

Spouse nominations violation of SBC bylaws asserts Cobble

by Suzanne Darland
State Correspondence

J. Howard Cobble, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, Severns Valley Association, and past president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, thinks relatives of church and denominational employees are serving on Southern Baptist Convention committees and boards of trustees in violation of the spirit of SBC bylaws.

He says that pastors' wives are being nominated for committees to fill the slots of laypersons when they have the "viewpoint of a vocational person."

Current SBC bylaws call for no more than two-thirds of any board or commission, including the Executive Committee, to be made up of church or denominational employees.

By the time the convention ends this week in Las Vegas, Cobble plans to have introduced a change in the bylaws from the floor.

He wants to stipulate that spouses or other relatives be considered church or denominational employees and fall under the two-thirds guideline.

"If you look at the report of the committee on nominations the past few years, lots of wives are being nominated," he told Western Recorder last week. "They're putting a preacher's wife on there and counting her as a layperson."

In addition to paragraph seven of bylaw 16, Cobble also wants to amend paragraph four. It reads: "The committee (on nominations) shall not nominate a fellow committee member or a member of the previous year's committee on committees for a first term on an entity."

Cobble says family members of committee members are being named to committees as are spouses or relatives of those who served a previous year.

He declined to name specific persons or indicate if political factions are using such tactics to maintain holds on SBC agencies.

"I don't care which side of the fence it's on, it's just not right," he noted.

Cobble says he is choosing to make his recommendation from the floor of

the convention, probably in Tuesday afternoon's miscellaneous business session, to be heard by all who are present. An alternative would be to have a committee member introduce the measure in committee.

"It will probably be referred to the executive committee anyway," Cobble said last week.

He maintained this was a positive move on his part, so that the committee on nominations would "avoid the appearance of impropriety, any hint of political impropriety."

Cobble was on the Executive Committee and was part of the subgroup that formulated the wording of bylaw 16 about 12 years ago. At that time, the group stipulated church or denominational employees who retired would be classified as church or denominational employees and not laypersons for the two-thirds requirement.

"But we didn't even think about this



J. Howard Cobble

happening (spouse nominations) 10 or 12 years ago," Cobble added.

"I want to make sure a distinctive lay viewpoint is heard," he concluded. "That these distinctions have broken down concerns me."

Beijing killings bring turmoil; Americans' status in question

The killing of hundreds of Chinese citizens by the military in Beijing has thrown the city into turmoil and could cause even more violence when news of the tragedy spreads across China, according to sources in China and Hong Kong.

At least 45 Southern Baptists teach or study at Chinese universities under the sponsorship of Cooperative Services International, including two in Beijing, Jay Templeton and Jana Clayton, students at Second Foreign Language Institute.

Templeton and Miss Clayton witnessed tanks rolling by the institute late June 5, as angry students continued to set up barriers of burning buses and trucks to stop soldiers' movements.

Efforts by Baptist Press to reach the two Americans June 5 were unsuccessful, but Templeton talked by phone to his parents, Southern Baptist missionaries Logan and Lounette Templeton, in Hong Kong.

"I just talked to Jay, and he said they're in contact with the American consulate," Mrs. Templeton reported. "The consulate felt like they were in a low-danger area where they are. So they're not planning to evacuate right now. We've told them maybe he and Jana should just come on home, because they're not going to be able to take their classes anyway. But he said they couldn't even get to the airport. Taxis and buses aren't running."

French students at the institute already have been evacuated, the two Southern Baptist students reported, and Australians have been taken to their consulate.

"A lot of Americans are there, some teachers and students too," Mrs. Templeton said. "They go out to the edge of the campus and watch the tanks and the military convoys move through. The Chinese students on the campus are just enraged. They're so angry and defiant, throwing bricks. At this point, they don't seem to care what happens to them."

"But Jay doesn't think they (the military) will come there. There's a whole

string of universities on that street. He said the army did come in (to one of the other university campuses) and open fire there, and students were killed there last night," June 4.

Information from other cities remained sketchy. Reports said troops were moving into Shanghai, and rumors reaching Hong Kong June 5 indicated military forces also had entered Chengdu and surrounded Nanjing.

"Most CSI personnel in China have been contacted by CSI in Hong Kong," Cooperative Services International director Lewis Myers said. "Some of the personnel have called directly and talked to relatives here in the U. S. They don't seem to be in immediate physical danger, but the situation is very stressful and volatile. Communications and transportation in many of the major cities are difficult if not impossible. This has a domino effect on the whole system."

"We're praying that they not only will be safe physically, but that this will give them the opportunity to live out the Christian life in the face of difficulty and perhaps be a positive witness to their students and faculty around them. We don't have plans to dramatically alter our program in China. Our personnel go there in response to requests from China. As long as those requests come, we will continue to send personnel."

CSI officials are monitoring the situation through sources in China, Hong Kong and the U. S. State Department, they said.

The State Department has issued a new warning against travel to China because the situation is "very dangerous and potentially volatile" nationwide, a spokesman said June 5. The spokesman did not say what action would be recommended for Americans already in China.

"This is not an antiforeign movement. The teachers should be OK," stressed CSI's Britt Towery in Hong Kong. Any danger lies in the potential violence which could engulf the nation as Chinese learn of the Beijing killings, he said. Currently, most Chinese across the nation are not aware of what has happened in Beijing (BP)

Cornerstone Commission, FMB, Mexico cooperate

Leaders of the Houston-based Cornerstone Commission, the Foreign Mission Board and the National Baptist Convention of Mexico announced in late May they had reached an agreement to work together.

The Cornerstone Commission, a church-starting agency formerly known as the Genesis Commission, wants to help start 5000 churches in Mexico within 10 years at a cost of \$25 million, executive director Paul Ferguson said in an interview.

Cornerstone receives financial contributions from Christian businessmen from a variety of denominations, Ferguson said. So far, the commission has enough money for the next three years.

Don Kammerdiener, FMB vice president for the Americas, noted five key areas of cooperation outlined in the agreement between Cornerstone, the Mission Board and Mexican Baptists: the Mexican Baptist convention's acknowledgment of the Cornerstone program, use of Mexican convention financial channels for Cornerstone aid, Mexican Baptist involvement in selecting new church sites and sponsoring churches, commitment of Southern Baptist representatives in Mexico to help churches aided by Cornerstone the same way they assist other churches and evaluation of results.

The commission also will send volunteers, mostly high school and college groups, to Mexico through the FMB's Volunteers in Missions Department. Volunteers will help build churches, show evangelistic films, lead Bible schools and spread the gospel door to door.

Early on, the commission was swept into the Southern Baptist Convention's political controversy, Kammerdiener recalled. The commission "became identified as setting up an alternative foreign mission board and representing the extreme right wing of our convention," he said. No one was more surprised than Best, who at the time was a new Southern Baptist with little understanding of the controversy, Kammerdiener and Young said.

Cornerstone leaders approached the FMB in January 1989 about working together in Mexico. Representatives of the two agencies, as well as Mexican Baptist leaders, met in February and reached a tentative agreement. Mexican leaders gave final approval May 18.

Cornerstone's "only vision is to start churches," Ferguson said. "We don't plan to send missionaries; we just plan to start churches."

The commission began work in Mexico in the fall of 1987 and started 10 churches then. It started another 50 in 1988, Ferguson said, adding that each new church, after two years of stability and financial independence, is challenged to start a new church each year.

During negotiations for the cooperation agreement, Young asked Kammerdiener what would happen if Cornerstone continued operating apart from the Mexican convention.

FMB president R. Keith Parks said Cornerstone's methodology "is not 100 percent of the ideal way we as Southern Baptists do cooperative missions. But recognizing the autonomy of churches and the independent spirit of Southern Baptists, I am very grateful that there is a deliberate choice to work harmoniously with the FMB and the Mexican convention." (BP)

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June 13, 1989

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in the interim

The Jack D. Sanford Endowment Fund

In its first meeting after the death of Jack Sanford, the board of directors of Western Recorder voted to name the Kentucky Baptist newspaper's endowment fund after its recently deceased editor. This decision was made unanimously after a lengthy and affirming discussion of Jack's devotion to the paper, his positive approach to editorship and the professional manner in which he managed the overall operations of the paper. The endowment fund will serve both as a memorial to Jack Sanford as a friend and fellow worker and as an opportunity for many of Jack's friends and fellow workers to support the work Jack held so dear.

For the last five years, members of the board of directors have worked side by side with Jack and the staff of Western Recorder as they have balanced their responsibilities to provide Kentucky Baptists with the best state paper possible while holding costs to a minimum and even reducing the cost of postage and printing.

