

Baptisms rise slightly tho 6210 churches have none

by Joe Westbury

Southern Baptists will report an increase in annual baptisms for the second consecutive year if projections by the Home Mission Board are on target.

A poll of state evangelism directors for the first 11 months of 1989 show an anticipated increase of 1.9 percent, or a net gain of 6680 baptisms over 1988. The year-end forecast was announced during the evangelism directors' annual meeting in Atlanta.

Clay Price, director of program research in the board's research division, said the denomination is expected to report about 353,000 baptisms for the last year of the decade, up from 346,200 in 1988.

Baptisms have been on a roller coaster ride for much of the 1980s, posting five declines and four gains. The steepest drop was between 1983 and 1985, when baptisms posted three consecutive years of decline.

Although 1989 baptisms, as with 1988, are expected to be up—the first back-to-back increase of the decade—the total still will be 76,742 below the decade's high of 429,742 in 1980.

A stronger emphasis will be needed in future years on reaching adults above age 30 if the denomination is to keep up with the population growth, Price said. He reminded the directors that a 1988 Gallup study found 44 percent of adults age 18 and older were unchurched.

Southern Baptists have thousands of potential members on the rolls of their Sunday school classes, he added: "According to the 1989 Uniform Church Letter, there were 660,000 persons who were enrolled in Sunday school but were not members of any church. The number of potential converts already enrolled within the church's activities is almost twice the number of converts reported" in 1989.

However, a November 1988 Baptist VIEWpoll revealed that almost two-thirds of all Southern Baptist churches do not set evangelism goals, he said.

Price noted 6210 churches reported no baptisms in 1988 and about a thousand

of those churches reported no baptisms for the past four years.

Darrell Robinson, the board's vice president for evangelism, viewed the 1989 baptism increase as a sign the denomination is returning to a renewed emphasis on evangelism.

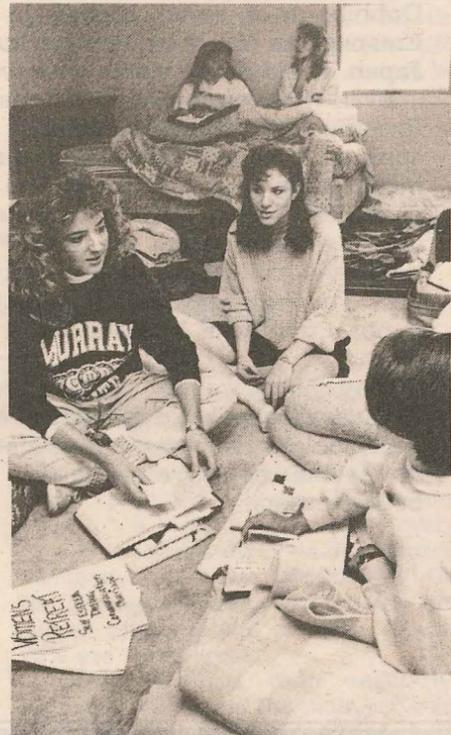
"We went through a period in the '70s and early '80s when the churches were reflecting more of their culture rather than following Christ's mandate to reach people for him," he said.

"I feel we're seeing a turnaround, getting back to the basics of the Bible, the church's mission and assertive evangelism. Until recently even the words 'soul winning' were all but dropped from our vocabulary, but there's a revival of its usage today among pastors, laity and denominational leaders."

Robinson also credited the increase with a growing number of state conventions that have elevated their evangelism departments to division status—"a change which gives it greater status, influence and resources."

Board president Larry Lewis said he believes Southern Baptists are facing several years of increases in the totals, although they remain "far, far short of what we are capable of doing."

"Next year, we will have another soul winning emphasis at the convention in New Orleans and our 'Here's Hope' national revivals, and I firmly expect we will be up in baptisms every year in the 1990s," he said. "We must have much stronger percentage increases if we are to reach our Bold Mission Thrust (evangelism/missions campaign) goals of 500,000 annual baptisms by the turn of the century." (BP)



A women's retreat at Murray (Ky.) State University's Baptist Student Union offers time to discuss common concerns for Amy Rothschild (l foreground), junior from First Baptist Church, Clinton, Ky.; Crystal Joslin, freshman from Mill Creek Baptist Church, Radcliff, Ky.; and Jennifer Jenkins, sophomore from First Baptist Church, Henderson, Ky. "Students Sharing Family" is theme of Student Day at Christmas, when collegians share experiences on campus with home churches. (BSSB photo)



Typical of the black and white unity rallies in Kentucky last month was this crowd of program personnel appearing at Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.

Black, white rallies promote unity for 'Here's Hope' goals

by Chris S. Barnett
State Correspondent

Black Baptists and white Baptists are working together to promote the 1990 simultaneous revivals, "Here's Hope Jesus cares for you." The General Association of Baptists (GAB) and the Kentucky Baptist Convention sponsored four unity rallies the last week of November. Florence, Mayfield, Middlesboro and Somerset were sites of the rallies. If these gatherings are any indication, Kentucky is about to experience a once-in-a-generation revival.

The idea of getting the two denominations to work together began with Lincoln Bingham. Bingham is superintendent of missions for the GAB and cooperative ministries consultant for the KBC. The denominational leader dreamed of the two conventions joining efforts to "evangelize and congregationalize Kentucky." The dream is being built upon the "polity, theology and ecclesiology the two bodies share," according to Bingham.

Likewise, William D. Jagers, Middletown, director of the KBC Evangelism Department, believes this interracial venture will be effective. He feels both denominations will learn new approaches to evangelism and develop greater awareness of the need for evangelism. If we are to win Kentucky's cities to Christ, Jagers explains, the work of the GAB is essential.

When asked if he would like to see the two conventions merge, Bingham responded, "I don't think they should merge. There are many differences in worship style and culture. There is validity to homogeneity." Bingham added that emphasis is being placed on improved cooperation.

One of the four rallies was held at Florence (Ky.) Baptist Church. Four hundred participated in a service presided over by Thurman Coleman, pastor of FBC, Jeffersonton. Music was led by Rex Sholar, minister of music at Latonia (Ky.) Baptist Church. The service included three speeches.

If the Florence rally had been a show it might have been stolen by the first speaker, Norma Fletcher. Miss Fletcher is an attorney and new member orientation director at Louisville's West End Baptist Church. She addressed the assembly with her testimony titled

"Working Together Works."

Miss Fletcher, a graduate of Centre College and Boston University, offered a candid, stirring description of her struggle with prejudice. Quoting scripture throughout her message she relayed how she moved from anger to love. The young lawyer recounted an episode in which she was confronted by a white man who "damned the presence of a nigger."

Teachings of Jesus and of Martin Luther King Jr. helped her overcome the hatred she felt. She concluded with advice from John: "Dear friends, let us love one another for love is of God." The teary-eyed worshipers accepted her challenge with a standing ovation.

Willis Henson, chairman of the statewide Here's Hope prayer team, spoke next. The Paducah Lone Oak Baptist Church pastor reminded the assembly that for revival to happen "we must not fear God using us." Henson chose Moses' burning bush experience to convey his message.

The former KBC president urged, "We must be conscious at all times of the presence of God." The tragedy, he added, "is that we don't believe God is present." When we realize God is present, that God wants to work through us, we need to simply make ourselves available.

The final speaker was A. R. Awkard, who spoke of the significance of a single moment. Awkard, pastor of New Zion Baptist Church, Louisville, claimed we must make an important decision at this "crucial hour of destiny."

"The secret to revival is God," he insisted. "To put our trust in the trappings of society is to miss the secret of strength available through God."

He compared Baptists to Samson. Samson thought his hair was the source of his strength. We think our systems and institutions are our strength. Change can come in a single moment when we realize God is our source of strength.

Participants at the four rallies departed feeling as though they had taken a giant step toward the "Here's Hope" revival. Eugene Enlow, "Here's Hope" coordinator for Kentucky, promises that these rallies are just a foretaste.

Between the two denominations there are 3000 churches. Enlow hopes all 3000 churches will participate in "Here's Hope" this spring.

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in the interim

A matter of commitment

"Is not the festive season, when families and friends exchange gifts in memory of The Gift laid on the altar of the world for the redemption of the human race, the most appropriate time to consecrate a portion from abounding riches and scant poverty to send forth the good tidings of great joy into all the earth?" So wrote Lottie Moon in a letter published in the Foreign Missions Journal 102 years ago.

This diminutive Southern Baptist missionary to China urged Woman's Missionary Union to set aside the week preceding Christmas as a special time of prayer and sacrificial giving for missions. The women responded. And as they prayed, they gave. The first offering goal was \$2000, enough to send two women to China as missionaries. The amount received was \$3315, enough for three missionaries!

The average cost in 1988 to support a missionary for one year was \$25,230.14.

In 1888 there were 49 missionaries serving in five countries. Today, we have more than 3800 appointed foreign missionaries serving in 116 countries. However, 80 percent of the world's population is in those remaining countries that do not have missionaries. Two billion of the world's population have never heard the gospel message, the good news about Jesus Christ.

With only one Southern Baptist missionary per one million lost people in the world we are challenged to give as Lottie Moon requested: sacrificially. Our gifts last year were up more than 12 percent over the previous year. However, this is not bragging material when we realize that the total amount given averaged less per Southern Baptist than the average American spends on movies in a week. For you see Americans spent more than \$4 billion at the movies last year alone.

