

Ashland's Bill Messer to lead Kentucky Baptists while 'Here's Hope' becomes year long priority

How many ways can you say *serenity*?

For as many years as most messengers can remember the post convention assessment of Kentucky Baptists' annual meetings has generally been termed *tranquil, peaceful, calm, devoid of issues, harmonious, sweet-spirited, non-controversial love feasts*. The 152nd annual session last week at Frankfort was all of the above.

"It is almost mind boggling," said one long time convention observer. "We hardly disagree on *anything*. If it could only be so in our Southern Baptist Convention!"

His sentiments might be echoed by the 1416 messengers and 690 visitors at Frankfort.

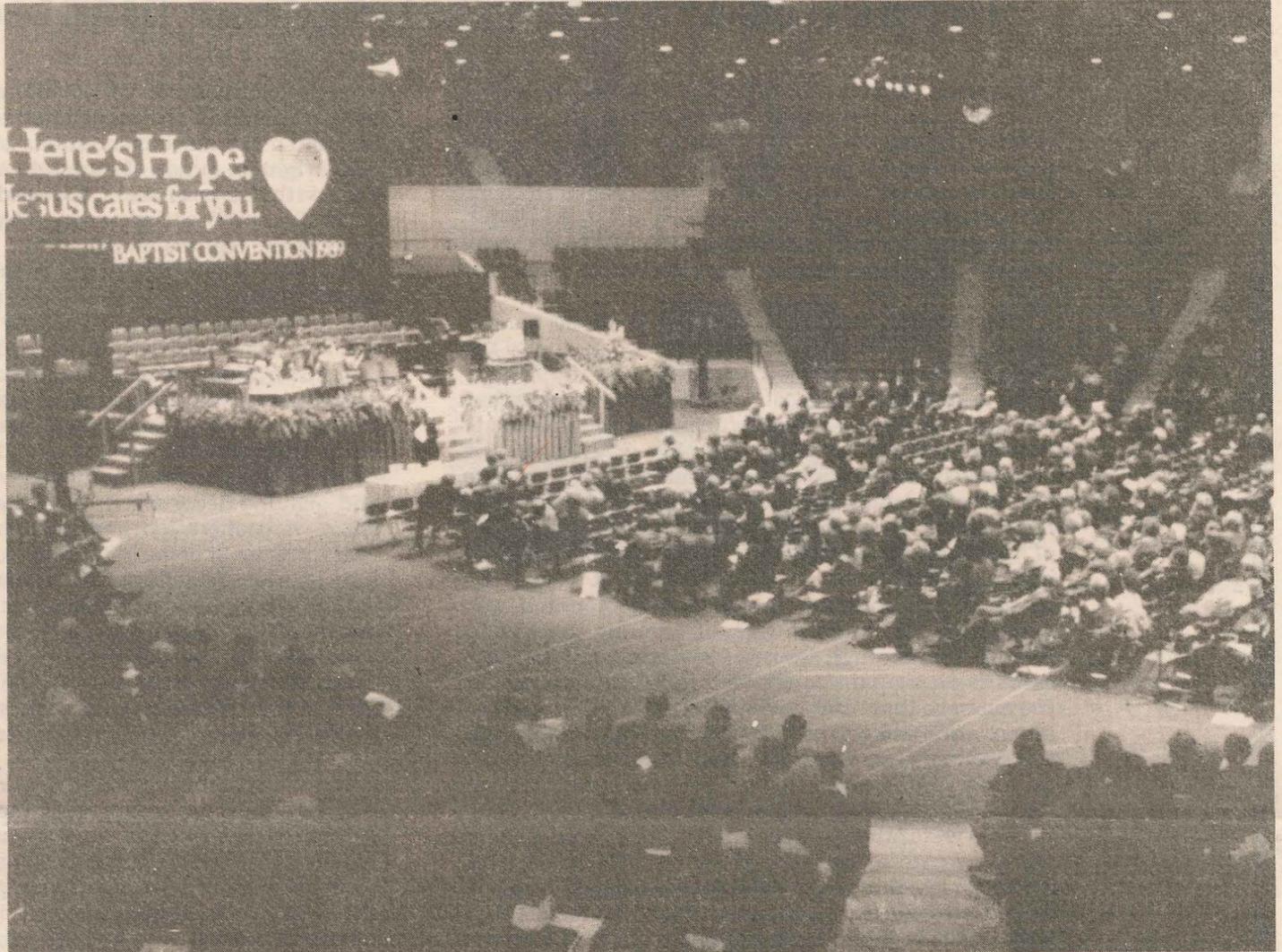
If there was any disappointment last week it may have been a slightly lower messenger turnout than usual, particularly in light of the 6800-seat hall in which they met. While Franklin Association Baptists were considered gracious hosts who went out of their way to meet every request their guests made, Kentucky Baptists may have appeared comparatively fewer in Farnham Dudgeon Civic Center than Southern Baptists meeting in the 95,000-seat New Orleans (La.) Superdome.

This was the state body's first experience outside the walls of a church. Many clearly appreciated the fact they could see and hear what was happening and do it together for the first time in years. Others felt some fellowship opportunities were diminished in the cavernous hall.

The convention resolved to hold its 1992 session in a church setting. It had previously voted to return to churches for 1990 and 1991 gatherings.

The body meets Nov. 13-14, 1990 at Paducah's First Baptist Church; Nov. 12-13, 1991 at Lexington's Immanuel Baptist Church; and Nov. 10-11, 1992 at Louisville's St. Matthews Baptist Church.

Only two persons were nominated for the presidency of the state convention in Frankfort. Bill Messer, pastor of First



Baptist Church, Ashland, handily defeated Terry Norris, an Owensboro layman.

Other officers elected: Don Short, Eddyville evangelist, first vice president; Earl S. Bell, bivocational pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Frankfort, second vice president; and the reelections of Louisville retired denominational servants Doris B. Yeiser and G. Allen West as secretary and assistant secretary respectively.

With a 1990 Southern Baptist simultaneous revival crusade theme of "Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you" Kentucky Baptists launched a year long evangelistic effort last week to reach the commonwealth for Jesus Christ. The focus of the emphasis culminates with evangelistic crusades in hundreds of local congregations across the state during March and April of next year.

The convention adopted a \$20,674,462 budget for 1990-91 which proposes a one percent increase over the current operating budget. The projected plan calls for an operational goal of \$17,894,462, a Bold Mission challenge section of \$1.3 million, plus \$1,480,000 in estimated additional income.

SBC causes will receive 38.75% of the 1990-91 budget and KBC causes receive the remainder. This is the same percentage division in the current year. If the challenge section is reached 57.21% of that \$1.3 million will be distributed to SBC causes.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C., received

a resounding endorsement by Kentucky Baptists last week in Frankfort. At issue was the motion of a BJCPA study committee appointed one year ago to determine the convention's support for the troubled agency which has been partially defunded by the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

Reporting for the committee was chairman J. Howard Cobble, pastor of Elizabethtown's Severns Valley Baptist Church. Others on the committee were Ted Sisk, Lexington; Eugene Siler, Williamsburg; David Nelson, Owensboro; Don R. Mathis, Corbin; Eldred M. Taylor, Louisville; convention president James E. Jones, Campbellsville; and KBC executive secretary-treasurer William W. Marshall, Middletown.

A substitute motion to table the issue was overwhelmingly defeated by the messengers as was an amendment to delete a reference to direct funding by the KBC. The original motion was adopted on a standing vote estimated at 9-1.

The motion commends the BJCPA; urges the agency to be responsive to SBC church and state expressions; recommends that Cooperative Program funds not be designated to the BJCPA; offers to channel such designated funds; agrees to consider direct funding to the BJCPA and other options in the future; and expresses to the SBC the state convention's concern over BJCPA defunding.

The resolutions committee appointed for the Frankfort convention was seemingly caught off guard. Anticipating no resolutions after a messenger requested that the convention concentrate on other matters, the panel was surprised by the introduction of five items. Four

were handled with dispatch but a fifth—on abortion—could not be resolved until the convention's final morning when only a handful of messengers remained.

A motion to enlarge the 160-member executive board with eight additional at-large representatives was presented for an initial reading. It will be discussed and voted upon by messengers in 1990.

A motion to study the implications of living wills (involving medical prearrangements for comatose patients) was referred to the public affairs committee without opposition.

The convention selected C. C. Brasher Jr., pastor of Benton's Briensburg Baptist Church, to preach its annual sermon next year. Two alternates were named: John Wallace, retired pastor of Lexington's Parkway Baptist Church, and Malcolm G. Lunceford, pastor of Frankfort's Immanuel Baptist Church.

The group heard addresses from six speakers, including a last minute substitute—David D'Amico, Billy Graham professor of evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville—when Frederick D. Haynes III, pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex., was stricken ill.

Other speakers: James E. Jones, pastor, Campbellsville (Ky.) Baptist Church; Larry L. Lewis, president, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga.; Henry B. Huff, layman, Louisville; W. Morgan Patterson, president, Georgetown (Ky.) College; and John R. Cheyne, director, Human Needs Department, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

James H. Cox

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in the interim

Frankfort 1989: A meeting that planted a crop

The pastor was leaving the Civic Center, saying his good-bys, and buttoning his coat against the cold wind. A fellow walker said to him, "Well, what did you think about it this year? What did we do up here?" And the answer, simple and profound at once, was, "If you ask me, we put the seed corn out in the field." No image of the 1989 convention of Kentucky Baptists is likely to be more lasting than this simple conversation.

"Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you." From the banner above the podium to the theme of every session to the urgency of reports to the conversation in the restaurants and lobbies the most significant theme was that of the simultaneous revival efforts Kentucky Baptists have undertaken for 1990. The task of evangelizing our state is an omnipresent task but there come those periods of rededication and commitment to this essential mission. We are living in one of those crucial times of emphasis on evangelism. The Frankfort meeting will be remembered as the gathering at which the whole of our energies, resources and planning was focused on the timeless task of winning the lost to faith in God through Jesus the saviour. Only the most careless participant could have failed to have gotten the message that "Here's Hope" is on the front burner of our work and will stay on the front burner through the coming year. Kentucky Baptists are together in this task and in Frankfort the seed corn was put out for a great harvest in the months ahead.