Jack learned the principles of good stewardship as a pastor and carried those principles into the successful operation of Western Recorder. He learned quickly the cold hard reality of Cooperative Program giving. His editorials have reminded us that cooperative giving among Baptists has either declined or barely kept up with inflation over the past few years. As managing editor of Western Recorder, a recipient of funds from the Cooperative Program, Jack kept a close eye on the giving patterns of our state. The seriousness of the problem was clearly illustrated in the recent three-year freeze on the allocation of funds to Western Recorder by the executive board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Jack might have described himself as "cautious about the financial situation in our convention" but he was always optimistic about the future of our state newspaper. His plan for financial security for the paper was two-fold: first, an ongoing campaign to increase use of the back page of the paper by local churches and associations (thereby increasing circulation), and second, a long range plan for increasing gifts to the endowment fund which would, as he put it, "produce results for Christ until our Lord returns." In his own words, it was Jack's belief that "if the people were told the facts they would respond affirma-

tively and do the right thing." He believed that with good stewardship and the successful implementation of these two plans, Western Recorder would eventually become less a financial burden to Kentucky Baptists. It was because of this belief he spent a great deal of time and energy on these two approaches to financial support for the paper.

He involved both staff and board members in these financial campaigns. When anyone was given an opportunity to speak at an associational or denominational function, the back page and the endowment fund were to be topics of discussion. The plan has begun to see results. Back page usage is up dramatically; therefore, subscriptions have increased. Furthermore, donations to the endowment fund have also made an impressive increase.

The goal for the Jack D. Sanford Endowment Fund is \$1,000,000. With an initial donation from the executive board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and many donations from Kentucky Baptists, friends in other states and even some friends in other countries, the fund now stands at \$73,922. Donations totaling \$2932 have been received since the day of Jack's death, May 24, 1989. The goal for this year has been set at \$100,000.

Two days prior to his death, Jack wrote and mailed 300 letters to prospective donors to the endowment fund. One of his last official duties was to see that the endowment fund, now named in his honor, would continue to grow and provide future resources for Western Recorder. He confided to his pastor and other friends a secret hope that one day he would come across that "million dollar giver," but, was also fond of saying, "There are no small churches and there are no small people." Jack wanted all of us to have an opportunity to give to an offering that would continue to do its work "until our Lord returns."

The board of directors is calling upon you. It will be you, the readers of Western Recorder, who will ultimately make the donations for the future. Your gift to this endowment fund will provide interest producing funds and conserve Cooperative Program funds. If you feel the Lord leading you to long term participation in the ministry of your state paper, send your check to the Jack D. Sanford Endowment Fund in care of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243-0433.

—Donald R. Mantooth

western recorder

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mountains to the mississippi



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

clear creek chronicle

Pineville centennial

Pineville First Baptist is the mother church of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and for the past 66 years our histories intertwine. L. C. Kelly came to the Pineville pastorate in 1920 after six years at Campbellsville Baptist. One spring morning in 1923 Kelly walked the railroad tracks up Clear Creek. "Surely God has more in mind for this beautiful valley than a corn field. God has hallowed this place for some spiritual uplift for the mountain people." With the assistance of members from First Baptist, Pineville, and First Baptist, Middlesboro, 450 acres were purchased at the convergence of Big Clear Creek and Little Clear Creek.

The Pineville church liberally shared its pastor to fulfill his vision of equipping mountain preachers. His wife Nancy "was a better assistant to the pastor than money could buy" as she visited members and helped with other ministries. The Pineville congregation still remembers her as a loyal, faithful partner of Kelly and her death in 1942 at age 58 was a severe loss to the church.

After 23 years in the Pineville pastorate Kelly resigned in April 1943 to become president of the Clear Creek Mountain Preacher's School. The board of control had earlier voted to increase the work to an eight month calendar. Kelly married Gladys McNeil and led the school until 1954.

Pineville continues to be a strong supporter of our ministry. Monthly budget gifts rank among the highest of any church in the state. Members Charles Dean and J. C. Helton are trustees. The congregation built a Holly Hill cottage and have frequently come to our aid on other projects. Members volunteer for the thrift shop and as tutors while others donate clothing and services to our students. Many of the faculty, staff and student body are members of the church and students work as staff assistants. Pastor Charles Jones has strongly supported Clear Creek throughout his 30-year pastorate.

Pineville First Baptist celebrated its centennial June 10-11 in a festive weekend of thankful remembrance and commitment. Through fire, flood and economic recession the church has persevered to continue a world wide mission ministry.



Mr. and Mrs. W. Barton Gibbs



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Smith

missions

Mr. and Mrs. W. Barton Gibbs were among 23 named missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board May 23 at Salem Baptist Church, Richmond, Va. The Gibbsses will live in Burkina Faso where Gibbs will be starting and developing churches.

Since 1986 Gibbs has been pastor of Goshen Baptist Church, Glen Dean. He received a MDiv degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He has been a Home Mission Board summer church starter in Kentucky.

Mrs. Gibbs also attended Southern Seminary. She has been a consumer agent for General Electric Co., Louisville. Since 1986 she has been a substitute teacher with Breckinridge County Schools, Hardinsburg.

The Gibbsses have two children, Marie Jane and Matthew Bailey.

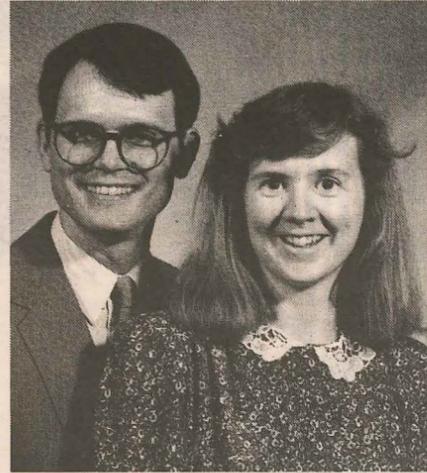
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Smith of Bentonville, Ark. have been appointed missionaries to the Philippines where Smith will be starting and developing churches.

Smith earned an MDiv degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He has been pastor of Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Shepherdsville, and a student journalism intern and acting associate editor of Western Recorder, summer, 1975. Mrs. Smith attended Elizabethtown Community College.

The Smiths have three children: John Thomas, James William and Joshua Aaron.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd W. Rodgers III were appointed missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board May 23. Rodgers will teach at a seminary in Venezuela.

Rodgers is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. Recently he was pastor of Gravel Switch Baptist Church and an instructor at Southern Seminary. The Rodgerses are



Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd W. Rodgers

members of East Baptist Church, Louisville.

Rodgers earned an MDiv degree from Southern Seminary. He expects to complete a PhD at Southern in August. Mrs. Rodgers has been a social worker with the Council for Retarded Citizens, Louisville. Since 1986 she has been director of the infant resource project at East Baptist Center, Louisville.

The Rodgerses have one child, Martha Katherine.

deaths

Paul Roberts, pastor, Central Baptist Church, Blackford Association, died May 22. Funeral was May 25 at Lewisport Baptist Church. Ron Williams, pastor of Lewisport, conducted the service.

Under Roberts' leadership, Central led the association in baptisms and was one of the top churches in per capita baptisms in Kentucky, 1988.

James Davis, pastor, Chapel Grove Baptist Church, Mt. Zion Association, died Mar. 31.

Earl Hacker, 67, of Science Hill and formerly of Mercer County, died Apr. 25 in Lexington.

Hacker was a member of Northside Baptist Church, Science Hill, and was with Baptist missions in Ohio. He pastored several Baptist churches in Kentucky.

Survivors include his wife, Marjorie Bishop Hacker; son Richard; two daughters, Mrs. Clinton Sims and Mrs. Marshall Bray; two brothers, Cecil Hacker and Dewey Hacker Jr.; 10 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Funeral was at Northside Baptist Church, with Bobby Slagle officiating. Burial was in Parlor Grove Cemetery.

revivals

Revival was held Apr. 23-28 at **Clarkson Baptist Church**, Grayson County Association. Johnnie Bailey, Collinwood, Tenn., was evangelist and Bill Freer, Leitchfield, led music. There were two professions of faith, two uniting with the church by letter and several rededications. Pastor is Grover Westover.

Salem Baptist Church, Liberty Association, held revival recently. John Nunley was evangelist. Revival resulted in three professions of faith and 12 rededications. Pastor is Louis Ray Hill.

Siloam Baptist Church, Liberty Association, held revival Apr. 17-24. James Jones, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Liberty Association, was evangelist.

There were nine professions of faith and 11 church additions, four by letter and seven by baptism. Bobby Norman is pastor.

personnel

Dennis Kraft is new minister of youth, Clifton Baptist Church, Long Run Association. He and his wife Pam have two children, Kevin and Krishana.

Sand Hill Baptist Church, Graves County Association, called **Joel Rice** as pastor. He and his wife Cindy have two children, Kasey and Jessica.

Lucy Stewart resigned as minister to children at Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Long Run Association.

Roy D. Allen resigned as pastor of New Zion Baptist Church, Booneville Association.

M. A. Reese will retire Aug. 31 as pastor of Barbourville First Baptist Church, North Concord Association. He pastored the church 25 years.

Berean Baptist Church, Three Forks Association, called **Greg Humpert** as pastor.

Dennis Brewer resigned as pastor of Beattyville Baptist Church, Red River Association.

Mike Rigsby, interim pastor, Rush Chapel Baptist Church, Greenup Association, resigned to pastor a church in Arizona.

A. N. Lester resigned as pastor of Polard Baptist Church, Greenup Association.

David Smith resigned as pastor of West Hickman Baptist Church, West Kentucky Association. He goes to Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., to pursue a PhD.

Hiseville Baptist Church, Liberty Association, called **Steve Bristow** as minister of music.