It is projected that the world's population will double within the next 20 years. That means 10 billion people inhabiting the earth by the year 2010. These mind boggling statistics could frighten us into a condition of complete inertia. Or we can allow them to challenge us to renewed efforts, to revive us from our acceptance of the status quo, to prompt us to pray more fervently and to respond more readily to God's missionary message. Truly, just as God has called missionaries to go, he has commanded us to pray and to give in their support. And sometimes we, too, are called to go.

Kentucky Southern Baptists can rejoice that in Kenya Christianity is rapidly growing. God allowed us the privilege of sharing in that partnership and continues to bless those efforts. Now we have the opportunity to work with our missionaries in Espirito Santo, Brazil in another Kentucky partnership endeavor.

But back to Lottie Moon. She identified so strongly with her starving Chinese friends that when famine swept her area of China, she refused to eat. Lottie

Moon died in 1912—Christmas eve. Her indomitable spirit, evident in her strong challenge to Southern Baptists to be the missionary people God called the denomination to be, continues to stir us to increased missions involvement.

The goal for the 1989 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions is a whopping \$81 million, about half the entire budget of the Foreign Mission Board.

How will this money be used?

Roger and Debbie Newton, missionaries to Norway, tell of leading Continuous Witness Training during a recent retreat. Roger then spent a week with the pastors from one district. They discussed such topics of concern as Their Work and the Great Commission, Christ in the Cities, Democracy and God's Leaders and This Lost Generation. At night they preached several different places, one location being an island with 26 residents with more than half attending the services.

Dr. B. Wayne Thorpe is a physician serving in Nepal. Thorpe witnesses through his ministry to the people in this land where Christ's love can only be shown through loving acts. **It is illegal to verbally express the Christian faith.**

In a recent letter Kentucky missionaries Tak and Lana Oue, Tokyo, Japan, told of helping with the national children's camp. During those three days, 51 children made professions of faith. Twenty others surrendered their lives to full time service.

Perhaps the few examples following will illustrate the variety of avenues used by other Kentucky missionaries to proclaim the gospel. Dale Beighle serves as a veterinarian in Bophuthatswana. Tom Baker is business manager for the mission in Spain. Karl Babb is a seminary administrator in the Philippines. Jane Dillard is a secondary school teacher in Kenya. Wanda Dobbins is a social worker in Chile. Mary Lou Emanuel, an RN, is a nursing school administrator in Japan. Paula Settle works with women in Togo.

Even while on furlough our missionaries serve. Informing, challenging, sometimes pleading, they inspire us to be more serious in our missions commitment. More than 240 times Ken and Beth Perkins spoke about their work in Transkei. The Lottie Moon offering has provided the three Perkins boys with a new rondoval school room, complete with thatched roof. The Perkinses remind us that "serving the Lord is not a matter of location, but a matter of commitment."

Why should we not only give, but give sacrificially? Because *God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* I know of no better reason.

Dee Gilliland

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viewpoint

Got age!

by Glenn Mollette

I remember all too well the fateful day when the grim pronouncement was first declared to me. I was standing in the chorus room of our high school. I had to tell my chorus teacher that I could not participate in the spring concert because it was scheduled for a Sunday afternoon and that is when I preached in one of my two high school pastorates. Suddenly, with a flushed face, popping eyes, a wide open mouth and gestures reminiscent of Churchill she exclaimed, "You're too young to be a preacher! You don't have any business accepting adult responsibility!"

I'll confess I was a little taken back. My lost bicycling friends had all told me they thought I needed to be at least 30 before I became a Christian. Mountain Old Regular Baptist tradition suggested you ought to be at least 21. When I started preaching I personally knew it was not a fashionable trend because I was the only guy in any high school I personally knew of who even wanted to preach. But now my chorus teacher revealed my problem with offensive

bluntness. I had age. Yes, age! Before I even received my diploma I was diagnosed with one of the most crippling phenomena in the ministry.

I have been blessed down through the years. This ministerial disabler has never put me out of commission. Wonderful congregations overlooked a prognosis they saw curable with time and patience. Down through the years these churches called me at the age of 16, 18, 23, 27 and most recently 29.

All my life I've been told, "Pulpit committees of full time churches on the average will consider you too young under 30. Between the ages of 30 and 34 you are still suspected as being a novice preacher. But 35 is the right age."

If this is true next month I will finally grow out of the age syndrome. I wonder how I'll feel. Will I wake up on my birthday in January and feel cleansed like Naaman? Or will I feel revived and alive as a resurrected Lazarus? After all, I will be free of age! But on the other hand I probably will continue to feel just like I've felt a long time—grateful. I am grateful that First Baptist, Pikeville, called me when I was 29 with a mouth full of braces. And, grateful that other

churches in my past did not have a high numerical goal in their profile for their next pastor.

Preachers and other church related workers have to start some place. Who can afford to wait until he is 35 before he begins work? First Baptist, Allen, recently called 28-year-old single French Harmon. Pulpit committee member Gene Davis said, "Well, he has to start sometime."

The other side of this coin is when a pastor turns 55. Automatically the average committee interviewing him suspects he is looking for a place to retire or is too old to get the job done. Once again, age becomes a problem.

The bottom line of all this is that all of us must get over this hang-up of age. There are some 60-year-old pastors out there who have seven or eight more good years to give somebody. Also, there are some 25-year-old men who would do some church a mighty fine job.

Let's look at the whole picture. A committee should consider not only age but maturity, health, education, skills, experience and personality. But let's not disqualify anyone immediately by telling him, "Sorry friend, you've got age."



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

Upon every remembrance

Sooner or later it is inevitable.

When you work with someone who's 15 years your senior (or junior), if you both live long enough, you won't be colleagues forever. If that person is a confidant, traveling companion and cherished friend, the loss—when it comes—is all the greater.

One of the finest associates I had in denominational communications retired Nov. 30. I have mourned his impending departure from the rank and file for months.

Oscar Hoffmeyer and I go back almost three decades. I was as green as a gourd in my first full time responsibility then. But this seasoned veteran was willing to offer wise counsel when I asked.

In those days I was in Nashville. He climbed the ladder of success, moving from his native Missouri to Louisiana to Texas and back to Louisiana. The last several years he has been PR director for Louisiana Baptists.

Together we were officers of Baptist Public Relations Association in 1964. Later, each of us served that body of peers as president. I was gratified earlier this year when we bestowed lifetime membership on him.

Over the decades Oscar and I have met many many places fulfilling assignments for our respective employers—in Los Angeles, Glorieta, Atlanta, Kansas City, Nashville, Denver, Ft. Worth, Chicago, Richmond, Sarasota, San Antonio, Norfolk, Birmingham, Biloxi, Louisville, Gatlinburg—and in perhaps a dozen others. In between we kept a running correspondence and occasionally resorted to the telephone.

I've been in his home and he's been in mine. In fact, our families learned to appreciate one another long ago. My children looked forward to SBC meetings knowing he would be there.

One of my fondest recollections is of being with my two eldest children and Oscar late one night years ago at an outdoor New Orleans cafe. We whiled away the time over beignets (French doughnuts) and thick coffee.

Recently—when my youngest child and I were very late arriving by train in New Orleans—Oscar, who had driven four hours from his home in Pineville, patiently waited for us at the depot. That night, at the same French market cafe, I couldn't help thinking, "I'm sure gonna miss you, pal."

Paul put it: "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you" (Phil. 1:3).

Devoted husband, father, active churchman, denominational servant—Oscar wears all hats well. But I'll remember him best as a stabilizer who listened intently, helping me sort out the mysteries of life.

Are there some Oscars in your life? Celebrate their contributions now.

baptist forum

If but one life be touched

A couple of months ago I heard about the partnership formed by Kentucky and Espirito Santo. A few days later the Lord gave me the great privilege to be interpreting from Ralph Hopkins' first sermon in Victoria at First Baptist Church. I considered it as the very first sermon in the partnership. That was my very first interpretation from an American preacher in the same way. I thought that day in terms like having a heart attack. But God kept me safely.

Since that time I became a lover of this partnership and I committed myself to be working in it every day, until the end of the partnership, according to God's purpose to my life. By now I have had this heavenly privilege.

I have interpreted for several preachers and lay people and I have seen a great number of decisions for Christ and rededications of life. My heart has been blessed by the Lord's work through these partnership days. I have felt my spiritual life growing through each person which I have worked with. And with tears in my eyes I thank God and you for the great job happening in the Lord's field.

I believe God will do greater things through the partnership in the days yet to come. Thank you so much.

Peter Simoes
Espirito Santo, Brazil

The cost of salvation

A recent article in Western Recorder (Nov. 7, p. 1) indicated that every contribution of \$48. to a particular revival campaign resulted in the salvation of a soul. Clearly, inflation has struck American evangelicalism.

During the early 20th century, evangelist Gypsy Smith figured that every \$4.92 contributed to his work brought about a conversion. The well known revivalist Billy Sunday claimed that he could produce a convert for every \$2 contribution!

Actually, assigning a dollar value to souls is nothing new in Christian history. In 1517 a medieval preacher named John Tetzel proclaimed that for every "coin which in the coffer clings, a soul from purgatory springs." Such an idea provoked a response from a German monk named Martin Luther and soon the Protestant Reformation had spread across Europe bringing genuine revival.

