

## 1000 hear Parks in Louisville talk

by Brad Bull, Staff Writer

*Joshua fought the battle of Jericho and the walls came tumbling down.*

We are living in similar times. Walls of all kinds are falling around the world—particularly in eastern Europe. Opportunities for Christian work have arisen in the past three months that have been virtually nonexistent for almost half a century.

"What will we do with the fulness of time God has given us?" R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., posed that question Mar. 13 in Louisville at a Kentuckiana global mission rally. Speaking at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Alumni Chapel, Parks challenged his decidedly Christian audience not to forget they are the agents of God's work in world history.

He offered examples of times when Christians had not adequately responded.

"At the end of World War II Douglas MacArthur asked that 1000 missionaries be sent to Japan. The emperor's diety had been shattered. But only a trickle of missionaries went." Parks added that a similar situation had occurred in China many years ago.

Parks exhorted, "What would the world be like today if we had responded the way we should have? And how will history record the way we respond to the opening of eastern Europe?"

Attacking American ethnocentrism, Parks said, "We have come to believe Jesus came to save Americans—that he was born here—probably in the South. We have the attitude that Jesus came just for us, and if people in other countries find him along the way that's ok."

Baptists must be willing to make more financial sacrifices if the gospel is to reach the world, Parks admonished.

"When (the late Romanian dictator)

Ceauseacu and his wife were executed this past Christmas, the first thought that went through my mind," said Parks, "was 'Well, they deserved it.' It wasn't a very Christian thought but it was a thought that came from my humanity.

"Then I stopped to think, 'How do we justify the luxurious way we live in a world that is lost and suffering?'"

Parks' comments were heard by over 1000 ministers and laypeople. Seminary officials had expected a larger turnout but were satisfied. The invitation hymn was extended several times as people went forward to talk with FMB personnel.

The program featured music by seminary ensembles and singing and testimonies by missionary personnel. Congregational singing was led by Donald Hustad, senior professor of church music at Southern.

Roy L. Honeycutt, Southern's president, addressed the crowd and introduced Parks.



Vines



Struble

## John M. Vines to be acting president of hospital system

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

A newcomer to the Baptist Hospitals Inc. staff has been named acting president of the multi-hospital system, in the wake of Roger N. Struble's departure last week as president and chief executive officer.

John M. Vines, who joined the BHI staff last April as vice president, was named by the hospital systems' board of directors to the interim assignment.

Vines has been responsible for finance, management information systems, planning and marketing. He had been partner with Little Rock, Ark. and Memphis, Tenn. accounting firms before moving to Baptists' Louisville headquarters last spring. At both accounting firms he assisted health care clients in strategic plan development and was a hospital consultant. Earlier he held positions in investment banking and chemical manufacturing as financial and administrative officer. He had also owned and operated his own management and financial consulting firm.

Married, with two children, Vines holds a BBA degree in accounting with honors from Baylor University, Waco, Tex. He is a member of the American Institute of CPAs.

The announcement of his selection as acting president of Baptist Hospitals Inc. came following a Mar. 12-13 board meeting. At that time Struble, 41, resigned, having served 15 months of a five-year contract.

According to a statement, Struble's resignation, which was effective immediately, was given to pursue other activities in the health care field.

His resignation followed Leonard V. Hardin's resignation three weeks earlier as chairman of the board of directors. Hardin, president of Louisville's First National Bank, cited community activities and limited time as reasons to step aside when he informed the board's executive committee Feb. 20. He remains on the board.

New board chairman Gene Cravens called Struble's departure "amicable." He acknowledged, "We appreciate Roger's efforts and accomplishments as CEO and wish him well in his future endeavors."

Struble declared that he left with "no regrets about my performance."

According to Cravens, a national search is under way for a new CEO.

BHI operates hospitals in Louisville, Lexington, Paducah and Corbin.

## Parks: commitments down, 'here's why...'

by Brad Bull, Staff Writer

If he were a journalist, what would R. Keith Parks ask the president of the Foreign Mission Board?

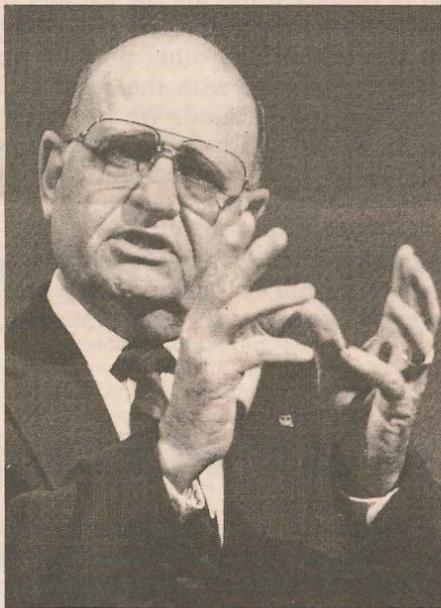
"I'd ask about eastern Europe," said Parks in an interview the day after his address at a Kentuckiana global missions rally at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. Parks is president of the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

"I would ask what Southern Baptists are doing or should be doing in light of the remarkable changes going on (in eastern Europe)."

"East Europeans are eager to evangelize now but they don't have materials, Bibles, or literature and they want tents in which to have meetings. They're eager to get on with it and we're trying to help them."

Parks emphasized that unless the Lord intervenes, things may get worse in the region rather than better. He noted that Islam is already present in many areas and therefore has an evangelistic advantage.

He also commented on the vast



R. Keith Parks, FMB president

needs that exist as a result of the harsh economic climate. Parks reported, "One medical missionary told me that he had seen countries where children had to share hospital beds but in Romania he saw beds occupied by two adult men. They have some immediate needs that we need to meet."

Turning to Bold Mission Thrust, Parks said that it appears some goals will be met but not all. BMT is the campaign seeking to share the gospel with every unbeliever by the year 2000. "Unless Southern Baptists decide world evangelization is important enough to make some financial sacrifices, we're not going to have the resources to reach all our goals," Parks said.

He added that the FMB has reached its goal in terms of increase in short term volunteers but has seen a decline in long term commitments. Asked what factors have contributed to the downward trend, Parks listed some possible reasons.

"We are hearing from some candidates that because of the denominational controversy and the uncertainty of where our convention is going they want to wait.

Parks also noted, "We're living in a

society where the reluctance to make long term commitments is evidenced in every area of life—whether it's marriage or vocation. We feel that has had enough impact on candidates that they are hesitant to make a long term commitment to anything.

"The fact of the affluence in our society is also a factor. People are not envisioning themselves in a tough place with a hard lifestyle, with strange foods and having to learn another language. Some have raised the question, 'Have we moved to such affluence that it is impossible for us to find enough Southern Baptists to live in third world cultures?' I personally think the people are still out there ready to make that sacrifice and I think the trend is changing.

"One other thing is that fewer Baptists are knowledgeable about missions. Fewer people are in our missions organizations. Many Southern Baptists are coming from other denominations. We no longer teach doctrine in Discipleship Training. We are increasingly losing our concept of and commitment to missions."

Parks modestly said he had been trying to do his job by keeping the FMB focused on missions and staying out of denominational politics.

"There are occasions where I will speak out against something, from either direction, that people object to politically. I hope I never have or ever will (speak out) except in the interest in missions.

"From all across our (Southern Baptist) political spectrum, there is more agreement on our missions agenda than anything else. My prayer has been that we can rise above the controversy and find a common ground around missions that will hold us together and move us together.

"If we ever lose missions as our central goal, we will fragment."

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March 20, 1990

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### HERE'S HOPE INSIDE

- **FRONTLINE:** From the Jordan to fiberglass—baptistries rediscovered
- **DANIEL PRAYER TEAM:** Power in the preparation

## in the interim

### How close is Budapest to New Orleans?

Keith Parks, speaking at Southern Seminary during the recent Global Missions Conference, gave witness to his conviction that the events of the last months in eastern Europe constitute one of the great breakthroughs of God in human history. Many others share this conviction. The breathtaking opportunities for mission in eastern Europe stagger the mind.