Robert Ward is new pastor of Hardyville Baptist Church, Liberty Association.

Three Springs Baptist Church, Liberty Association, called **Randy Scott** as pastor.

Mike Duncan is minister of youth and Christian activities, Post Oak Baptist Church, Bethel Association.

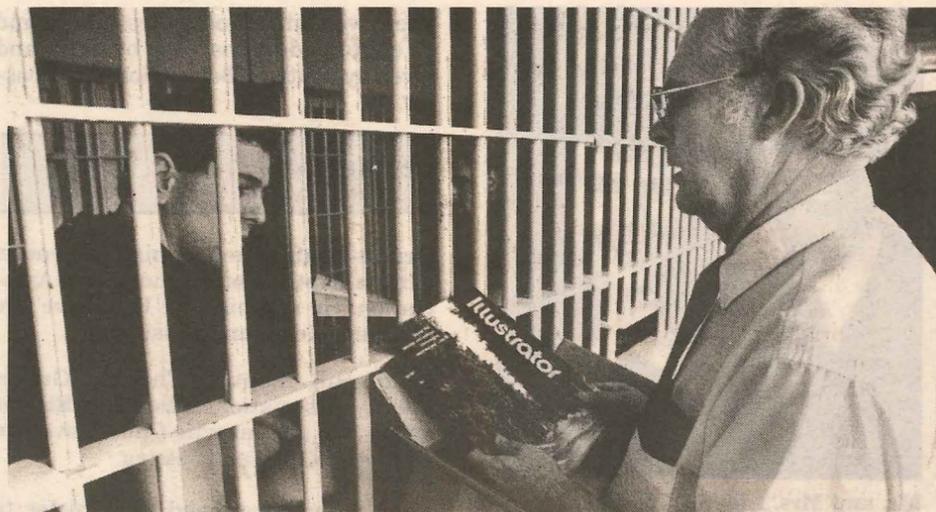
J. Marion Stratton has been called as pastor of Britmart Baptist Church, Logan Association.

Duke K. McCall has been elected chairman of the board of directors at Presbyterian Ministers' Fund, Philadelphia, Pa., America's first life insurance company. McCall has been a member of PMF's board since 1975. He was president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, 1951-82. Since 1981 he has been chancellor at the seminary. In addition, McCall was president of the Baptist World Alliance, 1980-85.



Duke McCall

baptist news briefs



William Sumner, a Southern Baptist chaplain at the Arlington County Detention Center, passes a copy of the Biblical Illustrator through the cell bars to an inmate. Sumner said the *Illustrator* is popular among prisoners at the facility who ask for the literature provided from surplus stock by the Sunday School Board.

Church Training school set at Clinton Second

An area Church Training leadership school will be held at Second Baptist Church, Clinton, June 27. The school is sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention Church Training and Special Ministries Department and West Kentucky Baptist Association.

The school will provide training for general officers and age group leaders in Church Training. Leader of the general officers' conference will be Jim Clontz, associate director, Kentucky Baptist Convention Church Training and Special Ministries Department.

Mike J. Williams, minister of education, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah, will train adult leaders. R. P. Hodge, minister of education and youth, First Baptist Church, Murray, will lead the conference for youth leaders. Leading the conference for children's workers will be Rachel Lewis, Kentucky Baptist Convention special worker and West Kentucky Baptist Association leader.

Church Training: A Discipleship Training Manual will be used as a resource for the workshop and study course credit will be available.

Snacks will be available at 6:30 p.m. with the workshop beginning at 7 p.m. Preschool childcare will be provided by the church.

Chowan College names Jackson as president

Chowan College trustees elected Jerry F. Jackson president May 16.

Jackson, 50, vice president for development at the Foreign Mission Board, will begin his tenure Aug. 3. He will succeed Bruce E. Whitaker, who is retiring after 32 years as president of the North Carolina Baptist-related institution.

A native of Clinton, N. C., Jackson was assistant professor, assistant academic dean, dean of students and director of admissions during more than 14 years at Campbell University, Buies Creek, N. C. He also was director of development at Sampson Technical College, Clinton, and vice president for advancement at Wingate (N. C.) College before joining the FMB staff in 1982.

Jackson is a graduate of Mars Hill (N. C.) College and Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and received a doctorate from the University of South Carolina at Columbia.

Jackson is married to the former Carolyn Laughlin, assistant superintendent of schools, Durham County, N. C. They have two children. (BP)

Lottie Moon gifts top \$78.7 million for 1988

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering receipts for 1988 topped \$78.7 million, a 12.7 percent increase over 1987 gifts to the annual foreign missions offering.

When the financial books closed May 31, Southern Baptists had sent \$78,787,726.26 to help finance foreign mission work throughout the world, Foreign Mission Board officials reported.

"Coming at a time when there is so much need and opportunity, I think this is certainly an encouragement to us and all the missionaries," FMB president R. Keith Parks said. "It reflects the fact that we as Southern Baptists are still committed to missions as our primary concern. I trust this trend will continue in the future."

Offering receipts for 1987 totaled about \$69.9 million—some \$5 million short of the budgeted goal—and FMB officials were forced to trim budgets last year. But the 1988 offering tops by \$6 million the amount the board anticipated when it drew up the 1989 budget.

Although the total falls short of the \$84 million goal, the increase from last year represents the largest percentage gain since the 1981 offering. (BP)

Yarbrough to be editor of young men's work

Tim Yarbrough, 28, has been named Baptist Young Men's editor by the Brotherhood Commission. He will be responsible for all missions education curriculum materials produced for young men ages 18-34, including *World Mission Journal-Baptist Young Men's* edition.

Yarbrough worked more than six years on Arkansas and Missouri newspapers. Most recently he was the special sections editor of the *Arkansas Democrat* in Little Rock.

A 1982 graduate of Murray (Ky.) State University, Yarbrough is a candidate for the master's degree in journalism from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

He is married to the former Pamela Freeman of North Little Rock, Ark.

Yarbrough will succeed Bill Bangham, who became associate editor of the *Home Mission Board's MissionsUSA* magazine. (BP)

Vestal appears on TV; presidential candidate

Daniel Vestal, a candidate for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention, was to address messengers to the 1989 SBC annual meeting by way of a paid half-hour broadcast on commercial television in Las Vegas, Nev.

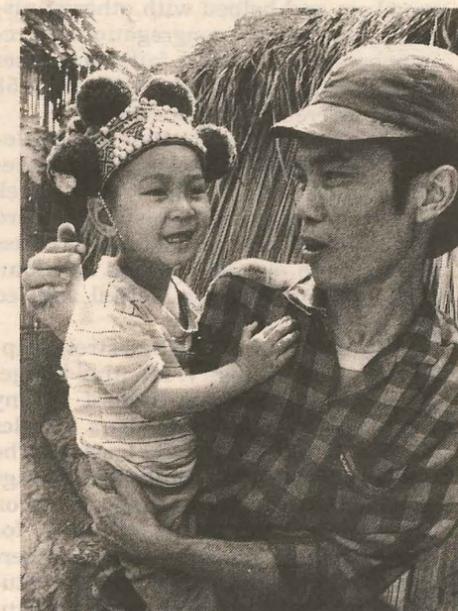
Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta, acknowledged that a half-hour had been purchased on KRLR-TV, channel 21, at 10:30 p.m. Sunday, June 11, just prior to the annual meeting, scheduled June 13-15 in the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Vestal announced Apr. 16 he was available to be nominated for the presidency, opposing incumbent Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla. Vines announced in February he was willing to be nominated for a second one-year term.

"There was no place for me in Las Vegas to have a public kind of platform to speak my perspective," Vestal told reporters.

The purchase of commercial television time by a prospective SBC presidential candidate marks, in the minds of some observers, a new escalation of the decade-long political/theological struggle in the 14.8-million-member denomination. Veteran observers said never before has a presidential candidate purchased time to pitch his case to messengers.

Vestal said the broadcast time had been purchased by "private contributions," funded through the Dunwoody church. He said it had not been purchased by the moderate organization, Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention, per se. Other reports indicated much of the funding came from a layman in First Baptist Church, Midland, Tex., where Vestal was pastor until going to Georgia last October. (BP)



In a Thai village, a father and child share a close moment. The child is wearing a cap of the Yao tribe. All over the world families of all races and creeds, like this one, share joys and frustrations common to the human experience. But only through the love of Jesus Christ can their joy be full and their lives have meaning. Southern Baptists are working with other evangelical groups to reach the whole world with the gospel by the year 2000.

UNTIL JESUS COMES

He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6

For more than 16 decades your state Baptist news journal, *Western Recorder*, has been the principal means of transmitting news of interest among Kentucky Baptists. It continues a proud tradition today, telling Baptists the facts—accurately, honestly, rapidly.

But escalating postal, paper and printing costs threaten that freedom in contemporary times. These culprits are demanding more and more dollars which otherwise would be available to missions causes. In a recent year *Western Recorder* had to rely on the Cooperative Program for nearly \$2 of every \$5 it spent.

There is a way to reverse the trend, however—through endowment. Gifts to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation in Jack D. Sanford's name will help the paper hold the line on rampant inflation.