The word of God in Rom. 1:17 which came through the apostle Paul to Martin Luther comes also to us. The just *still* live by faith alone. Salvation cannot be guaranteed at any price. True conversion is not cost effective; it is a mystery of divine grace.

Bill J. Leonard
Southern Seminary
Louisville

"Core" vs. "peripheral"

I reported to my people the other day the results of a study done about resident church members. You know, the ones that there is an address on, who live in the community and—when they're asked—would say, "This is my church." According to the study every church has two kinds of resident church members; "core" and "peripheral." On the average, between 25 and 30% are "core" members and between 70 and 75% are "peripheral."

"Core" members come regularly, teach classes, sing in the choir, serve on committees, visit the sick and shut-in, witness to the lost, usher, deak and love one another. They also give the money—usually around 25% of the people give 75 to 80% of the money received each week.

"Peripheral" members rarely come and almost never do any of the work in the ministry of the church. They're content to leave it up to someone... anyone, else. "Peripheral" members give virtually no money to their church. Some give a few dollars now and then; between 30 and 40% give nothing at all.

Two questions then: What do "periph-

eral" members do? And, what makes the difference between a "core" member and a "peripheral" member?

Sadly, the answer to the first question is, "Not much." Unless you count griping, complaining, criticizing and fault finding. Then it is usually much, very much.

What makes the difference between "core" members and "peripheral" members? Or, to say it another way, how can a "peripheral" member become a "core" member? That's simple. Through regeneration: being born again. Or to use the phrase I love by having a life changing experience with Christ.

J. Tyre Denney, Pastor
Alton Baptist Church

Speaking for something good

Apr. 10, 1988 I was in the first worship service of Southeast Lexington Mission of Immanuel Baptist Church. Forty-nine of us met that day in the YMCA. Twenty-two of these were the committed group that came from Immanuel. Among the testimonies that day was one who said, "We believe this is what God wants us to do. This is of God. He will bless."

I was back in their worship service on Sept. 3, 1989. I saw he had. It was thrilling to see 12 Sunday school classes meeting in the gymnasium; view the good mixture of the congregation and witness an adult lady request baptism. The pastor reported from Oct. 1988 to Sept. 1989 33 had requested baptism and 20 membership by letter. Attendance was running about 70 in Sunday school, 90 in worship and 35 in Wednesday night prayer and Bible study.

The mission gave \$6524 toward the Lottie Moon Christmas offering, conducted a witness training seminar and revival for Lakeside Mission of Somerset and are sending their pastor John Toby on an evangelistic mission to Brazil.

Harold Wainscott
Church starter strategist

baptist news briefs

Rec Labs to emphasize evangelistic recreation

Recreation through evangelism is the emphasis of the 1990 Rec Labs to be held Jan. 5-11 at Lake Yale, Fla., and Feb. 23-Mar. 1 at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center.

The events are sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Recreation Department.

The 25th anniversary of Rec Labs will be celebrated at each lab and at Glorieta, a "reunion" for long time recreation ministers will be held.

Rec Labs are open to paid church staff members, denominational staff members, college or seminary students studying church recreation and spouses of participants.

Worship leaders at Lake Yale will be John Hewitt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Asheville, N. C., and Don Blackley, minister of music from First Baptist Church, Norman, Okla. At Glorieta worship leaders are Dan Yeary, pastor of University Baptist Church, Coral Gables, Fla., and Ty Morris, minister of music at Crestview Baptist Church, Midland, Tex.

For registration information call (615) 251-2712 Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. CST.

Georgians discuss Mercer finances, advisory board

A potentially divisive debate over Mercer University was avoided at the Georgia Baptist Convention when mes-

sengers adopted a report from a special study committee appointed to investigate a reported financial crisis at the Baptist school with campuses in Macon and Atlanta.

But during a later miscellaneous business session messengers passed a motion opposing the closing of the Cecil B. Day College of Arts and Sciences in Atlanta and requesting Mercer trustees to reconsider their action.

The Mercer study committee report cites financial problems at the university but notes that actions have been taken to correct problems and reduce the university's short term indebtedness.

The committee's final report makes three recommendations: the president, other administrative officers and trustees must act responsibly and work

within institutional guidelines and established policies of the Georgia Baptist Convention; it urges the trustees to recommend for election as trustees people who are representative of our entire Baptist constituency; it recommends that the administration and trustees take initiative in the establishment of a GBC board of visitors for Mercer.

The board of visitors, which would be comprised of representatives from each of the convention's 92 associations, would be an advisory group to the university's board of trustees. (BP)

Missionaries, others seek refuge from Manila battle

Three Southern Baptist missionary families and two other American families associated with Baptists in the Philippines evacuated their homes Dec. 4 as fighting intensified in Manila's financial district.

The moves were precautions to avoid the danger of crossfire between Philippine armed forces and rebels holed up in the district following an attempted coup, reported missionary Trudy Crittendon, chairman of the Southern Baptist mission organization in the Philippines.

By early Dec. 4 government forces had confined fighting to an 11-block area in the financial district of the Makati area where numerous embassies are located and where many foreign diplomats and businessmen live. Southern Baptist missionary homes are scattered throughout six subdivisions in the Makati area.

Loyalist and rebel troops battled for a time around International Church, located in the Salcedo Village area of Makati, adjacent to the Bel Air neighborhood where two Southern Baptist missionary families live. The families consider themselves safe and did not leave the area, Miss Crittendon said. (BP)

Czech Christians told freedom is assured

Christians in Czechoslovakia have been assured by government leaders they will receive major new freedoms as the country moves towards its first representative government in 40 years.

In meetings with church leaders Nov. 30 officials of the government's ministry of culture promised many changes in church-state relations in the days ahead, the church leaders said.

Catholic leaders met with government representatives during a morning session. Baptist, Brethren, Methodist, Evangelical and Orthodox church leaders met with them in the afternoon.

Not all the church-state changes were detailed but Baptists learned they could start a seminary immediately if they wish, said a jubilant Jan Pospisil, executive secretary of the Baptist Union of Czechoslovakia, who represented Baptists at the meeting.

Besides starting a seminary, they want to establish senior citizens' homes, print books freely and broadcast on television and radio.

Pospisil said he and other leaders will suggest possible changes in the national constitution's sections dealing with religion during the coming weeks. "We're hoping many possibilities will be opened," he said. "This is a great thing. We have prayed for revival in our country for many years. We feel this is the answer from our God, not only for political change, but for moral changes as well." (BP)

Imagine finding this on the emergency room door

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Dear Fellow Kentuckian,

A major battle is being fought in Kentucky. You and your local hospital could become casualties if the wrong side wins.

At issue is whether we should let the marketplace determine what type health care facilities will be available to us. Or, simply put, should we view hospitals and health care in the same way we view gas stations.

The economic giant Humana says we should— so that it can increase its profits. Humana is also flexing its economic muscle by saying if we don't treat hospitals like gas stations, it may move out of Kentucky if it adds jobs to its insurance company.

We say health care is a public trust and should not be held hostage to profit. It must be available to everyone, regardless of their economic status, and regardless of where they live in Kentucky.

If Humana wins, it would be free to drive local hospitals out of business. They claim it would just be competition. But, try finding a full service gas station these days.

Please, help save the community hospitals in Kentucky.

Please write your state legislator. Tell him or her that we must continue to look at health care facilities based on need. We must keep the "Certificate Of Need" law.

Thank you,

The community hospitals of Kentucky.

Marrowbone, Wheelwright touch mountains and hearts

by Glenn Mollette
State Correspondent

Helping folks have some semblance of a merry Christmas is the goal of two mountain couples both transplanted from inner city ministries. Greg and Alice Whitetree and Charles and Margie Wilson have a job on their hands: Marrowbone and Wheelwright Baptist centers.

Seven years ago the Whitetrees were working in downtown Louisville at East Baptist Center, a ministry sponsored by the Home Mission Board.

"We were contacted by the Home Mission Board and asked to prayerfully consider the Marrowbone ministry in Pike County," said Whitetree.

The couple, who had spent seven prior years in Iowa doing social ministry, looked the area over and felt called to make the move.

"We did not have much trouble making the transition," observed Whitetree, "Our biggest concern was carrying out a rural center. Centers such as Marrowbone are rare in our convention and there is very little material written on how to carry out the work."

One of the greatest needs on the field at Marrowbone is food and clothing. "We have 20-30 families per week at our door for these necessities," declared Whitetree. Recently some churches from Maryville, Tenn. brought a truck load of food and clothing to the center. The provisions stocked a large building donated by the same association of churches last Christmas. But as Christmas approaches the supplies dwindle.

The Whitetrees also direct six Big A Clubs which have over 200 children enrolled. Currently these children are working on Christmas ornaments that will decorate the center's tree. When the

center concludes its activities prior to Christmas day the children will take their personal ornaments home to decorate the tree.

Everything done at Marrowbone is to minister to the local people. One special way Whitetree has attempted to win the hearts of some of the families is by taking a picture of every child enrolled in the clubs and giving it to the family.

Whitetree is the first man to be involved in the Marrowbone Center since its beginning in 1962. It was in this year that Kentucky Baptists discovered Freda Harris.

Miss Harris lived at Marrowbone and worked for a mining company store. After she became a Christian she was convicted that boys and girls needed to hear Bible stories and most importantly about Jesus. Every day she used her own car to pick up children and transported them to her own home where she taught them Bible stories.

