

## Southern faculty cites all 'God-ordained,' calls on FMB to reconsider Penningtons

by Pat Cole

Faculty members at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary have called on Foreign Mission Board trustees to pursue the appointment of missionary candidates Greg and Katrina Pennington of Oklahoma.

In an open letter to FMB trustees, faculty members expressed their "profound sorrow" that the Penningtons, graduates of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Cal., were denied appointment as missionaries. The faculty approved the letter at its first meeting of the school year.

An FMB trustee subcommittee refused in June to recommend the couple for missionary appointment, charging the Penningtons, staff members at

Northwest Baptist Church, Ardmore, Okla., acted inappropriately in their pursuit of ordination. The ordination had stirred controversy in Enon Baptist Association which a month prior to the Penningtons' ordination voted to automatically exclude from membership any church that ordains women.

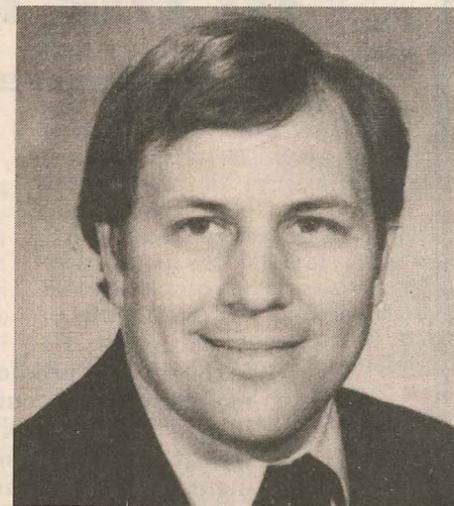
At a meeting in early August the trustee subcommittee issued a statement indicating it could reopen discussion on the Pennington case. The statement, approved unanimously by the entire trustee board, denied that Mrs. Pennington's ordination or pressure from Enon Association had affected the earlier vote.

The letter from Southern Seminary's faculty, however, urged FMB trustees to "be responsive to the candidates' congregation and not to a local associa-

tion." Appointing the Penningtons, it added, would "affirm Southern Baptists' commitment to the authority of scripture and the lordship of Christ."

The letter reaffirmed the faculty's "calling" to prepare both women and men for ministry and renewed their commitment to "the church's mission to take the gospel to all nations and peoples." It also urged Southern Baptists "to avoid raising any artificial barriers which would keep spiritually qualified, God-ordained individuals from carrying the gospel to the world."

The faculty affirmed the "New Testament understanding that God calls women as well as men to ministry" and noted that "women have served with distinction in God's mission in the world." (BP)



## Bob Hughes speaks four times to BSU at seminary meeting

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary faculty member Robert Don Hughes will address Kentucky Baptist collegians on four occasions at their weekend Baptist Student Union convention Sept. 29-Oct. 1 held at the seminary.

Hughes is associate professor of communication and mass media at the Louisville institution. He is scheduled to speak at Southern's Alumni Chapel Friday at 8:35 p.m., Saturday at 9:40 a.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. His Saturday evening message will be followed by an invitation.

Theme of the BSU convention is "As You Go." It will open with registration at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 29 and the first general session at 7:15 p.m. The weekend meeting concludes Sunday, Oct. 1 at 11 a.m.

In between there will be testimonies by summer missionaries, music, scripture, prayer, planned recreation, business, a free Saturday afternoon and nearly 20 topics offered during one-hour seminars, from which conventioners may select two.

Music for the weekend will be directed by J. Phillip Landgrave, professor of church music at Southern Seminary. Nashville recording and concert artist Larry Bryant will perform Saturday evening following the service.

State BSU president Jeff Dixon of Murray (Ky.) State University will preside at the BSU convention sessions. The annual event is sponsored by the Student Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown.

Hughes, 39, who has been on the Southern Seminary faculty since 1983, holds a PhD degree from that institution. He is also a graduate of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Cal. (MDiv), and California Baptist College, Riverside (BA).

The Ventura, Cal. native was a missionary journeyman from 1971-73 to Lusaka, Zambia. He later was a missionary to Ogbomosh, Nigeria, 1980-82. Between those years he held student church staff positions in California and was pastor of Union Baptist Church, Defoe, Ky., 1976-79.

Hughes is the author of six books, numerous articles and at least six published plays. He is on the public relations committees of Wayside Christian Mission and Long Run Baptist Association, director of Baptist programming for Louisville's Faith TV channel and a deacon at Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville.

## Florida Baptists special session on abortion like a pro-life rally urging political activism

by Greg Warner

"Your voice needs to be heard," Florida Gov. Bob Martinez told more than 2200 cheering Florida Baptists, who promptly adopted a statement opposing abortion Sept. 8 and geared up for the approaching legislative battle that will determine the direction of Florida's abortion laws.

Martinez and several other abortion opponents spoke to a historic called session of the Florida Baptist State Convention Sept. 8-9 at Downtown Baptist Church, Orlando.

The convention's 1708 messengers adopted the consensus statement on abortion, which included plans for a strategy of ministry to women with problem pregnancies and which called for "legislation that will achieve the dramatic saving and nurturing of human life."

The statement is targeted at state legislators who will gather in Tallahas-

see Oct. 10-13 at Martinez's request to consider more restrictive abortion laws. After adopting the statement Friday night, 1092 messengers and visitors spent Saturday morning in workshops learning how to influence those legislators.

The special session—only the third in Florida Baptist history and the first dealing with a moral issue—took on more of the character of a pro life rally than a Baptist convention. Participants cheered speeches denouncing abortion and moaned when a handful of messengers voiced opposition.

The three-hour opening session, which opened with the national anthem, was punctuated by frequent calls to political activism.

"We must not let Satan silence us because we might be misunderstood," said convention president Bill Billingsley of Hollywood, whose call for the special convention was criticized as thrusting Florida Baptists into dangerous political waters. Billingsley said such "political ramifications" must not prevent Florida Baptists from saying "what is in our heart."

"We have an obligation to allow the word of God to be heard in a secular world," Billingsley, pastor of Sheridan Hills Baptist Church, Hollywood, told messengers as they began consideration of his recommendation, which affirms that "human life . . . begins at conception" and calls for a tightening of Florida's abortion laws.

"We have taken a stand," Bobby Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, told messengers after they adopted the recommendation. "Now let's take action for those who can't take a stand."

Welch and others urged Florida Baptists to write their state legislators and to join other antiabortionists who are staging a demonstration in Tallahassee Oct. 9 on the eve of the special legislative session.

About 50 antiabortion demonstrators lined the steps of the church before and during the Sept. 8 session, some offering words of encouragement and appreciation to messengers entering the building.

Pro-choice supporters, who had

threatened to demonstrate at the church, instead scheduled a rally at an Orlando airport as Martinez arrived.

Security was tight at the church during the 15-minute speech by Martinez, who has been followed in recent weeks by pro-choice demonstrators.

Martinez told Florida Baptists that, because of his concern for unborn babies, "I felt it was time for Florida to look at its laws dealing with abortion." Messengers then rose to their feet in applause.

Martinez said his proposed legislation represents "what we believe can be done" to tighten the state's abortion laws. The proposal, which will be debated by state lawmakers in October, would prohibit the use of state funds to perform or promote abortions and would restrict abortions of babies old enough to survive outside the womb.

"When that unborn baby has the ability to live outside its mother, that baby is one of us and its life should not be aborted," the governor said again to applause.

"We hear a lot of background noise from those who say this is an issue of rights," said Martinez, a Roman Catholic. "But an unborn baby has rights, and those rights need to be protected."

Martinez blasted critics who point out stricter abortion laws will cost the state more money since more babies being born will mean more health services will be needed. The state has "spent millions to save manatees," Martinez noted, "and you mean to tell me we are going to be concerned about some added cost of saving unborn babies?"

Martinez commended Florida Baptists for taking action on abortion. "I can assure you we will make a difference come Oct. 10 of this year," he said.

Having already defeated a motion for a ballot vote, messengers approved the recommendation by standing, with only a handful standing in opposition.

In addition to opposing abortion their recommendation creates a 15-member committee that will plan a strategy for Florida Baptists to implement more homes for unwed mothers, adoption services, foster-care services, crisis-pregnancy centers and education in Christian sexuality. (BP)

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## in the interim

### Are Southern Baptists in exile?

Is the present predicament of Southern Baptists of man's making only or could it also be of the Lord's making? Is it a temporary sickness with human explanations and treatment or is a spiritual exile resulting from the judgment of God for our sins?

The idea of Southern Baptists being sent into exile by God is unthinkable to most of us who have regarded Baptists as chosen and uniquely blessed for a world ministry only we can perform. However, an honest look at our record as born again followers of Christ makes understandable divine punishment for our sins and spiritual purification for future service in God's plan.

A spiritual exile is an exile whether it be in Babylon or Nashville. An exile can be permitted by God whether it comes from the hands of a Nebuchadnezzar or from our own hands.

Consider our record. In many ways Southern Baptists' record is no better than the record of Israel whom God let go into Babylonian exile. Our pagan gods may be called other names but some of them are the same gods that were fatal for Israel.

One of these gods is belief in and practice of racial superiority. Part of the inspiration for the formation of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845 was belief in human slavery and in the right of a Baptist preacher and missionary to own slaves. Our Baptist forefathers used the inerrant Bible to prove slavery is sanctioned by God.

In times past God might have winked at such ignorance and sin but now he demands repentance and warns of judgment. Yet in thousands of Southern Baptist churches today a black brother in Christ would be about as welcome as a leper in a Jewish synagogue in New Testament days. In many communities dominated by Baptists the only remaining strongholds of segregation are churches. Blacks go to school with whites, eat in restaurants with whites and work side by side with whites but there is no association on Sundays at 11 o'clock. How does God react when some of his children are considered inferior and are rejected by his churches?

What about the place of statistical and material success in the thinking of Southern Baptists? Our success by worldly standards has made for pride unbecoming of God's children. We are not even careful to be truthful. We boast of millions of members about half of whom seldom ever darken the door of a church and about a third with whom we have lost all contact.

Our children and denominational buildings rival those constructed for ancient pagan deities. The amount of interest paid per year on our building indebtedness ex-

ceeds our annual gifts for foreign missions and we boast of being missionary. It's hard to tell whether our expensive buildings are monuments to God or monuments to our pride. "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18).

What does the Lord think about our loss of the "servant" concept of the ministry? Jesus by his teaching and example exalted the "servant" role for his disciples. "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered to, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28).

The "servant" concept of ministry is being ignored by more and more Baptist ministers and churches today who are bowing down to the god of materialism. During the 1950s a leading Kentucky Baptist church called a new pastor and made headlines in the local paper because the pastor's salary was \$10,000 plus a parsonage. This was the highest pastor's salary most of the readers ever heard of.

