same. How grateful we should be for the assurance that the time is coming when death will be overcome completely and abolished entirely and forever!

I Cor. 15:54-58 No matter how healthy and well cared for our bodies may be, unless Christ returns and translates us before we die, one day they will decay and return to the dust of the ground. We wait in confidence and hope for the time when our Lord will raise the bodies

of the saved and change the bodies of the living Christians and bring us all together. We rejoice in the glorious future which is awaiting us. But remember, victory over death and the grave cannot be experienced apart from God's power. It is the gift of God through our Lord Jesus. Because he lives, all who believe on him shall live also.

International series

Risen with Christ

Luke 24:1-7 As it began to dawn on Sunday following the burial of Jesus, a group of godly women hastened to the tomb. The stone had been rolled away.

These astonished and dedicated women entered the open tomb and discovered that his body was not there but they saw two heavenly messengers in shining garments and heard the question, "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" Trying to allay their fears, the messenger urged the women not to be looking back to one who had died but to look forward to one who was alive. "He is risen" is the most momentous and meaningful announcement that was ever made. To those who loved him so much, Christ's resurrection brought the removal of doubts, the relief of distress and triumph over defeat. Immediately the women went and told the disciples the good news about the victory of Christ over death and the grave.

Col. 1:15-20 In these verses we have the most comprehensive and exhaustive statement of Paul's evaluation of Christ that he recorded in his epistles. Truly, Christ is the correct answer to humanity's cry, "What is God like?" As Christ went about blessing the children, feeding the hungry, healing the sick, comforting the heartbroken and saving the lost by his actions he was saying, "God is like this." Christ was and is the perfect representation of God.

Col. 3:1-4 After reminding the Colossian Christians that they had been raised with Christ, had come into possession of eternal life and had been placed in a new and heavenly position, Paul stressed the fact that their words and deeds should be entirely different from what they had been. He urged them to seek those things which were really worthwhile and satisfying. Christians should be heavenly minded because they are dead unto sin but alive unto God, their lives are hidden with Christ in God and their hope is centered in future blessedness.



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

on mission together

Beyond the honeymoon

May will mark the beginning of my seventh year as executive secretary. Somewhere between year one and now, the "honeymoon stage" passed. It must have been gradual since I can't recall any traumatic event that signaled its passing. It just passed.

I can recall the kidney stone which passed. How could I forget that! I can more than vaguely remember the three weeks out because of a ruptured disc. And in these six years, I have performed the weddings of our two oldest children and watched helplessly as the last one

left the nest for college. And on top of it all, we moved to another house. They say that ranks high on the "Richter Scale" of emotional trauma. I'll have to agree.

Honeymoon over, the question remains "Bill, do you still like your job?" I'm aware there are preachers who change churches frequently. Some suggest it reflects a need to keep on having "honeymoons." But there is something missing in that. It leaves no space for growth; no time for conflict resolution or long range goals toward which to work; no time for getting beneath the superficial; no opportunity to mature in the context of people who come to know your weaknesses as well as your strengths.

I suppose that may be why I so admire those pastors who have served the same church 15, 20, or sometimes even 30 years. They stayed a long time after the honeymoon was over.

They told me this would be a "burn-out" job. So is the pastorate. So are hun-

dreds of other vocations in today's world. We preachers don't have a corner on high stress.

But most days I like my job, the people with whom I work and the folks out there I serve. Most days I look forward to work and the challenges that are an inevitable part of being in a spot "where the buck stops" on many matters.

It helps to have somebody out there who will invite me to fish once in awhile; a fellow who will tell me something funny enough to make me laugh (my family tells me I've become "too serious"), and somebody honest enough to tell me when they think I'm wrong (even though I don't like to be wrong).

With all its inherent stresses and strains, I still like my job—very much. I am grateful the Lord led Kentucky Baptists to call me "back home."

The Lord promised no perpetual honeymoon and provides no problem-free diet. Somewhere back there the "honeymoon" ended. But on that day, growth had its beginning.

SWBTS composers harmonize musical talents

William MacDavis is putting the final touches on his latest work, an oratorio entitled *The City of Light*. When the choral piece is completed, he will have logged more than 1000 hours on the project. But when it is performed by the Oratorio Chorus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary this spring, it will last just 30 minutes.