In 1962 A. B. Colvin became interested in her work and led the Home Mission Board and the Kentucky Baptist Convention to form a joint effort to employ her. "It was her employment that led to the Marrowbone Center as it is today," recalled Bob Jones, director, KBC Direct Missions Department.

Wheelwright Baptist Center is a different story. Charles and Margie Wilson moved to the mountain community four years ago from an inner city ministry in Toledo, Oh. Under support of the Home Mission Board and the Kentucky Baptist Convention they began a social ministries program. Jones remembered, "We realized that Wheelwright had tremendous need for this type of ministry and this would be the only way we could reach that area."

Wheelwright is in the corner of Floyd County only eight miles from the Pike County line. During the 50s and 60s it was one of the most thriving towns in the mountains. However, the town was a mining company town. When Inland Steel decided to relocate their business to Indiana, Wheelwright folded.

Since 1967 the town has seen a sharp decline. It is now one of the poorest communities in the mountains. The once beautifully manicured golf course no longer exists. The company-owned theatre is a run down old building. The large swimming pool once used by people from neighboring counties is in dire need of repair. All along the highway in and out of Wheelwright small run down houses fill the valley. A common sight in the town is men standing around the community gasoline stations or the community's single drug store,



Alice and Greg Whitetree (at right) pose with workers and children at a Big A Club at Marrowbone Baptist Center in mountainous Pike County.

unemployed, with faces filled with despair.

"These people need help and hope," expressed Wilson. "One of our biggest jobs is helping folks with food and clothing. In Toledo I did a lot of counseling. Here our main task is providing essentials such as soap, shampoo and food."

The social ministry program meets in Wheelwright Baptist Church. The building and property is leased by the Kentucky Baptist Convention from Inland Steel.

"We were fortunate," noted Jones, "to get a 99 year lease on the property."

Out of this building the Home Mission Board and Kentucky Baptist Convention's Direct Missions Department make it possible for folks to learn how to read and write. Several young adults attend classes weekly where they prepare for their GED test. Out of this building the Big A Clubs for the children are conducted as well as the daily social ministries program.

"We received a thousand dollars from the Home Mission Board last year," recalled Wilson. "That money sure went a long way in helping people in this area."

Once again this month the center will receive one thousand dollars from the Home Mission Board, affirmed Jones.

Christmas activities the Wilsons have in store for their children include a Lancaster fellowship. A group from Lancaster (Ky.) Baptist Church will visit to have lunch with the center's children and to play games.

Also, the center's children will do a Christmas play for the church. Another scheduled event will be Christmas

caroling. "Without the van provided to us through the state mission offering we could never do something like this," remarked Wilson.

Wilson attests, "We had a tough time making the transition from Toledo to Wheelwright. But we have never been in any greater area where there was more opportunity to minister than here. These people need the help and the hope that the gospel provides. And the Lord is using us in this place."

Through Marrowbone and Wheelwright community centers Kentucky Baptists are reaching people for Christ. Most of these people are seeing and hearing the good news in action long before they enter a traditional Sunday worship service.

—classified ads—

WANTED: Minister to Youth: Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, Ky. is looking for a part time minister to youth. If interested, please send resume to 350 Mt. Zion Rd., Elizabethtown, KY 42701 12-5-2T

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Merlin Johnson (l) receives supplies from Charles Wilson at Wheelwright Baptist Center in Floyd County.

Committed
to give... as God has given

Report of
Elderly Baptists & Ministers and Families Crises Fund of Daviess-McLean Association

Medical/Dental	\$13,127.86
Rent	600.00
Clothing	390.75
Nursing Home	7,532.50
Crises Expense	264.55
Total Expenditures	\$21,915.66

Note: This assistance is limited to members and ministers of churches of the churches of the Daviess-McLean Baptist Association.

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FBC Inez challenged by foreign missionaries

by Polly Ward

First Baptist Church, Inez, Enterprise Association, observed Foreign Missions Day Nov. 19 with special guests Ted and Pat Cox, retired missionaries to Japan.

The church's annual foreign missions study Dec. 6 will focus on Japan. "The study will be a completion of what you've heard here," pastor Paul Peterson told his congregation, referring to the missionaries' presentation.

From 1959-86 the couple were Southern Baptist missionaries in Japan. Cox spent most of those years as a pastor and Mrs. Cox was active in WMU. January through June of this year the couple went back to Japan as Mission Service Corps volunteers. They now reside in their hometown, Evansville, Ind.

Mrs. Cox, 61, is an attractive dark-haired woman with friendly dark eyes and a ready smile. Cox, 65, has wiry white hair, and a serious demeanor until his lively sense of humor takes over, especially when he tells a humorous anecdote about his experiences. Then he becomes animated and his face breaks into a huge smile.

Cox delivered the foreign mission sermon to the congregation during the morning worship service. Afterwards the church celebrated Thanksgiving with a dinner in the church fellowship hall. For the evening worship service the congregation viewed slides of the couple's work in Japan.

In his morning address to the church Cox spoke about the great spiritual need of the Japanese people and the Christian's obligation to reach out to the lost everywhere.

"Jesus is in the business of sending. He sends us. Every Christian is a missionary, whether willing or unwilling," Cox asserted.

He said that Japan is "a country of 123-125 million people and 99 percent (of the people) know nothing of Jesus Christ."

Cox was in the U. S. Marine Corps during World War II and he was part of the Allied Forces that occupied Japan at the war's end. He said he had "every reason to hate the Japanese." But when he began to work as a missionary he saw the spiritual emptiness of the people. The two chief religions of the country, Shinto and Buddhism, "are like a web woven into the lives of the people."

He said, "I prayed, 'Oh God how can I witness to them; how can this hate go from my heart?' and God said, 'I'll put love there. I'll love them through you.'" And gradually he did place great love in his heart for the people.

Cox said that while he was a missionary, taking the long look instead of the short look at circumstances helped him to persevere in a foreign culture.

"You feel the call to go and you go. And then once you're there you try to have the long look . . . I got there the first night and we had an earthquake . . . I was ready to go back home. But the long look says, 'Ted you haven't even started yet.'"

Before the weekend was out a typhoon hit Japan and again Cox was tempted to quit. "But the long look says, 'God has called you. He'll see you through,'" he said.

"You keep your sense of humor and God helps you . . . I'll tell you what makes it all tick is that God has called you and you know he is leading you there and you have a story to tell—the good news."

When he first arrived in Japan he was eager to present the gospel to the Japanese people, whom he expected to sit and listen while he fed them the word.

To be effective witnesses Christians must be willing to share the hurts of lost people before attempting to witness to them about Christ, he said.

"If you become a friend out there where he is hurting and where he can trust you, then a door will open and the person can ask you why you care about him. Then you begin to tell him what Christ has done for you and what he can do for him," he continued.



Retired missionaries Pat and Ted Cox (l) show pastor Paul Peterson a curio from Japan.

\$10,000 gift helps testify of racetrack ministry importance

by Chris Barnett
State Correspondent

An anonymous couple recently made Todd Hanson an offer he could not refuse. Hanson, chaplain at Turfway Racetrack in Florence, was offered \$10,000.

However, the offer was contingent only if Hanson could himself raise \$10,000 for his ministry.

The fund raising campaign recently ended when Hanson and his wife raised nearly \$15,000. The support of local friends is a testimony to the quality of ministry the racetrack chaplaincy offers.

One benefactor of the Hanson's ministry is Robert Shirley, who works as a hot walker. His job is to cool the horses by walking them. He lives in one of the tack rooms near the horses. The Turfway ministers have helped him with travel expenses, clothing, food and spiritual counsel.

There is no end to the Hanson's ministry. Hanson described one "day" that started Monday morning and ended Wednesday.

Monday is the day chapel services are held at the racetrack because there are races every Sunday. This particular Monday 37 attended services. Monday night the couple spent several hours meeting physical needs of people.

As they were leaving for home that night the Hansons discovered a mother

and her four-year-old who had been beaten by the mother's husband. The mother explained that she was tired of being beaten, that she did not want to lose her child and that she was afraid to be left alone. The Hansons drove the mother and child to a nearby hospital where they received emergency medical treatment. They then took them to a women's crisis center.

When asked about the father, Hanson said he regretted what had happened. He continued, "When he needs help we'll be there for him too."

By Wednesday the Hansons were on the road traveling to Pikeville. Hanson was scheduled to speak about his ministry at Turfway.

For the Hansons ministry is not a job; it is a way of life. They lend their cars to those who need them. They regularly invite people into their home. With 1200 employees at the racetrack the Hansons have a demanding ministry. They give credit to all those who support them.

"We appreciate the churches. They donate food, they donate clothes, they support us financially," says Hanson.

"The management at the track also supports us. They are glad to see us doing this. They are very positive toward us."

Hanson felt called to racetrack chaplaincy while a student at Southern Seminary. He is sponsored by the Home Mission Board, local churches and individuals.



Linda Coulter conducts children's worship at Red House Baptist Church, Richmond.

Richmond minister writes children's resources

by Frank White

When Linda Coulter needed children's worship materials for her church five years ago, she began developing her own. Soon churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention will be able to use the plans she developed.

Mrs. Coulter is minister to children at Red House Baptist Church, Richmond, Ky., and is one of two writers for the "Bible Study for Children's Worship Resource Kit" which will be available in October 1991.

Mrs. Coulter and Janice Haywood, children's church program associate director for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, met with editor Cosette Baker Oct. 29-30 to plan the new resource kit.