There were other concerns in Frankfort, one of them being, "What do you think of the crowd?" Or, "Where is everybody this year?" The spacious meeting place helped create a first impression that attendance was lower than in other years but the truth is the attendance was about normal. Final messenger registration was announced as 1416. In Owensboro last year there were 1502 messengers; in Louisville in 1987 we registered 1409; in Elizabethtown in 1986 the total was 1731; in Lexington in 1985 it was 1437; and in Louisville in 1984 we recorded 1412 messengers. About the only conclusion that can be drawn is that Frankfort was just about on target for an average convention. The people of the Franklin Association did everything that could be expected and even more. Many messengers found this convention to be the most convenient setting provided for them in many many years. True, lots of folks missed the church setting, but the arrangements in Frankfort get the highest marks that can be given.

The downward trend in Cooperative Program receipts got attention, deservedly so. This is the great shadow that fell across the deliberations and conversations. We are in the midst of a real and threatening

crisis, one brought on by a combination of forces. The appointment of a special committee to study the problem and make recommendations is proof that the best and brightest minds of our state are going to help us deal with the problem. J. Howard Cobble, chairman of this committee, ought to be prayed for and encouraged in the months ahead.

The officers elected by the messengers—a full time pastor, a full time evangelist and a bivocational pastor—reflect the unity of Kentucky Baptists. Bill Messer, Don Short and Earl Bell will prove to be a capable and inspirational team for the year of "Here's Hope." The return of the resolutions after a few years' absence was also welcome. Kentucky Baptists have many concerns and opinions. The presentation and debate on these resolutions was conducted with Christian grace and genuine decorum. In fact, there was an obvious spirit of cooperation and good humor on virtually every matter to come before the convention. The motion of Alan Winchester to review the standards by which the number of messengers from each church are qualified was approved by the messengers by a wide margin. The committee appointed by president James E. Jones (Eldred Taylor, Frank Dorris, Gene Siler, Robert White and Bob Jones) is one that should evoke the trust of all Kentucky Baptists.

Emotional moments? There were several, but none so moving as the response of the convention to the sermon of Henry Huff, able layman from Louisville, which rang the bell of the primacy of laity as clearly as it had ever been stated. The appearance of retiring Bill Rogers also moved our collective spirits. He spoke of his own grief process in leaving his work but we went through grief as well as he stood before us for the last time as a servant of Kentucky Baptists. He has stood for Christian compassion, concern and judgment in more ways than can be counted, and he is genuinely loved by his fellow Baptists.

There are many many other themes to be remembered from these days together: the strength in Bill Marshall's voice as he called us to commitment; the unifying and pastoral leadership of a great president, James Jones; the gentle reminder of the significance of education from Morgan Patterson. There was an abundance of wheat and not much chaff. And there was, for us at Western Recorder, a touch of sadness because Jack Sanford was not there.

The seed corn was put out, all right. Now comes the work under the Lord of the harvest. And Frankfort 1989 was the place where it started. Kentucky Baptists are on track, unified and working.

Richard W. Bridges

western recorder

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Bill D. Whittaker
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clear creek chronicle

Thanksgiving testimonies

Nov. 1 was student testimony day in chapel. May these spontaneous testimonies deepen your Thanksgiving experience.

"I went home last weekend and the Lord made everything better than I ever thought it could be. I got to see my girlfriend and had the privilege of helping her with some spiritual problems. Our church was in revival and I stayed through Sunday night. I was dead tired Monday morning because of the all night drive. The church gave me a check—praise God, the Lord provides." Matt Underwood, freshman, Decatur, Ill.

"My son was born with bowed legs because he was crowded in the womb. He was finally able to see a specialist and I prayed for God to take care of the problem. My son now wears a brace only at night. God took care of it." Jim Whaley, junior, Florence, Ky.

"I praise the Lord for coming through this wonderful time of mid-term exams. A week before they started my mom was having heart problems. I was really down emotionally. I took it to the Lord and put it in his hands and received peace about her need. Last night mother called and she is doing really well. I have been able to go through mid-terms with these gracious professors—continue to be gracious please. The Lord answers prayer!" Randy Gaskey, junior, Marion, Ind.

"Thank God for allowing me to be here. He's brought me a long way. We've got six children. Ten years ago one of them was told she would not get off the operating table because of cancer. She just turned 19. I had told God I could do it. Things were like I wanted, a brand new home and a 4-wheel drive truck, but it wasn't what God wanted. He loved me and never left me. I thank God for the campus family. They have cooked for us and done so many things after our daughter's accident. I know Bro. Oldham has been hard on me about my English but I praise God because when I leave I will take my Jesus to the world and I want them to understand me. I don't want them to look at me and say, 'He can't even speak; how is he going to tell me about Jesus?' I am so thankful for Jesus." Charles Dixon, freshman, White Plains, Ky.

Messengers hear a variety of topics from Frankfort convention speakers

A layman and three denominational executives delivered major addresses to the Kentucky Baptist Convention last week at Frankfort.

In his message Louisville attorney **Henry B. Huff** observed that he was the first layman in the KBC's 152-year history asked to preach the convention sermon. He suggested that the world will not be saved by the professional minister, by a hierarchy "that some wish to establish" nor by everyone "teaching the same thing."

The world will only be saved, according to Huff, by men and women who call themselves Christian "passing on to their neighbor what they believe and what they have experienced and why."

Huff, a Sunday school teacher at Louisville's Crescent Hill Baptist Church and former KBC president (1975-76), went on to say: "In the expressed interest of doing a better job and in the weakness of our commitment, we the laity are more and more frequently endorsing a 'professional' ministerial staff and are failing to do those things we have been called to do." But he cautioned, "The primary responsibility of God's ministry in the world is the responsibility of the laity and *not* the clergy."

Huff noted that in 1988 the Southern Baptist Convention approved a resolution stating that the pastor is the authoritative head of the church.

"If this be true," he admonished, "then of course the layman has only the responsibility of listening to the pastor and contributing to his support. The layman is not under conviction to witness if someone else is the head."

He explained that the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer allows no priest between us and God, and at the same time requires each Christian to be accountable for his own ministry. "Each of us," said Huff, "will answer before God what we have done while we were here to fulfill God's purposes."

"I think I hear God calling, 'Are you willing to lay hold of that for which I have laid hold of you?'" John Cheyne offered Kentucky Baptists last week at Frankfort.

"Have you got enough faith to let go of whatever you are holding onto that keeps you from laying hold of God's purpose at this hour? May God help us to care if we believe Jesus cares," Cheyne, the director of the Foreign Mission Board's Human Needs Department, Richmond, Va., said as he concluded his missions appeal.

Cheyne had spoken on a theme of caring. He suggested that God seemed "partial" to Southern Baptists and Cheyne had often asked himself, "Why?"

He continued in this vein: "Why has God blessed us so much? Why has he blessed our churches in such an abundant way so that—across the face of our nation—there are churches, if not Southern Baptist, at least churches on almost every corner of the major cities in terms of an opportunity for people to come and hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Does God care?" Cheyne asked.



Huff



Cheyne



Patterson



Lewis

"And if he cares, how does he want to manifest that care to our world?"

Then he responded: "Why has God laid hold of Southern Baptists? Do you know what I believe? I believe that we stand on the precipice of the greatest revival awakening that this world has ever known . . . With the iron walls falling down and the bamboo curtains opening up and opportunities to get into countries where we never have before, and seeing Islam people and communists and others coming to the Lord Jesus Christ—I believe this is our day.

"I also believe," Cheyne went on, "that the time is terribly short. I think he (God) has laid hold of us at this particular hour simply because of the awful alternative."

Cheyne continued: "You, like me, stand at a crossroads. There are people all around our world who right now this very moment are crying out, 'You've got to come, you've got to come, you've got to come because we're dying.' And they are going to a devil's hell."

Morgan Patterson, president of Georgetown (Ky.) College, addressed convention participants on the subject "What Does It Mean to be Educated?" He offered 10 answers to the question:

1. To understand what it means to be a human being, including knowing the hopes and aspirations of mankind, what pain and suffering are, the yearning to be free and self governing, our limitations and mortality and how to get along with others.

2. To know yourself—to be introspective and self examining; to search your own mind and motives and know your own strengths and weaknesses.

3. To have a sense of history and feel an indebtedness to the past and to those who lived there; to know we are a part of the stream of life and have some idea where and how we fit in; to take up tasks others began, building on foundations others have laid.

4. To be aware of the importance of language and employ it with accuracy; to know the idioms and colloquialisms of our mother tongue and use them with telling effect at the proper time and in the proper manner.

5. To be able to appreciate the best which man's mind and hands have

created; to have our souls stirred and our minds stimulated by the best of poetry, prose, music, art.

6. To realize how *little* we know and how much there is to learn; to accept the unrelenting fact and challenge that learning is a lifelong endeavor, and much pleasure and satisfaction are derived from the effort itself.

7. To know there are a lot of "over-rated pleasures and underrated treasures" in life, and to be able to tell which is which. Such discriminating judgment is the result of reading, observing, maturing and just living.

8. To appreciate the qualities of duty, honor, integrity, self discipline, conscientiousness, love, considerateness, respect for others, a brotherly spirit, honesty, thrift and to cultivate them in ourselves. Furthermore, to be educated in 1989 means to be aware of the earth's limited resources and be determined to take proper care of them for our future use and our children's use.

9. To be aware of the impact which religious faith has had on mankind and how it has influenced Western civilization and American culture; also, to have a personal sense of spiritual reality and an acquaintance with the realm of the spirit.

10. To be sensitive to the feelings and concerns and hurts of others—to be gracious and kind and helpful to others, to avoid cutting remarks and harmful gossip.