Inflation since the 1950s has made such salaries unrealistic today but who ever dreamed of a six figure salary including benefits for a servant of God? It is not unheard of today for some Baptist pastors and denominational heads to have salary and benefit package worth as much as \$100,000. Some ministers by business standards may be worth that much but it's hard to find a precedent or justification in the New Testament.

It's only fair to say most Baptist pastors are underpaid. This is wrong but it is not as destructive to the "servant" concept of the ministry as the kind of rationalization by Jim Bakker and his kind who claim luxury is a God-intended benefit for his servants.

There came a time and place in the experience of Israel when they had to suffer for their disobedience. Even the intercession for Israel by true prophets was of no avail and God even instructed Jeremiah not to pray for sinful Israel. They had to pay because they had crossed the line between God's mercy and his judgment.

But exile for Israel did not mean hopelessness and final rejection. It was part of God's purging process and lasting lessons were learned by Israel. She had to recognize her sins, confess them, repent and recommit herself to God's plan for her.

So will Southern Baptists if we have a part in God's ultimate victory over sin and darkness. The hope for us is not a change in a ballot box but a change in our hearts and ways.

God grant it!

Chauncey R. Daley

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# baptist forum

## A missionary on FMB

Thank you for the excellent editorial on the Pennington/FMB situation. I see no hope for them in the immediate future. I wish the article had been printed 4-6 weeks ago for the sake of Kentucky Baptists' "understanding." Keep telling them the truth.

Paula Settle  
Togo, W. Africa

## No dullards here

The editorial in Western Recorder in the Aug. 29 issue by Richard Bridges begs rebuttal. The article was titled "The Penningtons and the future of the FMB."

It is amazing how much so many people know about the confidential, inner workings of the Foreign Mission Board. These vocal critics speak with great authority about matters about which they have no knowledge. The subcommittees of the "Mission Management and Personnel Committee" of the Foreign Mission Board operate in strict confidentiality. The members of those committees are Southern Baptist men and women of impeccable integrity who love God, are devoted to world missions and always suffer grief when a candidate for the mission field must be rejected.

Why the widespread indignation over the Penningtons? The answer is obvious. Certain polemic people saw one word that was like raising a battle flag—the word, "ordained." "Ah ha!" they said; "That is why they were rejected." Others saw the words, "letter from their association," and said, "The Foreign Mission Board is being influenced by an association." All of this has been addressed by every person in a position to know the facts but no one is listening.

The final matter addressed by the editorial is the responsibility and authority of trustees as opposed to the work of the hired staff. If the writer's fuzzy notion of trusteeship is applied, the denomination needs no trustees. Any dictionary would clear up what a trustee is. The very name of the accused committee is "Mission Management and Personnel."

The closing sentence in the editorial is accusative, unfair and untrue. The Foreign Mission Board is not "drifting from its role . . ." Such statements do more than anything else to undermine confidence in the work of missions. More missionaries have been appointed each year over the last 10 years and more countries opened to our work than ever before in our history. Let's emphasize the positive.

Bill Hall  
Danville

## Grieving the spirit

I have been a Bible believing Southern Baptist preacher almost 40 years, never once having any doubts or raising any question marks about the inspiration and authority of the word of God. If the book says it, that settles it for me.

I am greatly disturbed as I write today. My soul is very heavy and saddened as I read of the attempts of some Sunday School Board trustees to "fire" president Lloyd Elder. My Bible tells me that we as Christians are to love one another with a love that is gentle, patient, kind and longsuffering. I certainly cannot see that kind of spirit reflected in the "worldly" approach and actions by those who desired to dismiss Elder.

I foresee major and horrendous prob-

lems ahead for all of our Southern Baptist Convention agencies and personnel if this sort of mentality prevails. It seems to me that the "go for the jugular" philosophy is in full operation in the minds of many who now serve on the boards of many of our agencies and institutions. I would like to know how these people can justify such a mean and unchristian spirit.

My question is: "Who is going to be next?" What president, what executive or what leader will some lynch mob bring their diatribes and charges against in future board meetings? As a loyal Southern Baptist, and a staunch supporter of the Cooperative Program, I am offended and appalled by what has transpired in the Sunday School Board meeting. My heart weeps at this bitter and contentious spirit that is so prevalent in the Southern Baptist Convention today and I am persuaded that the Holy Spirit is grieved as well. I call on all concerned Southern Baptists to join with me in fervently praying for a revival and renewal of love and unity in our ranks.

Don E. Wainright  
Mobile, Ala.

## Confession of faith

I wish to share with my fellow pastors a practice which over the years has proved to be of value. It has to do with the giving of the invitation at the close of a service.

In giving the invitation urging people to identify themselves as the Lord's servants, not only do I urge people to profess their faith in Christ requesting baptism and others to move their church letters but urge church members who are celebrating a birthday to come forward. I remind these birthday people that in so doing they are publicly giving thanks to the Lord for another year of life and blessing and rededicating themselves to the Lord.

Over the years I have discovered this to be an excellent thing to do. In a church of any size it simply means people are moving when the invitation is given and this in itself encourages others to come forward on profession of faith or to move their church letters. The birthday people stand on my left and others stand on my right. I have discovered it worked beautifully in Immanuel Church in Lexington where I was pastor and in the 24 interim pastorates I have had since I retired from Immanuel.

I tell the people our professions of faith do not end with baptism and that we should welcome every opportunity to "reconfess" our faith in Christ.

I felt I wanted to share the above with you for it has brought blessing to me and to the churches I have had the privilege to serve.

H. B. Kuhnle

## No news is bad news

It took me several months to realize how attached I had become to Kentucky. After spending six years in Kentucky attending Southern Seminary and being pastor in Grayson County and later in Washington County I became attached to the work and people in Kentucky. After being appointed a foreign mis-

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ionary and moving to eastern Europe I had plenty of time to reflect upon those things left behind which were valuable to me. Besides the usual, family and friends, I realized I missed the environment which had nourished and encouraged my mission call.

After nearly one year of not receiving Western Recorder (because of address changes and lack of communication) it was a thrill to receive several back issues and to catch up on some of the news from Kentucky. On one page I was able to shed a tear of joy over the victory of one Oneida student and on another page I wanted to scream because of the injustice I read being propagated by a fellow Kentucky Christian. Good or bad, news is news and is highly valued after a news "blackout."

Because of this fresh reminder of the value of news I want to thank the staff of Western Recorder for its work in reporting the news, good and bad. I also want to remind ourselves that we are the ones who make the news, not our reporting agencies. Bad news should not be censored or deleted, just reported. For those of us living abroad it is important to know the full story of our convention's struggles with abortion, politics, ordination as well as a myriad of other issues. Thank you for helping us to stay in touch with the people and the institutions we love and respect.

Also, please be reminded of the importance of news to those who are without. In your busy schedules seek time to write friends and coworkers who have moved but who still have a desire to know what is happening in those places where they have left part of their lives.

Bill Steele  
Save Kovacevica broj 23, stan 27  
11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

## Landmarkism revisited

The Southern Baptist heritage is rich and diverse. In our history, we find Baptists who have been almost like Pentecostals. Others have been liturgical, strongly reflecting their roots in formalized worship in England. Others have joined them with great missionary zeal, willing to band together to do missions around the world. To those, the 19th century gave us a strong Landmark influence. These Landmark Baptists were convinced of their interpretations of truth, skeptical of national boards and seminaries and generally moved into the independent Baptist frame of today.

I mention these roots simply to say that many Southern Baptists may not realize that we are witnessing real and troubling challenges to our heritage today. Baptists with Landmark-like tendencies have assumed control of our convention and their appetite will not be satisfied until the whole body conforms to their image.

Recent events concerning our mission boards, Southeastern Seminary, South-

western Seminary, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the Sunday School Board point to a troubling trend in Southern Baptist life. Accusing fingers and angry spirits have been raised toward genuine Christian servants, with their chief crime being they do not agree with the current drift of the Southern Baptist ship.

Southern Baptists do not have to worry about real "liberals." But we had better wake up and give serious thought to where these new Landmark Baptists are taking us. Independent Baptists have a place in history, but not as leaders of our cooperatively minded convention. Our desire to fulfill the Great Commission led us together in 1845—the current trend with its divisive and slanderous spirit will destroy us like a terrible malignancy, and the result will be disarray among God's people and the eternal damnation of the lost who never heard because we chose to fight with each other.

W. Robert DeFoor  
Harrodsburg

## Available Korea specialists

How good it is to be back in the USA once again! Our family has just returned from our first term of service in the Republic of Korea where I have been serving as a music missionary and Cathy in church and home ministries. It is exciting to see how God is blessing the Christian church and particularly our Baptist churches.

Cathy and I are anxious to share with Kentucky Baptists how Cooperative Program dollars are being used to support and promote church growth in Korea. We will be furloughing in Louisville until mid June 1990. We can be reached at 3700 Nanz Ave., Louisville, KY 40207, 502-897-0079. Let us know if we can share with your congregation for a particular missions emphasis.

Steve Blanchard

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# mountains to the mississippi



**James H. Cox**  
Associate Editor

## fourth estate

### Marking time

Kentucky Baptists are a proud people who delight in their traditions and rich heritage, and rightly so. The very nature of our fellowship indicates that we love to celebrate and will often go to great lengths to herald a festive occasion. Such celebrations are frequently related to some momentous historical milestone in a congregation's life, such as reaching a significant anniversary year since the church's founding.

That church is wise that pauses to take a reflective look at the purposes for its existence, measures where it is in its pilgrimage and sets new goals for its future. It can gratefully praise a loving Father for the wisdom and strength he has imparted to those who have led that church until the present day.

Western Recorder is informed of scores of Kentucky Baptist congregations every year who reach historical milestones in their lives. We pass that information on to you as a part of our "Mountains to the Mississippi" feature. We are glad to share such noteworthy happenings with our readers.

At the same time, you will often observe that the anniversaries of certain congregations receive additional space in Western Recorder. You may be wondering how they are chosen for this emphasis.

Let me assure you they are not selected because someone connected with the paper has ties to them. According to guidelines which we follow closely, churches are considered eligible for anniversary features upon reaching their 200th birthdays when the Recorder is appraised in advance. In addition, when request is made and a writer is available, we offer those congregations celebrating 150th and 100th birthdays this same on-site coverage, plus those experiencing very unusual anniversary circumstances.

Regretfully, with nearly 2300 Southern Baptist congregations in the commonwealth, we are unable to attend most other important historic events in a church's life. To make exception for one is to make it for all. We do, however, encourage churches to send written facts and quality photos of their unique occasions in connection with a 40th or 93rd or 127th homecoming or anniversary for consideration. This includes noteburnings, history publications, facility dedications, welcoming new staff, historical pageants and the like in connection with anniversaries.