Our Baptist brothers and sisters have asked for 400 career missionaries! One year ago no human being could have made a prediction that our convention would have that kind of opportunity. The requests for other kinds of leadership and help, for Bibles and printed materials, for loudspeakers and tents and for food and medicine are lengthy. We are living in one of those times for which we have prayed—the dramatic movement of God in human history. God has moved the walls, and now people such as we must decide to follow where he is leading.

Southern Baptists have the chance to fulfill our missionary destiny for this century by answering the call of eastern Europe now. That call ought to have center stage in New Orleans in June. The leadership of this convention, elected and appointed, should put everything else on the back burner and work overtime to develop the resources, manpower and materials needed to answer this call. Keith Parks and his global strategy team know what they are doing and should be given support from every quarter.

To answer this call Southern Baptists will need to put down their swords. To respond to God's action we will need to turn aside from power games of the ambitious. To honor our mission commitment we will need to firmly set aside the disruptions of unspiritual men and women. The blunt truth is Budapest has set the agenda for New Orleans. The leadership that puts forward an all out effort to win eastern Europe is the leadership that ought to be trusted and elected. And we don't need to check out the stand of folks on abortion or any other popular political issue or what words they use to express their loyalty to the Bible or whether they voted with the right side or bowed down to preachers with an over-inflated sense of their importance to the kingdom of God. We just need to send people who know Jesus as their savior and believe in Jesus as the savior of the world and live the Jesus story in their daily lives. We need people who are ready to give themselves to the readiness God has created and have no loyalty save to the gospel.

In the call of eastern Europe God has given Southern Baptists another chance to be the people he has called us to be. Is it our last chance? Perhaps. The point is, convention leadership should recognize God's call for what it is. If we value conservative or moderate politics over mission breakthroughs we are at the end of a road. God help us—all of us—to make the right choice.

### The KBC needs eyes and ears in Frankfort

With the 1990 session of the legislature drawing to a close in an historic year in Kentucky life, one thing has been made clear for Kentucky Baptists. Our convention needs a pair of eyes and ears in Frankfort by 1992. This year a very important piece of legislation, Senate Bill 39, a constitutional amendment that broadens the church's protection as a tax-exempt institution, came before our lawmakers. Kentucky Baptists had little information and even less insight as to the background of this bill until literally the final hour of its adoption in the Senate.

While the KBC does not need a lobbyist we do need someone with experience in the ways of Frankfort and commitment to our convention cause that can inform us throughout the legislative process. Frankfort is filled with good Baptists who could help us. In this day of decreasing sensitivity to church-state issues and increasing moral concerns about which we ought to be informed, the time has come for a clear communication system that will keep KBC leadership informed. Somebody ought to put together a proposal for consideration at the annual meeting in Paducah that will result in a better process than the current last-minute, get-our-act-together, what's-going-on-in-Frankfort approach.

*Richard W. Bridges*

**western recorder**

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# Southern Baptist Convention

## June 12-14, 1990

### Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans

Theme: *"The Churches: Edified ... Multiplied"*

#### Tuesday Morning, June 12

- 8:20 Music for inspiration, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 8:40 Call to order  
Congregational singing, John McKay, convention music director, Keller, Tex.
- 8:45 Prayer, Robert Covington, layman, Fayetteville, Ga.\*
- 8:50 Registration report and constitution of convention, Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, design editor, Sunday School Division, Sunday School Board, Nashville\*
- 8:55 Committee on order of business (first report), Dwight Reighard, chairman, pastor, New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga.\*
- 9:00 Welcome, Mark Short, executive director, Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria\*
- 9:05 Response, Junior Hill, evangelist, Hartselle, Ala.\*
- 9:10 Announcement of committee on committees, credentials, resolutions, tellers\*
- 9:15 Theme interpretation, Homer G. Lindsay Jr., copastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.\*
- 9:40 Executive Committee report (part 1), Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer, Nashville\*
- 10:40 Introduction of business and resolutions\*
- 11:05 Congregational singing, John McKay\*
- 11:10 Music, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Martha Branham, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex.\*
- 11:25 President's address, C. Jerry Vines, copastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.\*
- 12:00 Benediction, Jack Millwood, pastor, First Baptist Church of North Mobile, Chickasaw, Ala.\*  
Theme song: "It's Harvest Time"

#### Tuesday afternoon, June 12

- 1:00 Evangelistic singers
- 2:00 Congregational singing, Jim Bob Griffin, music evangelist, Rusk, Tex.\*
- 2:05 Prayer, Rick Stanley, evangelist, Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.\*
- 2:10 Messenger information survey\*
- 2:20 Business\*  
Committee on order of business (second report), Dwight Reighard\*  
Introduction of business and resolutions\*
- 2:30 Election of officers (first)\*
- 2:45 Committee on nominations report, Roland Lopez, chairman, McAllen, Tex.\*
- 3:00 Congregational singing, John McKay\*
- 3:05 Executive Committee report (part 2), Harold C. Bennett\*
- 4:00 Congregational singing, Philip Griffin, minister of music, Highland Baptist Church, Laurel, Miss.\*
- 4:05 Business\*  
Committee on order of business (third report), Dwight Reighard\*  
Committee on committees report\*  
Introduction of business and resolutions\*  
Miscellaneous business\*
- 4:45 Election of officers (second)\*
- 5:00 Benediction, J.L. Hendrix, layman, Winnsboro, La.\*  
Theme song: "It's Harvest Time"

#### Tuesday evening, June 12

- 6:30 Music for inspiration, First Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark.\*
- 7:00 Congregational singing, John McKay\*
- 7:05 Prayer, Curt Dodd, pastor, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Houston\*
- 7:10 Election of officers (third)\*
- 7:20 Theme interpretation, Larry Wynn, pastor, Hebron Baptist Church, Dacula, Ga.\*

- 7:40 Congregational singing, Bill Cole, minister of music, Sagemont Baptist Church, Houston, Tex.\*
- 7:45 Bold Mission Thrust report, Harold C. Bennett\*
- 8:00 Commission on American Baptist Seminary report, Arthur L. Walker, secretary-treasurer, Nashville\*
- 8:05 Historical Commission, Lynn E. May Jr., executive director, Nashville\*
- 8:15 Radio and Television Commission, Richard T. McCartney, executive vice president, Ft. Worth, Tex.\*
- 8:25 Congregational singing, William A. Cox Jr., manager, Conference Center Section, Sunday School Board, Nashville\*
- 8:30 Home Mission Board report, Larry L. Lewis, president, Atlanta\*
- 9:30 Benediction, Bill Purvis, pastor, Cascade Hills Baptist Church, Columbus, Ga.\*  
Theme song: "It's Harvest Time"

#### Wednesday morning, June 13

- 8:30 Music for inspiration, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., Ed Keyes, director\*
- 8:50 Congregational singing, John McKay\*
- 8:55 Prayer, Darrell Gillyard, Providence Baptist Church, Dallas\*
- 9:00 Election of officers (fourth)\*
- 9:10 Stewardship Commission report, A. R. Fagan, president, Nashville\*
- 9:20 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary report, Lewis A. Drummond, president, Wake Forest, N. C.\*
- 9:30 Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary report, Milton Ferguson, president, Kansas City, Mo.\*
- 9:40 Education Commission report, Arthur L. Walker, executive director, Nashville\*
- 9:50 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary report, Russell H. Dilday, president, Ft. Worth, Tex.\*
- 10:00 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary report, Roy L. Honeycutt, president, Louisville, Ky.\*
- 10:10 Congregational singing, Tim Holder, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Cleveland, Tex.\*
- 10:15 Baptist Sunday School Board report, Lloyd Elder, president, Nashville\*
- 11:05 Congregational singing, Fred Gilbert, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Lake Jackson, Tex.\*
- 11:10 Election of officers (fifth)\*
- 11:15 Business\*  
Committee on order of business (fourth report), Dwight Reighard\*  
Committee on Resolutions (first report)\*  
Miscellaneous Business\*
- 11:50 Congregational singing, John McKay\*
- 11:55 Music, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.\*
- 12:00 Convention sermon, Fred Wolfe, pastor, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.\*
- 12:30 Benediction, Ronnie Floyd, pastor, First Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark.\*  
Theme song: "It's Harvest Time"