Summarizing, Patterson concluded, "To be really educated is to want to be like Jesus Christ—a loving Friend who cares for all and desires that none should perish but that all should have the gift of eternal life."

The Home Mission Board's president, Larry L. Lewis, of Atlanta, Ga., spoke to Kentucky Baptists last week on "Our Great Commission." He chose Matt. 28:18-20 as his text.

"We all exist for the same purpose," said Lewis, "to fulfill our Lord's commission—to see to it that this gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, this good news unto salvation, is taught and shared with every nation and every creature."

Lewis went on: "This (sharing the gospel) . . . is our business, our primary business, our priority business and when you come right down to it, no other business we are in will have any significance. Only that which we have done for God will last.

"Jesus is saying, 'Don't allow anybody to be born, live and die and not have heard the gospel—not have had this gospel forcefully, persuasively, clearly presented to him to the end that he may be saved.' Any one of them, no matter how up and out or down and out, no matter what race or background, any one of them isn't precious enough to God that he wouldn't have given his son to die just for that one. Don't let us live and not hear that good news," he admonished.

"The purpose of the church is to get people saved and to get saved people getting people saved," Lewis concluded. "It is 'discipling' people, then getting those we have disciplined trained and equipped to go into the community to evangelize, baptize, organize and congregationalize."

James H. Cox



Curtis C. Mooney
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homes for children

If you were in my place you'd be scared too

Those are the words of our four-year-old shared with his mother this past week as she was putting him to bed for the umpteenth time. The wind outside was blowing hard and he was having trouble going to sleep.

The idea of being in someone else's place hit home to me. I remember all the times I have thought and even said, "If I was that person, I would sure do it this way." It is amazing how clear directions are when we are not faced with having to personally make a decision.

I am the oldest of four and SuEllen and I were the last of the four to have children. Before Andrea and Jason came, I can remember "occasionally" pointing out ways in which my brothers and sisters could do a better job of parenting. After all, I had had special training and worked with children every day. As you can imagine, I have come to regret my occasional remarks. I am always hearing, "I thought your children would never do something like that."

Now they are doing it to tease me and give me a dose of my own medicine, but there is a tremendous lesson in realizing how easy it is to give advice on problems that do not impact us personally.

The skills of a good counselor are such that they are far more than advice givers. They must be able to help a person sort through the problem and look at the implications of various courses of actions. They must then allow the individual to take the course of action which he or she believes is best.

Most of us want to take the quick way out and give advice or tell someone what to do. But in the long run the individual with the problem is not accepting the responsibility for his own actions but is simply letting someone else make decisions for him.

It is only as we face problems and learn to deal with them ourselves that we truly grow.

Many of us give great advice until we are faced with the same difficult problems ourselves. We all need to learn to give a lot less advice and to try to simply be there for each other when the strong winds blow.

Turning giving slump around to be aim of state convention president Messer

Bill Messer believes a background of "dire poverty" has shaped his ministry and how he responds to those in need, whether the need is spiritual or physical.

"Growing up in poverty has given me the ability to identify with hurting people," mused Messer, elected convention president last week in Frankfort.

"There may be other things we're enslaved to. It may be an inferiority complex or low self esteem. I've had to do battle with those and still do."

At 44 Messer, pastor of First Church, Ashland, for almost seven years said he can feel as at ease with the president of Ashland Oil as with "a person off the street coming in for food vouchers."

Messer is credited as the guiding force behind Shelter of Hope, a non profit corporation providing six apartments for temporary housing for the homeless. He is presently on the board of directors of the two-year-old program.

"We've had people who've been living in their cars or who had been evicted from apartments after they lost jobs," he noted. He told of one woman with two children who stayed in the program's apartment shelter two months before finding a job. "She just needed a break," he explained.

The corporation, funded by the city of Ashland, offers regular counseling about resources, permanent housing and health. Shelter of Hope's director is a member of Messer's church in downtown Ashland.

Messer grew up with seven brothers and sisters in the "last house in the holler" between Barbourville and Pineville. His father was a mostly unemployed seasonal farm worker who never had formal schooling.

A mission-minded member of First Church, Barbourville—Mike Pope—who introduced a change in Messer's life that was to be revolutionary. Messer relates that he was "trucked in" to Sunday school on Pope's flatbed truck in a pre-bus ministry venture.

Messer became a Christian at age 14 when the mission pastor from nearby Turkey Creek visited him. At 16, he knew the Lord was calling him to ministry.

Herman D. Moore, his pastor, nurtured him in his newfound faith, Messer commented. Moore's wife Alta was Messer's Sunday school teacher and she "affirmed me and challenged me," he recalls.

He also remembers that he first saw electric lights at the Moore house. "They kept telling me to turn out the light and I didn't know how."

At Moore's suggestion Messer attended Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, while still a student at Knox County High. He attended Cumberland College, Williamsburg, on a track scholarship.

Probably as a result of his background Messer feels his strengths are in pastoral care, in making people feel at ease. "I'm comfortable with them; I can relate to them," he vows. At the 1600-member Ashland church he pastors there are Ashland Oil executives and school officials among the largely white collar congregation. Messer has learned to minister to people who are "a whole lot different than what I was."

During his tenure the church has begun a mission in Boyd County, about five miles away. Averaging about 60 in a rented four plex and new building, the



Ashland's Bill Messer beams following his election as Kentucky Baptists' new president. He will serve one year.

mission has been able to do some innovative things, Messer noted.

It's a GED training site as well as a location for after school Big A Bible Club programs and has reached out to unemployed persons as well as former prisoners. "We can do things there we cannot do at Ashland, basically a Sunday morning downtown church," Messer elaborated.

When Messer served Sand Spring Church in Lawrenceburg before Ashland, he led the church to double its Cooperative Program giving. For each of five years the church increased its giving by 20 percent over the previous year.

Indeed, Messer hopes to be remembered as the KBC president that turns the state's Cooperative Program giving slump around.

"I'd like to see this (decline) bottom out," he mused. "I'd love to turn this around and stop this downward trend."

He'll try to do it by traveling and communicating with people, he said. "I want to be open with people and share with them," he explained.

The "Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you" simultaneous revivals will get under way during his presidential tenure and Messer said he's excited about them.

"When we have simultaneous revivals we have a good year in baptisms and growth," he noted. Such an effort unites the convention and brings back the spirit of the 1950s when "A million more in '54" was on many lips. "That's where I came in," he said.

"If numbers represent hurting people and needy people they're very important," he emphasized.

Another goal for this year is to "include persons who may have been overlooked" in the life of the state convention. Messer said he'll try to identify "capable people" who may be serving in "isolated places" by traveling and listening, then recommending them to leadership roles.

Being president during mission ventures such as the Kentucky-Brazil and Utah-Idaho linkups will be a special joy as well, he said. He's no stranger to missions ventures. He's been a summer missionary to Trinidad and spent a month in Argentina in 1983. He went to Nova Scotia in 1987 for a Home Mission Board evangelism emphasis. Members of his Ashland church have gone to Hyden and Williamsburg on construction teams as well as to Pennsylvania and Guatemala.

Messer has been described as a "traditional moderate" and says that label doesn't offend him.

"I believe in the fundamentals of the Christian faith," he exclaimed. "I believe the Bible is divinely inspired, that Jesus is the only savior of mankind, in the virgin birth and in the second return of Christ."

"Where I'm flexible is on the interpretation of scripture," he continued. "I believe in that old slogan: *In essentials unity, in non-essentials diversity, and in all things love.*"

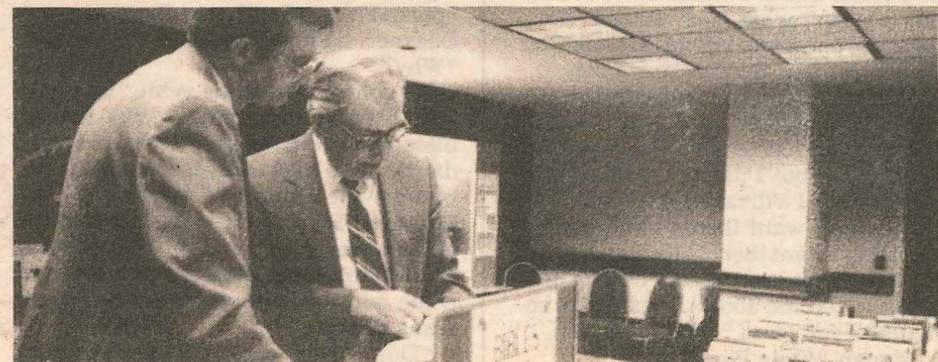
Messer met his wife, Sharon Kilgore Messer, while both attended Cumberland. They married in 1967. He received his ThM degree from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary in 1972. His first church after graduating from seminary was First, Loyall, in Harlan County.

The couple has three children: Rebecca, a freshman at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., on a track scholarship; Michael, a high school sophomore who runs track; and Rachael, a high school freshman who also runs track.

"And I didn't force them into it," maintains Messer, who runs the streets of downtown Ashland four or five mornings a week now "not for competition but for my health."

Last year Messer was president of the state Pastor's Conference. He has also been on the KBC executive board, chairing the missions and administrative committees. He has been a member of the KBC's committee on committees and committee on nominations. He served 12 years on the Oneida (Ky.) Baptist Institute board and is currently a member of the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children board.

Suzanne Darland



At the book store: Vestal Meece (l), Rockcastle Co.; C. E. Hansford, Somerset.



The Jones boys, Bob (l) and Jim, and Jim's wife talk. Bob directs the Direct Missions Department; Jim, of Campbellsville, presided at the KBC.

'Faithcare' in KBREA spotlight; inviting, nurturing are precepts

"Faithcare" as a new perspective of doing Christian education was the center of the Kentucky Baptist Religious Educators' Association meeting in Frankfort.

Sixty-eight persons attended the Nov. 13 meeting during pre-convention activities. Age group conferences were led by Kentucky ministers of education: Anne Smith, Highland Baptist Church, Louisville, preschool/children; Jeff Story, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, youth; Nenette Measels, First Baptist Church, Middlesboro, young/median adults; Jim Cobban, Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, senior adults.