Kentucky churches and people are our lifeblood. Please tell Western Recorder so we may share your joy with thousands of readers who will rejoice as you mark your significant milestones.

### deaths

Following a six-year battle with cancer, **Norma Jean Johns** died Sept. 2 in Columbus, Oh. Mrs. Johns was the wife of Henry Johns who pastored several Kentucky churches and who was on the KBC executive board numerous times. Johns recently pastored Versailles Baptist Church, Elkhorn Association, from which he retired last December.

### revivals

Don Short was evangelist for revival at **First Baptist Church, Oak Grove**, Christian County Association. David Oliver was music evangelist. Thirty-seven decisions were made during the four-day revival; 24 of these were professions of faith.

### congregations

**First Baptist Church, Somerset**, Pulaski Association, recently broke ground for a 900-seat sanctuary. Among guests at the ceremony were William W. Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer, KBC, and Jim Cordell, director of Church Music Department. The new sanctuary will cost approximately \$2 million and is expected to be completed by September 1990. Robert Browning is pastor.

The members of **Lewisport Baptist Church**, Blackford Baptist Association, dedicated their new building Sept. 10. Ron Williams is pastor.

**Bellview Baptist Church**, Paducah, West Union Association, sent 24 mission team members to First Baptist Church, Salyersville, Enterprise Association, for a youth crusade. According to Bellview associate pastor Mike Nolen, 19 teenagers were led to Christ and over 100 soul-winning contacts made. Luther Edwards, pastor of First Baptist Church, recently wrote: "We believe [Bellview's] team played a great part in getting our program started . . . only eternity will reveal the final results." Ron Mitchell is pastor.

**Central Baptist Church**, Blackford Association, recently dedicated a new wing of their church and a new baptistry and baptistry painting. These new facilities are dedicated to the memories of Paul Roberts, Claude and Clara Lindsey and Ora and Mable Tongate.

### ordinations

New Hope Baptist Church, Central Association, recently ordained **David Jones** to the ministry. Jones is presently pastor of Rockbridge Baptist Church, Willisburg, Central Association. Isaac Ferguson, pastor of New Hope, brought the charge to the candidate and W. A. Clutts delivered the charge to the church.

Fourth Avenue Baptist Church, Long Run Association, ordained **Herb Case** to the ministry. Steve Hussung, the candidate's brother-in-law, issued the charge. Case will be pastor of Gracey-West Union Baptist Church, Christian County Association. Gerald Summerfield is pastor of Fourth Avenue.

Sacramento Baptist Church, Daviess-McLean Association, ordained **Tim Boisture** and **Barry Ellis** as deacons.

Youngers Creek Baptist Church, Severns Valley Association, ordained **Edward N. Howell** to the ministry. Howell recently accepted the position of minister of music and youth at the church.

### personnel

Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Long Run Association, called **Jeffrey Johnson** as organist. He comes from Boston (Mass.) University where he earned a Master of Music degree in vocal accompanying and harpsichord performance.

**David Hale Jr.** accepted the call to be part time youth minister at Greensburg Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association.

After 10 years as a navy chaplain, **George Nickle** accepted the pastorate of Drakesboro Baptist Church, Muhlenberg County Association.



Breaking ground for a new sanctuary at First Baptist Church, Somerset, were (l-r): Alton Blakley, Herman Schoolcraft, Bill Newell, Walter Hoskins, James Eastham, Joe Ball, James Haney, Lula Winchester, Louis Kiser, Bill Sharpe, Richard Warner, Clifford Tarter, Cy Waddle, Robert Browning.



The Kentucky Baptist Secretaries Association, elected officers for 1989-90 at its third annual conference at Campbellsville (Ky.) College. From left: Front row—Cindy Nunn, Glendale, membership secretary; Pam Lyon, Hopkinsville, west region rep; Grace Bristow, Owensboro, president; Clara McCartt, Louisville, news editor; Jennie Smither, Frankfort, outgoing president. Back row—Judi Stewart, Campbellsville, central region rep; Garnett Hutchinson, Dry Ridge, historian; Jo Griffith, Georgetown, recording secretary; Janie Moore, north region rep; Patty Brock, Versailles, treasurer; Sandra Gott, Hopkinsville, president elect; Bob Jolly, pastor, Buena Vista Baptist Church, Owensboro, pastor advisor.

Upton Baptist Church, Lynn Association, announced the resignation of associate pastor **Curtis Wheeler**.

**Wesley Hanson** resigned from Clear Run Baptist Church, Ohio County Association. He moves as interim to Yellow Creek Baptist Church, Owensboro, Daviess-McLean Association.

**Oliver Sanders** offered his resignation to East Fork Baptist Church, Ohio County Association.

Smallhouse Baptist Church, Ohio County Association, announced the resignation of **Bill Phelps**.

West Point Baptist Church, Ohio County Association, called **Robert Fox** as pastor.

**Leonard Steuwe** accepted the call to be minister of education and youth at First Baptist Church, Franklin, Simpson Association. He leaves Pleasant View Baptist Church, Waynesburg, Lincoln County Association. Steuwe is a 1987 graduate of Cumberland College, Williamsburg.

**Robert Haire** is now pastor of Mercer Baptist Church, Muhlenberg County Association. He leaves Calvary Baptist Church, Henderson, Green Valley Association.

Williams Memorial Baptist Church, Boone's Creek Association, called interim pastor **Russell Johnson** to be full time pastor.

New Hebron Baptist Church, Muhlenberg County Association, called **Paul Dilly** as pastor.

**Ronald Doss** accepted the pastorate of Roland Memorial Baptist Church, Muhlenberg County Association. He leaves Oak Grove Baptist Church, Russellville, Logan Association.

Meadow Hill Baptist Church, Long Run Association, called **Jeffery Dorris** to the pastorate.

**Fred Jenkins** retired from Cloverleaf Baptist Church, Long Run Association.

First Baptist Church, Fairdale, Long Run Association, called **Paul Blizzard** as pastor.

**T. Howell Upchurch** submitted his resignation to Valley View Baptist Church, Long Run Association.

Union Baptist Church, Blackford Association, called **Stephanie Robertson** to a staff music position.

**Leon Greer** is the new pastor of Meta Baptist Church, Pike Association. He leaves First Baptist Church, Louisa, Greenup Association. He had held several associational capacities including moderator.

**Vivian and Z. T. Lester** recently celebrated their 18th anniversary as ministers of music at Buck Run Baptist Church, Frankfort, Franklin Association. John Charles is the pastor.

Oak Island Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association, called **Wayne Whaley** as pastor.

Antioch Baptist Church, Sulphur Fork Association, called **Garnett Lawson** as pastor. Lawson is a graduate of Western State University, Bowling Green.

**Harold Jenkerson** is the new pastor of Pleasant View Baptist Church, Sulphur Fork Association. Jenkerson is a student at Southern Seminary, Louisville.

**Les Baker** has come out of retirement and accepted the pastorate of New Bethel Baptist Church, Caldwell-Lyon Association.

**L. Clyde Allen** is interim pastor of Buffalo Baptist Church, Severns Valley Association.

**Robert M. White** is the new pastor of First Baptist Church, Clay, Ohio Valley Association. He leaves Horse Creek Baptist Church, Booneville Association.

**Kenneth Leroy Releford** resigned as pastor of Pleasant Run Baptist Church, South District Association.

Hedgeville Baptist Church, South District Association, called **Daryol Bailey** as pastor.

Bellview Baptist Church, Paducah, West Union Association, recently held "Dr. Ron Mitchell Day" in honor of Mitchell's 25 years in the ministry. Mitchell and his wife received several

gifts and the church held a pot-luck dinner in their honor. During his 25 years in the ministry, Mitchell has held nine pastorates, performed student work, counseling, and revivals as well as making mission trips around the world.

July 7 Western Recorder reported that **Mark Shelton** moved to First Baptist Church, Liberty, Casey County Association as pastor. Shelton is actually minister of youth. **Jerry Browning** is pastor.

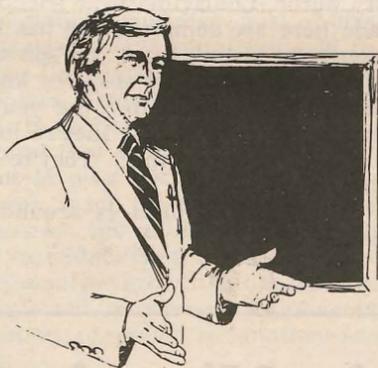
## associations

The executive board of **Mercer Association** voted in August to endorse a boycott of products of the Mennen Company and Clorox Corporation.

The boycott is being promoted by Christian Leaders for Responsible Television (CLear-TV). According to the organization, Mennen and Clorox were leading sponsors of recent programs which displayed sex, violence and profanity.

## missions

The Home Mission Board reports that a group from Kentucky helped a small church in Buffalo, N. Y. multiply its witness 800-fold this summer. Participants from **Valley View Baptist Church**, Louisville, Long Run Association, helped distribute "Here's Hope Buffalo" packets to nearly 36,000 homes.



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Director

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If you want to know about children, we'd like to tell you.

## Father and son pastors celebrate Salt River Baptist bicentennial

by Kima Jude, *State Correspondent*

The tie that binds Joseph R. Estes and Tim Estes may have more knots than most.

Not only are they father and son but they are brothers in Christ. Not only are they fellow pastors but they have both served the same church.

And on Aug. 20 they celebrated together the 200th anniversary of the church that launched the elder Estes' ministry years ago, then provided a safe harbor for the son years later.

Salt River Baptist Church near Perryville, South District Association,

Joseph Estes preached the morning message for his son Tim, who now is pastor of the church. Both are but two in a long succession of 53 pastors who have ministered at the church, many of whom launched their ministries there while attending seminary. The young Estes is himself bivocational, working for Christian Appalachian Project in Stanford.

In fact, it was the elder Estes' first pastorate. And the younger Estes contemplates it could be his last.

"I know I will leave here one day, but it may be the day I go home to glory," the pastor quips.

"The friends he made here are some that he has kept throughout his ministry," his son says. "It's a church that inspires loyalty among its membership. The fact is they're loving and they're accepting. They're not judgmental people."

celebrated 200 years of ministry with homecoming services, including dinner on the grounds and an afternoon singing.

W. O. Willham, director of missions for the association, brought greetings from sister churches. The pastor read a letter from William W. Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, during the morning service.

"I've said that if God wants me to move he's going to have to do more than just call me. He's going to have to give me a kick in the seat of the pants."

The fact is that Estes, who is divorced, knows his field of ministry is limited. That he could find a place of service at Salt River in part attests to why the church has been in existence so long, according to the pastor.