Your gift will provide a permanent informational supply line to thousands, even millions of readers yet unborn. The interest it generates will underwrite Baptist communications needs from now until eternity.

Won't you help us by sharing what you can until Jesus comes? Clip the coupon and mail it with your check to: Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243



I want to share something with *Western Recorder* that will outlive me, providing for others until Jesus comes. Enclosed find my gift of (check one):

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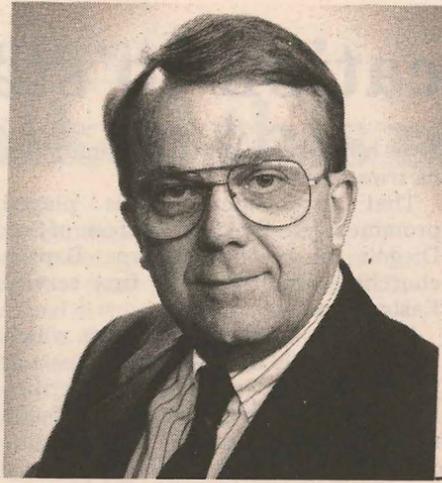
Hospitals tap leader for human resources

Donald J. Blaz has joined Baptist Hospitals Inc. in the new position of vice president of human resources.

Blaz will have overall responsibility for the direction and management of the human resources function at the four Baptist hospitals in Kentucky and within the BHI corporate office in Louisville.

He has 25 years of experience in human resources management and training with Kroger Co., and during his career has served as personnel manager of four Kroger divisions and corporate manager of training at the Kroger home office in Cincinnati. Prior to joining BHI, Blaz was a senior consultant with an outplacement firm in Troy, Mich.

Blaz holds a MEd degree from Xavier University and a BS degree in business administration from Kent State University. He is an accredited senior professional in human resources and a life



Donald J. Blaz

member of the American Society of Personnel Administrators. For several years, Blaz taught a course on labor relations and personnel at Madonna College, Livonia, Mich. A native of Akron, Oh., Blaz is married and has one son.



Cutting the ceremonial ribbons to officially open the new behavioral health and rehabilitation wing at Baptist Hospital East on June 1 were (l-r): Roger N. Struble, president and chief executive officer, Baptist Hospitals, Inc.; K. Thomas Reichard, M. D., chairman of executive committee, Baptist Hospital East Medical Staff; Kenneth L. Burhans, chairman, Baptist Hospital East Administrative Board; Tommy Smith, president, Baptist Hospital East; Arthur K. Draut, mayor, city of St. Matthews; and Harvey I. Sloane, M. D., county judge executive, Jefferson County. Patients and staff moved in several days later.

baptist forum

Jack Sanford's influence

My wife telephoned to tell me that Jack Sanford died. Silence. Disbelief. It seemed impossible. He preached at our church just over three weeks ago. I remember how he spoke with conviction about the issues at stake in our convention, that same conviction with which he served as editor of Western Recorder. Jack's call came from God and he always sought to fulfill his calling to the best of his ability.

Jack is gone now and we are left to carry on. A void has been created which cannot be filled adequately. And yet strive to fill it we must, for failing to do so would violate every principle that Jack Sanford stood for. Jack Sanford was a man who placed Jesus Christ first and foremost in his life.

I for one will sorely miss Jack's presence at Western Recorder. I always enjoyed his editorials. Most of all I admired the stand he took on issues within our convention, a stand which often was not without its price. Yes I will miss Jack but most of all I am thankful for the influence he had on my life.

Mike Raley, associate pastor
Hurstbourne Baptist Church
Louisville

Request for chaplain information

Walt Isley, chairman of institutional ministries committee of Long Run Association, would like to compile a list of all chaplains in the Kentuckiana area. This information will be used to include these persons in the functions of the committee for fellowship, recognition, continuing education, etc. Please send name, resident address, home phone, place of ministry, address of ministry, business phone and church membership to Institutional Ministries LRBA, 8601 Nottingham Parkway, Louisville, KY 40222

A. B. Harmon
Louisville

Letters for baptist forum: maximum length, 300 words. Longer letters will be edited for space or returned for revision. Writer's signature, address, phone number and church affiliation required. No form letters will be printed. Letters must deal with issues and not make personal attacks.

Attorney notes reality of church liability suits

A litany of recent church-related liability cases was recited by attorney William Colbert, Sanford, Fla., to more than 40 Florida pastors and lay leaders participating in the Church and Law Conference May 4 at Stetson University, DeLand, Fla.

Speaking on the topic "Issues of the Pastorate and Liability," Colbert, chairman of deacons, First Baptist Church, Sanford, warned that pastor malpractice "is particularly in vogue."

He also urged participants not to assume that churches are immune from suits brought by members. "Many would never think of it, but a few may not be of the same mind," he said.

The best defense, Colbert said, may be awareness of the possibility of liability and prompt action to minimize exposure. (BP)

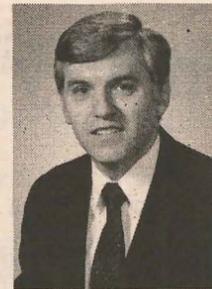
HMB names volunteer senior adult consultants

Responding to increasing opportunities for senior adults in missions, the Home Mission Board has named Ed and Re Jackson as Mission Service Corps national consultants for senior adults.

The Jacksons, of Garland, Tex., have been Mission Service Corps volunteers since 1986, working through the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The Jacksons will target local associations, national Southern Baptist agencies and local churches with their message. Their first goal is to help every association enlist a senior adult as a volunteer senior adult missions coordinator.

"This is a resource Southern Baptists are not grabbing hold of. People who retire at 55 have at least 25 good years left to do mission work," Jackson said. (BP)



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

homes for children

The gift of a flower

This past week I attended a dinner at Glen Dale at which this year's graduating seniors were honored. The evening featured a "roast" of each of the students by Buckley Carlin along with some gag gifts selected especially for each one. Beverly Kennedy, president of the Woman's Advisory Board, presented scholarships from that body to each of the students.

There was also time for the staff who have worked most closely with the youth to say a few words and present graduation gifts. Then for me the most beautiful part of the evening occurred. Each student had three flowers and they gave them to the three people who had the most significant impact on them while at Glen Dale. Each announced the individuals and gave the reasons they were selected.

Most of the flowers went to the child care workers who live each day with the youth. Though the reasons varied, they usually came down to, "You had time to talk with me when I needed you," or "You hung in there when you had a lot of reasons to give up on me."

Now I have never received a flower from a child as several staff did that evening at Glen Dale, but I can tell you that those child care workers can never receive a higher reward for their service. Recognition, awards, promotions, more money are all good, but when a child says thank you, you really helped me, those are the nicest words which can be said to those individuals who day in and day out give so much of themselves to help children who have no one else.

Throughout our child care system at Glen Dale, Spring Meadows, Morehead, Elizabethtown and Dixon we have some outstanding people who go the extra mile to help the children in their care.

Being a child care worker requires a special calling and I am thankful that God continues to call people into this ministry.

A gift of a flower or even a thank you from a youth whom you have helped does not come often enough, but when it does, it makes it all worthwhile.

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Modern day Paul uses bivocation to start churches

by Joe Westbury

If the apostle Paul were starting churches in sunny southern California, he might feel right at home working with bivocational minister Phil Hester.

In some ways the two men's lives mirror each other, separated only by 19 centuries yet linked by a common drive to start new churches. Both had midlife career changes, both took on secondary jobs to help them start churches and both used direct mail to spread the gospel.

"Paul was the first one to use direct mail by writing his epistles and each one was written in a different context that was sensitive to the needs of his particular audience," Hester says. "We are learning to use that concept, known in today's business world as marketing research strategy, to start new churches in a strongly secular world."

Hester, 48, is the only known totally self-supported Southern Baptist church planter in southern California.

That call to church starting evolved during a career in Houston as a private businessman, and culminated recently during his days as an older student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

"I had resisted my call to ministry for 20 years when a series of four family-related deaths in three months caused me to reevaluate my life," he says. "I was the typical Yuppie, trying my best to be worth a million dollars."

That was when he and his wife Suzanne decided to sell the marketing services firm he had founded and enroll in seminary. It was the step of faith that changed his life, he says today.

During seminary, Hester began refining that calling. He offered his services as a church growth communications consultant and worked as director of

communications for the seminary.

Word soon spread about his marketing strategy for churches, where he adapted secular marketing principles to a Christian perspective. After graduation, San Diego Southern Baptist Association director of missions Wade McKinley and Del Cerro Baptist Church pastor Sam Williams asked him to come to California to help them start churches.

"Bivocational ministry is the wave of the future if we are to take our mission seriously."

That's when he was able to put his new-found strategy to use full time. The Hesters moved to the San Diego area, where he founded North Star Communications, a one-man firm for church growth communications, strategy and implementation.

Hester's modest income as a consultant now allows him to apply personally the principles to church starting. And his position as volunteer church starter on the staff of Del Cerro Baptist Church

gives him inroads into the communities he tries to reach.

That bivocational status played prominently in the starting of one of San Diego's newest Southern Baptist churches, which held its first service Easter Sunday.