Such is the life of a composer but Davis, assistant professor of music

theory and composition at Southwestern Seminary, isn't complaining.

"That's just the way it is with composition," he said. "It's one of those things you do because you love it, not because you're going to get rich or be famous."

Davis is one of three teachers in the music theory and composition department at Southwestern's school of church music. The department is chaired by Claude Bass, professor of music, and in-

cludes William Colson, associate professor of music theory and composition.

"I think we are probably one of the more unknown areas of the music school because composers don't have their own outlet most of the time," Davis said. "They are dependent on their performers, and that keeps us in the background."

Despite its "background" status Bass said the music theory and composition department has maintained a steady enrollment. Eight students are currently composition majors in the master's program and four are enrolled in the doctoral program.

Bass said composing requires students that have a "good ear" and "a lot of self-discipline."

"You really have to have a talent for composing to go into it," Bass said. "It's like the teaching of a craft, like painting. (Success) certainly has to come from being gifted."

Students who concentrate in composition rarely enter the field with visions of being a full time composer, Bass said. "Some become ministers of music and others will teach on the college level or at seminary. They do their composing on the side," he said.

All three teachers in the music theory and composition department are award-winning composers. Bass has had 90 choral works published, including one published by Word and three by Broadman Press. His most recent work is an opera titled *The Promise* performed at Southwestern last year. He is a former first prize winner of the Broadman An-

them Competition.

Colson won first prize in the National Federation of Music Clubs National Composition Contest and he was a Concerto Competition winner at the University of Illinois.

Davis has won two first prizes and one second prize from the Texas Composers Guild and a first prize from the Ithaca College Choral Composition Contest.

One of Davis' students was the winner of a national composition award this year. James Vernon, a doctoral student, won the 1988 Illinois State University Fine Arts Festival Competition Contest with a work titled *Images* for woodwind quintet.

Vernon's composition will be performed at the Illinois State University Fine Arts Festival in April. He will give a preconcert lecture concerning his quintet and other compositions.

"Once I started composing I've never had any doubt that that's what I'm supposed to do," said Vernon, who also teaches music theory and conducting in the school of church music. Vernon hopes to earn his doctorate and continue teaching.

Davis said the basic philosophy of the music theory and composition department is to develop the student's talent to the furthest degree, from composing a children's anthem to an orchestral piece.

"Nobody can teach composition," Davis said. "A teacher can help you fine tune your skills and become better at what you're attempting to do but you can't really make anybody a composer."



William MacDavis (left) and James Vernon look over a composition still on the drawing board.

Southwestern New Testament prof a model 40 years

J. W. MacGorman has spent 40 years teaching seminary students but he learned his most valuable lesson while confined to a hospital bed.

MacGorman, distinguished professor of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., was diagnosed as having bronchiectasis, an enlargement of the bronchial tubes, during his freshman year at Colby College, Waterville, Me. He was 18 years old.

"I got down to 106 pounds and the doctors didn't expect me to live," MacGorman said. "I knew I was critically ill and I was afraid to die."

MacGorman's father was a Baptist pastor. One day, without asking, he left a Bible beside his son's hospital bed. Longing for comfort MacGorman read the scriptures "day in and day out" searching for answers to life-long questions about Christianity. One day as he read and prayed he became aware of a "living and loving presence" in the room with him.

"I committed myself to Christ right there," he said. "That was the complete turning point of my life. I realized that Christ was the Lord of life and death."

MacGorman remained hospitalized almost two years after his life-changing experience. When his disease was termed inoperable physicians suggested he move to the Southwest because of the area's warmer, drier climate.

He arrived in Austin, Tex., in 1941 with \$100 he had borrowed from a deacon in his father's church. He got a job with the Texas Highway Department as an attendant at a roadside information station in the Texas panhandle.

With the money he earned he enrolled at the University of Texas and earned a bachelor's degree in 1945. His decision to enter the pastorate, though, was made with some reservations.

"My dread of the gospel ministry was that I couldn't speak," said MacGorman. But I learned that the Lord will never give you an assignment without giving you the strength and the resources to accomplish it."

After college MacGorman enrolled at Southwestern and earned bachelor and doctorate degrees in theology. It was at Southwestern that he met and married his wife, Ruth.