New officers elected include Mike Harmon, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Princeton, president; Ed Pavy, minister of education and youth, Edgewood Baptist Church, Nicholasville, president elect; Jo Garnett, minister of education, Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, Danville, secretary-treasurer.

Dan Aleshire, professor of psychology

Messer, Short, Bell to serve state Baptists

Kentucky Baptists last week elected an east state minister as president of their convention for 1989-90.

Bill Messer, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ashland, defeated Owensboro dentist Terry Norris in a two-man contest for the state's highest elected office. Messer received 657 ballots (74%) to Norris' 230.

Don Short, a Kuttawa evangelist, was elected over two others as the convention's first vice president. He defeated Earl S. Bell, bivocational pastor of Frankfort's Calvary Baptist Church, 315 to 242. Earlier, Robert Kersey, retired associate pastor of Paducah's First Baptist Church, was eliminated in that contest.

When a messenger moved that Bell be elected second vice president, Bell was chosen without opposition.

Re-elected without opposition were Doris B. Yeiser as convention secretary and G. Allen West as assistant secretary. Both are from Louisville. Miss Yeiser is a retired KBC staff member and part time convention archivist. West is a retired minister and former executive director of Long Run Baptist Association.

Chris S. Barnett

and Christian education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, addressed the group concerning "Faithcare." Introducing his approach to Christian education, as outlined in his book *Faithcare: Reimagining Ministry, Learning and Teaching among the People of God*, he began, "This may not lead you to do your work differently; what we need is a better or fresh perspective on the work we do."

He noted two agendas for Christian educators: inviting people to faith and then nurturing them in faith for a lifetime. Placing emphasis on the latter, he challenged, "Imagine that ministry is attending to people in the contexts of faith . . . Discover people one at a time and get to know them on an individual level over long periods of time."

He suggested that faith includes thinking, feeling and doing aspects and that Christian educators should minister in a way that embraces all of faith.

"Imagine learning as an act of spiritual devotion and growth," he continued, contending that teaching and learning take place in all aspects of church life—the congregation, missions education, discipleship training and Sunday school.

"Faithcare' is a perception, not a program," Aleshire concluded. "But the program is the delivery system. We need programs to care for individuals."

Lawanda Smith



Campus ministers and youth workers visit awhile at the BSU booth.

Kentucky pastors exhorted to deal with anger, calling

The opening moments of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Pastor's Conference showed that church members are not the only "backrow Baptists." After the opening music, the conference moderator had to encourage the pastors and their spouses to move from the outer perimeter of the civic center and fill the vacant sea of chairs on the floor in front of the podium.

Attendance at the initial afternoon session was low. However, after a dinner recess, as time for the election of officers neared, the crowd grew steadily.

When conference president Bill Messer called for nominations, three names were entered for the office of president. In the subsequent vote, Glenn Mollette, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pikeville, defeated Bill Day and W. B. Bingham II. Day pastors DeHaven Memorial Baptist Church, LaGrange, and Bingham is pastor of Binghamtown Baptist Church, Middlesboro.

Following the presidential election Bingham was immediately nominated and elected to the office of vice president.

Bill Bailey, pastor of Central Avenue Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, was nominated and elected to the office of secretary without opposition.

Barry Allen, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Business Division, will continue in his position as treasurer.

The election process occupied only 15 minutes of the nearly six-hour conference. The majority of the time the pastors heard a preaching, praying and singing marathon.

Five Kentucky ministers delivered messages to fellow pastors. Topics ranged from Tony Wilson's address on "Following God's Will" to Paul Godsey's words of encouragement in a testimony intitled "Never Resign on Monday." Wilson is a trivocational minister in Lexington. In addition to his duties as an accountant at Ashland Oil, he is a seminary student and assistant minister. Godsey is pastor of Burlington Baptist Church.

During the evening session Greg Earwood, pastor of First Baptist Church, Murray, mildly rebuked his peers for submitting to the temptation to "borrow and, yes, even steal" the sermons of other pastors. Earwood exhorted pastors to seek more private times and

places to adequately prepare their sermons. He suggested that such discipline would decrease the stress caused by being a "Saturday night preacher."

Other sermons were given by Paul Welch, pastor of Third Baptist Church, Owensboro; Floyd Price, pastor of Buck Grove Baptist Church, Ekron; and W. B. Bingham II, who has pastored Binghamtown Baptist Church, Middlesboro, 40 years. Bingham's message was delivered shortly after his election as conference vice president.

Music for the Pastor's Conference was performed by choirs of Lewis Lane Baptist Church, Owensboro, and First Baptist Church, Ashland.

The pastors also heard messages from two keynote speakers. Andy Lester, professor at Southern Seminary, Louisville, spoke about the emotion of anger. Lester said he was supposed to address the "nuts and bolts" of ministry. "The problem," he joked, "is that I don't know which of you are the nuts."

Lester went on to discuss how ministers should view and deal with anger. He emphasized that anger is not a sin but the way one handles anger can be. "We must not confuse destructive behavior with the emotion of anger," he said. "Every human gets angry, including the pastor."

Lester not only discussed the personal anger of pastors but also illustrated how pastors can help church members analyze and deal with their own anger.

Frank Crumpler, the other guest speaker, is pastor of Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tenn. He delivered messages intitled "Surviving Over the Long Haul" and "The Man God Uses."

Crumpler projected that three out of every five ministers will eventually leave the ministry. He spoke of the problems which pastors must overcome in order to be faithful to their callings. Acknowledging that there are those who overtly cause problems, Crumpler quoted an unnamed source saying, "Once a man becomes a deacon, he forfeits, forever, the privilege of being a divisive force in his church . . . And once a man has been ordained into the ministry, he forfeits, forever, his privilege of being a divisive force in the kingdom of God!" Both comments were met with resounding "amens."

Urging the pastors to accept responsibility for their conduct, Crumpler outlined a practical course of action. "Uphold integrity, which is an inner quality of genuineness and purity . . . Be connected to the source of power (God) in your life . . . Keep your eye on the target . . . See every problem as an opportunity . . . Do what you'll wish you had done when you look back . . . And be a source of inspiration."

Brad Bull

BEHIND THE SCENES: James H. Cox, Middletown, directed and edited this Western Recorder convention coverage issue. Writers: Brad Bull and Lawanda Smith, Middletown; Chris Barnett, Burlington; Virginia Flanagan, Campbellsville. Photographer: Suzanne Darland, Elizabethtown. Technical director: Ray Hayes, Middletown. Graphic artist: Holly Oliver, Middletown.

Committee of 12 to help Kentucky Baptists gain better perspective of financial troubles

Naming a 12-member special committee to study financial crises in the Kentucky Baptist Convention was the dominant action of the convention's executive board meeting last week in Frankfort.

The panel was called for by KBC executive secretary-treasurer William W. Marshall. He asked that it review the "disturbing results of declining percentage growth in Cooperative Program giving" and propose a plan to deal with it.

Said Marshall: "Giving to the Cooperative Program has declined so much that we can no longer provide for the family (of programs, institutions, agencies and other needs) the way we have in the past."

He reported that two executive board positions for which vacancies now exist are deliberately not being filled and that there will be others unfilled in the future. He said he plans to eliminate one or more vacant positions entirely.

"We've reached the place where all of us need to deal more intimately with a crisis before it gets out of hand," Marshall continued. He pointed out that Kentucky Baptists are not (yet) in trouble "like like some other state conventions (are)."

Marshall called upon executive board



Marshall

Cobble

chairman James E. Jones of Campbellsville to appoint the special committee to study the current status and offer recommendations for alleviating it. Jones named 10 Baptist pastors and two laywomen to the group:

J. Howard Cobble, Severns Valley Church, Elizabethtown, chairman; Don R. Mathis, Central Church, Corbin, vice chairman; Phillip D. Basinger, Hawesville; Curtis H. Warf, First Church, Richmond; Paul M. Welch, Third Church, Owensboro; Thomas S. Stokes, First Church, Whitesburg; James E. Jones, Campbellsville; James W. Haskell, Eastwood, Bowling Green; Mrs. Rebecca Clark, Hopkinsville; Mrs. Anne B. Brock, Lexington; Robert F. Browning, First Church, Somerset; A. Harold Pike, South Side Church, Covington.

Commonwealth's first lady urges: 'each one reach (uneducated) one'

The Kentucky Baptist Ministers' Wives Fellowship last week at First Baptist Church, Frankfort, centered around "memories" but the key speaker focused on visions.

Martha Wilkinson, first lady of Kentucky, addressed the group at their annual dinner concerning her role in advancing adult education.

Prior to her address Mary Roby, Memorial Baptist Church, Frankfort, led the group down the memory lane of singing as she directed tunes of years past.

New officers for the group include Carlene Green, East Baptist Church, Paducah, president; Judy Studie, Faith Baptist Church, Wickliffe, vice president; Marjorie Dukes, Lone Oak Baptist Church, Paducah, secretary-treasurer; Grace Morris, First Baptist Church, Wickliffe, program chairman; and Mitzie Wilkerson, 12th Street Baptist Church, Paducah, publicity chairman.

In her keynote address Mrs. Wilkinson used memories of childhood in rural Casey County as a springboard to campaign for her adult education vision in the commonwealth.

Abortion resolution sparks some controversy

The KBC resolutions committee presented five recommendations. Four were adopted without opposition.

The fifth, regarding abortion, urged legislators to enact restrictions on induced abortions. Mike Morris, pastor of FBC Wickliffe, called for an amendment, arguing the proposal was not reflective of the consensus of Baptists nor Kentuckians. Morris' amendment passed by eight votes.

Before the vote Steve Shoemaker, pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, introduced a substitute resolution placing greater emphasis on moral persuasion rather than legislation

"Almost half the adults in Kentucky have no high school diploma," she asserted. "Fifty-eight percent of those are 29-30 years old. There were 8500 high school dropouts last year in Kentucky. Our state has one of the highest dropout rates in the U. S. I want to see that corrected."