"Salt River's been a real healing place



Joseph and Tim Estes both pastored Salt River Baptist Church near Perryville. The father and son are two of many pastors who have ministered to the 200-year-old church, which celebrated its bicentennial Aug. 20.

for me because of that (his divorce)," Estes says. "They affirmed and confirmed my ministry even though I've been through those troubled waters."

"I just think Salt River is a very unique church. The people are more open, receptive, loving and caring," he says, noting that those very qualities have contributed to the church's longevity.

In 200 years the church also has had to exhibit the qualities of perseverance and endurance to continue to exist today. In its early history it lost its property twice because of lack of legal deeds, but in its later life its previous building was destroyed by fire.

That actually may have been a saving grace for the church, according to the pastor. When the building was destroyed by fire in 1959 the church moved from its former location to a more visible spot on Hwy. 150 just outside Danville and erected its present structure dedi-

cated in 1966.

Danville is a growing community and growing in the direction of Salt River church, so although the church has always been a small congregation, Estes says it's in as good a condition as it ever has been and its future look bright.

"There's still room for moderate, steady growth," he says, noting that the steady influx of new members is vital to a church's continued existence.

"Salt River has always had that—that's why its lasted 200 years. "There have always been those who've taken the torch when it's passed to them."

Indeed, had the church retained its former location, which some members endorsed, it might have died, according to Estes.

"I think moving out here was a good decision that extended the life of the church and its ministry."

However, Estes has no illusions of greatness. He points out that the resident-member church may well be the optimal size in terms of the congregation bonding as a church family, noting that larger churches are actually a bundle of small churches under one roof.

Organized in 1789, three years before Kentucky became a state, the church got its name because the congregation originally worshiped on an island in Salt River, where it was inaccessible to Indians.

Salt River is the younger Estes' second pastorate. He previously pastored Goshen Baptist Church and was minister of youth at Bicknell Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville.

His father, who recommended his son to the church, pastored there from 1947-48. He is now pastor of Beechwood Baptist Church, Louisville. "The friends he made here are some that he has kept throughout his ministry," his son says.

"It's a church that inspires loyalty among its membership," the younger Estes says. "The fact is they're loving and they're accepting. They're not judgmental people."

"I hope the church is around for another 200 years."

## Pikeville physician volunteers for missions in Nigeria

by Glenn Mollette  
*State Correspondent*

Tina Slusher, M.D., with suitcase and boxes of medical supplies and instruments, left Pikeville Aug. 25 for Eku (Nigeria) Baptist Hospital. In Eku she will deliver babies as well as treat thousands of other newborns and children. The 168-bed facility is five hours from Lagos. According to Miss Slusher, "I will be at least an hour from any place I can call home."

A pediatrician, she has worked in Pikeville five years. She is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, University of Kentucky Medical School and did her residency at Oklahoma (City) Children's Hospital.

Miss Slusher made her first mission trip to Costa Rica in 1986. Of a team of 25 persons, she was the lone physician. "I was swamped daily with patients," she recalls. "The saddest part of the experience was there were so many I never got to help."

In February this year she made her first trip to Nigeria where she worked in the Methodist Hospital in Eku one month. She visited the Baptist Hospital which she confirmed "is nothing

in comparison to American hospitals" but is the "Cadillac of hospitals" in that part of Nigeria.

After returning from Eku, Miss Slusher contacted the Foreign Mission Board about being involved in medical missions in Nigeria on a volunteer basis. She learned about Mission Service Corps, a four-month to two-year volunteer program. Receiving an assignment, she arranged to leave her medical practice for over four months where she weekly sees 150-200 patients. "My three associates are a little nervous about picking up the load but they have been understanding and willing," she remarked.

In the process of feeling called to go, Miss Slusher had to raise some money. "Everybody has been very generous. My home church, First Baptist, Pineville, has been extremely generous along with Baptists, Methodists and Rotary Club in Pikeville. "While I need the financial help to live on during the four months and for medical supplies, my biggest need is prayer support. Once you board that plane it can be a lonely feeling when you know you have a



Tina Slusher attends a patient in Pikeville hospital

long haul ahead of you," she observed.

Charles Jones, who has pastored First Baptist, Pineville, 31 years,

watched Tina Slusher grow up. Her mother and father are still active in the church. "Tina grew up in our church and went through most of our mission organizations. Her family attended about every service and was involved in about everything we had to offer. She is a wonderful testimony of what it means for a family to faithfully attend church and raise their children in church. Her good Christian parents provided her with excellent training."

While growing up Miss Slusher became acquainted with the Red Bird Mission. Red Bird is a small non profit clinic outside Pineville that also operates a partial boarding school. Since going to Pikeville she has returned monthly to do volunteer medical missions in this Appalachian setting.

Preparing for her trip, she said, "I don't know where I'll be staying. I do not know any other person I will be working with, and I am not sure what I will be facing. However, I do expect some long days and probably some moments of frustration. But most importantly, I hope I can be used as a witness for Jesus."

## Missionary appointments down

# FMB boosts enlistment drive to reach goal

by Eric Miller

Appointments of new Southern Baptist foreign missionaries are in a four-year downward spiral, raising questions about whether the denomination can reach its goal of having 5000 missionaries overseas by the year 2000.

Missionary appointments topped 400 for the first time in 1982, with 406, and reached an all time high of 429 in 1985. But they leveled off at 411 in 1986 and 407 in 1987, and dropped to 358 last year.

To stay on track for the goal the Foreign Mission Board needs to appoint 376 missionaries in 1989. But only 300 new missionaries are expected to get overseas jobs this year, said Lloyd Atkinson, director of the board's Personnel Selection Department.

Foreign Mission Board staff members—and missionaries themselves—are trying to reverse the downward trend through more face-to-face contacts with potential missionaries.

So far 235 new missionaries have been appointed in 1989, about 10 fewer than this time last year, Atkinson noted. The October and December missionary appointment services are the only ones remaining in 1989.

The number of missionary appointments must average 480 annually from now until the year 2000 for Southern Baptists to reach their Bold Mission Thrust global evangelism goal of 5000 missionaries in 125 countries, said researcher Jim Slack, a missionary to the Philippines currently working as scholar in residence at the board.

To meet that average the board must appoint at least 394 new missionaries next year, reach the 500 mark by 1995 and surpass 600 annual appointments by the year 2000. These figures are based on an annual net growth rate that allows for projected missionary retirements, completions of service, resignations and deaths.

"I feel like we can reach Bold Mission Thrust," Slack said. An encouraging statistic, he explained, is that the percentage of loss of missionaries through death and resignation is lower in the 1980s than in the 1970s. That may be due to improved living conditions in many countries and more advanced medical care for missionaries, he said.

But net growth in the total mission force is slowing down. It dropped from 4.68% in 1978 to 0.73% in 1988, Slack said, and "we don't feel good about anything that slows down—not when we're trying to win a lost world to Christ."

Mission board staff members said some factors resulting in fewer appointments include fewer college and seminary graduates, and thus fewer missionary applicants, as the post-World War II baby boom generation gets older; the Southern Baptist Convention theological controversy, which is resulting in misinformation about missions; more hard-to-fill, highly specialized jobs on the mission field, including those in restricted-access countries; and recent downturns in financial support for missions, resulting in tighter mission budgets overseas and less money for housing and other costs related to supporting new missionaries.

The missionary force usually shows a net annual growth of about 100 but "we are 63 missionaries less than we were the first of the year," board president



This graph starts with 2667 missionaries overseas in 1976, when Southern Baptists adopted the Bold Mission Thrust goal of 5000 missionaries in 125 countries by the year 2000. Solid bars show the number of missionaries appointed yearly since 1976 and signify a downward trend for the past four years. The lighter bars show how many missionaries must be appointed yearly to reach the Bold Mission Thrust goal based on net growth trends in the missionary force in recent years. Foreign Mission Board staff members are accelerating efforts to enlist more missionaries who total 3797 on the field now.

R. Keith Parks told trustees during their Aug. 7-9 meeting.

Parks later said the actual figure concerned him less than the fact that "this may be symptomatic of Southern Baptists' commitment to reach a lost world—a weakening in commitment."

Another concern, Parks said, is "the uncertainty as to whether the board will continue to be a channel of missions for all Southern Baptists or tighten and be a channel for only part of our convention and whether the financial support will be there."

The denominational controversy has caused some candidates to hesitate during the appointment process and others to choose short term missions rather than career service, Atkinson said.

Stepping up enlistment efforts the board's Personnel Selection and Missionary Enlistment departments have increased the number of missionary candidate conferences and missions information conferences from 56 in 1988 to more than 125 in 1989, Atkinson said. These are conferences in which staff members meet with potential mission-

aries in their home states and in Richmond, Va., home of board offices.

The board also is calling on the help of some of missions' best salespeople: missionaries. Since 1984 about 20 missionaries per year have spent their U. S. furloughs asking preachers in their home states to consider missionary service. Now these enlistment assistants are increasing their face-to-face contacts with many of the 8000 potential missionaries whose names appear on lists provided by Baptist associations.

Victor Davis, director of black church relations at the board, is conducting an enlistment effort among black students at Southern Baptist seminaries to stimulate more missionary applications. Currently five blacks are career missionaries and three are journeymen but no blacks are in the appointment process.

The SBC controversy affects blacks interested in missions very little, said Davis. "Black Southern Baptists don't feel a part of the controversy; they see it as a white man's controversy," he explained.

What does hurt missionary enlistment of blacks is that most of them see America as their priority mission field. "Much of the black community is plagued by poverty, crime and drugs and sometimes it's hard to see beyond our own problems," Davis said.

Overall about 48 Southern Baptists currently in the missionary appointment process have written their life histories—a 10-page confidential document. Completion of a life history represents a serious step toward appointment.

Not all 48 will reach appointment, at least not in 1989, Atkinson said. They must be matched with overseas jobs, and some may need to take seminary classes.

"We have a good number of people waiting for jobs," said Tim Brendle, associate vice president of mission personnel. Some are specialists, such as seminary teachers, religious education consultants, musicians, women's workers and student workers, he said. The mission field has a place for each of these specialties, but some candidates want to work in a specific country. (BP)

## baptist news briefs



**Curtis C. Mooney**  
President  
10801 Shelbyville Road  
Middletown, KY 40243

### homes for children

#### The never ending role

As all parents of grown children know, the task is not over when they leave home. As I have heard from many, sometimes adult children bring more concern and less ability to help than when they were youngsters.

Ever since I have been in this field of work I have noticed how former children stay in contact with one or two special people. Usually this is a child care worker or social worker with whom they felt especially close.