#### NO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

#### Wednesday evening, June 13

- 6:10 Music for inspiration, Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.\*
- 6:30 Music, The Cathedral Quartet, Stowe, Oh.\*
- 6:55 Congregational singing, John McKay\*
- 7:00 Prayer, Don Sharpe, pastor, Faith Tabernacle Baptist Church, Chicago\*
- 7:05 Theme interpretation, Ron Lewis, church growth consultant, Nashville

- 7:25 Business\*  
Committee on order of business (fifth report)\*  
Election of convention sermon preacher and alternate and music director, 1991\*
- 7:30 Introduction of local arrangements committee\*
- 7:35 Presentation of past presidents\*
- 7:45 Presentation of newly elected officers\*
- 7:50 Congregational singing, R. O. Stone, minister of music, Trinity Baptist Church, Ocala, Fla.\*
- 7:55 Foreign Mission Board report and appointment service, R. Keith Parks, president, Richmond, Va.\*
- 9:25 Benediction, Robert Sherrill, pastor, Pecks Baptist Church, Bedford, Va.\*  
Theme song: "It's Harvest Time"

#### Thursday morning, June 14

- 8:30 Music for inspiration, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.\*
- 8:50 Congregational singing, John McKay\*
- 8:55 Prayer, Bob Sena, pastor, First Spanish Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga.\*
- 9:00 Business\*  
Committee on resolutions (final report)\*
- 10:00 Southern Baptist Foundation report, Hollis E. Johnson III, president, Nashville\*
- 10:10 Christian Life Commission report, Richard D. Land, executive director, Nashville\*
- 10:20 Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary report, William O. Crews, president, Mill Valley, Cal.\*
- 10:30 Congregational singing, Bill Cole\*
- 10:35 Brotherhood Commission report, James H. Smith, president, Memphis, Tenn.\*
- 10:45 New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary report, Landrum P. Leavell II, president, New Orleans\*
- 10:55 Annuity Board report, Paul W. Powell, president, Dallas, Tex.\*
- 11:05 Recognition of outgoing officers, Harold C. Bennett\*
- 11:15 Congregational singing, John McKay\*
- 11:20 Music\*
- 11:30 Message, Jay H. Strack, evangelist, Dallas, Tex.\*
- 12:00 Benediction, Victor Walsh, layman, McComb, Miss.\*  
Theme song: "It's Harvest Time"

#### Thursday afternoon, June 14

- 1:30 Music for inspiration
- 1:55 Congregational singing, Jim Bob Griffin\*
- 2:00 Prayer, Bill Langley, pastor, First Baptist Church, Mustang, Okla.\*
- 2:05 Introduction of fraternal representatives\*
- 2:10 Denominational press report, Alvin C. Shackleford, vice president for public relations, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville\*
- 2:20 American Bible Society report, Fred A. Allen, church relations director, New York\*
- 2:30 Denominational calendar committee report, Leon B. Hataway, chairman, Grand Junction, Colo.\*
- 2:40 Baptist World Alliance report\*
- 2:50 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs report, James M. Dunn, executive director, Washington, D. C.\*
- 3:00 Public Affairs Committee report, Albert Lee Smith, chairman, Birmingham, Ala.\*
- 3:10 Woman's Missionary Union report, Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director, Birmingham\*
- 3:20 Report on Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group, Larry L. Lewis\*
- 3:30 Benediction, Steve Hensley, pastor, Cross Road Baptist Church, Asheboro, N. C.\*  
Adjournment\*  
Theme song: "It's Harvest Time"



James H. Cox  
Associate Editor

## fourth estate

### My faith looks up

On an out-of-town assignment last fall I was in a meeting and suddenly realized my vision in one eye had, without warning, vanished. That same night, in my motel room, I called my wife and asked her to get an appointment for me with my ophthalmologist as soon as possible. In a few minutes she called back saying she had been reading about my vision loss in a family medical guide. My symptoms sounded to her like a detached retina, requiring emergency medical attention. She made me promise to get help.

In five hours the next day I confirmed her theory at a local hospital and ophthalmologist's office. Surgery was imminent said the physician, who refers his detached retina patients to a Louisville specialist. I was soon talking with the specialist by phone. He told me to rely on my good eye to see to drive myself to Louisville and to meet with him on my arrival there.

At our initial meeting I asked the surgeon: "Do you do many operations like this?"

"Detached retinas is all I do," he chuckled out loud. "That's all I've done for 22 years."

I was greatly relieved. God must be observing all this, I thought, and provided someone well trained.

On examining my eyes the surgeon assured me my promptness in seeking medical attention might allow me to see out of that eye again. He said it would take 10 or 12 weeks after surgery to know the final prognosis.

The urgency of it was underscored when my two-hour surgery was set the following day (Sunday) at 7:30 a.m. In that very large medical center, I was the only patient scheduled for an operation Sunday morning.

Now, several months later, my vision is virtually normal. In fact, a few weeks after the operation the surgeon examined my eyes, turned to me and grinned: "We're way ahead on you."

I thanked him profusely. But I knew that behind him stood an all seeing God who can make anything whole again. I was also aware of a great host of people who prayed for me once again: family, colleagues, Western Recorder directors, fellow church members, friends and a group of women with whom my wife prays and studies the Bible every week. For the intercession of all of these I am profoundly grateful.

I could paraphrase Ps. 34:19: "The follower of God does not escape all troubles. But the Lord helps him in each and every one." My resolve has been strengthened in this crisis. My faith looks up to a loving Father who sorrows when we hurt, and sustains us when we fall.

## baptist news briefs

### Alabama's layman makes second vice pres bid

An engineer and rancher from Huntsville, Ala. announced Mar. 6 that he will represent Baptist laity as a nominee for the second vice presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Steve Tondera, a former president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, said he agreed to be nominated because he believes the denomination is wrongly dominated by clergy from the conservative wing.

"As a layman I will do my best to work toward returning the Southern Baptist Convention to efforts of mission and ministries and away from the control of a few for political power purposes," he said.

Tondera, a part time cattle rancher and senior engineer at Marshall Space Flight Center, is a member of First Baptist Church, Huntsville.

He was endorsed at the news conference by his pastor, Allen Walworth, and by Daniel Vestal, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dunwoody, Ga. (BP)

### Draper unanimous pick of Southwestern board

Trustees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary elected James T. Draper Jr. as their chairman and approved a record \$19 million operating budget for 1990-91 during their semi-annual meeting in Ft. Worth Mar. 12-13.

Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Tex., and a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was elected unanimously and without opposition.

"I don't have any agenda for the seminary except to continue to build bridges and to convey confidence in the faculty and administration," Draper said following his election.

"I would hope there could be a solidifying. Dr. (Russell) Dilday and I have obviously differed over the years, but we've also been very open with each other," Draper said. "We maintain contact and he pretty well knows where I'm going to come down and I know where he's going to come down and I don't think we're either one threatened by that."

"I believe our faculty is solid," Draper said. "Our peace committee gave them a good report. We've affirmed that committee's report and believe it's accurate. I don't know of anybody who's got their eye on any faculty member or somebody they want to get rid of."

Draper said conflicts between the board and administration "end up being personality" rather than theological problems. "If someone says something that casts a shadow on me, I regret that, but that's not a theological reason to go to war."