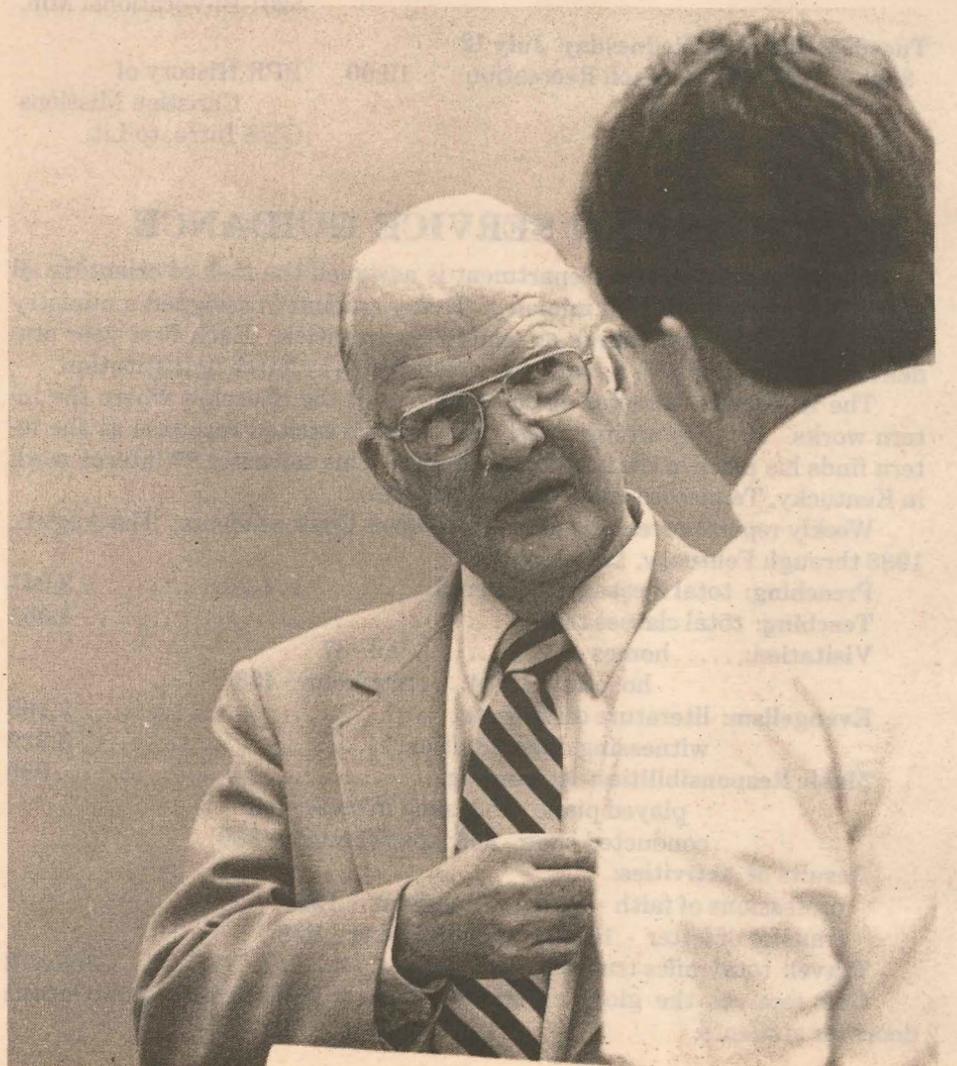
MacGorman began his teaching career at the seminary in 1948. Again it was a career decision he came to with misgivings.

"I had a heart for global evangelism but my health prevented me from that. So my vision was to be pastor of a mission minded church," MacGorman said. "But once I started teaching God gave me such a sense of his approval. I knew I'd made the right choice."

MacGorman's health hasn't stopped him from accepting teaching assignments and leading Bible studies around the world, from West Africa to Japan and Australia to Europe. "That was God's yes behind the no (to foreign missions)," MacGorman said.

He has also written several Bible commentaries, two January Bible studies for the Sunday School Board and a book entitled *The Gifts of the Spirit*.

At 68 MacGorman said he has no immediate plans to retire. "I just love to be in the game. The sidelines offer no appeal to me."



J. W. MacGorman talks with a student following a Greek class at Southwestern.