The contact ranges from a phone call late at night when they are needing someone to just listen to a stop by visit to say hello and convey best wishes.

I remember one young man in Illinois that called his house mother late at night from a jail cell. He had no one else to turn to and just needed to talk. I can remember getting a call at 3:30 a.m. from a juvenile officer about a child I had worked with as a foster home worker years before. He had gotten into big trouble and he wanted to know if I could help.

Over any holiday weekend you can find some of our college students back on campus for a visit. This is home and like other college students they need a place to go to be with "family."

Often as adults there is little that we can really do to help others than provide comfort. This is frustrating for the staff involved because they are helping people and have a tendency to try and do something.

I am amazed about how staff are able to handle such a large number of enduring relationships even after they leave the field. I recently attended a farewell dinner for one of our staff. Even though she was no longer working in child care she was going to have a child spend the weekend with her as a visiting resource. She had to make special travel plans and really go out of her way but to her there was a real bond and a child who needed her.

People who work directly with children have some special characteristics. One of those is to give freely of themselves to a child who has little if anything to give in return. That gift of oneself does not end when the child leaves care or the job ends. It is one that continues to give for a lifetime.

#### 21 jobs to be deleted at FMB as shifts set

The Foreign Mission Board will shift some key home office staff and functions "to focus more sharply on crucial needs in world missions," president R. Keith Parks announced Sept. 13.

Parks described the moves as a "fine tuning process which will achieve more effective use of funds and people in high priority areas."

He projected the "fine tuning" likely will result in reduction of 21 staff positions—about five percent of the board's home office staff—by the end of 1990. "We will utilize vacancies, attrition and transfers within staff to achieve most of the reductions," he said. "Strategic planning for top priorities motivated the proposed changes, not budget concerns," Parks said.

Parks said he will propose that the office of the executive vice president assume direction of day-to-day operations of the board, which has an annual budget of about \$168 million, oversees 3800 missionaries in 116 countries and employs about 450 home office personnel. Top administrators would report to the executive vice president but have access to Parks. Parks will recommend a candidate for election by the board trustees as the new executive vice president.

The board's current executive vice president, William R. O'Brien, asked to be relieved of the post when his wife, Dellanna, was named executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union. The O'Briens have moved to Birmingham, where she assumed her new job Sept. 1.

Parks asked O'Brien, who steps down as executive vice president Dec. 31, to become a top special assistant to the president Jan. 1, 1990. "The expanded role of executive vice president would require a day-to-day presence in Richmond," Parks said. "But since Bill O'Brien's new role requires a lot of travel, I feel he will be effective even though he lives in Birmingham.

O'Brien will continue to participate in the board's global strategy group. He also will continue to supervise denominational relations and serve as a liaison worldwide with other evangelical Christians in the board's effort to spark world evangelization. He will assume supervision of public relations responsibilities related to denominational affairs.

Johnni Johnson Scofield, a special assistant to the president, earlier requested retirement Dec. 31 after 39 years of service. The board will shift her responsibilities in missionary education, Southern Baptist interagency relationships and special projects to other staff members. (BP)

#### WMU's Catherine Allen quitting after 25 years

Catherine B. Allen, of Birmingham, Ala., associate executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, will become executive director of the sesquicentennial commission of Birmingham's Samford University.

Mrs. Allen will join Samford Oct. 15 after 25 years with WMU.

Since 1983 Mrs. Allen has headed WMU's Mission Services System, including finance, personnel, property management, procurement, subscription services, literature distribution.

In her new role she will coordinate activities leading up to and through Samford's year-long celebration of its 150th anniversary during the 1991-92 academic year.

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	Month YTD 12 mon.	
August 89	1,904,072	16,777,162
August 88	1,765,446	16,353,012
\$ Chg.	138,626	424,150
% Chg.	7.9	2.6
Budget	1,419,655	17,035,855
\$(under)/over	484,417	(258,693)
%(under)/over	34.1	-1.5

Year	\$ Over/-Under Budget to Date	% Increase/ -Decrease Over Prev Year
88-89	(258,693)	2.6
87-88	(27,618)	3.8
86-87	160,314	6.7
85-86	(824,790)	3.5
84-85	(170,003)	5.2
83-84	74,185	5.3
82-83	1,000,678	8.6

#### Providence, Cadiz set for interfaith meet

An interfaith witness conference sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism Department will be held in western Kentucky Sept. 25-26.

William D. Jagers, department director, announced that Paul Blizzard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fairdale, and former Jehovah Witness, will speak on "Witnessing to Jehovah Witnesses." Allen F. Harrod, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church and Home Mission Board-trained teacher of Mormonism, will speak on "Witnessing to Mormons."

The conference will be held Sept. 25 from 7-9 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Providence, and Sept. 26 from 7-9 p.m. at Cadiz Baptist Church.

#### Centrifuge, Crosspoint collect \$100,000 plus

Centrifuge and Crosspoint campers collected almost \$107,000 in missions money this summer to fund programs for youth experiencing crises and for underprivileged children in New York City.

Registration for the combined summer church recreation camps exceeded 30,000, and spiritual decisions reached nearly 4000, according to statistics compiled in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Recreation Department, which sponsors both events.

Crosspoint is a Christian sports camp for girls and boys, grades four through eight. Centrifuge is a Christian youth camp for teens, seventh through 12th grades.

An offering of \$104,830 was collected at 84 Centrifuge camps held in locations across the United States and in Korea, Taiwan, Japan and Switzerland.

The Home Mission Board will disperse the missions money to high need areas such as homes for unwed teenagers, substance abuse programs, suicide prevention counseling and inner city ministries.

The \$1750 collected at nine Crosspoint camps will go to "Graffiti," a program in New York City administered by Baptists in the area.

A total of 680 professions of faith in Jesus Christ were made during the 84 Centrifuge weeks—2380 rededications; 349 church vocations; and 329, other.

At Crosspoint camps, where total attendance was 1360, 35 young people accepted Christ, 96 rededicated their lives; one pledged to enter a church vocation; one pledged to enter missions, and two made other types of decisions.



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

## clear creek chronicle

#### The deaf hear

David Mitchell had to listen more closely while a Clear Creek student. At the time he had a 50% hearing loss. He graduated in 1979 and while pastoring in Ridgely, Tenn. his hearing became so bad he had to resign. He and his wife learned sign language and "immersed ourselves in the deaf ministry of Knoxville First Baptist." Four years later they were appointed Mission Service Corps volunteers to Ponce, Puerto Rico. Ninety-seven thousand hearing-impaired people live on the small island. This dedicated couple pastor two deaf churches, lead deaf camps and children's ministry through Puerto Rico Deaf Missions. Seventy-nine have been saved and 39 baptized.

Mitchell was a successful barber-stylist in 1972 when God called him to preach. Two years later David, Marsha and their two children left it all for Clear Creek in "the greatest step of faith we had ever taken." No campus housing was available so they lived "in two camping trailers, side by side, the two doors at just the right position to give us a breezy crossing during the snowy cold winter weather."

Mitchell affirms, "We were right where God intended us to be. I needed the organized study of the Bible from cover to cover that was given to me at Clear Creek. God had called me to pastor and I was hungry to learn all it means to be a pastor. God's men who taught me at Clear Creek had themselves been pastors and had much to share. Our four years were truly the preparation ground for the work God has now called us to do. The late professor Lynch said, 'If you can pastor a church in the mountains of eastern Kentucky, you can pastor anywhere in the world.' The ways and culture of the good people of the mountains gave us some of the best hands-on training possible. The mountain people took us into their hearts and they won ours. We had to learn many new things and do things in different ways.

"We praise God for preparing us to meet the challenge of working in the field where laborers are few, among the dying souls of deaf people in Puerto Rico. Thank you, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, for committing yourself to prepare us for God's work." We thank God for sending the Mitchells to Clear Creek.

# D. M. Aldridge recognized by SBC in-service leaders

by Breena Kent Paine

Deep in the mountains of Kentucky a man had a hope of training ministers to meet the needs of Appalachia. Forty-three years later Dennis Merrill Aldridge has been recognized as a pioneer for in-service guidance.

During a recent banquet at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary in Aldridge's honor in-service guidance directors from throughout the nation presented the former president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, with a pioneer award for establishing the first known in-service guidance program.

Also called "field education" or "supervised ministry," in-service guidance trains students for ministry through both classroom instruction and on-the-job supervision. The program has developed into a cooperative effort of the Home Mission Board's extension section and state Baptist conventions and schools.

Aldridge began his field education program at Clear Creek in 1946. As a professor in a community laden with special needs he felt the urgency for students "to really go out and put into practice what we were learning in the classes," he said.

He began by engaging them in street preaching which "scared those boys to death." Aldridge would supervise them in their efforts and as the students experienced missions in action, the fullness of their education came to life.

One year Aldridge had the idea to hold 10 simultaneous vacation Bible schools led by his ministry students. The Bible classes for children were so successful that the next year he arranged 20 simultaneous vacation Bible schools, and an evangelistic rally. Planners were not prepared for the response to the rally, however. More than 300 people were left outside of the building, angry because they could not fit inside and they could

not hear the preaching.

Aldridge's concern for the Appalachian people compeled him to plant churches. Once he had led several people to Christ and established a congregation of believers he would ask one of his students to take over as pastor, and Aldridge would move on to start another church.

He supervised Clear Creek students in their ministries and requested weekly reports. Before long Aldridge counted cumulatively in these reports between 1450 and 1700 people who were coming to Christ each year in the Appalachian community.

Since his retirement from Clear Creek in 1982 Aldridge has been a volunteer missionary to Lusaka, Zambia, teaching in Zambia Baptist Theological Seminary and pastoring International Baptist Church; director of missions for Rockcastle Association in Kentucky; and a church-starter strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. (BP)



D. M. and Kay Aldridge, both former faculty at Clear Creek.

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# Charles Blair: he picks up hitchhikers and citations

by Pauline Stegall  
State Correspondent

Charles Blair believes in practicing his religion. But he doesn't consider his personal safety in the process.

This is unusual in a day when most people are unwilling to "get involved."

However, the Kentucky State Police recognizes Blair's willingness to become involved in potentially tragic situations. The organization, in a recent ceremony at the Hickman County courthouse, presented Blair with its most prestigious civilian award, that of honorary Colonel, Aide de Camp, Commissioner's Staff.

In a highly complimentary letter, W. Michael Troop, acting commissioner of the Kentucky State Police, states this award is "reserved for those individuals who have distinguished themselves by their assistance to and support of the Kentucky State Police."

Blair treats the situation with undue modesty, believing any citizen would have done the same thing. But the news release from the State Police indicates a different attitude. "By his actions Mr. Blair displayed courage in the face of adversity and risked his own personal safety to help our trooper," the communication states.