The kit will follow the plan Mrs. Coulter developed and refined for use at Red House during the past five years.

When she became part time minister to children in 1984, the church had children's worship but it was more like an extended session of Sunday school than a time to learn about worship, Mrs. Coulter recalled.

She said she developed plans focusing on the elements of worship to help children understand the purpose of corporate worship.

She sent her plans to the Baptist Sunday School Board. When the Sunday School Division began planning a new children's worship resource, Mrs. Coulter's materials became a basis for the plan.

While Mrs. Coulter includes children from four years old to second grade in children's worship at her church, the resource kit will be for children in grades 1-6 with older and younger children's plans.

The older children's plan will be available, even though most churches do not involve children above third grade in children's worship, Miss Haywood observed.

The materials are designed primarily for use with children who may attend church without parents such as those involved in a bus outreach ministry, Miss Baker said.

The materials also can be used with first graders as a transition into corporate worship so they will more readily understand the worship experience, Miss Baker said.

mountains to the mississippi



It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

by William J. Reynolds

Hymns stressing the social message of Christmas—"peace on earth, good will toward men"—are distinctly American. Carols from England and Europe do not reflect this concern.

Edmund H. Sears, a minister living in Wayland, Mass., wrote the hymn in 1849. The storm clouds of strife were gathering and would erupt a dozen years later and embroil the nation in Civil War.

The first stanza of Sear's hymn speaks of the appearance of the heavenly host and the song they sang. There is no mention of the shepherds who heard the song as mentioned in Luke 2.

Stanza two suggests that the message of peace comes again and again at Christmas time. Here is the assurance that though this seems to be a "weary world" with its "sad and lowly plains" and "Babel sounds," yet the angels sing "with peaceful wings unfurled."

Other lines speak plainly of man's inhumanity to his fellowman. The phrase "two thousand years of wrong" refers to the practice of slavery.

How strange it is that this well-known Christmas carol contains no mention of Christ, the newborn king, or any other elements of the scriptural account of Christ's birth from Matthew and Luke except the song of the heavenly host, "Peace on earth, good will to men."

O Come, All Ye Faithful

by William J. Reynolds

The words of this carol were first written in Latin about 1743 by an Englishman who lived in Douay, France. John Francis Wade, a musician and skilled calligrapher, made his living copying and selling music to the chapels and families of his community.

His beautiful manuscript books were the finest examples of his artistic craft and were cherished by those who possessed them.

The origins of both the words and music have long been shrouded in mystery. Only in recent decades has John Francis Wade's authorship of both been firmly established.

The proof has been based on seven manuscripts of the song that date from the mid-eighteenth century. Most important of all they bear Wade's signature.

What a joyful song this is that sings of the adoration of Bethlehem's babe. Unlike the Latin text, the English version, made by Frederick Oakley in 1841 for his congregation at Margaret Street Chapel, London, has irregular lines and no rhyme.

The music is simple, unsophisticated and sings easily. For more than two hundred years—in Latin, English and in many other languages—the words and music written by a transplanted Englishman have become our most frequently sung song of the Christmas season.

William J. Reynolds is professor of church music, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

by William J. Reynolds

Charles Wesley wrote this Christmas hymn the year following his conversion in 1738. The hymn reflects the joy he experienced at that time.

During his lifetime he wrote not less than 6500 hymns but this hymn that is sung around the world at Christmas time may be the best known of all.

In his original version Wesley did not mention the angels in the opening line but chose the Old English word "welkin," which means the vault of heaven, or the sky—"Hark! how all the welkin rings."

There is no one like Charley Wesley when it comes to filling a short hymn with an extraordinary amount of scriptural truth. He intended for all who sang these lines to understand more fully the redemptive and reconciling mission of Christ.

The dominant theme of the hymn is found in the fourth line of the first stanza: "God and sinners reconciled." The hymn is a masterpiece of theology stated in concise terse lines.

In 1840 Felix Mendelssohn wrote a festive choral work for men's voices and brass instruments to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the invention of printing. Fifteen years later William H. Cummings, an English musician, was struck by the fact that the melody from Mendelssohn's work was a perfect fit for Wesley's text.

mountains to the mississippi



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

clear creek chronicle

Gifts

Sunday evening following Thanksgiving we brought out the Christmas decorations and "decked the halls." Our three teenagers, John, 17, Karen, 16, Mary, 13, make any event a memorable experience. Decorating the Christmas tree evoked grateful memories of our pilgrimage. John picked up the first ornament, a red ball with my name handpainted on it by Karen at age 9. One side was shattered and with much regret it went in the trash. There were ornaments made with bread dough and pic plate tin (Rebecca cut them out in 1975 with the help of two toddlers). A green paper wreath framed Mary's kindergarten photo. Ornaments made by former staff members and neighbors reminded us of the priceless gift of friendship. On our "family tree" hang the memories of a challenging but wonderful 23-year pilgrimage through Bowling Green, Louisville, Sturgis, Murray, Manila, Orlando and Pineville. After the last icicle was draped across a bough we turned out all the lights except the tree and sang a few carols. In prayer we thanked the Lord for his coming and the people who continue to bless our lives. Mary and I slipped into the bedroom and wrapped the first present. We topped it with a big red bow used on Rebecca's gift each year since 1965 and laid it under the tree. Some things about Christmas never change.

One of the best Christmas gifts for our campus family is the continued recovery of the six teenagers seriously injured in a September automobile accident. Carter Caldwell, 13, spoke his first words ("I don't care") Nov. 11. He continues to undergo rehabilitation in Asheville, N. C. His parents commute each weekend for encouragement. Nov. 28 a body cast was removed from Charlotte Terry, 12. Julie Dixon, 16, flashes her beautiful smile and expects to return to school before the Christmas holiday break. Dawn Pennay, 13, remains on crutches. Daniel Delano, 13, and Stephanie Secrist, 17, recover at home and may face additional surgery. These families have received God's gift of coping grace.

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Cor. 9:15).

associations

Taylor Association reports two professions of faith and one rededication as a result of its jail ministry.

ordinations

Ralph Roberts and **Ward Hart** were ordained deacons by Stanford Baptist Church. Larry Burcham is pastor.

missions

Grace Powell, director of Kentucky Ac-teens and Campus Baptist Young Women, recently led a study of missions in Japan for the Baptist Young Women of Cumberland College, Williamsburg.

revivals

Gerald McNeely was the evangelist during revival services at **Mt. Zion Baptist Church**, Ten Mile Association. McNeely, a missionary to Spain, is on furlough from his duties at the Spanish Baptist Seminary. Todd McMichen is pastor of Mt. Zion.

congregations

Oak Grove Baptist Church, Little River Association, honored Loutishia Hughes. Miss Hughes has been a member of the church 50 years and has had perfect attendance to Sunday school for 35 years.

Erlanger Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association, reports a successful "Together We Grow" campaign. The effort was directed by a consultant from the Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission and raised \$625,000 in cash and commitments. The project provides funding for physical improvements and enabled the church to avoid interest payments on a note. William E. Crosby is pastor.

Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Long Run Association, will hold its fourth annual toy sale Dec. 16. The sale will offer low income families an opportunity to purchase toys for under \$5. Stephen Shoemaker is pastor.

personnel

Lewisport Baptist Church, Blackford Association, called **Mark Hendricks** as full time associate pastor. He will serve in the capacity of minister of music and youth.

Grant Bishop accepted the call to pastor Florence Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association.

James Hagan is new pastor of Grace Union Baptist Church, Liberty Association.

Larry Williams accepted the pastorate of Haywood Baptist Church, Liberty Association, following the resignation of **Phillip Beckner**.

Larry Wisdom is no longer pastoring Macedonia Baptist Church, Greens-

burg, Russell Creek Association. He goes to Salem Baptist Church, Liberty Association.

Central Baptist Church, Corbin, Mt. Zion Association, called **Rick Hatley** as minister of education and evangelism.

Ray Snowden resigned as pastor of Salem Baptist Church, Boone's Creek Association.

Jeff Cox is now pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church, West Kentucky Association.

Earl Harrison is no longer pastor of Milburn Baptist Church, West Kentucky Association.

Island Creek Baptist Church, Booneville Association, is no longer pastored by **Bruce Alvis**.

Jim Hunt resigned as pastor of Poplar Spring Baptist Church, Liberty Association. He moves to Mill Creek Baptist Church, Monroe Association, to replace **Amon Martin** who is retiring.

Bethany Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association, called **Ivan Jones** as pastor.

Paul Wesley Fields is now pastor of Bradfordsville Baptist Church, Central Association.

Bethlehem Baptist Church, Central Association, is now pastored by **Quintin Madden**. He leaves Riverside Baptist Church, Long Run Association.

Michael Olive accepted the pastorate of Stewarts Creek Baptist Church, Central Association.

Ron Bohannon resigned as pastor of Whites Run Baptist Church, Whites Run Association.

Paul G. Moore is no longer pastoring New Clover Creek Baptist Church, Breckinridge Association.

Pisgah Baptist Church, Breckinridge Association, is no longer pastored by **Ervin Elsey**.