She emphasized the goal of adult education as training for an educated work force: "We are dealing with something other than just reading and writing."

"We have an army of volunteer tutors and students," she noted, referring to her personal crusade known as "Martha's GED Army." The graduates of our GED programs see themselves as examples. Many become volunteer tutors.

"Four hundred thousand adults in Kentucky are functionally illiterate," she concluded, noting her theme for literacy programs in the state: "Each one reach one."

The first lady challenged her audience to consider starting GED classes in their churches. And she challenged listeners to get involved in literacy programs.

Lawanda Smith

as a means of restricting abortion.

The substitute motion was defeated by a 133-83 margin. The amended resolution passed overwhelmingly.

Resolutions on integrity in evangelism; affirmation of Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College, Mayfield, marking its 40th anniversary; and appreciation to messengers, officers and host association passed without opposition.

A child care resolution, intended to limit involvement of the state in matters of church, was amended to request churches to maintain the separation as well. It carried.

Chris S. Barnett

The executive board, in other action, voted not to recommend to the convention an extension of services of former convention presidents beyond their present single year at-large terms on the board.

The board had referred a question concerning the benefits of retaining the services of ex-presidents to the convention's committee on constitution and bylaws in November 1988. Reporting to the board last week, Ray Cummins of Franklin said the committee had reviewed the involvement of former convention presidents in the KBC and SBC. He noted "they are already being called upon" for special service through formal assignments as well as speaking and training engagements. Cummins observed that the committee feels the current process is "adequate," finding "no justification" for change.

The executive board agreed unanimously.

In still further business the board ratified program assignment changes affecting five executive board departments, actions taken by its administrative committee in October.

Among the changes, the former Church Training Department has been renamed the Discipleship Training Department, coinciding with a similar department name change at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Human needs, formerly assigned to the Church Training Department, has been transferred to the Brotherhood Department.

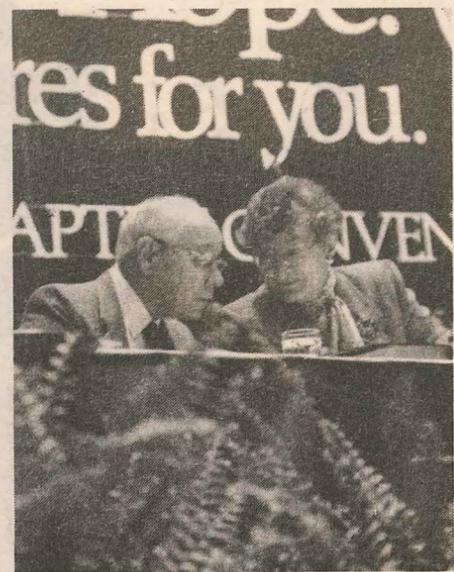
Church Recreation, formerly assigned to the Church Training Department, has been transferred to the Student Department.

Inter-faith witness, formerly assigned to the Direct Missions Department, has been transferred to the Evangelism Department.

In perhaps the most far reaching change of all the board altered one KBC division's name to give greater priority and visibility to evangelism. The Missions and Church Services Division will now be known as the Missions, Evangelism and Church Services Division. The Evangelism Department will be known as the Office for Evangelism.

The next meeting of the executive board is scheduled at the Baptist Building in Middletown Dec. 11-12.

James H. Cox



KBC assistant secretary G. Allen West checks records with secretary Doris B. Yeiser. Both were reelected last week.

Marshall cites Baptist strides, urges advance

"We must not grow weary," declared William W. Marshall, in a report to messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, praised state Baptists for work accomplished and challenged them to press on.

He pointed to financial care for retired ministers and effectiveness of the disaster relief team. He reported that Kentucky's giving through the Cooperative Program had risen in national rank from 12th to 10th.

Marshall pointed out that as a result of Kentucky's partnership with Kenya about 25,000 people were baptized. He announced the possibility of a partnership between Kentucky and the Utah-Idaho Baptist Convention.

On another theme Marshall exclaimed, "The humility of Christ should so fill us that we're too busy loving each other to make war." He said that genuinely attempting to "get along" is one more thing Kentucky Baptists have done well.

Marshall said Kentucky Baptists need to believe their gospel mission is "special and strategic." To carry out the strategy, Marshall repeated his theme of cooperation saying "togetherness has been and still is essential to God's plan." He concluded, "Our mission together is at its best when people say: 'Behold how they love one another.'"

Brad Bull

Chorale is realigned with state music staff rather than KBMA

The Kentucky Baptist Chorale will relate more closely to the convention's Church Music Department in the future as the result of action by a statewide organization last week.

Eighty-two persons attending the Kentucky Baptist Music Association at Frankfort Nov. 13 amended their constitution relating to the Kentucky Baptist Chorale.

The amendment, brought by William B. Williams of Lexington, deletes references to chorale membership requirements and uniform. It was unanimously adopted by the Music Association and further recommends that the convention's Church Music Department accept the chorale as a program of ministry. The purpose and direction of the chorale are left to department director Jim Cordell and elected chorale officers.

Music Association president Richard Ham of Richmond also announced that the association's new president will appoint a panel to review the KBMA constitution in depth.

Elected to serve the KBMA as officers for 1989-90 were William B. Williams, minister of music at Lexington's Immanuel Baptist Church, president; Larry Earhart, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Somerset, secretary-treasurer; Steve O'Neal, minister of music at Walnut Street Baptist Church, Owensboro, vice president-president elect; Louie Bailey, minister of music at Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, member at large; and Ken Martin, music professor at Campbellsville (Ky.) College, representative on the chorale committee.

Virginia Flanagan

Kentucky Baptist Convention Nov. 13-16, 1989



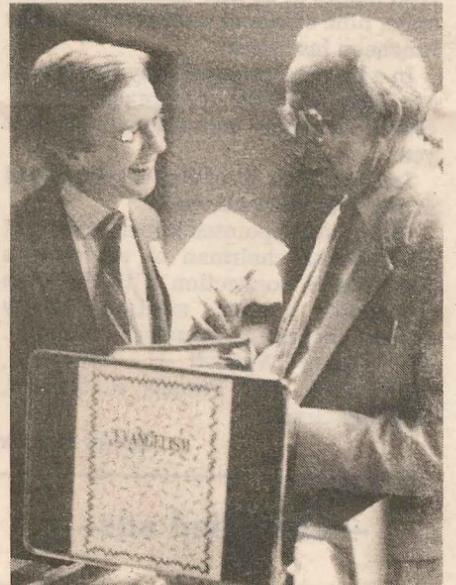
Doug Strader (l), director of the KBC's Discipleship Training Department, pauses in the exhibit room to talk with Ken and Denise Lupton of Shepherdsville.



1989-90 KBC officers (l-r): Don Short, Eddyville, first vice president; Earl S. Bell, Frankfort, second vice president; and Bill Messer, Ashland, president.



In the exhibit hall (l-r): Greg Harry, Cecilia; Don Spencer, KBC Annuity Department director; and Mack Boes, Cecilia, discuss the annuity program.



At the Baptist Book Store: Pierce Dodson (l), Franklin Association, takes a minute to exchange evangelism books with William Carter of Frankfort.



William W. Marshall, KBC executive secretary-treasurer, addresses convention messengers as James E. Jones, KBC president, looks on.



Delbert Butts (l) of Louisville talks with Bruce Wyne of Frankfort prior to the Tuesday evening session.

Annuitants termed 'gentle colleguery'

Calling Kentucky Baptist annuitants a 'gentle colleguery,' William W. Marshall described them as "gentle with each other" at a packed house luncheon last week.

The convention's executive secretary-treasurer cited a growing "awareness and sensitivity" to the benefits and needs of ministers among Kentucky Baptists.

"You and we are grateful Kentucky is one of those states with a person on its staff who is concerned about the needs of retired (church and denominational) servants," said Marshall.

Don Spencer, director of the KBC's Annuity Department, observed that there are presently 843 annuitants in the commonwealth and that their average age is 70.3 years. Of the total 193 have been state, foreign, home or associational missionaries, Spencer allowed.

He touted a third annual spring fellowship for Kentucky Baptist annuitants Apr. 17, 1990 at Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville. Spencer said program guests include Frank Schwall, senior vice president, SBC Annuity Board, Dallas, Tex.; Franklin Owen, Middletown, retired KBC executive secretary-treasurer; H. B. Kuhnle, retired minister, Lexington; and Guy C. Futral Jr., KBC minister-church relations consultant.

J. Chester Badgett of Campbellsville read names of 65 new annuitants in the state, nine of whom were present at the luncheon last week.

In a brief ceremony Randy Davenport of Campbellsville recognized 30 deceased Kentucky annuitants in the last year.

Ira McMillen Jr. of Florence presided at the Frankfort luncheon.

The group appointed Robert Kersey of Paducah as chairman of next year's luncheon in connection with the state convention annual meeting. Newly named committee members include J. Bill Jones; Wendell H. Rone Sr., Owensboro; and Francis R. Tallant, Bowling Green.