The situation arose a few months ago when a vehicle with a loud muffler pulled into Blair's driveway at his home near Clinton. Upon going outside to investigate he discovered trooper Tony Dunker attempting to arrest the driver for speeding and resisting arrest.

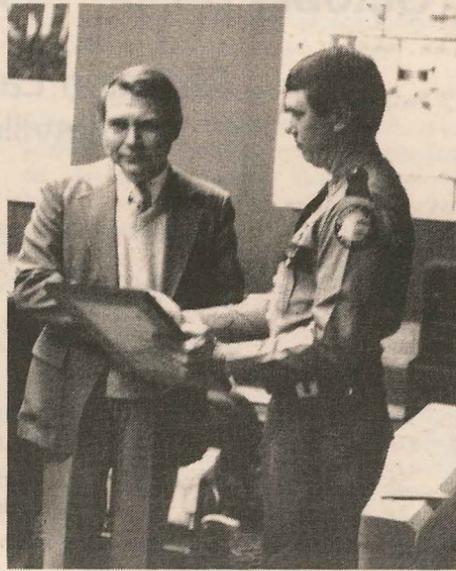
Dunker was having difficulty in subduing the man and could not use the radio while he struggled. Blair, familiar

with radio equipment, called Post 1 and alerted them. He also had his wife call the sheriff's office who, in turn, called Post 1 giving more explicit directions to the location.

Blair then proceeded to assist trooper Dunker in "subduing and handcuffing the suspect." He also convinced the man to stop struggling.

Post 1 had dispatched five cars at first on the assumption that the trooper was dead or injured, later recalling three of them.

At the award presentation trooper Chuck Robertson said he remembered a



Charles Blair, director of missions, West Kentucky Association, accepts a Colonel Aide de Camp award from Capt. John Witt, Post Commander at Post 1, Mayfield, Kentucky State Police.

civilian's using a trooper's radio only two other times. In both cases the policeman was dead when help arrived.

Blair said the man was from a broken home and was just angry, neither drunk nor on drugs. He visited with him in jail the next day and had prayer. Put on a work release program, the man was a model prisoner. Blair has attempted to keep in touch with him since then.

"I'm the kind of person who picks up hitchhikers," Blair, who taught at Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College almost three decades, laughed. "Not when my wife is around, however. But I may get hurt some day," he admitted.

One hot summer evening after crossing a bridge from Illinois into Kentucky he heard a scream and realized it was from a person coming up out of the swamp. Stopping, he saw a drunk young man with no shirt or shoes. Letting him in the car, Blair learned he had been financing a party for his friends. When his money ran out, they dropped him near the bridge. Blair counseled him for a long time.

Another time Blair was able to affirm his faith by giving a ride to a hobo wearing the traditional red bandana and carrying a roll of clothes.

"I believe you are a Christian," the hobo observed immediately.

"I believe you are, too," Blair returned. He soon discovered the hitchhiker had painted the buildings at Fuller Bible Seminary in California in exchange for Bible courses. He was now seeing the country.

"Jesus said not to burden ourselves with material things," the man mused.

Mrs. Blair related that one winter day someone got stuck in the snow and came

to their house to borrow a shovel. Blair not only loaned the shovel but helped the man dig out.

On one occasion Blair, with a student from Mid-Continent, was involved in a mission revival in Buffalo, N. Y. Early one morning he went into a park to hunt fossils. A woman was sitting at the entrance gate reading a Catherine Marshall book.

"Are you a Christian?" he asked her. Noting his license plates, she answered, "Yes, but why is someone from Kentucky in upper New York at 8:30 in the morning?"

When he told her he was holding a Baptist revival she didn't believe him. Later, after she was convinced, she revealed she was a member of an older Baptist church and her husband had left her with five children.

The day before Blair had been to a religious book store. On that day the first purchase was free and he got a book he had wanted for a long time, *Faith is the Victory* by Buell Kazez. Sensing that this book would help answer the woman's problems, he momentarily rebelled, saying, "Lord, I want that book for myself!"

But he gave her the book. "I have given several copies to divorcees since then; it contains more about living the Christian life in tragedy than any book, other than the Bible, I have read."

Blair doesn't think his actions are special. But he does have a philosophy derived from Acts 8 where Philip was at the "right place at the right time" to witness to the Ethiopian eunuch.

"I believe the Lord puts you in a particular place at a particular time for a purpose," he states.

## Missionaries part of successful summer at Spring Meadows Children's Home

by Beth W. Prassel

Laura Stratton gave last minute instructions to her puppet group as they prepared for performance at Child Care Day, Spring Meadows Children's Home. Dressed in clown costume and makeup, she was ready to join several others later in a clowning act as part of entertainment for the event. Laura's work as clown and puppeteer contributed to the success of the day—and to the success of the summer.

Clowning and puppetry were two talents Miss Stratton used this summer as

one of the home's Baptist Student Union summer missionaries. A junior at Centre College, Danville, and a native of Hendersonville, Tenn., Laura joined Nate Adams, a Campbellsville College graduate, in working with the youth on campus. Miss Stratton and Adams were the first summer missionaries to serve Spring Meadows.

While Miss Stratton organized and practiced with the puppet team, Adams worked as lifeguard and director of the campus swimming pool. Both helped activities director Scott Shouse plan and supervise "Free Spirits," a "spiritual ac-

tivities" group offering Bible study, crafts, games and outings.

Spring Meadows leaders first thought of having summer missionaries last year. Mike Dixon, current central region coordinator, KBHC, was Spring Meadows Christian education director at the time. He says he noticed Camp Rabro often used a summer missionary and thought, "Why can't we?"

Mike Goodwin, Spring Meadows director, agreed with the idea. "We thought it would be a good opportunity to share with the [Kentucky Baptist] Convention in a cooperative manner. We have a ministry that's recognizable, that students might want to participate in."

Adams came to Spring Meadows with previous missions experience at Camp Rabro, Bagdad; Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist Assembly; and Brazil.

When Miss Stratton arrived at Spring Meadows she set to work organizing the puppet group. She started from scratch by first ordering necessary materials. She then looked for residents who might be interested in a puppet group.

Finally Laura gathered a group of four or five youth who attended practice regularly. The group began practice only four weeks before Child Care Day in late July.

Adams and Miss Stratton succeeded in giving of themselves and ministering to others but both agree they have re-

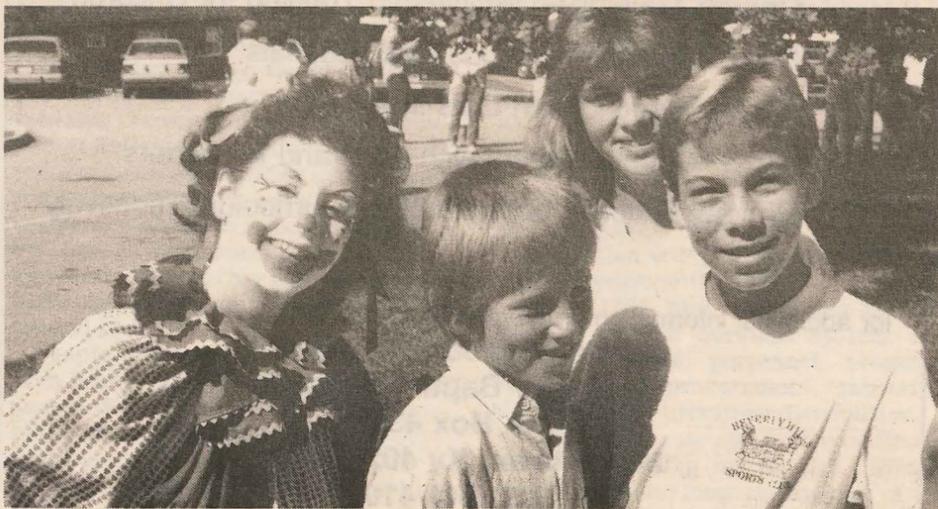


Nate Adams and Laura Stratton

ceived something from the experience, too.

Adams applied for a full time position at Spring Meadows. He recently was accepted as child care worker in the family clarification program. Since Adams' ultimate goal to work on the foreign mission field is not feasible at this time he feels Spring Meadows offers a good opportunity for another type of mission work.

"I went to Spring Meadows as a summer missionary expecting to do something extraordinary," say Miss Stratton. She thought she might discover specific direction for her life—perhaps direction toward missions. "What I learned is that being a missionary is a day to day process," she says.



Laura Stratton clowns around with Spring Meadows residents.

# 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.

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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2500 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10   |

Another amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Gifts are tax deductible and will be acknowledged. If you would like to designate your gift as a memorial to individual(s) living or deceased, include name(s) here:

# Parkway's 40-year ministry ends with Wallace's retirement

by Kima Jude, *State Correspondent*

John T. Wallace Jr. retired Sunday, Aug. 27 as pastor of Parkway Baptist Church in Lexington, Elkhorn Association, ending a 40-year tenure at the church.

His ministry there was marked by a series of progressive and innovative accomplishments, including relocation of the church, a name change for the congregation and sale of the parsonage.

But perhaps the sheer length of service to the congregation is most noteworthy. A pastorate that Wallace began at age 29 stretched into a 40-year tenure only by serving "one day at a time," according to Wallace. "And that's not being dramatic.

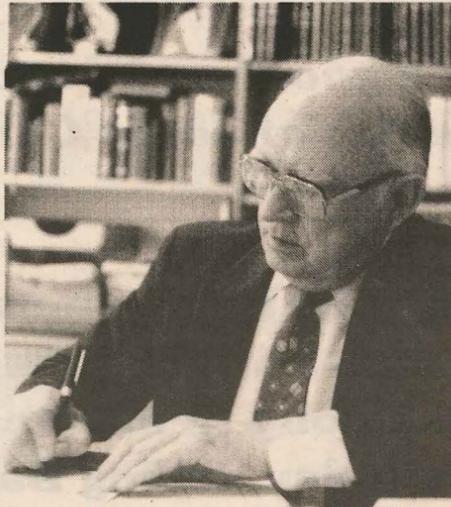
"There were days when I would have taken a job on a chicken farm in west Texas," quips Wallace, who is a Texas native. "And there were times when God gave us grace."

Indeed, the church and its pastor honeymooned for the first eight years, according to Wallace, despite his early reservations about the church.

The initial interview between the pastor search committee was not comfortable for either party, according to Wallace, so he told his wife Mary afterward that the church would be his last place of service.

Forty years later he says, "I've not made any threats related to the Lord since then."

At the time he became its pastor the



John T. Wallace Jr. retired Aug. 27 from the pastorate of Parkway Baptist Church in Lexington after 40 years, perhaps a modern record among Kentucky Baptist ministers.

church was actually in a dying condition, according to Wallace. But he did not view it as a stepping stone to another place of service. "My natural tendency is to try to make something out of what I had."