Also elected were Damon Shook, pastor of Champion Forest Baptist Church, Houston, vice chairman, and T. Bob Davis, a dentist and member of Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas, secretary.

The \$19 million budget adopted by the board for 1990-91 is the largest in the seminary's history. Because of a 1.89 increase in Cooperative Program gifts for the coming year, Southwestern's total allocation will be 3.1 percent.

William Tolar, dean of the seminary's school of theology, was elected vice president for academic affairs and provost, effective Aug. 1. Tolar replaces John Newport who is retiring after 35 years on Southwestern's faculty. Newport will continue at the seminary with the title of special assistant to the president for academic research.

Jay Chance was elected vice president for public affairs. Chance, who holds the same position at California Baptist College, Riverside, is filling the position vacated by John Seelig, who retired in January.

Along with the administrative elections, the board elected new faculty members. Joining the faculty are Steve Lemke and Keith Putt as assistant professors of philosophy of religion; David Trimble, instructor in New Testament; Michael Cox, professor of music theory and composition; and David Music, associate professor of church music. (BP)

Mrs. Willie, 58, is a graduate of Mars Hill (N. C.) College with the AA degree. She has been a special correspondent for Western Recorder for several months and was a kindergarten teacher earlier. She currently holds several responsibilities in First Baptist Church, Newport, where her husband, Norman, is pastor. They are parents of four grown children.

Her new assignment with Western Recorder is effective immediately.

### Hunger relief gifts plunge to lowest point since 1984

Southern Baptists' hunger gifts in 1989 plunged to the lowest point since 1984, according to figures released by the two Southern Baptist mission boards.

Southern Baptist contributions for domestic and foreign hunger in 1989 totaled \$7,905,322. This represents a decrease of 12 percent from similar giving in 1988. In 1984 Southern Baptists gave a record \$7,166,772 to hunger ministries.

That mark was shattered the next year with a record \$11,830,146. Giving dropped in 1986 to \$9,089,279. Hunger contributions totaled \$8,931,339 in 1987 and \$9,009,764 in 1988.

The Foreign Mission Board reported receipts of \$6,613,785 in 1989, a decrease of \$1,015,667 from 1988. Receipts for domestic hunger through the Home Mission Board were \$1,291,537 and represented the first drop in five years in domestic hunger gifts.

The total figures for 1989 do not reflect receipts for general relief at the Foreign Mission Board. General relief funds go for projects that are not necessarily hunger specific, such as church rebuilding. Total figures also do not include money given for hunger ministries that were utilized in local Baptist churches, associations and state conventions. (BP)

### Past Louisiana president candidate for SBC veep

Layman and former Louisiana Baptist Convention President Raymond T. Boswell of Shreveport will be nominated for second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention at the annual meeting in New Orleans this June.

Former LBC president Scott Tatum of Shreveport said he and a group of Boswell's friends "believe Boswell is uniquely qualified because of his denominational statesmanship. He has served with humility and effectiveness in all areas of Baptist life without being identified with any political group."

The decision to nominate Boswell was reached "separate from either of the predominant political groups now in our convention," Tatum said. "We believe that whomever else may be nominated for this position, Raymond



Mrs. Willie to report on north central Kentucky

Barbara Jean Willie has been named a Western Recorder regional reporter for six of Kentucky Baptists' north central associations: Crittenden, Northern Kentucky, Owen County, Ten Mile, Union, Whites Run.

In making the announcement last week, associate editor James H. Cox said Mrs. Willie could be reached at her home at 133 Kentucky Dr., Newport 41071, telephone (606) 261-9114. She is part time Christian education secretary for Northern Kentucky Association.

A native of Kings Mountain, N. C.,

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Sponsored by Office for Evangelism, KBC - Bill Jagers, Director; Billy Compton Associate

Boswell is the person who should be elected to serve."

Boswell will not be the nominee of either side of the present SBC controversy, he said: "Southern Baptists have not authorized two political parties to decide who will be nominated for office. I believe people should come to the convention free to elect the persons messengers believe meet the qualifications for the office. People should vote for persons based on their history of commitment and involvement in denominational life.

"I would work with the president, whoever is elected by Southern Baptists, in whatever role I might fill as an officer of the convention." (BP)

### Overheard conversation causes trustee rancor

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees went on record as being "pro life" in their spring meeting Mar. 13 and also accepted president Russell Dilday's explanation of a conversation he had with Southern Baptist Convention president Jerry Vines that had been questioned in a letter sent to all trustees by a West Virginia pastor.

Lee Weaver, a trustee and member of Birchman Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Tex., first asked the trustees to put themselves, the administration and faculty on record as favoring a "pro life" stance. But at the urging of others, including new chairman James T. Draper Jr., he deleted the reference to administration and faculty from his motion.

Weaver's motion, approved unanimously, says trustees of the Ft. Worth Tex., seminary "fully support actions and efforts to bring the people of this nation to an understanding that all life is God-given from conception, that man is created in the image of God, and that any act of abortion or the killing of the pre-born is a sin against God and man."

The trustees voted after considerable discussion to accept Dilday's explanation of a conversation he had in Nashville last month with SBC president Vines during a meeting of the SBC Executive Committee, which both were attending.

The conversation was the subject of a letter sent to all the trustees by Steve Brumbelow, a former Texan, now pastor of Cross Lanes (W. Va.) Baptist

Church.

The pastor wrote that at the Executive Committee meeting in February Dilday had made "an all out attack" on Vines "and all who are in the conservative movement in the SBC."

He charged that Dilday had said the conservative movement had done more damage to the SBC than had been done in the days of J. Frank Norris, that all the trustees appointed to the seminary board over the last 10 years had been incompetent and unable even to under-stand a financial statement.

Brumbelow said Dilday had told Vines he would do everything in his power to see that Daniel Vestal is elected SBC president in June.

Dilday told trustees he and Vines talked about concerns both had in the convention in "a very healthy discussion, not aware there were others listening in," though he acknowledged others apparently had heard the discussion.

He said Brumbelow's report of the discussion was "not altogether accurate and does not represent the conversation Dr. Vines and I had."

Dilday said he had discussed with Vines the process of trustee selection and he had noted his disappointment that trustees were being nominated "more because of loyalty to the (conservative) cause and the party than on the basis of qualifications and ability and expertise that could help that agency fulfill its work."

The president said he mentioned that former SBC president Adrian Rogers had noted mistakes had been made in trustee selection and he realized people had been elected that "he would not have on his church committees," that they were not capable and better trustees would be sought.

Dilday told the Southwestern trustees it was not true he had suggested none of them could read a financial report and he commended them for their commitment and dedication.

The trustees approved a motion by Kenneth L. Faught, pastor of East Dayton Baptist Church, Dayton, Oh., to receive Dilday's remarks as a "satisfactory response." Faught said the Brumbelow letter "appears to be the product of someone eavesdropping. I believe we are on the way to peace, but it is difficult to achieve if we keep picking the scab off of the sore."

The trustees declined to consider another resolution offered by Steven

Watkins of Louisville asking them to deny theological liberalism had ever existed at Southwestern Seminary. Chairman Ken Lilly of Ft. Smith, Ark. admonished Watkins that he had not followed proper procedures in getting the resolution before the trustees. (BP)

### BJC committee to examine representation formula

An ad hoc committee has been appointed to evaluate how member bodies are represented on the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

During its Mar. 5 meeting, the BJC executive committee appointed its officers to serve as a bylaws change committee. That committee is to examine the agency's bylaws and recommend whether changes should be made in the formula used to determine representation on the BJC.

The current plan automatically allows each of the BJC's nine member bodies one representative. Additional representatives are gained by contributing to the BJC operating budget.

Under the current plan the BJC can have up to 54 representatives.