Northstar Community Church, which had 128 people in attendance, meets in Jerabek Elementary School in Scripps Ranch, an upscale community of 15,000 residents who are 87 percent unchurched. Prior to the church start, only three churches—none Southern Baptist—were in existence and meeting in rented office space.

"Because I'm bivocational Northstar is able to channel what would be my salary into outreach and community ministry. It eventually will be able to provide at least \$1500 a month for another church start," he says.

"Bivocational ministry is the wave of the future if we are to take our mission seriously. That will be the only way we can put pastors into urban areas for a long term basis. The average two year term of a Baptist pastor will not grow a church from scratch."

Hester, who moved into a community near Scripps Ranch so he could live on the church field and serve as pastor, started the church using his marketing research strategy.

In addition to performing a demographic study on the community, he used other creative ways of reaching the unchurched population—like placing radio ads on popular secular stations and newspaper ads in the entertainment section rather than religion pages of the newspaper.

"This is not Madison Avenue selling, which is persuading people to do something or buy a product that they may not need," he says. "Marketing strategy is identifying people's needs and tailor-

ing services or products to meet those needs. That's exactly what the apostle Paul did; he identified needs and met them with the gospel."

When contacted by a church, Hester first leads the congregation to conduct a self audit. The anonymous poll provides Hester the opportunity "to know the heart of the congregation"—its perception of itself and its vision for the future.

Next "external-felt needs research" provides a marketing profile of the community the church hopes to reach. And it provides a means of identifying community needs before a church is ever formed.

For example, Hester says, one new church was designed for a community of young professionals who the demographics revealed "were mortgaged to the hilt and were walking on the edge of financial strain."

"They were living one paycheck from disaster," he notes. "We named the church New Hope as a means of invigorating them and providing a positive image of the gospel in their minds."

"People everywhere are looking for meaningful relationships. And by using tools such as marketing strategy, we are looking for the God-fearers in society . . . those unchurched individuals who believe in God and are making an effort to find him."

"We are attempting to call out those people who have a receptivity to the gospel and to reach them before they gravitate to the cults or remain in their lost condition."

"That's the harvest the Holy Spirit has prepared for us. Our challenge is how we do the harvesting."

"The old-fashioned sickle is one way, but I'd rather have a 1989 combine that can do the job much faster with lasting results." (BP)

Champion of senior adults joins ranks upon retirement

by Terri Lackey

A champion of Southern Baptist ministries with senior adults officially joins the ranks of those who have been recipients of his service as he enters a world of no alarm clocks and realizes dreams of all-day golfing.

Horace Kerr, manager of the senior and single adult section in the Sunday School Board's Family Ministry Department, retires Aug. 1 after 13 years in that position.

Kerr said he came to the board in 1976 for the sole purpose of launching a new ministry for senior adults. The Family Ministry Department, which had been established in 1975, then added the single adult program in 1979 and gave it to Kerr to administer.

As he examines the accomplishments of senior and single adult work in churches over the past decade and a half, Kerr said, "What pleases me a lot" is seeing churches with active, ongoing senior and single adult programs.

"I get great satisfaction knowing so many churches in the Southern Baptist Convention have established programs for seniors and singles partly because of our work here at the board," Kerr said. "I get the greatest satisfaction knowing many churches are doing something for these two groups every week."

Kerr credits the proliferation of church programs for senior and single

adults to a new awareness of the need for such programs and to two books produced through the Family Ministry Department.

Kerr's book, "How to Minister to Senior Adults in Your Church," and a book coauthored by Kerr, "How to Start a Single Adult Ministry in Your Church," both have played large parts in giving churches guidelines in setting up these two ministries.

Since Kerr has been at the board, he has watched the number of senior adult Chautauquas grow from three each fall to 14.

"Attendance became so great that we just had to keep adding conferences," Kerr said.

The same thing is happening at Memorial and Labor Day conferences offered to single adults, he said.

Kerr drew his knowledge on aging adults from a background in state government where he was executive director of the Mississippi Council on Aging, 1972-76.

He had also worked with senior adults as minister of education at First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., 1959-72.

While working as a minister of education, Kerr took classes in law and received his doctor of jurisprudence degree at age 46 in 1970.

"I really think I wanted to see if I was smart enough to do something else," Kerr said of his desire to earn a law de-

gree after 20 years as minister of education.

A native of Louisville, Miss., and the son of parents who were deaf "and not



Horace Kerr, manager of the Sunday School Board Family Ministry Department senior and single adult section, and wife Dot play an afternoon game of golf, a sport both plan to enjoy in retirement.

Baptists until much later in life," Kerr said he was taken to First Baptist Church each Sunday by his Aunt Maude.

After he graduated from Mississippi College, Clinton, he received a MRE degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex. He then obtained his law degree from the Jackson (Miss.) School of Law (now Mississippi College School of Law).

Even in retirement Kerr hopes to continue working with senior adults by leading seminars, conferences and workshops. He will coordinate two weeks of Chautauquas at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center this fall.

But Kerr plans to spend most of his time on the golf course with his wife Dot who will also retire this year.

The Kerrs have built a house on the fringes of Castlewood Golf Club in Jackson, Miss., and plan to live in retirement in their native state.

"We just have to look out our back window and see a golf course," said Kerr, whose garage is suited for two cars and a golf cart.

With seven grandchildren (three of them in Jackson), a wife as active as he and several hobbies including bread baking, hunting, photography and wood working, Kerr said he believes his retirement at age 65 will provide "plenty to do."

Hell must be disappointment

We never walked this road before

by Glenn Mollette

May 31 was the day of great anticipation. Karen and I were informed by our physician, Dr. Abbott, that this would be the day our baby boy would be delivered by Caesarean section.

The last nine months had been smooth and uneventful. Everything was going well. About three months prior our doctor performed an amniocentesis. This test tells you almost everything about the unborn baby. We learned the baby was a boy and perfectly healthy. Several ultrasounds were also performed along the maternal journey and each report was very good. Karen also did extremely well. When we had our second son Zachary, she almost died herself. But this time everything was going great.

I suppose all the positive factors made our bad news all the more difficult to understand and accept.

Tuesday morning May 30 Karen went in to see her physician for a routine examination before the delivery day. With raised eyebrows and an expression of unbelief he could not find a heartbeat. Something was wrong. After some more tests the determination was made the baby had died apparently within the last 24-36 hours.

Our director of music found me at a local business that morning. Her telephone call was, "Glenn, call Karen, something is wrong with the baby." Being unable to immediately locate Karen, I called her doctor. He gave me the news, "Mr. Mollette, the baby is dead. I don't know what has happened. Your wife needs you here immediately. We will have to take the baby this afternoon."

The trip to Grandview hospital in Dayton, Ohio takes five hours. By God's grace I made it in three hours and 25 minutes. Karen was in Dayton because this is where her family lives and we like the doctor that has attended her for several years.

I cannot relate the kind of anguish and hurt we've experienced through all this. When I raced home to throw some clothes together for the trip, I felt an anger toward God I've never felt before.

"Why God are you doing this to us? Why now on the day before delivery have you let our baby die?"

My emotions as I began the trip turned to questioning and doubt. "God's not in control of these things. If he were really involved in this he could have prevented my son's death."

My hurt and feelings of pain turned to guilt. "What did I do? Does God have an axe to grind with me?" I do not believe God grinds an axe. But on this particular day God and I were not doing too well.

When I arrived at Grandview Hospital I found my crushed wife pacing her hospital room floor along with her mother and father. All we could do was hold each other and cry.

"Why God are you doing this to us? Why now on the day before delivery have you let our baby die?"

Two hours later we were in the delivery room. The local anesthesia had been given. My wife was fully awake. I sat beside her head as Dr. Abbott made the incision. In minutes I watched with amazement as he began to remove a beautiful boy.

"Here's the problem," he pointed out. The umbilical cord was wrapped around the baby's stomach several times. Somehow the cord had twisted cutting off the blood and oxygen supply.

In minutes the baby had been wrapped in a blanket and placed in my arms to hold.

I couldn't believe it. "How could this baby be dead?"

He looked perfect. He had 10 fingers and 10 toes. He had such a cute face and hair on his head. He was healthy looking. He weighed seven pounds, six ounces and was 21½ inches long. It seemed so unfair. Again I questioned the Lord.

As I sat in the delivery room I placed my hands on the baby's stomach and prayed, "God please let my baby breathe. Or, God let me wake up from this nightmare."

Karen and I both in desperation unwilling to accept reality hoped the doctor would be wrong. We silently hoped the baby might really still be alive. But it was not to be.

I now have a better understanding of hell. I believe I sat in something like hell on that Tuesday. Hell must be silence. The most awful sound in a delivery room is silence. When Jared and Zachary were born they cried. Karen and I wept as well, but they were tears and sounds of joy. When a dead child is born there is nothing but silence. No one knows what to say. We all like silence for rest and meditation. But we don't like it forever.

Hell must be the absolute void of joy. As Karen and I were in the recovery room we held our dead son, Jesse Caleb. There was no joy.

Hell must be disappointment. For nine months we lived with anticipation and hope. The nursery was decorated. The baby clothes purchased and the name selected. Our six-year-old son wept and said, "But daddy I was so looking forward to strolling my little brother."