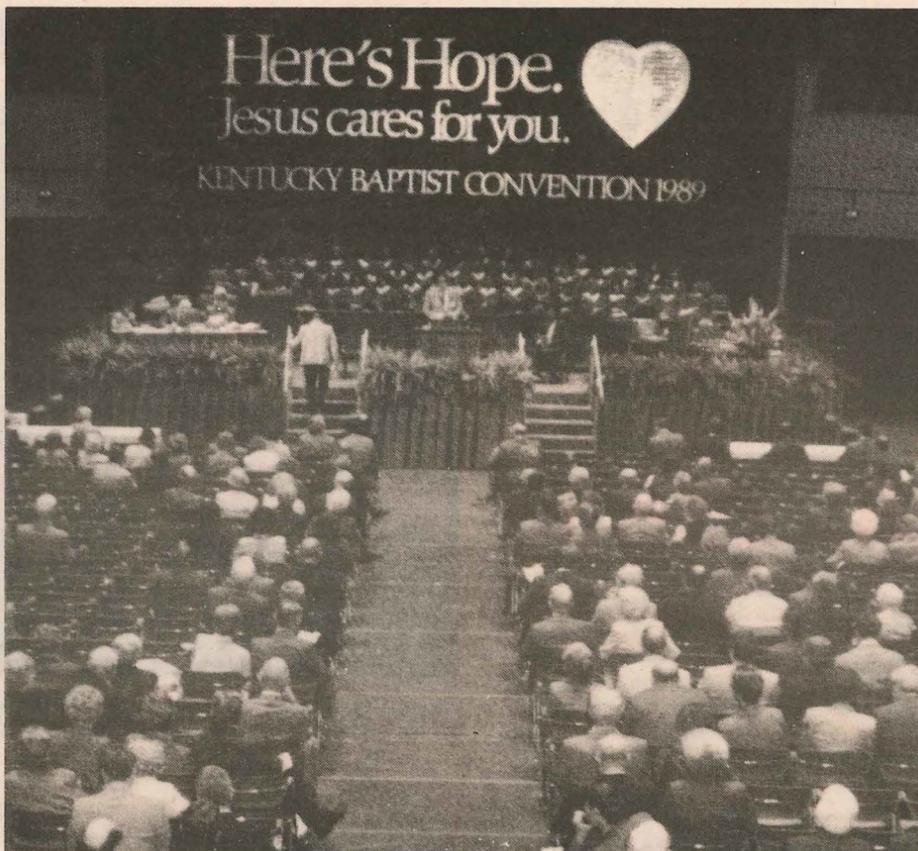
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Exhibitors took lack of space in stride

Farnham Dudgeon Civic Center, Frankfort—site of the 1989 Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Messengers were greeted by the usual registration tables. An abundance of chairs lined the civic center floor. Not exactly the familiar sight of church pews, but plenty of room. Familiar faces greeted one another with welcoming smiles and traditional Baptist handshakes.

Not bad, really. Really pretty "conventionish."

It was just that some of the usual sights were missing.

If you didn't see the signs directing you to the exhibit "hall" you might have missed some of the exhibits. No matter. It was a short walk to the hall. Just down the hall and to the left.

Ah, there they were. The usual exhibit booths. Still, things seemed a little crowded, and those sponsoring the booths noticed the congestion.

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Marita Rice, business manager for Clear Creek (Ky.) Baptist Bible College, commented, "We just don't have enough room. When people see how crowded we are, they don't stand around and talk. I think it's affected visiting to the booths."

The crowded conditions didn't bother everyone, though. Alan Coppock, director of church relations at Cumberland (Ky.) College, allowed he initially thought the arrangement was nice because it was close to the convention center. He admitted the room was a bit cramped and warm but he really didn't think the quarters had affected the number of visitors to Cumberland's exhibit.

Marc Whitt, public relations director for Georgetown (Ky.) College, added that pastors seemed to like having all the college exhibits lined up together. The cramped conditions were noted by almost everyone, but most were willing to accommodate the situation.

Beth Prassel, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, admitted she first noted the lack of space. "Other years haven't been quite this crowded," she said, but added that things weren't so bad. "We had a lot of people the first night so my reaction is more positive now. I like the carpeted floor. This arrangement seems professional."

Tim Searcy, recent Foreign Mission Board appointee to Colombia, wasn't too critical, but said more of an area to come in and talk would have been a better situation. "A larger room would be better for everybody," he admitted, noting what he called "lapover." "People standing in front of one booth may be actually dealing with another."

Yet, some of the sights still seemed to be missing.

The traditional Cooperative Program-funded exhibits lined the wall as well as the center of the room and a couple were even in the hall outside the room. But some of the usual exhibits were conspicuously absent, presumably because of limited space.

There was no room for commercial exhibits, including the Baptist Book Store, in the civic center. The store was

Women in Ministry are told that God can 'define' them

Carolyn S. Hale, dean of student life at Georgetown (Ky.) College and chairman of Women in Ministry's steering committee, presided at the fourth Women in Ministry luncheon at Immanuel Baptist Church, Frankfort.

After welcoming 62 participants, Miss. Hale named two new members of the organization's steering committee: Jean Carter, chaplain at Western Baptist Hospital, Paducah, and Nnette Measels, minister of education at First Baptist Church, Middlesboro.

Barbra Haun, Newport Baptist Church, gave a dramatic interpretation for the deaf.

Sharyn Dowd, associate professor of New Testament at Lexington (Ky.) Theological Seminary, was program speaker. Miss. Dowd told the group that "because God is the one who created us and knows us better than ourselves... [he] is the only one who can define us."

Miss. Dowd also said, "To be a child of God is to live out what God says I am."
Virginia Flanagan

assigned to a nearby hotel.

Wayne Hager, manager of Louisville's Baptist Book Store, expressed his disappointment in not being near the Cooperative Program exhibits or in a place where people congregated.

Under those conditions he was surprised and pleased at the number of people who made an effort to find the store.

He explained this was the first year employees had to advertize by making signs directing people to the store. The fact that customers frequented the establishment underscored the importance of the Baptist Book Store in the convention, Hager contended.

He, too, noted the cramped quarters offered the store. "We can't get everything we want into the store as well as the bargains people want. We've cut down on our regular merchandise; I've made trips back to Louisville to get things."

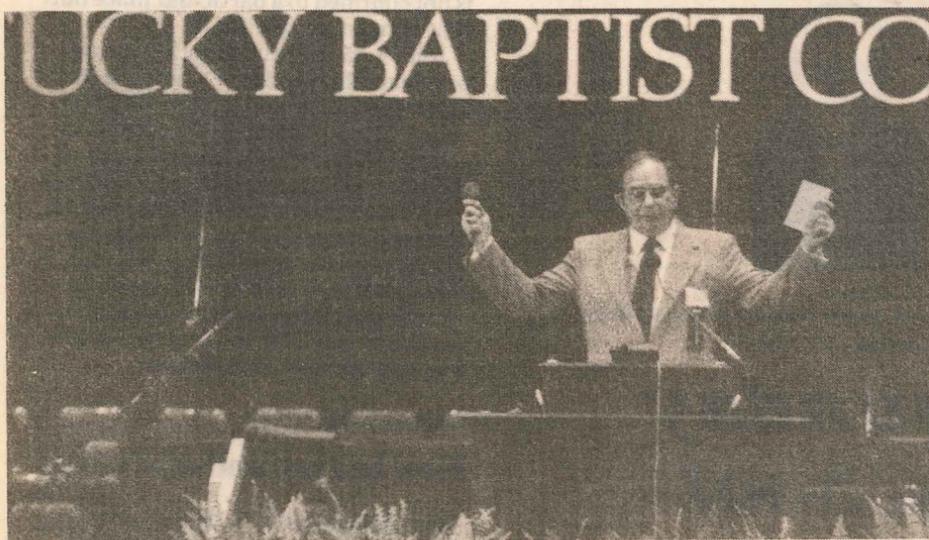
William Carter, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church, Frankfort, claimed anybody interested in the book store would come regardless of the distance. Still he said, "We've been a little congested; we need a little more room."

Kay Faulkner, Evarts Baptist Church first-timer to the convention, liked having the store away from most of the activities. "It's good to slip away for a few minutes," she smiled.

Lawanda Smith



Bill Messer, Ashland, and Richard Bridges, Bowling Green, compare notes.



James E. Jones, Campbellsville pastor, delivers the KBC presidential address.

Franklin celebration

KBC helps hosts mark 175th

This year's Nov. 13-16 Kentucky Baptist Convention was held in Franklin Association which was established in 1815. As part of the convention program the association was honored for its accomplishments over the past 175 years.

Verlin C. Kruschwitz, officer of the Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission, gave a brief history of the association. He described statistical growth of the association and the early controversies during the antimission, Campbellite era. A plaque was presented to Ed Talley, association moderator, and Roy Boatwright, director of missions.

Following the presentation a rather remarkable character emerged. Dressed in the costume of a 19th century parson, Billy G. Hurt, former pastor of First Baptist Church, Frankfort, performed a monolog of John Taylor, one of the association's first pastors. "Taylor" reminisced about the rigors of the past, recalling the dangers of Indians and an incident in which his clothing froze to his skin. He claimed to be glad his anti-mission sentiment had not withstood the test of time. He saluted Kentucky Baptists and Franklin Association for their success in spreading the gospel.

Brad Bull

Image concern is focus of directors of missions

Kentucky Baptist directors of missions met at Georgetown (Ky.) College to elect officers and to make progress toward an "identity" within the KBC. The annual session was characterized by unity, appreciation for cohorts and humor.

With outgoing president Leslie M. Huff, Green Valley Association, presiding, the DOMs selected Frank Dorris, Union Association, as president elect. Dorris will succeed new president Billie C. Wright, Laurel River Association. Randall Jones, Northern Kentucky Association, and Harold Greenfield, Caldwell-Lyon Association, were elected secretary-treasurer and editor also by acclamation.

Greenfield offered an explanation of research into a statement of identity for the collective missionaries. Greenfield's recommendation was tabled until the March meeting.

A change in the group's constitution and bylaws allows for formation of a nominating committee to recommend officers. Thomas L. Shelton, Ohio County; Terry Sills, Blood River; and David Lyons, Lynn Camp and North Concord, are the first to be appointed to the new committee.

Huff recognized Bob Jones, director of the KBC's Direct Missions Department, for support he and his staff offer local associations. The DOMs honored Tom Lewis, who retired this year in West Union Association, for 31 years of service.

Russell Bennett, who serves Long Run Association, was named DOM of the year.

After a fellowship meal Janus E. Jones, Mt. Zion and South Union associations, offered a humorous recollection of his experiences as a DOM. He characterized their work as those who visit churches, supply, are conference leaders, work with pastors and who know—for the sake of missions—it is "now or never."

Chris Barnett

Mixed reaction to civic center meeting

For the first time in Kentucky Baptist Convention history an annual meeting has been held in a building other than a church. This year's Nov. 13-16 session was held in Frankfort's Farnham Dudgeon Civic Center.