Members of the ad hoc committee are John Binder, executive director of the North American Baptist Conference; Landrum P. Leavell, president of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary; Tai D. Shigaki, an American Baptist layperson from St. Paul, Minn.; and Charles G. Adams, a Progressive National Baptist Convention pastor from Detroit. (BP)

### Cambodia approves visas for Southern Baptists

The Cambodian government agreed in February to grant visas allowing Southern Baptist representatives to live in that country for the first time.

The visa approval and decision to place Southern Baptist personnel in Cambodia came during a survey visit to that country by representatives of Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization. CSI has tried unsuccessfully for three years to obtain residence visas for workers directing aid projects in Cambodia.

CSI representatives Bruce and Gloria Carlton are scheduled to move in April from their base in Hong Kong to Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital. Carlton directs CSI's Cambodia program, which focuses primarily on health-care services. Carlton is from Georgetown, Ky.; Mrs. Carlton is from Elkins, Ark.

The survey team of Shelby, Carlton and development specialist Fred Kauffman found the situation in Cambodia "much more secure than we had anticipated," Shelby reported. "The country's stability has improved tremendously just in the last six months." (BP)

**Here's Hope.**  
**Jesus cares for you.**  
1990 Simultaneous Revival Emphasis



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# HERE'S HOPE

## HOPEFUL SIGNS

- Laurel River Association held a Here's Hope Witness Training rally at Lily Baptist Church Mar. 1. Over 50 attended the training session for adults. Jewell Nelson, associate, Sunday School Department, KBC, trained nine adults in witnessing to children.
- Henry County Association's Here's Hope rally reports an attendance of 150 Mar. 4 at Pleasureville Baptist Church.
- First Baptist Church, Hazard, was the host of a Discipleship Training Here's Hope rally Mar. 5. There were 300 in attendance.
- High Point Baptist Church, Mayfield, held a Witness Training workshop Mar. 5. Over 140 attended the sessions which dealt with witnessing to people involved in New Age, occult, Jehovah's Witness and Mormonism.

## LIFE IMPACT

Throughout her life, Mrs. F. W. "Jet" Owens Jr. has found that the Lord "can take care of every situation."

Mrs. Owens was raised in a Christian home and says, for her, accepting Christ "came naturally." As a child, she attended Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville. Her pastor talked with her several times about Christ.

One Sunday evening she visited a friend's home. She danced and played cards with some other children who were there. As she walked home that evening, she stopped by the church, sat down on the steps and thought, "This isn't what I should be doing."

"The next Sunday I couldn't sit in my seat. I had to go down front."

Mrs. Owens speaks humbly about her experience. "It was nothing spectacular. I didn't see a flash of light..."

Yet Mrs. Owens says God has always "provided the way."

"Not that it was always easy," she explains. In 1953 Mrs. Owens had major surgery. Her doctors thought she wouldn't live over two years. In 1976 she fought colon cancer. Just four years ago, Mrs. Owens lost her husband.

"In it all I grew as a Christian," she says. "He (God) sustains me every day of my life."

Now 75 years old, Mrs. Owens is an active member of Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville. She serves on the Women's Advisory Board, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and has organized an auxiliary group at Baptist Hospital East.

"I'm trying to do what I can," she says, "to do what God wants me to do."

Beth W. Prassel

## DIRECTIONS

"He said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets....' Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men.'"

(Luke 5:4-5,10; NIV)

## West Broadway congregation 'buys into' plan urging families to pray daily for lost people

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

A Louisville congregation calls an innovative measure developed by the Home Mission Board to help local churches get ready for their spring revivals this year "just one more spoke in the wheel" of preparation.

According to Chris Carden, minister of education and youth at Long Run Association's West Broadway Baptist Church, their people simply "bought into" the readiness effort when pastor Larry Orange introduced it on a recent Sunday morning.

In fact, said Carden, with 50 packets of material available, 43 families marched down the aisle during a worship service to claim one, indicating their own commitment to intercession.

West Broadway's *Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you* crusade is scheduled for Apr. 8-11. It will feature evangelist Greg Earwood, pastor of First Baptist Church, Murray. Ken Vinson, West Broadway's minister of music, will have charge of the revival music.

The Daniel Prayer Team effort is being spearheaded at West Broadway by various missions groups and—in particular—by the Brotherhood organization under the leadership of Mike Woods, president.

From now until the crusade begins church families have agreed to pray daily for its success and specifically for lost people. In addition, in a brief period before the start of each Sunday morning's worship hour, families having made the commitment to the Daniel Prayer Team are encouraged to go to the altar at the front of the church. There they kneel and pray together for their Here's Hope meeting.

The concept of the Daniel Prayer Team developed by the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga., is an intensive prayer effort among Southern Baptists in a united quest to share the gospel. A

promotional piece issued by the board notes that intensive intercessory prayer throughout history has often been a key to great revival. "God's work through men like Wesley, Whitfield, Finney, Moody, Sunday and Graham was prefaced with prayer," says the descriptive literature.

The packet each family received at West Broadway includes a Daniel Prayer Team commitment card. This is to be completed and mailed to the Home Mission Board indicating personal concern for people without Jesus as Lord and savior of their lives.

They were also given a 20-page booklet titled "Sweet Hour of Prayer: Spiritual Preparation Guide." The booklet is a self-directed prayer guide in which individuals find a quiet place

### Daniel Prayer Team: anyone can join up

Q. What is the Daniel Prayer Team?

A. Thousands of Southern Baptists who have committed themselves to pray daily for the Here's Hope revivals.

Q. Why the name Daniel?

A. It was named for the Old Testament character who found strength in the discipline of daily prayer (Dan 6:10). Only God can produce revival and evangelistic results. These only come as people's hearts are prepared.

Q. Who can be involved?

A. Anyone, of any age, who is willing to pray daily for the revivals.

Q. How can I indicate my interest?

A. Send your name to: Daniel Prayer Team, Mass Evangelism Department, Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, GA 30367. Churches are asked to compile and mail lists of names.

to work through its steps on their own. Some alternatives for studying it are suggested in the booklet. Among them: Use it during the Sunday school hour a week prior to the revival meeting or during the midweek prayer meeting the week before revival.

It takes about an hour to work through the preparation guide. Participants may need a pencil or pen, they will need a Bible and freedom from the clock to pray through the required reading and follow-up.

Near the end of the booklet are lines for listing specific names of relatives, friends, neighbors, business associates and acquaintances for whom an individual will pray. The spiritual condition of those individuals is also to be noted there.

Carden, at West Broadway, observed that inclusion of the Daniel Prayer Team in their Here's Hope preparation is but one of a long line of "getting ready" preparation efforts.

Starting Jan. 1 the church implemented such programs as Continuing Witness Training and Prayer Study Life (a life course in Discipleship Training), it expanded its mail and personal visit outreach efforts among new residents in the community and increased its emphasis on the deacon family ministry serving church families. Carden said the church is also considering the possibility of a people search for the lost and unchurched in its neighborhood this spring.

As he indicated, the Daniel Prayer Team is "just one more spoke in the wheel" in the congregation's revival preparation efforts.

But for Christians who believe prayer can be a mighty weapon against Satan, obviously including some of West Broadway's members, such intensive prayer preparation could net a bountiful harvest of lost souls into the kingdom.

## Neither height, nor depth, nor size, nor temp

by Jane Taylor Howell  
State Correspondent

Baptism is older than Christianity. It was the privilege of John to baptize Jesus. John's disciples and Jesus' disciples baptized, though Jesus did not.

According to Williston Walker in *A History of the Christian Church*, the origin of baptism is uncertain but was probably connected to a spiritual interpretation of the old Levitical washings (Numbers 19 and Ezek. 36:25-26).

Jesus gave this rite special meaning as he came to John requesting baptism in the river Jordan.

Peter represents baptism as the rite of admission to the church (Acts 2:38, 2:41-42, I Cor. 12:13) and to the reception of the Holy Spirit. Baptism stands for many Christians as such today.