Indeed, looking back he sees a highlight of his ministry as helping the church turn away from the liberal ministry it had embraced. Evangelistic

effort had waned. The church had not conducted a revival in 29 years. Participation in Southern Baptist work and the Cooperative Program had dwindled.

Established in 1892 in downtown Lexington, the church was first named Fifth Street Baptist and then renamed Felix Memorial Baptist Church after the pastor of First Baptist Church, which organized it first as a Sunday school.

However, recognizing that the church would be situated in a declining neighborhood, Wallace led the congregation to purchase property in north Lexington in 1958, becoming one of the first Baptist churches in central and eastern Kentucky to take steps to relocate.

For five years Wallace drove back and forth across town preaching morning worship services on Sundays at both the Fifth Street location and the new site, where they established a mission chapel.

By being pastor at both locations and putting members who joined at the chapel on key committees of the established church, when the move was finally accomplished, the two congregations were integrated.

At the time the church relocated it also changed its name to Parkway Baptist to establish its identity with its location on North Broadway.

It wasn't the last major change Wallace instigated. "I was the first pastor to take the initiative in central Kentucky to sell the parsonage and move into our own home," says Wallace, who

pushed to get his own home after witnessing the deaths of two friends who left behind widows and small children but no homes to house them.

However, it was not an easy move for the church to make. Indeed, Wallace classifies it as one of the three major crises the church experienced in his tenure there. The others involved a relocation attempt too soon after the property was purchased and a staff member.

Those and other minor crises were the impetus for Wallace's book *Control in Conflict* published in 1982 by Broadman Press. In it Wallace outlines some principles for maintaining control when inevitable conflict strikes.

In addition, Wallace has published a number of articles in nonsecular publications, including *Open Windows*, *Church Administration*, *The Baptist Program*, *Church Administration* and *Moody Monthly* as well as writing a series of Sunday school lessons for young adults.

Although not officially retired until the end of September Wallace preached his last sermon as pastor Aug. 27. A year had passed since he and his wife had made the decision to retire, and three months since he announced it.

After retirement he plans to visit his family in Canada and perhaps do some supply preaching. In addition, he will be teaching an extension class on church administration for Boyce Bible School in Lexington.

## Campbellsville College FALL PREVIEW DAY

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Scholarship Interviews

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General Information Session

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**Come join us!**

# Housing request form, SBC June 12-14, 1990 New Orleans, La.

## Housing for annual meeting

There has been a difference of opinion in our Convention between those individuals and groups who felt they should be free to secure their own housing without having to go through the Housing Bureau and those individuals who felt the need for a bureau so they could be assured that all of the rooms would not be taken by travel agents or special interest groups. Over the years a compromise has emerged in the housing policy adopted by the Convention.

Under our present Convention housing policy, at least 4000 rooms are held by the Convention to be used by the city run Housing Bureau. In fact, for the 1990 SBC Annual Meeting, the city of New Orleans is holding 6450 rooms for the Convention. These rooms are for individuals and may only be secured by the use of a form like the one you have in hand.

## How is the form processed?

When the Housing Request Forms are received by the Greater New Orleans Tourist & Convention Commission, they will be held until Oct. 10, 1989, to be sure that all the housing requests postmarked Oct. 2 have had time to arrive. The forms will then be opened by postmark date. The time of day the forms are mailed is **not important**. Because Oct. 1 is a Sunday, forms postmarked Oct. 1 and 2 will be treated equally. All forms will be treated individually, even if multiple forms are sent in the same envelope. **Duplicate forms for the same individual will not be processed.**

## When to mail the form

Housing Request Forms postmarked prior to Oct. 1, 1989, will be processed by the Housing Bureau after those postmarked Oct. 2, 1989. History indicates that all the hotels listed on this form may be filled by individuals mailing forms postmarked Oct. 2, 1989.

DO NOT mail your deposit with the housing request form. The hotel will request any required deposits after you have been assigned to a particular hotel.

**Forms postmarked after Oct. 2, 1989, will not be processed by the Housing Bureau.**

Mail forms Oct. 1 or 2.

## How to use the form

One form should be used for each room requested.

**PART I**—Accurately fill in the requested information.

**PART II**—From the accompanying list, select six hotels of your choice and place the hotel names in Part II in the order of your preference.

**PART III**—Fill in all information requested for the room you wish to reserve. If you need more than one room, use a second sheet. Photo copies of the form may be used.

**PART IV**—You may put a limit on the maximum amount you are willing to pay. This will be used by the Bureau

FOR HOUSING BUREAU USE ONLY

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION**  
**JUNE 12-14, 1990—NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**  
**OFFICIAL HOUSING REQUEST FORM**

MAIL TO:  
SBC HOUSING BUREAU  
1520 SUGARBOWL DR.  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA  
70112

PLEASE **PRINT** OR **TYPE** ALL ITEMS TO ASSURE ACCURACY.  
 —COMPLETE EACH PART BELOW IN DETAIL FOR CORRECT AND RAPID PROCESSING.  
 —**SHOULD MORE THAN ONE** (1) ROOM BE NEEDED. PLEASE USE A SECOND FORM.  
 —**ALL** CONFIRMATIONS WILL BE SENT TO INDIVIDUAL INDICATED IN PART I.

**PART I**  
**INSTRUCTIONS:** COMPLETE REQUESTED DATA USING ABBREVIATION AS NECESSARY.

(FIRST NAME)	(LAST)
(STREET ADDRESS OR P.O. BOX NUMBER)	
(CITY)	(STATE)
(ZIP — U.S.A.)	(PHONE NUMBER)

(NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING ROOMS) NOTE: This person must be one of the individuals who will be occupying the room.

**PART II**  
**INSTRUCTIONS:** SELECT SIX HOTELS/MOTELS OF YOUR CHOICE.

**FIRST CHOICE** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SECOND CHOICE** \_\_\_\_\_  
**THIRD CHOICE** \_\_\_\_\_  
**FOURTH CHOICE** \_\_\_\_\_  
**FIFTH CHOICE** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SIXTH CHOICE** \_\_\_\_\_

**PART III**  
**INSTRUCTIONS:** 1. SELECT TYPE ROOM DESIRED WITH ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES.  
 2. **PRINT** OR **TYPE** NAMES OF ALL PERSONS OCCUPYING EACH ROOM.

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Check type of room desired:

_____ Single (1 bd/1 pr)	_____ Triple (2 bd/3 pr)
_____ Double (1 bd/2 pr)	_____ Quad (2 bd/4 pr)
_____ Twin (2 bd/2 pr)	_____ Other (specify) _____

Name of all persons occupying the room, including the individual in PART I

1		3	
2		4	

**PART IV**  
**INSTRUCTIONS:** DO YOU WISH TO SET A MAXIMUM ON THE COST OF YOUR ROOM IF NONE OF YOUR CHOICES ARE AVAILABLE?  
 IF SO, ENTER THE AMOUNT - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

IMPORTANT: No phone orders will be accepted. Make a photocopy of your order for your files. Housing Bureau processes reservations in order of date mailed. Confirmations will come directly from your hotel. DO NOT SEND DEPOSITS WITH RESERVATIONS. Changes in reservations should be made by directly contacting the confirming hotel.

DO NOT MAIL FORMS POSTMARKED BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 1989

only if none of your hotel selections are available. If there are no rooms available below your maximum, your form will be returned to you.

## Further information

All housing forms are processed by the Greater New Orleans Tourist & Convention Commission. However, if you have a special problem or if you have need for further information, contact HOUSING INFORMATION, SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce Street, Room 750, Nashville, TN 37203, telephone (615) 244-2355.

## New Orleans Hotel List

Hotels	RATES	
	Single	Double
Clarion Hotel	65.00	77.00
Doubletree Hotel	84.00	84.00
Fairmont Hotel	90.00	90.00
Hotel Inter Continental	85.00	85.00
Hyatt Regency	90.00	90.00
Le Pavillion	69.00	69.00
Monteleone	75.00	85.00
New Orleans Hilton	105.00	115.00
New Orleans Marriott	81.00	101.00
Omni Royal Orleans Hotel	85.00	95.00
Royal Sonesta	85.00	85.00
Sheraton New Orleans	89.00	89.00



**Barkley Moore**  
President  
Oneida Baptist Institute  
Oneida, KY 40972

## oneida journal

### Former student has 102nd birthday

After school Friday the girls of our Fellowship of Christian Athletes left for a weekend retreat about one and a half hours drive east of our campus. They are one of the most active organizations on our campus.

Accompanying the 19 girls were six of our women staff. Kitty Stidham has been our home economics teacher for seven years. Myrtle Cook was the valedictorian of our 1960 class and returned six years ago as our guidance counselor after many years of public school teaching. Shari Smith's parents are both Oneida graduates and former OBI teachers. She first came to the Oneida campus as a week old baby and returned years later after graduation from Baylor University and an MBA from Western Kentucky University. She teaches our business courses and coaches tennis and the flag corps as well as being yearbook sponsor. Judy Trousil returned from Denver this year as our principal's secretary, already having two sons in our dorms, and now sixth grade daughter also with us. Cherry Norrell and her husband have worked here two years. She tutors in our special help program as does Rhonda Young.

While wife Rhonda was with the girls' FCA group husband Steve, our computer teacher, was with the boys' FCA group who had an overnight retreat right on our Oneida campus. With the boys also was music and band director Richard Burns, in his fifth year with us.

Director of the group is Randy Schmittendorf. He and his teacher wife are in their fifth year of service here. He is in charge of our water purification plant as well as the sewage treatment plant. Also he is our Sunday school director.

The boys first had a hamburger cookout at the Schmittendorfs. Then they went to our school's farm and reservoir for some fishing and a marsh-mellow roast. After that they swam for several hours in our school's pool. Interspersed throughout the evening were devotional periods. Getting to sleep about 2 a.m. they cooked their own breakfast in the church kitchen early Saturday morning and on to the activities of a busy Saturday.

While all this was going on our soccer team was playing and losing to Lexington Catholic on our home field.

Our choir went one block from our campus to sing for local residents Arnold and Mae Herd starting a weekend of celebration, for their large family and friends, of their 65th wedding anniversary. Immediately afterwards the choir left on our Greyhound to sing at the 119th annual session of Booneville Association being held at Pleasant Run where my mother was born and my great grandparents were so active. I spoke. Then four of our staff and myself went out to a 11 p.m. supper.

As I write it is Saturday morning. Our girls and boys are all about their various morning chores.

Some of our cross country boys are away for a run somewhere and our band is practicing on the field.