There were mixed feelings about the merit of holding it in a secular facility. Some believe churches are more conducive to worship while others think worship can be conducted wherever two or more are gathered.

Most people who favored having the convention in the civic center pointed out that the large auditorium was not as crowded as a sanctuary would be. However, some—such as Tim Alexander, pastor of Florence Baptist Church—said they preferred crowded "worshipful sanctuaries." Contrarily, Denise Franke, layman from Faith Baptist Church, Georgetown, gave the opinion "a building has nothing to do with Christian spirit." Those expressing this view felt if people at a Billy Graham crusade can worship in a baseball stadium, Kentucky Baptists should be able to worship in a civic center.

Only one person interviewed actually changed camps during the convention. J. B. Crawley, layman from Campbellsville, said he was initially skeptical but after seeing the efficiency of this year's convention was no longer opposed to the idea.

While the extra space did provide more comfortable seating, many felt the exhibit areas were too remote and crowded. Baptist Book Store's exhibit was housed in the convention hotel, some distance from other exhibits.

Citing a possible advantage of holding the convention in such a setting, one messenger felt it provided a better opportunity to witness. Questions to convention hotel employees upheld this belief. Asked about the behavior of the messengers two hotel employees said there was an obvious Christian spirit and the messengers were very patient and understanding. One said it was the best group ever to visit the hotel.

Unfortunately politeness was often forgotten. Many messengers mingled at the rear of the arena talking so loudly people sitting nearby had difficulty hearing what was taking place on the platform. One messenger commented that he had been to several state Baptist conventions in churches. "The people who are rude here (in a public civic center) would also be rude there," he allowed.

Brad Bull

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oneida journal

Balmy autumn days

Jim McMurtrie, minister of music and youth, arrived early Tuesday morning, Oct. 31, with 36 senior adults from Madisonville First Baptist. In time for our daily chapel, McMurtrie gave his testimony and sang "My House Is Full." After the service I talked to the group and they heard our choir sing several numbers in the daily practice session. In the meantime, 12 had arrived from Richmond First Baptist.

After the choir sang, the entire group went to our library to see the beautiful color video: "Oneida—A Special Place" and then on to lunch. A walk through the campus brought us to the 135 year old long cabin museum, and the 3000 square foot craft house. Our guests always enjoy that.

In the early evening Morgan Patterson, president of Georgetown College, arrived for his first visit accompanied by David Forman, dean of admissions, and Wayne Moore, director of alumni affairs.

Soon 32 Georgetown alumni, parents of Georgetown students and other friends joined them in the main room of Oneida's oldest building, Anderson Hall. That room was beautifully decorated in the black and orange colors of Georgetown, also very fitting for Halloween night.

Seated at the head table with Patterson were Evelyn Kelly, who graduated from Oneida in 1931 and later attended Georgetown as did her daughter Carolyn in 1958. Also with him were Cletus

Maricle, a local lawyer who graduated from Georgetown in 1964, and his wife, as well as Oneida principal Larry Gritton, a 1969 Georgetown graduate. Mrs. George Redding, an alumnus and part of the college family for the 30 years her late husband headed the Bible Department, was her usual sparkling self.

The group shared a good meal and equally fine fellowship for three hours. Afterwards Patterson, Forman and Moore took a nearly two hour campus tour. The tour was resumed after a delicious breakfast the next morning hosted by Mrs. Redding in her Oneida kitchen.

President Patterson gave a very fine chapel message after the Oneida choir sang "Holy Holy Holy" and Hayden's "The Heavens Are Telling." Following lunch the Georgetown group left.

Soon it was time to board the buses for Mt. Sterling and the regional soccer game. There Clark County ended our season with a 2-1 victory. Our boys finished strong having started the season with only three experienced players, but winning the district championship before being defeated in the region.

Arriving Thursday for our daily chapel held at 10:45 a.m. was the pastor and seven members from Winchester's Northside Baptist. We spent most of the remainder of the day looking about the campus.

Auburn Mayor Oscar Wren and his wife came with a load of clothing in late afternoon. In the evening they accompanied me to a birthday party for a newly arriving volunteer, a retired college professor who will be working as a counselor with us. Hosting the evening that included delicious cake, ice cream and wonderful blueberries was Mrs. McJilton, a CPA working with us as a volunteer, and a retired volunteer librarian, Ann Haywood. Our campus doctor, Richard Schroeder, in his sixth year of service here, and staff member, Hazel Bowling, who works in the clinic as well as teaching in our Special Help program, completed the party that went on until 11 p.m. They got me to telling tales of many years of experiences on the Turkoman border of Russia.

Pastor Workman of Turners Ridge, Beighle and Kenny Roberts arrived Friday afternoon with two tons of potatoes. They had all been here for volunteer work this past summer.

Sunday the choir and I were off to Irvine's Friendship Baptist to participate in their annual homecoming.



H. C. Chiles
Clear Creek Baptist Bible College
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sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR NOV. 26, 1989

Life and work series

Crossing barriers

On his journey through Samaria Christ and his disciples arrived at Jacob's well, which was about a ten minute walk from Sychar. Hot, tired, hungry and thirsty, Christ sat down on the parapet of the well, while his disciples went into the village to buy food.

John 4:7-9 Ere long the reverie of the Saviour was disturbed by the coming of a Samaritan woman to draw water from the well. With remarkable wisdom and unusual tact, Christ asked her to give him a drink. In the course of the conversation which ensued, Christ told the woman that those who drank from Jacob's well would thirst again, but there was something far better than the water from the well beside which he sat.

John 4:16-22 Christ's free offer revealed to this woman the possibility of her need being met. When she asked Christ to give her this living water, he proceeded to show her more clearly her great need before granting her request. When Christ began to talk to her about her sin, she like most sinners, tried to change the subject, but he refused to be side-tracked or drawn into a religious argument. Evidently she was under the impression that God was restricted to one place and could be worshiped there only. Christ taught her that true worship

is not confined to a particular place but that it must be spiritual.

John 4:25-26 Stirred in heart and perplexed in mind, the woman said: "I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ," and then in substance acknowledged, "he will answer all of these perplexing questions and settle all of these controversial matters, and all of us will worship him. Immediately Christ revealed his identity, saying, "I that speak unto thee am he." Upon her acceptance of Christ as her Saviour and Lord, her soul was saved and her life was marvelously transformed.

International series

New heaven and new earth

Revelation 21:1-7 In these verses is a splendid description of the great joy which is in store for the children of God in their future abode, when they shall be delivered from the power of sin and the presence of sin, when they shall enter upon their inheritance and drink to the full from the fountain of the water of life. All of the things which have caused them so much pain, distress and sorrow will be passed away and they shall have a new state wherein dwelleth righteousness and peace and nothing shall mar the bliss of that marvelous place. Then the abolition of sin, sickness, suffering and sorrow will have become an absolute reality.

Revelation 21:22-27 For a full description of this celestial city one should read the 21st and 22nd chapters of Revelation. Though one may not be able to understand and explain all of the symbols recorded therein, he is made to rejoice in the wonders of the place to which by God's grace he and the other Christians are going.

In this new and holy city there will not be any need of a temple, a place which has been set apart and dedicated for God's habitation, because the presence and all-pervasive glory of the Lord will make it a sanctuary. Neither will there be any need of the sun or the moon for he who is now the light of the world will then illuminate the celestial city. The eternal and ineffable God will manifest himself in the lamb who is the light of the city. Then, as now, the invisible God will become visible only in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Nothing that defileth will ever enter the blessed portals of this city of absolute purity and complete holiness. Only those whose names have been written in the lamb's book of life shall enter there.



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on mission together

Smells

Every house has a distinct smell and while smells are not as important to humans, as to animal life, they are not insignificant.

In fact, the creation of smells is a multi-billion dollar industry—perfumes for women; cologne for men. Tons of the stuff will be bought for Christmas gifts. Usually some pleasant new container of after-shave finds its way to my stocking.

Most Americans know the smell of a "new car," before it is soiled by smoke, spilled coffee, or the children's dog. They say one can purchase the scent in a spray can. But it doesn't last long.

One of my favorite pastimes is to drop by a coffee shop. The other night my son and I had a salad at John Conti's in Oxmoor Mall. The minute I walked in the aroma of assorted coffee beans whisked me back to a little coffee shoppe in Nicosia, Cyprus where I used to sit, listening to the local Greek, trying to sharpen up my accent. Perhaps that's where my weakness for coffee began.

Not all smells are pleasant, of course. There is the garbage can in which the contents have been left too long; the smell that comes when you drive too long behind a diesel truck; or the smell of skunk freshly squashed on a highway.

Smells bring to life some pleasant thoughts this season.

Someone in our family, usually my brother Dave and his wife, Ginger, will host the Thanksgiving meal at their home in Lexington. Others in the family will bring some contribution to the large array of foods which must feed between 20 and 30.

As we mingle and hug, we are accom-

panied by the aroma of turkey and dressing. This pleasant smell overwhelms all of the others perhaps because it captures, even if just for a moment, a memory I treasure.

When I was a boy, all the Marshalls gathered for Thanksgiving at grandmom's and grandad's. I remember playing marbles on her carpet; looking through the family album and asking who certain people were; going back to the kitchen to snatch a piece of the turkey that Uncle Les was carving.

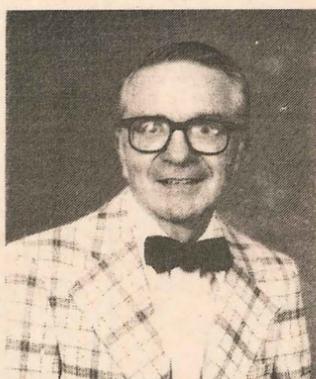
We all gathered in the dining room for the blessing before dispersing throughout the house to eat on different tables or the floor.

The house has been dismantled for many years but in my mind, every piece of furniture, every face is still in place.