In the early service the disciples baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Today many ministers baptize in the name of the trinity citing Matt. 28:19, "Go ye..., baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Biblical Illustrator, Fall 1984, writes that early converts were baptized at once (Acts 16:33). Later converts, many uninformed, were required to go

through a series of stages, interest, instruction, examination and catechism. They might spend up to three years before baptism.

The method of baptism had been debated among Christians for centuries. Walker states: "It is probable that the original form was by immersion, complete or partial." Rom. 6:4 and Col. 2:12 imply this.

The fullest adherence to early methods would leave many of today's warmhearted souls quite chilled. Bettenson in *Documents of the Christian Church* writes, "Baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit in living (running) water. But if thou hast not living water, then baptize in other water; and if thou art not able in cold, then in warm."

Running water indicates the flowing water of a well, fountain or stream. At second best, one could use stagnant water or water from a baptismal font. Early pouring was recognized as valid

if difficulties such as sickness prevented immersion.

Today to fulfill the command given in Matthew 28, "baptize," Baptists have choices of man-made baptistries if they do not use streams, rivers, ponds or cold running water.

Most modern indoor baptistries are made of fiberglass because of its strength, design flexibility and lightweight durability.

Howard Hall, a pioneer in the use of fiberglass for baptistries founded Fiberglass Specialties Inc. in Henderson, Tex. As a salesman for the family's church pew company, Hall saw the need for a leak-proof, prefabricated, lightweight baptistry. Previous baptistries were made of cement or metal, were expensive, difficult to build and frequently developed leaks. Borrowing from the use of fiberglass in the boating industry, Hall made original molds with his own hands.

Beginning with only two models,

# FRONTLINE

# HOPE TODAY

## Baptism symbolizes Baptist heritage and personal commitment

by Chris Barnett  
Special Correspondent

There is perhaps a no more accurate symbol of Baptist life than the baptistry. *Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you* has certainly brought this symbol to the forefront again. Tracing this ordinance to the Jordan River, the place where Jesus was baptized, provides a lesson in Baptist heritage and shows how we have evolved.

Baptists insist on practicing immersion because it is the literal biblical image for baptism. This rite is commonly practiced under high, lighted ceilings in large porcelain tubs brimming with warmed water. Large crosses overshadow tiny converts who declare their faith in Christ.

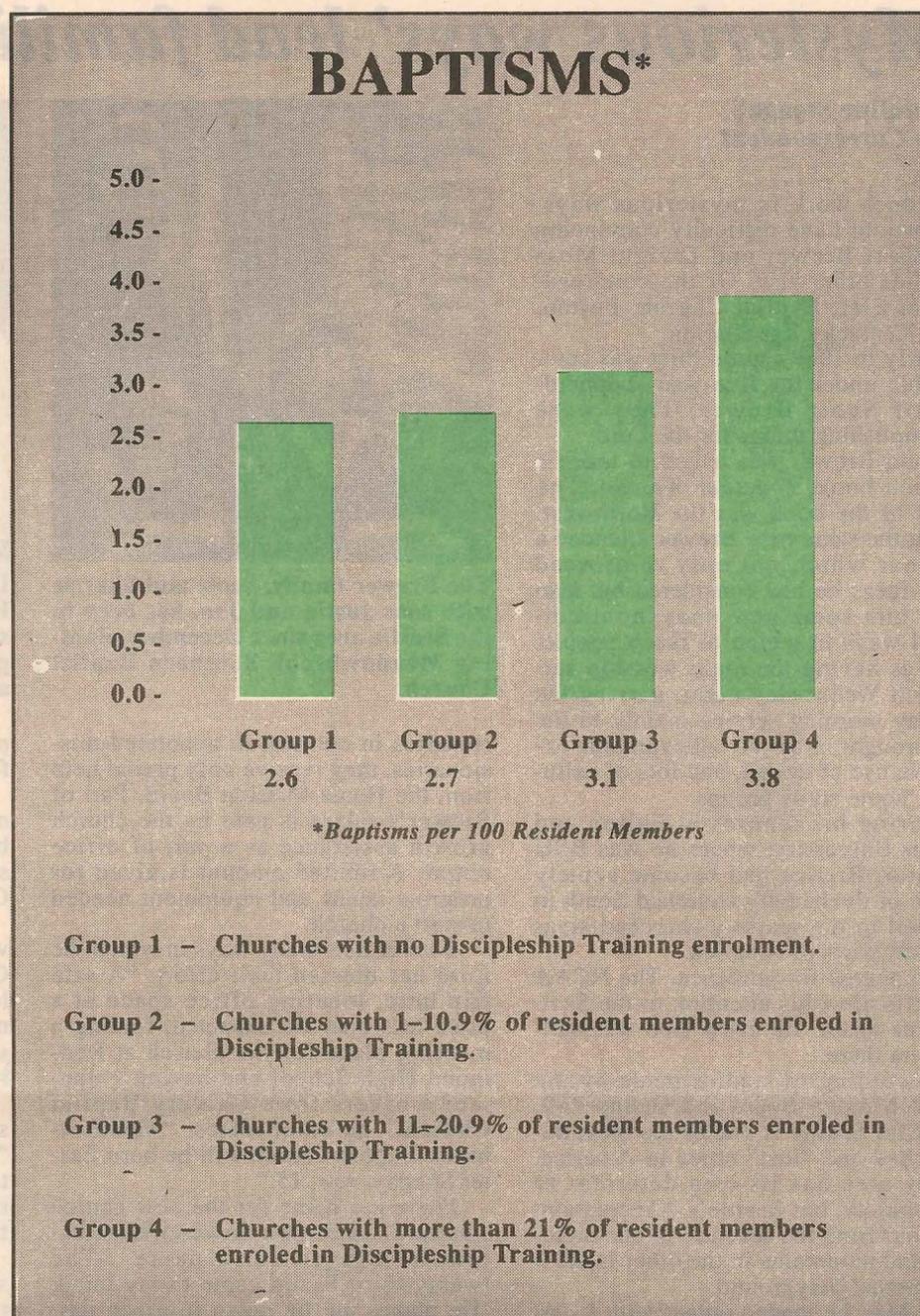
A generation ago many practiced baptism outdoors. The Licking, Ohio and Mississippi rivers were not uncommon locations for Kentuckians. Some churches built outdoor baptistries. The Bullitsburg Baptist Church, Burlington, made an outdoor spring-fed pool.

All these locations help new Christians proclaim their faith. The early disciples went into their homes where they ate the *agape* feast and practiced baptism in rooms arranged for baptism.

Today's baptistries and each generation's baptistries tell us about their faith and something about their culture.

Remembering the Jordan and early baptism experiences can enrich our practice of baptism. It can help us practice the symbol literally without becoming overly literal about the symbol. It will remind us of our roots.

Consider the words of Robert St. John who spoke of the Jordan, "The Jordan shapes its own destiny. It rips, snorts, tears, churns, roars, or actually calms, spreads itself out and becomes deceptively placid. Then it is on its mad way again, remembering the fate against which it must do battle."



Group 1 - Churches with no Discipleship Training enrolment.

Group 2 - Churches with 1-10.9% of resident members enrolled in Discipleship Training.

Group 3 - Churches with 11-20.9% of resident members enrolled in Discipleship Training.

Group 4 - Churches with more than 21% of resident members enrolled in Discipleship Training.

This graph represents the impact of Discipleship Training in the life of the local church. Follow-up after revival efforts is vitally important for keeping people reached by evangelistic outreach efforts involved in Southern Baptist churches.

## COUNTDOWN

■ Mar. 18-Apr. 29: Here's Hope simultaneous revivals in progress.

Associational Here's Hope fellowship meetings are planned in many associations. These meetings allow for fellowship between pastor, staff members and evangelistic teams during the week of revival in that association. A suggested agenda for the minister fellowship meetings is on page 33 of the *Here's Hope Association Guide*.