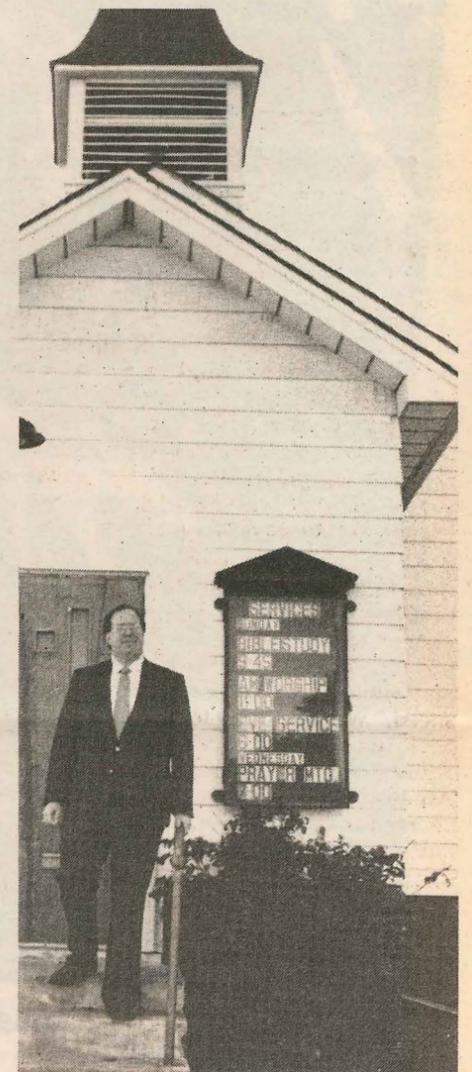
George Fredrick is new pastor of Pathfork Baptist Church, Bell Association.

Riverside Baptist Church, Bell Association, called **Enis Harper** as pastor.

John Gibbons accepted the pastorate of Northside Baptist Church, Bell Association.

Thixton Lane, Long Run Association, has called **Harry Gullede** as pastor.

Sue Stephens announced her retirement as church organist at First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, Mt. Zion Association. Mrs. Stephens has held the position since April 1952. She was honored at a reception Dec. 10. Prior to assuming the position of church organist Mrs. Stephens was pianist.



Mike R. York, native of Pineville, Ky. and graduate of that city's Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, stands on the steps of the former home of **Madison Heights (Mich.) Baptist Church**, his pastorate. The frame building fell victim to the wrecking ball in November and the congregation is now meeting in a public school. The church hopes Kentucky volunteers will help them rebuild next summer. Contacts may be made to York at 1221 Beaupre, Madison Heights, MI 48071, (313) 543-9647.



Elected officers at the 10th annual Kentucky Baptist Fellowship of Directors of Missions were **Billie Wright**, president (Laurel River); **Frank Dorris**, president elect (Warren); **Randy Jones**, secretary-treasurer (North Kentucky); and **Harold Greenfield**, VitaLink editor (Caldwell-Lyon).



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR DEC. 17, 1989

Life and work series

Bridging cultural gaps

Acts 17:22-31 Some noble Christian brethren in Berea escorted Paul to Athens, the capital of Greece. As they left him Paul told them to have Silas and Timothy "come to him with all speed." While waiting for the arrival of these two missionary companions, Paul made a tour of observation through Athens, the city which had long been a center for art, literature, sculpture, culture, philosophy and religion. He

was shocked by the multiplicity of gods which were in evidence in the homes, on the streets, in the parks, in the temples and in the magnificent Acropolis. The Athenians had erected an altar and placed on it the inscription, "To the Unknown God." Their intention was to include any god who might have been overlooked, lest they should offend such a god.

Paul began his memorable sermon on Mar's Hill by commending the people for their religiousness, a distinction of which they were naturally proud. He considered it a great privilege to preach to them about this "Unknown God." Paul declared Christ Jesus was the saviour.

Paul declared God was the creator who made heaven and earth and all that is in them. Therefore he was far greater than any god of whom they had ever heard. Paul told the Athenians God was the source of life. All human actions are dependent upon his directive or permissive will and power. Paul's sermon indicated man was created by God's power, lives on God's earth, is governed by God's will and is dependent upon God's mercy.

Things seemed to go well with Paul until he preached the resurrection of Christ. The wise men of Athens refused to accept his teaching on this subject. Some of them became infuriated and a great confusion resulted. Even to this day Satan is not greatly disturbed at the preaching of a dead Christ, but he is always strongly opposed to that part of the gospel, namely, the resurrection of Christ. The resurrection of Christ is the pivotal point in Christianity. Furthermore, his resurrection was the proof of Christ's deity, the basis of the Christian faith and the guarantee of our resurrection.

scores so many years later.

I've gone to hundreds of games starting with my years as an OBI student manager 34 years ago. How many things have changed since then! Yet how much remains the same! The boys come and go. But one only has to close one's eyes to be back with any group of them over so many years in the 50s, early 60s when I first worked here, the 70s and 80s since I've been president and just a few weeks the 90s.

Those many hundreds of boys are there riding the bus with me yet they are not there. Some have been dead many years; the others are scattered all over the nation and in other lands. But, living or dead, they seem very close.

My eyes open for we have stuttered to a stop. On the outskirts of Middlesboro, we have had a breakdown. How do we get the kids on to the gym and the game to start soon? Visions come to my mind of having to send back to Oneida for another bus to get us back home.

We step off the bus, start looking at the motor, yet not one of us six adults knows a thing about mechanics. But within a minute a car with a young man and woman, a younger girl and two small children stops in front of us. The young man comes at a run, announces, "I am a certified mechanic" and immediately goes to work.

In the meantime a Middlesboro policeman stops and asks what he can do. We send our visitor on to the gym to tell them our plight and see if they can send a bus to us. A former student I haven't seen for years drives by, yells "Hi Mr. Moore; I'll be back in a minute to help." About that moment our new found mechanic announces "a dead coil" and asks where a parts store might be. We thus learn that he, too, is a

International series

Saviour of the world

John 4:7-15 About noon Christ and his disciples arrived at Jacob's well hot, hungry, thirsty and weary from the journey. Christ sat down on the parapet of the well while the disciples went into Sychar to buy food. Ere long the reverie of the saviour was disturbed by a Samaritan woman coming to draw water for her household needs. She had come to the well at that unusual hour to avoid contact with other women who despised her because of her sinfulness.

With remarkable wisdom and unusual tact Christ asked her to help him by giving him a drink of water. In the course of the ensuing conversation Christ told the woman that those who drank water from Jacob's well would thirst again but there was something far better than the water from the well beside which he sat. He told her the water which he gave satisfied completely all who drank it. Without fully understanding all that the statement of Christ meant this needy woman asked him to give her this water for which she would not thirst again.

John 4:27-29 Stirred in heart and perplexed in mind, the woman said: "I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come he will tell us all things." When she expressed the longing of her heart to see the Messiah, Christ immediately revealed himself to her, saying, "I that speak unto thee am he."

John 4:39-42 Upon his declaring himself to be the Messiah for whom both Jews and Samaritans were looking, the woman accepted him as her personal saviour. She shared her new found joy with all of her townspeople.

stranger, being about 140 miles away from his home. We look around us and there is a parts store and filling station a few hundred feet away and he dashes off to it in his car.

In the meantime our coach has had the players changing into their uniforms on the bus so there won't be further delay if and when we get to the gym. Hunkered down in the seats so as not to be seen by the passing motorists they make the change. Just at that moment our opponents for the evening, Cumberland, from Harland County, pull in behind our bus. Learning the situation their coach invites our players onto their bus to ride on into town. Someone comments: "Just like the wrestlers coming to town, supposedly deadly enemies but all in the same car."

They are barely out of sight when our good Samaritan mechanic returns with a new coil and in two minutes triumphantly has the bus running again. We arrive at the gym about ten minutes after the team and the mechanic has followed us to make sure we are safely there. A final "goodby" and "thanks" to him and on with the game which is a 67-54 victory for Oneida.

Looking back over the evening after our safe arrival back home, I thought how God does provide. In my lifetime, I have experienced literally hundreds of situations, large and small, where God answered our need even before we had time to take our need to him.

On Saturday a number of students were off at 6 a.m. to Berea and the SAT exam, our band left at 7 a.m. to march in the televised Lexington Christmas parade and our swimming and diving team were on the road by 9 a.m. for a 14-team meet at Eastern Kentucky University.



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

homes for children

1989

It is my guess that the year 1989 will be reported in future history books as a divisional year separating major periods of history. I cannot recall seeing so much change take place around the world so quickly.

Some changes had begun earlier, but the vivid movements toward freedom in Russia, China, Hungary, Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and other communist countries are ones which I believe few even dared dream about as this year began.

Around the world millions of people are experiencing for the first time in their lives what we have every day—freedom. They are becoming free to travel, to vote, to disagree publicly with the government and free to worship God.

I have been particularly amazed at the role Christians are playing in the changes. News stories coming out of the Ukraine in Soviet Russia report the existence of a secret underground church which was officially banned over 40 years ago. Believers have secretly worshiped in the woods because their churches were confiscated and turned into museums or warehouses.

I heard Billy Graham describe an ecumenical service he held in a communist country earlier this year. With over 95,000 people present over 28,000 of them accepted Christ.

The head of atheistic Russia is visiting the pope in Rome and promising freedom of religion in that country.

Only time will tell us how each of these movements will fare. One commentator noted that he never thought he would pray that the premier of Russia would have a long life and be successful.

This year is really moving far faster than many of us can assimilate the change. Rapid change like this can bring both good and bad. The instability in a region not used to self governance can be deadly but let us hope and pray that it is leading to positive change.