When we all get together on Thanksgiving day and the smell of turkey and dressing greets me as I walk through the door, a host of others will come with me...unseen except through the eyes of our collective memory.



Pauline Stegall



W. T. (Bill) Moore



Betty Anderson



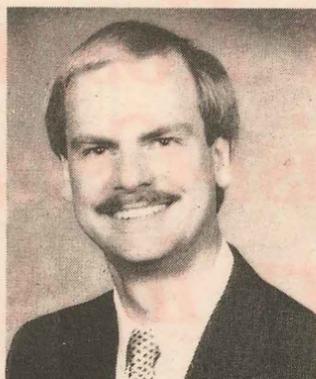
Suzanne Darland



Denise Spencer



Chris Barnett



Marc C. Whitt



Glenn Mollette



Beth Wyatt



Virginia Flanagan

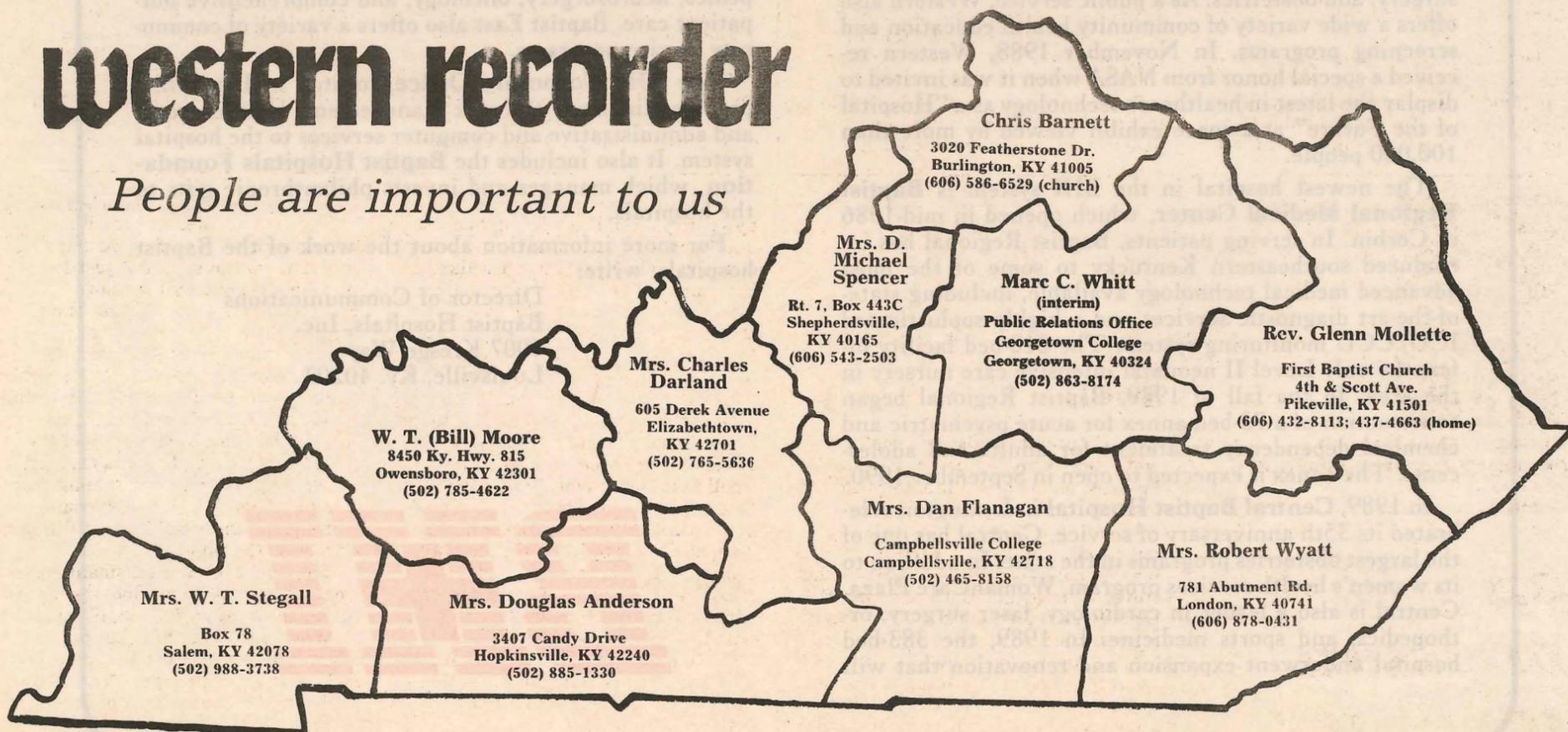
We're all in this together

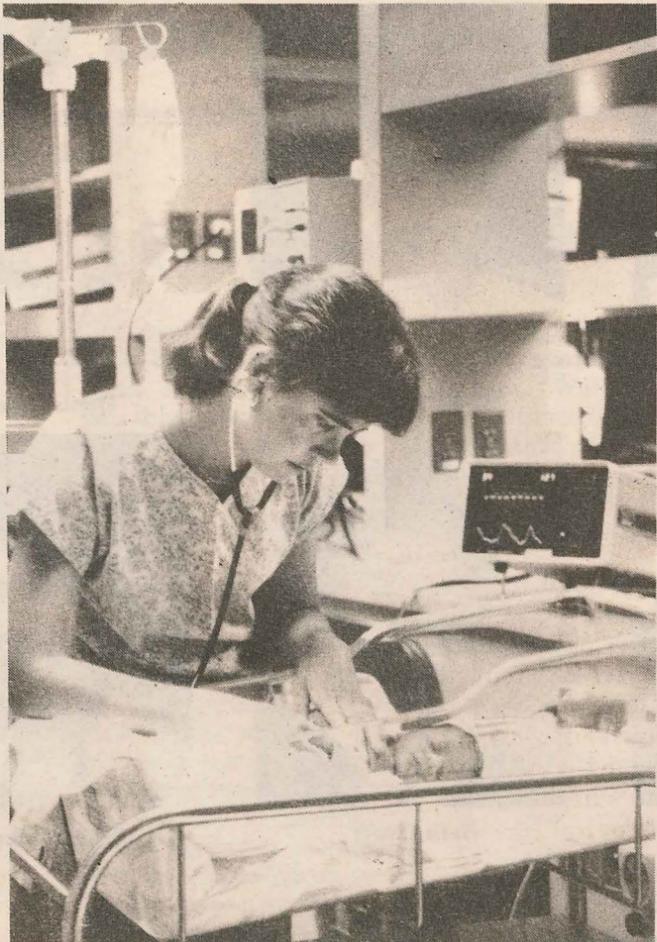
Ten Kentucky Baptists, journalists by trade either vocationally or avocationally, are committed to bringing us informative stories about timely subjects. These 10 Western Recorder state correspondents, strategically situated across the commonwealth, keep Kentucky Baptists abreast of what's going on among their people and their churches.

They're available to help you, your church and your association. You may call or write your regional correspondent with information you'd like to share with readers of your state paper. Ask your church to place your local correspondent on its mailing list for your church mail out. By helping each other, we all do a better job of keeping each other informed.

western recorder

People are important to us





Baptist Hospitals: A Christ-Centered Ministry in Action

Since 1924, the Baptist hospitals in Kentucky have touched and healed the lives of tens of thousands of individuals in the name of Christ. Our ministry is based on the example of the Great Physician and dedicated to the care of the whole person—body, mind and spirit.

Today, Baptist Hospitals, Inc. is Kentucky's largest, not-for-profit hospital system, with acute care facilities in Paducah, Corbin, Lexington and Louisville. The Baptist hospitals serve an average of 1,000 patients daily, combining high-tech medical care with old-fashioned human concern.

Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah serves as a regional referral center for patients in a three-state area. Among the services the 373-bed hospital is noted for are full-spectrum cardiology and oncology programs, neurosurgery, and obstetrics. As a public service, Western also offers a wide variety of community health education and screening programs. In November 1988, Western received a special honor from NASA when it was invited to display the latest in healthcare technology as a "Hospital of the Future" at a space exhibit viewed by more than 100,000 people.

The newest hospital in the BHI system is **Baptist Regional Medical Center**, which opened in mid-1986 in Corbin. In serving patients, Baptist Regional has introduced southeastern Kentucky to some of the most advanced medical technology available, including state-of-the-art diagnostic services and a highly sophisticated ICU/CCU monitoring system. The 210-bed facility offers the only Level II neonatal intensive care nursery in the area. In the fall of 1989, Baptist Regional began construction of a 73-bed annex for acute psychiatric and chemical dependency treatment for adults and adolescents. The annex is expected to open in September 1990.

In 1989, **Central Baptist Hospital** in Lexington celebrated its 35th anniversary of service. Central has one of the largest obstetrics programs in the state. In addition to its women's health services program, WomanCare Plaza, Central is also a leader in cardiology, laser surgery, orthopedics, and sports medicine. In 1989, the 383-bed hospital underwent expansion and renovation that will

enable it to remain an innovative healthcare provider. A major special event Central holds each year is "A Midsummer Night's Run," billed as the largest fitness event in Kentucky.

Two historic occasions in Baptist hospital services in Louisville took place in June 1989. That month marked the completion of a merger between Baptist Hospital Highlands (originally Kentucky Baptist Hospital) and **Baptist Hospital East**. At the same time, Baptist East opened a new 92-bed specialty services wing called the Behavioral Health & Rehabilitation Wing, which offers psychiatric, chemical dependency, and rehabilitation services. As a result of these changes, Baptist East has grown to 407 beds. The hospital provides a wide array of other services, including The WomanCare Plaza, orthopedics, neurosurgery, oncology, and comprehensive outpatient care. Baptist East also offers a variety of community service programs.

The **BHI Corporate Office**, located in Louisville, provides financial and risk management, legal counsel, and administrative and computer services to the hospital system. It also includes the **Baptist Hospitals Foundation**, which manages and invests philanthropic gifts to the hospitals.

For more information about the work of the Baptist hospitals, write:

Director of Communications
Baptist Hospitals, Inc.
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