I immediately had to begin making funeral arrangements. Where would we bury him? What funeral home would I call? What kind of funeral service would we have for the baby? Suddenly in one day's time Karen and I walked a road we had never walked before—the road of death. The road of losing a son.

I've preached over 100 funerals in my ministry. But death takes on a different form when the person is your child.

Karen and I will be all right. We have to go on. God is seeing us through this crisis of bereavement.

The psalmist said, "I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord. Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust."

Paul said, "I press toward the mark." After the shock, the grief, the crying and devastation, people with God as their refuge can only best cope by pressing on. We will press on.

An education in pastoral care

by Glenn Mollette

Experiencing death in my own home has given me a good refresher course on pastoral care.

Pastoral care is caring. It is being there. It involves hugging and loving. Pastoral care is weeping with a friend.

Our church, community and Baptists across Kentucky lifted us toward heaven with love and concern.

The day of our baby's death, two deacons from a Dayton church came and sat out in the waiting area. They later hugged us and cried with us. That's pastoral care.

The day before the funeral five women (angels of love, grace and mercy) representing our church showed up on our door steps with enough food to feed an army. That's pastoral care.

On our answering machine, messages were left from friends that said, "We love you. We are praying for you." That is pastoral care.

Our funeral for little Jesse was a simple graveside service. But a choir of 40 made a 45-minute trip to sing. A pastor friend drove 70 miles to do a few minute's service. Over 150 church members and family stood around a little white casket and grieved with us. I never realized how much attending a funeral meant to someone. Now I know. It is pastoral care in its best form.

On the cemetery my family and church came around and hugged us. They cried with us. They ministered to us.

I also learned in this experience what pastoral care is not. It is not talking a lot. A couple of folks offered their commentary and rationale for our experience. When someone is hurting they don't need commentary, philosophical statements or theological jargon. They need love and care.

On Sunday our church collectively and individually embraced us. Both services led by our staff and deacons were services that mourned with us. The choir, the prayers, the scriptures and the meditations shared by different persons all expressed "We hurt with you, we care about you, we love you."

I've learned some things about pastoral care. We've lost our son for a brief time. But we have gained a special closeness to the family of God that I never dreamed attainable outside of heaven.

To Jesse Caleb Mollette

I can feel you in my arms, though you are not here,
I can feel your little heartbeat, if I imagine I'm holding you near,

I can hear your shallow cry, though your lips have made no sound,
I can see your sleepy eyes, though they've never looked around;

I can hear your rapid breathing, though your body's never moved,
And I can hear your faint voice, though I've never heard you "coo;"

I can feel your little fingers, when a fist they try and clench
I can smell the sweetest fragrance, though your body has no scent;

For Mommy knows you very well, though you've never seen my face,
I'll remember my special baby boy, no-one will ever take your place;

Mommy loves you little Jesse, you just sleep and rest
I'll hold you against me very soon, For only God knows best.

From Mommy



Kentucky Baptist Church Training
New Start Project

August 21-25, 1989

Say YES when contacted by your association's contact person

One couple's call to volunteer missions

by Janice Hughes

Claire Snider's senses embraced Africa. Her eyes photographed browns and greens from the landscape. She savored the aroma of the air, unidentifiable to American nostrils. An anvil bird hammered a maddening tune in the distance. Faces hungering for the gospel etched themselves into her memory.

Emotion clutched the throat of this young woman as she turned her face toward home. It was October 1987. Mrs. Snider and her fellow volunteers in a Kentucky-Kenya partnership trip were headed back to Paducah.

"The others were excited to be going home," Mrs. Snider remembers. "I wanted to stay. I thought if I came home I would never be able to go back."

The lure of missions had tugged at Mrs. Snider's heart for as long as she could remember. She thought of herself as being called to evangelism and had shared Jesus across several American cities as she followed her engineer husband from one job to another.

During the long flight home, her mind became a battleground while she tried to reconcile her fresh call to missions with her role of an everyday housewife. As this conflict raged, a dream took root. She visualized herself returning with

her husband and their two boys. She cried, "Lord, send us all."

Chuck Snider had worked with an international construction company fourteen years. He was never in one town more than two years at a time and worked long hard hours at each place. He was a good husband and father whose closest call to missions had been a year as RA counselor at First Baptist Church, Paducah.

He supported his wife's call to Kenya and took vacation time to be with their boys while she was gone. He expected to play golf and get some much needed rest. It was not to be.

God tormented his soul day and night with his wife's vision of a lost world. Oceans apart God broke and fragmented this couple, shaping them into vessels for his work.

Reunited, they shared their astounding two week walk with the Lord. They laughed, cried and prayed as they saw a new world coming for them. Mrs. Snider's thoughts allowed room only for Kenya. Snider said, "Claire, it could be anywhere. It may be China."

Mrs. Snider says, "I knew if the Lord was in it, his will had to be revealed through Chuck. I would go anywhere he wanted to go."

After much prayer, they both felt the

Lord leading them to China. Snider requested a transfer to Shanghai. The answer was no.

In June 1988, he was assigned to a job in Durham, N. C., with the promise of consideration for a later overseas assignment. All doors closed. His company seemed uncomfortable with his plans to do mission work in his off hours.

A year of discouragement, health problems and disappointment crept by while they pounded dozens of doors. None opened. The Lord seemed silent.

This past March, out of desperation Snider announced that he would quit his job. He and his family would pay their own way to a mission field and work full time. An opportunity for an extended trip to Kenya loomed ahead and it appeared Mrs. Snider's dream would be fulfilled.

Instead new British owners bought the construction company and refused to allow Snider to quit. Just days ago, he was asked to consider an immediate transfer to China—the same job he had felt impressed to pursue exactly one year ago.

The stones of
Kabitina built more
than a church. They
built a dream . . .
of other churches
around the world.

"There is such a peace about China," says Mrs. Snider. "A few days before we learned of China we had to make the decision about Kenya. We said no. As much as we wanted to go, it just wasn't where we were supposed to be."

Without Kenya, there would have been no China. While there, Mrs. Snider helped members of the Kabitina Baptist Church move stones for their new building. That simple act was her moment of impact with reality and the basic needs of Christians around the world.

"It was a thrill to move those stones," she recalls. "It was one of the most worshipful things I've ever done."

"To be able to share Jesus verbally is wonderful, but to actually have a tiny part in building a church for people who don't have one is overwhelming," she says. "It was a tangible way I could show my love for the African people."

The stones of Kabitina built more than a church. They built a dream in one woman's heart of other churches around the world.

The Sniders feel it is a wonderful time to be in China. Because of the present turmoil, they believe the need for a strong Christian witness is imperative. They look forward to the challenge.

"Who knows," says Mrs. Snider. "Maybe the student movement will eventually bring more freedom and we'll be among the first to be able to share the gospel openly."

Somewhere in China there's a church waiting to be built. Chuck and Claire Snider will be shoulder to shoulder laying the first stones.



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

Home church

I suspect there are a lot of readers who are at least emotionally tied to one or more churches in which they have held previous membership.

This may be the little brown church in the dale where "no spot is so dear" to our childhoods—a congregation that nurtured us from the cradle roll through the teens. Perhaps it's the church that reached out to us in college or seminary days, the one that ministered to us as a young family or maybe the one that embraced us as we faced a major crisis.

I have met many people whose membership has remained in one church all of their lives. The bulk of those in most metropolitan and suburban churches, however, seem to be folks who once belonged somewhere else.

I am one of those people with a strong tie to a previous congregation. My wife shares that with me. While each of us came from separate home churches where we accepted Jesus as personal savior and were there almost every time the door opened, the church we miss most is the one in which we began married life. Our three children were born there. Career opportunities came our way. Lifetime friendships were formed. As we found places of service in that church we felt the spirit of the Lord wrap his arms about us through the outpouring of his people.

Today we're 180 miles away and 14 years beyond. Yet hardly a Sunday passes that something doesn't remind us of the fellowship of bygone days. There's simply no mistaking it: we still miss that precious high and holy place enormously!

Does that mean that our church now is any less wonderful? Hardly.

We do not know of a more loving, accepting, caring congregation anywhere. Our pastor, staff and friends minister continually in ways we could never count. It is our hope to return a portion of what we feel here through service to others and praise to God.

Can the body be in one place and part of the heart in another? Obviously, the answer is yes. Is that being unfaithful? I've pondered that many times. I have to say, I don't believe it is.

Some of the contributions we are able to make now are direct results of what we were taught earlier by others in the family of God. They helped equip us for our spiritual pilgrimage along the way.

Speaking for me, I pray regularly for the efforts of God's people in at least two geographical locations. The manifestations of both congregations have given me the ability to cope with life's frustrations and rejoice in its celebrations—yesterday, today and I anticipate from now until eternity.



Mrs. Claire Snider (l) with Arthur Kinyanjui (r), director of Southern Baptist work in Kenya, move stones for Kabitina Baptist Church.

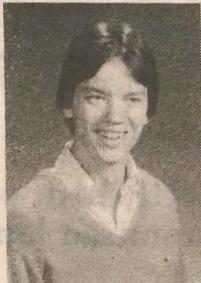
christian education

Golden Gate Seminary

A Kentucky native graduated from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Cal., during May commencement.