■ Warren Association's Here's Hope rally is set for Mar. 26 at Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green, 7 p.m. Billy Compton, associate, Office for Evangelism, KBC, is speaker.

■ Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville, will host a personal witness training on using a testimony Mar. 27 at 7 p.m. Billy Compton is speaker.

## PERSPECTIVE

Three out of four Kentucky Baptist Convention churches have planned to participate in the Here's Hope simultaneous revivals scheduled across this state Mar. 18 through Apr. 29. This depth of participation exceeds the *Good News* revival efforts in 1985 and may be the largest simultaneous revival effort ever attempted by Kentucky Baptists.

The executive board has allocated over \$200,000 for this effort, the largest reported amount provided by any state convention for the Here's Hope emphasis.

These efforts are unapologetically evangelistic. As in most revivals, there will be other signs of renewal: rededications, movement of church letters and recommitment of inactive church members. And each of us would better serve our Lord with a spiritually motivated recommitment to personal righteousness and a practiced compassion for the poor and destitute; the folks swept into the crevices of our society.

However, Here's Hope is beamed toward the 1,200,000 unsaved persons across this state. It is the local church on mission which must translate this large mass of humanity into "reachable individuals."

My "hope" for Here's Hope is that this concentrated effort by our Kentucky Baptist family will result not only in many new believers but in a sustained concern and effort to reach people with the good news of Christ.

William W. Marshall  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer, KBC

## Temperature will keep Baptists from baptizing

the company today has more than 20 basic models with over 400 different varieties. If none of these suit the company will custom build a baptistry to specifications.

One of the largest recently built baptistries is a 31-foot custom baptistry for Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn. The Church on The Rock in Rockwall, Tex. uses a custom built baptistry seven feet wide and over 30 feet long. It holds 2894 gallons.

As with products today optional features can be installed: child step, automatic water level control, heating system, plexiglass view windows, filtering systems, automatic fill, overflow drains, over-the-rim fill faucets and choice or colors. Prices start at \$800.

Other companies offer baptistries. Broadman offers three models available in 14 variations or custom made. Most baptistries are rectangular in shape with stairs entering them from one or both ends. They may also be a "V" model or a circular baptistry.

Fiberglass Specialties offers a portable baptistry with a 100-gallon capacity and optional tops for a table or pulpit. In this model the minister remains outside the baptistry and the candidate is baptized from a sitting po-

sition. This is the case in many standard baptistries with Fiberglass Specialties calling theirs the "Easy Way Baptistry." Broadman calls theirs "New Life."

An unusual innovation was created by Harold B. Kuhnle, a retired Lexington pastor. He patented "The Baptistry Couch" to lower a candidate into the water mechanically. The size or weight of the person makes no difference.

Retired pastor Ralph Huffman recalled baptismal services of 50 years. "We baptized in ponds and creeks. We then built a concrete baptistry up close to the church building, but still outside. We thought we had arrived!"

All serious issues have the counter side to them and pastors have their share of baptismal stories.

"When I was pastor in Owensboro I baptized a Mr. Brown who came to us from the Catholic church," Kuhnle writes. "The night he was baptized there were others and he was the last. It so happened that we had a large baptistry. Just before Mr. Brown was to be immersed, a boy who had just been baptized swam to the exit stairs. Before he was baptized Mr. Brown whispered in my ear, 'Do I have to swim out, too? I don't know how to swim!' He was

quite relieved when I informed him he did not have to swim out."

Where do pastors practice baptisms before actually performing them?

A young seminarian called a pastor friend and asked him to come help him "learn to baptize." The seminarian was a short man and had a rather heavy large man to baptize the next day. The two pastors closed all the drapes on the windows and spent a Saturday afternoon practicing different positions and experiences they might encounter.

Some churches today still baptize in natural settings such as rivers and ponds. When the candidate comes from under the water declaring his new life in Christ he is welcomed to the shore of the river with the supporting believers singing "O Happy Day, O Happy Day, when Jesus washed my sins away!"

Baptists may not follow the early church methods and places of baptism. But they still emphasize the dramatic change that has taken place in the life of the individual, reminding: "We are therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life" (Rom. 6:4).

## HOPE QUOTE

"You can't make God operate on your calendar....God may be slow but he's never late....God operates in divine seasons. We need to pray...and seek God....We will reap if we do not 'grow weary' of well doing...."

Junior Hill  
Vocational Evangelist  
Hartselle, Ala.



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

## clear creek chronicle

### Graduate testimonies

When northern Kentucky pastor Garry Mitchell submitted to the ministry he clearly understood the Lord's response, "I will need servants who are spiritually prepared." After a few months of searching and watching doors close my pastor asked me to consider Clear Creek. My reaction wasn't very favorable—"You've got to be joking! I'm not about to go to some 'hick school' and listen to some 'hillbillies' tell me how to get ready for ministry."

Although Mitchell had made up his mind against Clear Creek his pastor insisted he "at least go, look and listen." The trip was considered "a waste of time" but Mitchell's opinion began to change as Tommy Holtzclaw gave him a campus tour. "It was summer and there were no students. School was closed, but in Bro. Tommy's heart this school was alive and well. As we drove around there came over me an obvious presence of God, a presence I had never known before. I began to sense his hand was on this school and you could feel his presence everywhere." Mitchell and his wife Rosemarie headed home to consider a decision. "What was there to consider? The spirit had shown me God held this ministry school in high honor and if I intended to be obedient and submissive to him this place would be my time of preparation. My wife and I knew Clear Creek would be where we started our service to the Lord."

Ten years later Mitchell acknowledges, "Everyone has a right to be wrong once! I almost missed my calling because of a mistaken prejudice. Clear Creek is God's school, a place where his will is sought and followed. It is a spiritual refuge—a little piece of heaven on earth." I wish now I could go back and spend some time with those 'hillbillies' for through them I found God's direction."

A 1985 graduate recently took Southern Seminary entrance exams. The results were so good he could omit introductory courses in Old Testament, Hebrew and New Testament. The admissions counselor, upon realizing his undergraduate work was done at Clear Creek, said, "They are certainly doing something right down there."

These testimonies affirm our practical, Bible-centered and academically strong ministry.

## 'Mysterious ways' lead families to Seattle

by Pauline Steagall  
State Correspondent

God does work in mysterious ways. You would have difficulty convincing the Scott Brewer and Dwight Moss families otherwise. Or the congregation at First Baptist Church, Fulton, West Kentucky Association.

Early in 1989 Fulton First was comfortable under the five-year shepherding of Scott Brewer. They were accomplishing things for the Lord.

Then Brewer was asked to teach a mission book, *Together We Can*. The focus of the book was the Northwest. About the same time Brewer attended a seminar which not only reinforced some ideas he had considered but also gave him some new ones, nontraditional ways in which to reach people, such as having the main worship service on Wednesday night, gearing the Sunday morning service mainly to the lost brought in by the believers, the extensive use of drama, and lots of cellular or home study groups.

During his tenures at Fulton and Union University, where he was BSU director, Brewer had become acutely aware of the heavily churching South in contrast to the sparsely churching areas of many parts of America.

He prayed for guidance. The NCAA playoffs drew his attention to the Seattle area again. He knew God was calling him there.

According to studies made by the Home Mission Board and Gallup Poll, beautiful Seattle is one of the most unchurched and "lost" cities in America. Every area has its own deterrent to Christianity, but Seattle's is recreation. An hour from the seacoast in one direction and mountains in the other make it a perpetual playground.

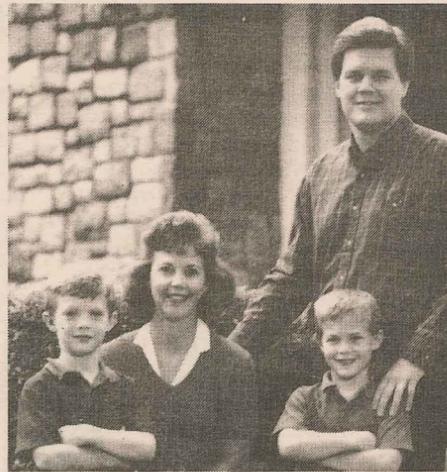
In May he made contact with L. W. Boydston, associational new work chairman with Puget Sound Baptist Association. Brewer described his vision to become a church planter. There was complete silence from Boydston; Brewer's heart almost stopped.