While that game is still going on, a large number of our students will leave by bus for an evening Christian music "Carmen" concert at Lexington's Memorial Coliseum. They and their accompanying adult chaperones and drivers won't get back until the wee hours of the morning.

In the meantime I will rejoin all the assembled Herd family for an evening dinner celebrating their parents 65 years of married life. The Herd children all attended our school and they are fine people.

Sunday our choir will sing at the 102nd birthday celebration of Aunt Clara Burchell at Manchester. This dear lady is still remarkably active and alert two years past the century mark and operated a store until she was 96. She attended Oneida and lived in our girls dorm in the very earliest years of our school. Then our choir will travel on to Somerset to sing at the 20th anniversary program for Sunrise Nursing Home.



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

## sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR SEPT. 24, 1989

Life and work series

### Using speech wisely

**Proverbs 18:20-21** The thoughtful, kind and edifying words of a godly and wise person soothe and heal whereas the thoughtless, rash, harsh and cruel words of an ungodly or unwise person wound severely. Thoughtless babbling, malicious gossip and hypocritical flattery frequently disrupt the fellowship of a church and of other worthwhile organizations. Before speaking about others it is well for one to consider three things about his words—are they true, needful and kind?

**Proverbs 12:6, 17-19** The hypocritical or untrue words of a wicked man reveal to all who hear them that one cannot believe what he says or depend upon what he promises. The truthful words of an honest man have a wholesome effect on those who hear them and he is respected and honored by right thinking people for his reliability.

A wise man distrusts his unaided judgment and seeks the counsel of others. A foolish man spontaneously displays his vexation when he is perturbed or insulted.

**Proverbs 15:1, 4** The tongue can be a great power for good or for evil. Since its natural bent is toward evil, it must be curbed daily. A Christian's spiritual health can be noted by his talk. One's words certainly reveal the love or the

hatred which is in his heart. There is no hiding from God; he know your thoughts, motives, purposes, words and deeds.

**Proverbs 26:23-26** Gossipers know that those who are eager to hear their gossip will pass it on to others who will gulp it down. Therefore let us exercise great care in what we say, when we say it and how we say it.

International series

### God gives new life

**Ezekiel 37:3-14** Due to the sinfulness of the Israelites, God permitted Nebuchadnezzar and his armies to invade their country, seize Jerusalem, tear down its walls, destroy its magnificent temple, loot the possessions of the citizens, kill multitudes and take many of its finest citizens and transport them into exile. God called and commissioned Ezekiel to carry to his people his message of rebuke, warning, comfort, encouragement and hope.

In a vision the spirit of the Lord transported Ezekiel to a valley where the disjointed bones of unburied corpses of slain soldiers lay. God told him to proclaim to those bones that he had said, "I am going to cause breath to enter you and you shall live." Without hesitation the prophet did exactly what God told him whereupon there was a great movement among the dry bones as they were placed in their proper relationships. Through God's power the breath of life passed into those ghostly and lifeless forms and they stood erect as a living host. God did not perform this miracle merely to demonstrate his power but rather to teach the dispersed, disappointed, defeated, discouraged, dejected and despairing Hebrew captives in Babylon a lesson of hope.

Ezekiel reminded the exiles, who had concluded that their entire future appeared to be blighted by the yoke of the oppressor, that as certainly as God had restored life to those dead skeletons he was going to deliver the Jewish people from exile, return them to their homeland and reestablish them as an entity with a unique relationship to God. Ezekiel assured the chosen people that regardless of the attitude of people toward God they would never overthrow him or thwart his purpose. Aware that God had a gracious purpose for his people, Ezekiel informed them that in his own time and manner God would eventually exercise his power in their behalf for the accomplishment of it.



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

## on mission together

### Through not-so-rosy glasses

"Due to the severe financial condition we are not going to be able to continue our monthly giving at this time. I assure you none wanted to take this action willingly. It came as a result of a must situation. As the Lord blesses, and our budget increases, we will begin giving again."

That brief letter was among my correspondence dated Sept. 11.

On the day before I had heard of action taken in one of our larger churches to reduce their Cooperative Program by 5% for next year. Other

commitments and indebtedness were the primary factors I was told.

Early last week I requested a printout of this year's top 250 KBC churches in Cooperative Program giving. While it was encouraging to reflect upon the number of those churches which had increased CP giving this past year it appeared that a large number also decreased their CP giving.

On Oct. 3 Western Recorder will print a listing of all Kentucky Baptist churches which contributed through the Cooperative Program. The listing will reflect both this and the prior year.

The bottom line is that Kentucky Baptist churches contributed 2.6% or \$424,150 more than the previous year. That was accomplished by a record-setting August of \$1,904,072. Without that the picture would have been even more serious. Included in the year's total was \$116,000 received in unanticipated bequests. This translates into a 1.9% actual growth in Cooperative Program receipts.

Only 98.5% of the budget was achieved. The new budget year, which began Sept. 1, requires a 4% increase. This means that Kentucky Baptists must increase our giving by 5.5% (4% plus 1.5% unmet this past year) to achieve budget this year. Recognizing the unlikelihood of such growth, given the continuing downward trend in CP giving, the business and finance committee has wisely recommended to the executive board that the 1990-91 budget be increased by only 1%.

This will mean that for the fourth consecutive year there can be no increases in executive board program budgets.

In effect, the Kentucky Baptist Convention has come to a place similar to the two churches mentioned above. Simply but frankly put: **Kentucky Baptists can no longer pay for all of our present commitments.**

The task of cutting a new pattern to fit our financial reality is upon us. We must live within our means.

# Hymns Baptists sing

**William J. Reynolds is professor of church music, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex. He was editor of the *Baptist Hymnal*, 1975 edition, and former secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Music Department.**



William J. Reynolds

## “Jesus is Lord of All”

In the summer of 1966 Southern Baptist youth from many states gathered at Glorieta (N. M.) for the youth conference. Theme for the week was “Jesus is Lord.”

LeRoy McClard, state music director for the Illinois State Baptist Association, was invited to be music director for the youth conference. In planning the music for the Glorieta conference he was concerned that there was no appropriate hymn to support the conference theme.

When the week was over he returned to his home in Carterville, Ill. and with this concern in his heart and the spirit of the conference evident in his life he wrote both words and music for “Jesus is Lord of All.”

In relating how the hymn was written McClard recalled that the doctrine of the Lordship of Christ first became a reality to him in 1948 in a New Testament class at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., taught by Jack MacGorman. This made a tremendous impression on his heart and life.

For almost a quarter century McClard has served in the Sunday School Board's Church Music Department and has had a significant role in guiding and developing Southern Baptists' church music program. The hymn written to fill a perceived void is sung frequently by our congregations as we strive to make Jesus Lord.

## “I Love Thy Kingdom Lord”

By any measure Timothy Dwight was an extraordinary man. Grandson of Jonathan Edwards, he could read the Bible at the age of four and at 13 he enrolled in Yale College.

Ordained to the Congregational ministry he was a chaplain in the Continental Army. A close friend of George Washington, Dwight became one of the most influential intellectual leaders during the first decades of the new republic of the United States.

When he was elected president of Yale College only five students among the student body were Christians. His fervent preaching in chapel brought about a remarkable spiritual awakening that changed the school and spread to other educational institutions in New England.

“I Love Thy Kingdom Lord” was written in 1801 and is the earliest American hymn still sung in our churches today. Dwight uses the words kingdom, house, church and Zion, all referring to the same thing—God's people, the church.

In the final stanza Dwight expresses his joy in the church's “heavenly ways,” the simple rites of the church that he served. When we sing the hymn we sing unashamedly of our love and admiration for the church which Jesus saved “with his own precious blood.”

## “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

In 1887 Anthony J. Showalter, a young preacher and singing school teacher, was conducting a revival meeting in Hartselle, Ala. During the meeting Showalter learned that two men who had been on one of the singing schools had lost their lives.

In his desire to send a comforting word he remembered the biblical promise “The eternal God is thy refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms” (Deut. 33:27). In his mind the simple lines of the refrain and the melody took shape. Unable to complete the stanzas he wrote to his friend Elisha A. Hoffman and asked him to write them.

Several weeks later while Showalter was in a revival meeting at the Pine Long Methodist Church in Bartow County, northwest Georgia, Hoffman's letter with the stanzas arrived.

That evening in the revival service Showalter sang the completed hymn for the first time and a short time later he printed the song in one of his books.

Showalter lived in Dalton, Ga. and established a successful music publishing company there. A leading member of First Presbyterian Church, Dalton, he worked for many years as music director.

## “Speak to My Heart Lord Jesus”

Ideas for writing new songs came to B. B. McKinney in many ways. Words, phrases and complete sentences from sermons and conversations and from reading captured his interest.

McKinney left no clue as to what moment of inspiration precipitated the writing of “Speak to My Heart Lord Jesus,” which was written in Ft. Worth, Tex., in 1927.

Since 1919 he had been a member of the faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he taught music. He and his wife Leila and their two sons lived on the west side of the campus, south of downtown Ft. Worth.

His creative song writing began about 1916 during his student days at Southwestern. The 1920s were very productive years for McKinney for during the decade he wrote almost 50 gospel songs. Song writing was an enjoyable venture for him; he found great pleasure in writing songs of praise to God and songs that sing of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In 1925 McKinney began leading the music at Oklahoma Baptists' Falls Creek Assembly located in the Arbuckle Mountains in southern Oklahoma. He was dearly loved by Oklahoma Baptists, and continued in his leadership role until 1947.

One of the earliest singings of “Speak to My Heart Lord Jesus” occurred at Falls Creek and it has proven to be one of B. B. McKinney's most frequently sung songs.

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## western recorder

*All you wanted in a state paper*

Wednesday, September 24, 1989

Spaghetti/Meat Sauce  
Tossed Salad with  
Thousand Island Dressing  
French Bread  
Milk    Tea    Coffee

**SUNDAY REPORT**

SUNDAY, September 24

Sunday School.....

Budget.....

.....

... If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine Heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

—Romans 10:9

**Oklahomans assaulted during mission trip**

Blindfolded and beaten in Zambia, two Oklahoma Baptists learned the difference between easy faith and that tested by fire.

Don Stiver and Eddie...

**Remember in Prayer**

- Home Patients, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hurst, Bobby
- Melva Taylor, J. W. Hurst, Bobby
- Ruffman, BYW
- Mary Preston, Sallie Freeman,
- Roger and Betty
- Holly Lindsey, Sylvia
- Tom
- Holly Huffman,
- Gabriel Pettit,
- Elizabeth Logue, Ray
- Joe Young, Ruby
- Mrs. Shely, Ruby
- McRay,
- DeFoor
- Henry
- Coffey,
- Joanne K