For we Southern Baptists I cannot think of a better time to let out all of the stops on Bold Mission Thrust. The idea of sharing the good news with every person on earth seemed impossible to many with an iron curtain shutting off half the world.

God is removing that curtain; will we be able to seize the opportunity he is providing us?



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

A Samaritan mechanic

I slipped off with our basketball team to go to the Middlesboro Invitational Friday. It was my first trip to an "away" ballgame this year. An OBI graduate who is a former ballplayer and OBI coach was visiting and also on the bus. He and our two assistant coaches all played for coach Gritton. The four of them talked and laughed all the way about games and incidents of other years. I never cease to be amazed how ballplayers can remember plays and the

christian education



**on
mission
together**

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

New partners

Alice and I were missionaries in the Middle East when the concept of "partnerships" was but a seedling in Southern Baptist life.

Today, 20 years later, "partnerships" are a vital and growing part of the total mission of Southern Baptists. The short term involvement of noncareer missionaries has invigorated our evangelical vision.

In 1984 Kentucky Baptists joined in a partnership with the Baptists of Kenya. The involvement of more than 750 volunteers from over 50 associations generated enthusiasm for continued participation in partnerships.

In 1988 the executive board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention approved a staff position to coordinate Kentucky Baptist partnerships. Calvin Wilkins, former director of missions for Graves County Association and experienced in partnerships, was elected to fill it.

On Tuesday of this week the KBC's executive board was asked to approve: (1) A new five-year partnership with Ohio Baptists, targeting the four densely populated areas of Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, and Dayton, a combined population of more unsaved persons than there are people in Kentucky.

(2) A three-year partnership with the Utah-Idaho Convention, a territory extending 900 miles from north to south; a population of over two million with only 96 Southern Baptist churches. That compares to our 2260 churches for Kentucky's 3.7 million population.

As the executive board "lays track" for future Kentucky Baptist volunteers, individuals and associations are already making preparation to participate:

- Ohio Baptists asked that we enlist 25 preachers and/or musicians who would agree to lead a Here's Hope revival in Ohio in the spring of 1990. What a joy it was to present at their convention a list—not of 25 but 74 volunteers.

- The West Union Baptist Association (Paducah and environs) approved a recommendation from their missions committee to:

- Contribute \$500 for any pastor or minister of music who desires to participate in the Brazil partnership (not to exceed 15).

- Distribute any unused funds toward the expense of other individuals wishing to go to Brazil.

- Contribute \$250 for any pastor or minister of music to participate in the Utah-Idaho partnership.

Several other associations have taken similar actions.

With the continuation of Mission Kentucky and new partnerships with Brazil, Ohio and Utah, Idaho, the last decade of this century promises to be an exciting adventure of missions for Kentucky Baptists.



Julie Vaughn (l) of Campbellsville and Marcina Clark of Albany received the Cecile Conaway Meskimen piano scholarship for the academic year 1989-90 at Campbellsville (Ky.) College. Pictured with them is Wesley Roberts, associate professor of music at Campbellsville.

southern seminary

The Southern Baptist Convention and its oldest seminary need trustees who see themselves as stewards and servants rather than power brokers, two speakers told Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees.

Speaking at the trustees' fourth annual retreat, Nashville attorney James P. Guenther said: "Trusteeship is best seen as servanthood. The trustee who approaches his task from the perspective of power will make many a mistake. A trustee who approaches his trusteeship with humility and with a keen desire to serve is in synch with Baptist polity, with our theology of ministry and with our democratic foundations."

Guenther, who is legal counsel to the SBC Executive Committee, joined Southern Baptist Education Commission executive director Arthur L. Walker Jr. in addresses on trustee responsibilities during the three-day retreat near Orlando, Fla.

Guenther advised trustees to do three things: assert themselves, restrain themselves and discern "when you ought to do which."

Walker challenged trustees to "prop-

erly exercise the stewardship: given with their election. That stewardship, he said, involves responsibilities to God, to the convention, to accrediting organizations, to the institution's constituencies and to its unique heritage.

Daniel B. Cromer has been named director of major gifts at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Cromer, 37, had been an independent insurance broker for the past five years with a recent emphasis in the area of charitable bequests. He began his insurance career in 1979 and has held positions with Independent Life and Accident Insurance Company and Kentucky Central Life Insurance Company.

A native of Louisville, Cromer earned degrees from Georgetown (Ky.) College and Southern Seminary. He and his wife Nancy Lynn are the parents of three children.



Cromer
(Southern)



Burkett
(Georgetown)

baylor university

Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Tex., has been named visiting distinguished professor of religion at Baylor University, Waco, Tex., effective Jan. 1, 1990.

Moore, a leader in the moderate faction of the Southern Baptist Convention, will retire Dec. 31, 1989 from the Amarillo pastorate he served 30 years.

Baylor officials said his responsibilities will include teaching practical studies and New Testament survey courses, assisting faculty and students through the ministry guidance program and "working with Texas Baptists and other constituencies to enhance the purpose and goals of Baylor, affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Moore, former president of the Texas

convention and former first vice president of the SBC, is chairman of Baylor trustees. Baylor spokesmen said Moore would not be required to resign from the board because his position, while salaried, is in the category of a temporary appointment. (BP)

campbellsville college

Campbellsville College has received a \$100,000 insurance policy from New York Life Insurance agent Ken Pope, a former vice president of the college, and his wife Fay, a former instructor.

Melvin Hampton, director of financial development, said Pope bought the life insurance policy in the college's name and will make payments on the premium until the dividends will make it pay for itself.

The gift by the Popes is a contribution to the VISION 2000 financial campaign, a detailed plan that will guide the college into the 21st century.

Pope was vice president for advancement at Campbellsville from 1982-88. His wife was an instructor of secretarial studies the same years.

georgetown college

William G. "Bill" Burkett has been named director of regional development at Georgetown (Ky.) College, according to J. Richard Carlton, vice president for development. Burkett will be responsible for fund raising activities in the Lexington area and throughout eastern Kentucky.

Burkett is the former vice president for institutional advancement at Palm Beach (Fla.) Atlantic College. A native of Covington, he attended Georgetown and holds ThD, ThM and BD degrees from Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla.

Prior to his position at Palm Beach Atlantic Burkett was development vice president for Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, Tex. He also pastored churches for 30 years in Kentucky, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, California and Maryland.

Burkett and his wife Jean reside in Versailles.

J. Alfred Smith, senior pastor of Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland, Cal., impressed upon the faculty, staff and students of Georgetown College to "place yourselves in the roles of Joseph, Mary, the innkeeper and his guests this Christmas season."

Smith's Dec. 5th address was in conjunction with his day-long appearance at Georgetown during the semiannual Baptist Pastors Fellowship Day.

"I wasn't sure if I was going to make it to Georgetown," he said, referring to his airplane flight being over booked. "A lady came over the loudspeaker and exclaimed that five people were going to have to give up their seats in order to make room." This lack of room, he said, made him think of Mary and Joseph's inconvenience in modern day terms when they were unable to find room in the inn.

The Christmas story can be easily applied to our daily lives, remarked Smith. "We may ask ourselves each day as Christians, 'Why should I give up my space?'"

According to the California pastor, nearly 40 percent of all goods purchased in this nation each year are bought during the four weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas.



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New Englander returns to northeast with SS experience

by Frank White

As Dave Burt spent his teen years attending a small Southern Baptist church in western New York, he had no thought that he was training for ministry in New England.

Now after two years as minister of youth and education at First Baptist Church of Sudbury, Mass., outside of Boston, Burt knows his previous experiences in the region as well as church staff experiences in the South have helped prepare him for the work he now believes the Lord has called him to do.

When he went to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex. in 1976, Burt and his wife Tunnea discussed that they might eventually want to go to the Northeast, he recalled.

The subject did not come up again until both participated in the Boston Metro Sunday School Enrolment Training Clinic in March 1987, he said. The trip to Boston was the first exposure to New England for Tunnea Burt, a Kentucky native.

"She knew when we went to the clinic in Boston that we would be back there," Burt said.

Less than six months after clinic the church in Sudbury called Burt to his current job from a similar role at First Baptist Church of Gravel Ridge, Jacksonville, Ark.

Burt was in Nashville Oct. 24-26 participating in a Sunday school special worker institute. The institute training will assist Burt as he trains youth Sunday school workers in Massachusetts Baptist Association and Great Boston Baptist Association.

His youth experience in New York has helped give him an understanding of the people and the situations of smaller churches, he said. His work in larger churches in the South and education at Southern Baptist schools have better equipped him to help the churches develop Sunday

school work.

When he was called to the ministry as a junior in high school Burt thought the call was to be a pastor because he was unaware positions existed as ministers of education or youth. He first discovered those opportunities while working in a church in Kentucky as a student at Cumberland College.

"God used that experience to begin to grow my ministry in youth work," he said.

He is one of the few youth ministers or ministers of education in New England. As a special worker he is helping Sunday school workers develop skills and programs to help reach people in their communities.

Many of the churches in New England, like Sudbury, find that Sunday school growth in New England is slow.

Sudbury now has a Sunday school attendance of 115 and hopes to reach an attendance of 350 and start other missions in the area.

Burt has found that involvement in the community is essential to building community awareness and understanding for the church, a factor which may be more important in New England where people are not familiar with Southern Baptists, he said.

"If we want to make an impact in the community we have to be involved in the lives of people," he said.