LeBane Hall of Bowling Green received a MDiv degree May 26. A chaplain candidate in the U. S. Air Force Reserves, he is associate pastor of evangelism, Rohnert Park Baptist Church, Rohnert Park, Cal. He is also hospital chaplain in Rohnert Park.

Hall earned a BA degree from Western Kentucky University.



LeBane Hall

William Carey College

J. Ralph Noonkester ended one of the longest tenures of a current American college president when he retired after 33 years from the helm of William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss., June 10.

The retirement ended a year of controversy for Noonkester, who was accused by some trustees of fiscal and administrative mismanagement. Accusations have centered around budget woes, including spending endowment money and a deficit approaching \$1 million.

In a preliminary report in May, the commission recommended hiring someone to handle all school finances. The trustees unanimously concurred and hired James Edwards, who had been a member of the study team put together by the commission. Edwards is a former financial officer of the Radio and Television Commission and Union University, Jackson, Tenn.

Southwestern Seminary

As president of the Alabama Baptist Young People's Union and an ordained deacon at 21, Joe Davis Heacock seemed destined for a career in Christian ministry.

But while attending classes at Howard College (now Samford University) in Birmingham, Ala. in the 1920s, the dean emeritus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's school of religious education had other plans.

"At the time I was in college I was somewhat unsure of what I wanted to be but my preference was to be a wealthy businessman," Heacock recalled. To that end, Heacock enrolled in Columbia University's school of business administration after earning a business degree from Howard in 1929.

"I thought it would move me in the right direction for a successful career in business," Heacock said. But instead his time in New York City actually helped direct him to a career in religious educa-

tion.

When I was going to school at Columbia, I became interested in activities at some of the Baptist churches in New York City," Heacock remembered. "Every Thursday night the young people from those churches went into the Chinatown section of the city and met with young boys who had just come over from China and couldn't speak English. We taught them English and witnessed to them about Christ."

Heacock left Columbia after only one semester and returned to Birmingham, taking a job with an insurance company. But he couldn't get the idea of church work out of his mind.

"The Lord was really working in my life," Heacock said. "I didn't really know what I was being called to do. There weren't very many full time (church) education workers back then."

Heacock and his wife Nell moved to Ft. Worth in 1935 and he enrolled in Southwestern's school of religious education. While in school, Heacock worked for the Allied Youth Movement, an alcohol education program. Later he was BYPU director at North Ft. Worth Baptist Church and was soon called as minister of education at College Avenue Baptist Church, Ft. Worth.

After graduation from seminary in 1937, Heacock was called as minister of education at Olivet Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, where he worked six years. While he was in Oklahoma he became president of the state's Baptist Training Union, his second such position.

In 1942 Heacock took a job as director of associational work in the Training Union Department of the Sunday School Board. "I really liked the work there and thought I had come to the place for my life work," Heacock recalled. But after only two years he was

invited to teach at Southwestern Seminary by J. M. Price, late dean of the school of religious education.

"It is not what I wanted to do at all but I couldn't get away from the persuasion the Lord was giving me," Heacock said.

Heacock was professor of education administration from 1944-56 and dean of the school of religious education from 1956-73. During his term as dean Southwestern became the first school of its kind to offer the doctor of education degree.

In addition to his work with students, Heacock also was instrumental in improvements in religious education in the

Southern Baptist Convention. He was president of both the Southwestern Baptist Religious Education and the Southern Baptist Religious Education Associations.

Heacock has seen many changes in religious education during his years of involvement with Baptist work. "It's more expensive and more professional today," he said. "We've tried to take the principles of learning and put them into the churches where in the old days we didn't have all these methods and systems that we offer now."

"But the basics are still the same," he said. "We're still trying to get the Bible taught."



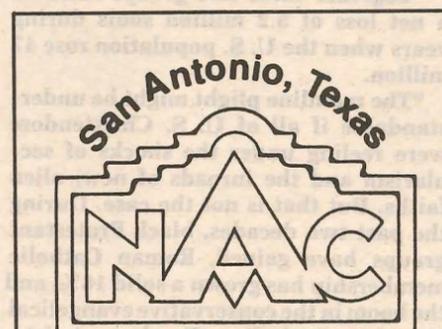
Joe Davis Heacock relaxes at his office in Ft. Worth.

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Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Ten times or more

Bob attended school three years at Oneida. I had not heard of or from him in several years. But recently this letter came.

"I had plans to come to graduation but I've been preoccupied with Navy basic training. I've signed up for four years. It reminds me a lot of OBI. Many are kids away from home for the first time, scared and confused and homesick. A lot are going AWOL.

"A lot of kids/men can't relate this to anything in their previous experience. How lucky I am to be able to look back on my Oneida days.

"My last year I had a chip on my shoulder. All I wanted to do was to get out into the 'real' world and get a job, a car, a 'real' girlfriend. I had to face a

lot of harsh reality when I finally got out. It hit me like a brick wall.

"I started work at \$3.35 an hour. At Oneida I had learned how to work consistently and had been taught how to maintain a positive attitude even though I did not practice it there. The OBI work program taught me to earn respect rather than demanding it. Also to judge when a job is complete and how to keep a crew in a positive mindframe.

"After 5½ months working at a fast-food restaurant, I got a management position. With advancement and knowing I could do better, I decided to take on some of the opportunities offered by the Navy. Without some values learned at Oneida, I hate to think what shape I would be in."

Reading Bob's letter I thought of all the ups and downs we had with him. He came to us at a young age. He had lost his parents. A great-uncle was his guardian. I remembered a letter we got from him before he actually enrolled. I found it in his file. It reads:

"I will be attending your school this coming fall. I've seen the school recently and was very impressed by the honest feeling I got. My home situation has not worked. Yet someone recently told me that your school is like a reform school. If that is true I am not sure I want to attend. I have not done anything to deserve a school of that nature. This is not a childish prank even though it is from a 13-year-old. Thank you for taking your time because of my concern."

I answered Bob's letter, reassured him, and we became his home for some years. Those were some difficult years in his life, the years of puberty, going from being a boy to being a man. Often he lashed out at us as we tried to teach him discipline, leadership, so many things that teenagers need to know.

Though Bob has been away from us for some years, a bit of "homesickness" comes through in his postscript: "Mr. Moore, I know how pressed for time and how busy you are. But if you could possibly find time to write, I'd probably read it ten times or more. If you can't write, I understand."

Of course I have written Bob. It is for him and several thousand others, both here and in foreign land that I have lived my entire life. There are only so many hours in the day, and every hour is full as over 500 are my direct responsibility each moment of the day and night. But we cannot quit caring for those whom we have worked with. They are scattered in every American state and many nations.



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR JUNE 18, 1989

Life and work series

Accepting God's guidance

Judges 13:2-5, 8, 17-20 In the village of Zorah lived Manoah and his wife. Advancing in years, they were heartbroken over being deprived of an heir.

God sent a messenger to Manoah's wife and announced his intention of sending her a son who would be the human agent "to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines." Filled with joy this couple resolved they would do their best to help their son achieve God's purpose in his life.

God's messenger told Manoah's wife what to do during the prenatal period. He commanded her to refrain from drinking any wine or strong drink or from eating anything which would impair the physical wellbeing of the child. With unquestioning faith Manoah's wife obeyed the command of God and her correct living was causally related to the splendid physique and remarkable strength of her son.

When Manoah's wife told her husband a messenger of the Lord had appeared unto her and given her some very important information, Manoah concluded the message which his wife had received was from God.

The response of this couple was in the form of thanksgiving and worship. When God guides us thanksgiving and worship are appropriate responses for us to make.

When the boy was born he was named Samson, which means "Sunshine," and truly he was the sunshine of that home. God gave this boy a good body, a good mind and the proper religious training. From his infancy he was dedicated to the Lord under the Nazarite vows. He refrained from partaking of anything that came from the vine, from indulging in the pleasures of the world.

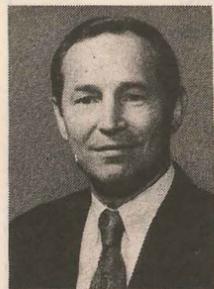
International series

Settlement of the promised land

Joshua 21:43-45 Even though Israel had left undone that which she should have done, God executed his purposes, plans and promises. Regardless of the century or generation in which one lives, he can bear faithful testimony to the fact that every promise which God has ever made has been fulfilled or will be. As God's children, we should be encouraged greatly by the scriptural statement: "There failed not aught of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass."

Joshua 22:1-6 It is to be recalled that 2½ tribes of the Israelites had been granted permission by Moses to make their home on the east side of the Jordan River, on the land that they considered to be better suited to their use. However the actual possession of this territory was delayed until the other tribes had conquered the Canaanites and staked out their property.

After the conquest and division of the land, Joshua sent the auxiliaries of the tribes of Reuben, Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh back to their homes, with an expression of gratitude and praise for the help which they had given to their brethren. He readily acknowledged that they had met the condition placed on them by Moses, when they had originally requested a homeland east of the Jordan River and commended them for their faithfulness which they had displayed in various ways. Joshua admonished them to be very careful in their observance of the law of the Lord given through Moses. He assured them that by so doing they would become the recipients of numerous invaluable blessings.