Burt found one opportunity for involvement as the community has struggled to deal with seven teen suicides within 18 months. He works on a committee of youth leadership which has enabled him to develop relationships with others working with youth. He believes that will help make others aware of the church's willingness and ability to minister to the needs of youth and their parents.

Burt continues to look for other ways his church and other New England churches can and find opportunities to share the gospel with people in their communities.



Nell Magee (l), consultant in the Student Ministry Department at the Baptist Sunday School Board, and Keith Williams, consultant for adult Sunday school work for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, look over Sunday school training materials during a Sunday school special workers institute in Nashville.

Student ministry leaders get Sunday school training

by Frank White

Campus ministers should be considered authorities on student work in the church as well as on campus, according to Bill Henry, program manager of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Student Ministry Department.

While many campus ministers are knowledgeable about student work in churches, additional training will help them understand Sunday school organization for college students and qualify them to train Sunday school teachers, said Henry.

Student Ministry Department managers and consultants plan to provide the training for campus ministers about various aspects of Sunday school organizations.

As preparation eight department workers attended Sunday school special worker institutes in Las Vegas, Nev., Kansas City, Mo. and Nashville during October to be trained along with state convention special workers.

While the state convention workers will provide Sunday school leadership training in associations in their states, the student ministry leaders will provide Sunday school training for state student ministry leaders and campus ministers.

With the training campus ministers will be better equipped to help churches provide quality Bible study for college students, Henry said.

Also the training will qualify campus ministers to be the college student spec-

ialist on an expanded Associational Sunday School Improvement Support Team. They can be available as special workers to provide training throughout their states, Henry said.

"We want to have quality Sunday school teachers throughout the convention trained to minister to college students," Henry said.

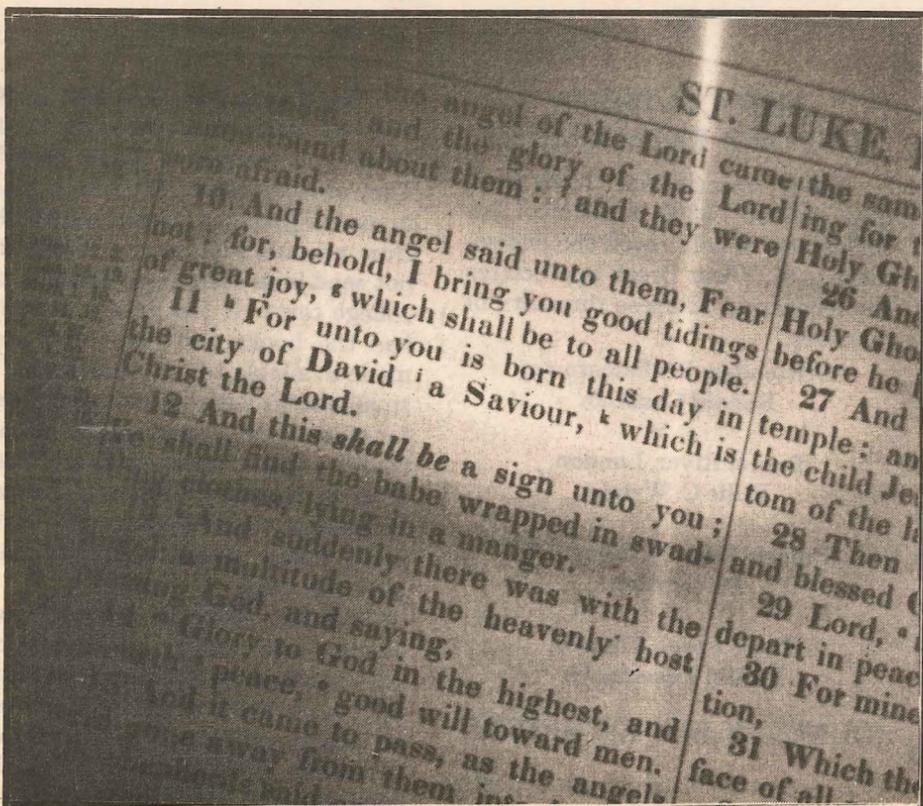
He said his department hopes as many as 10,000 Sunday school teachers working with college students can be trained through the system.

Teacher training is the second step in an overall plan that began with the development of Sunday school materials in the Life and Work Series which appear monthly in *The Student* magazine, Henry said.

The training is another step to link campus and church efforts to involve students in Bible study, missions and ministry, he said.

Henry noted an increase in the number of church workers including Sunday school teachers who attended student conferences at Glorieta and Ridgecrest Baptist conference centers in the past three years as an indication of the interest in training directed specifically at student work through the church.

Previously leadership sessions during student conferences involved mostly campus workers. Now there are as many training sessions during the conferences for church workers with college students as for campus workers, Henry said.





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FIRST BAPTIST MURRAY GIVES \$23,000 FOR ENDOWMENT

H. C. CHILES CHAIR OF NEW TESTAMENT REACHES \$161,000

On September 29, 150 guests celebrated the generous response of First Baptist Murray members in support of the H. C. Chiles Chair of New Testament at Clear Creek. The \$200,000 endowment will help provide annual funding for a professor of New Testament. The endowment honors Dr. H. C. Chiles, distinguished professor of New Testament since 1982 and Murray pastor, 1948-70.

Again demonstrating their love for missions the Murray members gave \$23,000 with additional pledges expected.

1989 marks Dr. Chiles' 65th anniversary of ordination. He was chairman of the 1935 Kelly Hall building committee. Help us celebrate this significant ministry with a Christmas gift to reach this endowment by January 1.



Lexington pianist Mrs. Shirley Joyce Humphreys, Dr. and Mrs. Chiles' daughter, provided banquet music.



TRADING PLACES

by Greg Hodnett

Mrs. Clara Barnett, Kelly Hall supervisor, acquired her job in an unusual way. She traded places with her son, Jay Barnett.

When Jay, pastor of the First Baptist, Gilbertsville, Blood River Association, graduated from Clear Creek, Mrs. Barnett moved into Kelly Hall to begin work on her bachelor's degree. She explains, "Jay decided to move into my house in Louisville to save money, we rented one truck to make both moves."

So, the Mother and son team traded places, allowing Mrs. Barnett to fulfill her dream. She had expected to carry out her ministry dreams with her mate, Ted. The couple had committed themselves to missions and planned to spend the rest of their lives in direct mission work. Mr. Barnett planned to take early retirement from South Central Bell Telephone Company, but the long awaited dream suddenly turned into a nightmare. Mr. Barnett died of a heart attack in July, 1980.

"What will I do now?" asked Mrs. Barnett as she prayed for guidance. After much pain and soul-searching, she decided to fulfill her commitment to the Lord. Unsure of her ministry direction, she was certain of one thing - she needed more education.



Mrs. Clara Barnett

In 1985 she received the diploma in Christian educational ministries from Boyce Bible School, carrying a 4.0 average.

She "crowded two years of study into four years." She visited her son, Jeff, in Germany four times between semesters and took time to explore "what she wanted to be when she grew up."

Significant growth resulted from a foreign mission project in the Carribeans her first year at Boyce. "My tour in Turks Caicos was one of the most life-changing events I can think of." Mrs. Barnett also recalled the 100% Bible study attendance among the children of one village.

One other life-changing event stands out in Mrs. Barnett's recent memory. It took place during the annual campus revival in the fall of 1988. The week was coming to a climax and Mrs. Barnett was experiencing personal revival, as were other students. During the height of the week bad news came.

One of Mrs. Barnett's uncles had died. She desperately wanted to go and be with the family, but her car was acting up. At about 10:00 p.m. she decided she couldn't go.

Just then two "Clear Creek boys" came to the door, pushed their way in. One of them insisted, "I've got to talk to you, Mom." The troubled young man needed a savior and he knew where to go to find the Lord. Mrs. Barnett led him to faith in Jesus Christ.

It's not every day a mother and son trade places. But for the Barnetts, it was a fair trade. Mrs. Barnett found her place of ministry, and her son continued his studies.

Mrs. Barnett plans to continue her studies at Clear Creek as she supervises Kelly Hall and substitutes as a mother for single students.



Murray Pastor Dr. Greg Earwood (left) welcomes two predecessors, Dr. Chiles and Clear Creek President Bill Whittaker who pastored the Murray church 1976-82.

ASSOCIATIONS SUPPORT ENDOWMENT

These associations have sent gifts of \$250 - \$300 in honor of Dr. Chiles and to help reach the endowment goal. Clear Creek appreciates the leadership of these directors of missions.

Crittenden, Williamstown,
Ronald Chastain

Laurel River, London,
Billie C. Wright

Pulaski County, Somerset,
David Aker

Three Forks, Hazard,
Phillip Rosenbaum

LIBRARY BOOKS NEEDED

A priority need for our school is an expanded library.

The 5 year goal is to add 2,500 volumes each year through 1994. Have you bought a book lately? They are expensive. We will be glad to receive good used books, especially from pastors who retire. Please do not send high school and liberal arts college texts. If the library already has the books you send they are made available to our students at a small charge with the proceeds used for student emergency needs. Many useful volumes recently came from Mrs. E. N. Perry, widow of former Richmond First Pastor and Rev. Andy Reese, retired pastor of Barbourville First.

Church mission groups have adopted our library as a mission action project. A Baptist Book Store gift certificate or a check designated for books will help. We can stretch the funds since we have a tax deduction and receive a library discount.