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

on mission together

Alarming

From a May 22 article in *Time* titled "Those Mainline Blues" I took no great delight. Reading of the significant decline of any mainline Protestant group presents a serious concern to those who view God's world mission as too urgent and comprehensive to afford a "loss" or serious decline in the larger Christian family.

The article is alarming: "The central fact about Protestantism in the U. S. today is that it is in deep trouble. This stunning turnaround is apparent in the unprecedented hemorrhaging of memberships in the three major faiths that date from colonial times.

"The United Church of Christ (which includes most Congregationalists) has shrunk 20% since 1965, the Presbyterian Church 25% and the Episcopal Church 28%.

"As for two related denominations

that mushroomed in the 19th Century, the United Methodist Church has dropped 18% and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 43% after a de facto schism.

"Together these five groups suffered a net loss of 5.2 million souls during years when the U. S. population rose 47 million.

"The mainline plight might be understandable if all of U. S. Christendom were reeling under the shocks of secularism and the inroads of new, alien faiths. But that is not the case. During the past two decades, black Protestant groups have gained, Roman Catholic membership has grown a solid 16%, and the boom in the conservative evangelical churches (including Fundamentalists, Pentecostals, and charismatics) have caused some to envision a religious revival.

"The shrunken Presbyterian staff, just moved from the National Council of Churches building in New York City to Louisville, has been cut by 400, in

part to ward off a seven million dollar shortfall. With 49% of active lay Presbyterians heading toward retirement, said a study published last year, future money problems will be 'almost beyond belief.'

Among the several other observations in the article, two especially caught my attention:

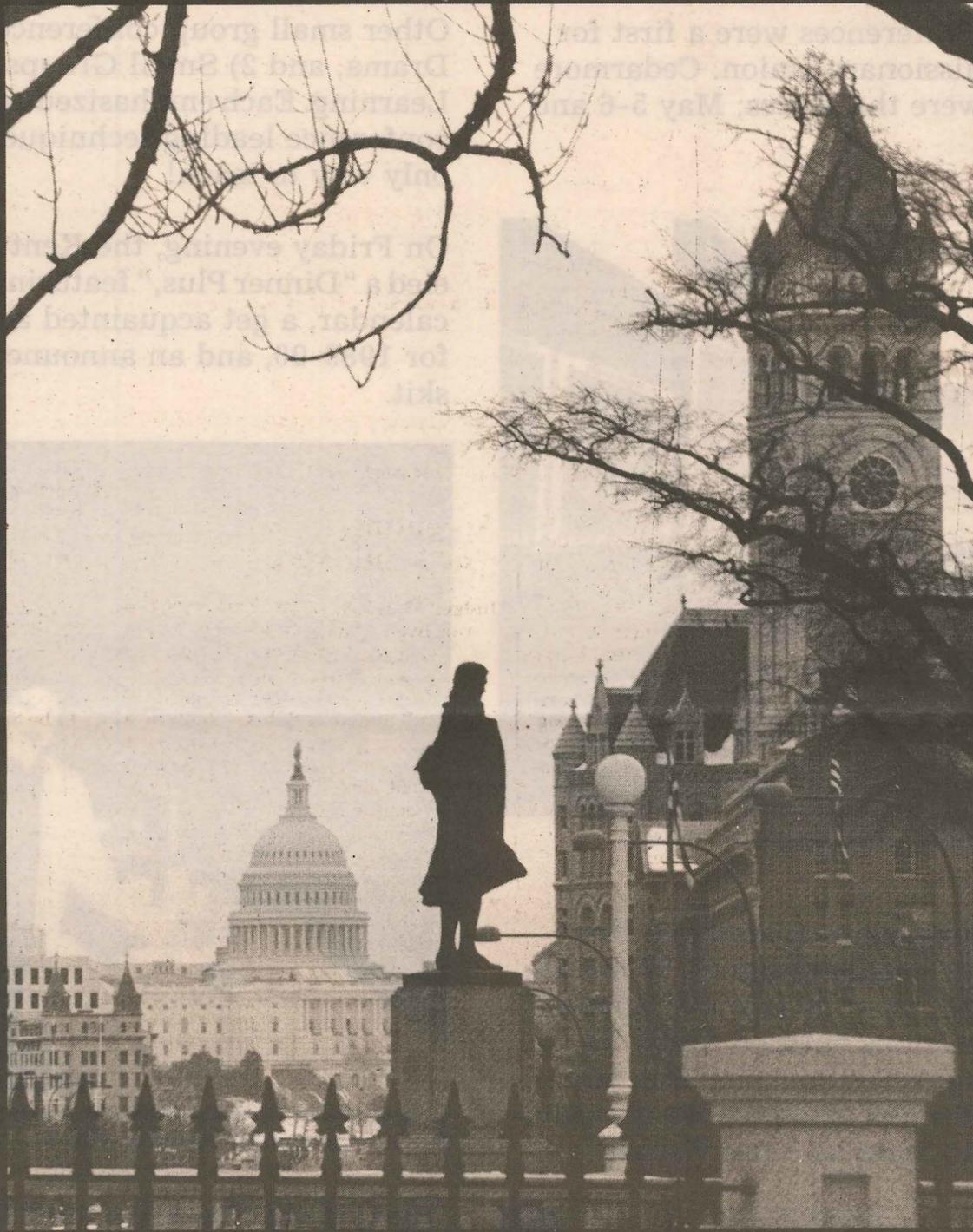
Higher Education. "A century ago, most U. S. colleges and universities were controlled by mainline Protestantism and constituted the faith's most important channel of cultural influence. But gradually mainline schools have become indistinguishable from secular campuses, leaving distinctly Protestant higher education to the Evangelicals."

Foreign Missions. "Spreading the gospel abroad was once a quintessential (Protestant) main line activity, but today (it is the) evangelical agencies (which) sponsor four-fifths of American Protestant missionaries."

Wise Baptist leaders will take seriously these realities!

Pray for All in Authority

(1 Timothy 2:1-2)



Observe Christian Citizenship Sunday
July 2, 1989

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

Mention citizenship to the average American and the first duty that comes to mind is voting. When political or social issues threaten to overwhelm us, prayer is often mentioned as a last resort. Some are even heard describing how bad things are by saying, "We don't have a prayer."

The biblical message about citizenship, however, is just the reverse. The first responsibility of Christian citizens is to pray. The call is to pray for all in authority.

Prayer for the authorities is to be

bountiful and complete. The message about prayer is so important that four different words and phrases are used to call Christians to action: supplications, prayers, intercession and giving of thanks.

Prayer for the authorities does not depend on personal likes or dislikes. Most of the authorities during New Testament times were pagans who were hostile to life and mission of the early church. Many were involved in actual persecution. The biblical message, however, was to pray even for those who

may persecute you.

But those authorities—like the authorities of today in the United States, in South Africa, in Lebanon and in the Soviet Union—influence lives. The attitudes and decisions of authorities are crucial in order for people to live in peace and quiet. Peaceable living is the key to living in godliness.

Prayer for authorities in New Testament times was urgent. Christians were exhorted to pray for "all men," and authorities "first of all." Before they were taught about public worship or about

the qualifications for church leaders, these early Christians were exhorted to pray for authorities. These biblical exhortations hold true for Christians today.

Government is ordained of God and those who are in authority are servants of God whether they know it or not. Newly elected officials have joined many authorities who continue in positions of power. Prayer is urgently needed that these servants of God discharge their duties responsibly.

—Larry Braidfoot



KENTUCKY WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION



Conference Leading Conferences were a first for Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek were the places; May 5-6 and 19-20 were the dates.



Louise Barbour, WMU, SBC, speaks during a general session.

Over 200 women (and three men) attended these events. Louise Barbour, media designer, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, was the featured speaker. She led two general sessions entitled "How To . . . Visuals" and "Leading A Conference." She also guided participants in small group conferences to learn practical ways to make and use visuals.

Other small group conferences were: 1) Games and Drama, and 2) Small Groups and Individualized Learning. Each emphasized how to employ different conference leading techniques—lecture is not the only way to teach!

On Friday evening, the Kentucky WMU Staff modeled a "Dinner Plus," featuring the missionary prayer calendar, a get acquainted activity, the WMU songs for 1989-90, and an announcement in the form of a skit.

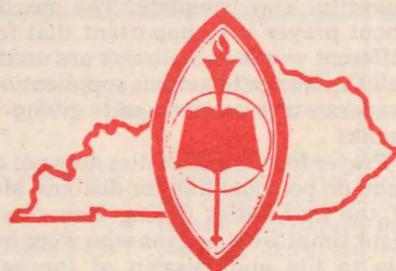


Delores Spears, Kentucky WMU President, celebrates her first "in office" WMU event and her birthday, May 5.

Everything done was a model for associational WMU officers to show what they can do in their local settings. The purpose of the CLCs was to equip associational WMU officers to lead more effective conferences and to feel more confident about conference leading. WMU methods were not taught—that will happen at ACTs in August!



Ann Moffett and Amanda Jones participate during a large group conference.



WMU ACT