Then Boydston began to speak. A group in Washington had been praying for God to send a young minister from the Bible belt to start a new church.

God had been working on both ends. Brewer and his wife Sherrie, along with their two sons, reached Seattle just two days before Christmas 1989.

Calvary Baptist Church in Renton, Wash. had agreed to sponsor a new church. They had recently realized a profit from land sold and earmarked it for new work. They would pay the pastor's salary for three years. The new church's other mother, Fulton First, would also contribute for three years.

Since the Brewers are approved mis-



The Brewer family, Scott and Sherrie with sons Justin and Jon, has been in the Seattle area since December planting Meadowbrook Southern Baptist Church.

sionaries in contrast to appointed missionaries, they receive only partial help from the Home Mission Board. Part of Brewer's salary is paid by the church growth assistance as a part of office rental. A limited amount is given for program needs and equipment needed to start a church.

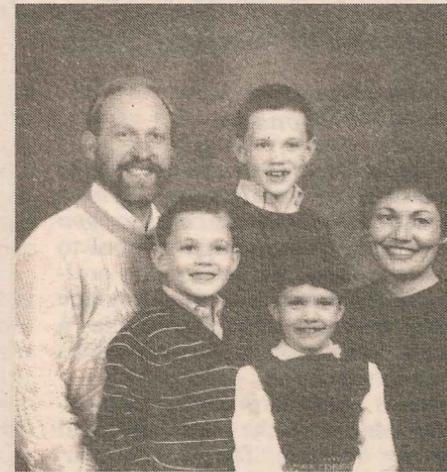
Brewer lists many ways in which the Lord has blessed their effort. "A safe trip here, locating office space at a price less than we expected, finding a meeting place for the church at Redmond High School and having volunteer workers from Calvary Baptist Church," he enumerates. "Meadowbrook Baptist Church will be born Easter Sunday, Apr. 15."

Finding a name for the new church was hard. As Brewer drove to Washington, he prayed for a name. "The twenty-third Psalm came to my mind, 'He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters.' I instantly thought, 'pastures-meadows; waters-brooks.' At that moment I put it together. Meadowbrook! And God is the one who provides the meadows and brooks."

But there are still many needs. Brewer states, "We need prayer for the discipline factor in our lives." Coming from structured situations in the East, Brewer and his wife need guidance in scheduling activities and in organization of their devotional lives.

From the beginning, the Brewers prayed that family volunteers from Kentucky would be led to the Washington area to help form a nucleus for the new church.

That prayer is being answered through Dwight and Zannie Moss, who after much consideration and prayer made the decision to follow the Brewers. They are enlisted in the Tentmaker



Dwight and Zannie Moss will leave Fulton soon to become volunteer missionaries in the Seattle area. They are pictured with children Andrew, Austin and Grace.

program under Mission Service Corps for an indefinite tenure.

"It has to be from God because I had never even considered mission work before," pondered Moss, a successful salesman with Continental Research Corporation for nine years.

Mrs. Moss, trained in social work, was church secretary at Fulton First. God had placed on her a burden for the lost and the need to witness. WMU had made her aware of needs. And fittingly, she had always had an intense interest in the Northwest.

Moss, who exudes energy and speaks matter-of-factly, told the Lord, "There are some things you will have to take care of"—a job, pulling up roots of three children, affirmation of the home church and sale of the home.

The president of Continental Research cooperated by transferring Moss to the Seattle area.

By talking to the children, the couple discovered they really understood the situation.

"Do they have a McDonalds?" one of the boys asked his father.

Moss made a positive affirmation.

"We were ready all but selling our home," Moss said. "God said, 'You're ready, but you are not ready.'"

So they settled down to preparation. Moss gave up his church duties and soon had opportunities to teach home Bible studies and mission books. Mrs. Moss quit her job and felt the family unit was strengthened by "my being home" in preparation for a busy time after the move. With only one income, the family learned to tighten the belt.

"Certainly there are other people more qualified than Dwight and I," Mrs. Moss stated.

But they are willing and hope to be in Redmond by Easter. Moss will work bivocationally in the new church and Mrs. Moss hopes to work entirely with the church and on a volunteer basis.

"We used to think you must be a commissioned missionary," she reflected, "but there are many ways to do missions."

As volunteers they will receive no help from the Home Mission Board. They welcome sponsorship because it will cost \$6000 to move. Car insurance is three- and one-half times more in Washington. Rent and property are exorbitant.

Fulton First is without a pastor. They have lost nine people. But they are rejoicing in the part they have been permitted to have in the establishment of Meadowbrook Baptist Church.

### Being Christian is a prerequisite for ministry

Dwight Moss, a third generation Baptist, has been a Christian only five years. As a lad he made a profession of faith during a revival with a group of young men during Sunday school.

Continuing to grow up in the church, he became a deacon and teacher.

In 1985, during Christian Witness Training, he discovered he wasn't a Christian. "Term it what you will, but it was old fashioned conviction,"

Moss recalled.

He studied I John 5:13, then prayed to be shown without a shadow of a doubt. Later he was rebaptized and reordained a deacon.

He believes he made his boyhood decision to keep from having to walk the aisle.

Now his motives are entirely different.

"God is protective and is a loving God," Mrs. Moss stated. "I can see such a big difference in Dwight."



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

## sunday school lessons

LESSON FOR MAR. 25, 1990

Life and work series

### The supreme act of service

**Mark 15:25-26** At nine o'clock in the morning Christ's executioners nailed him to the cross, lifted it on end and dropped it into a hole in the ground with a thud. Christ was crucified between two robbers, in fulfillment of Isaiah 53:12. A super-inscription placed above his head read: "This is the king of the Jews." In order that all who passed by might read it, it was written in all the current languages—Hebrew, Greek and Latin.

**Mark 15:29-32** Christ was sub-

jected to the cruel jeering, ridiculing and mocking of his enemies who exulted greatly as they passed by. The critics reminded Christ of his own words at the beginning of his ministry (John 2:18-21), and taunted him for his seeming failure to fulfill his word. The religious leaders of the Jews challenged Christ to perform another miracle by descending from the cross.

**Mark 15:33-36** At 12 noon there began a three-hour period of supernatural darkness which extended over the whole land. In the midst of the darkness there was heard the voice of Jesus crying: "My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?" Christ was forsaken of God temporarily in order that we might not be separated eternally from him.

**Mark 15:37-39** Christ died at three o'clock in the afternoon, thus ending for him not only pain and agony but also insult and outrage. Because his death was so different from all others he had witnessed, it is no wonder that the centurion readily acknowledged that Christ was the Son of God. When Christ died the curtain or veil in the temple was split from top to bottom. The tearing of this holy veil was an act of God.

International series

### Peter denies knowing Jesus

**John 18:15-27** When Christ was arrested by the soldiers all of his disciples forsook him and fled, but Peter and John soon turned and followed him. As Christ's captors led him to the palace of the high priest Peter followed him. John entered the palace with the others, but Peter remained on

the outside. John obtained admission for Peter into the courtyard.

Peter walked over to the center of the court where the fire was burning. Around this fire were the servants of the household and the soldiers. Along with them Peter stood and warmed himself, then sat down to see and to hear, at the same time hoping to escape notice.

The portress watched Peter as he sat there warming himself. She asked Peter if he were not a follower of Christ and he denied that he was. Peter had been recognized as a follower of Christ and his recognition had led him to deny twice that he had any knowledge of the savior.

Five things led to Peter's fall: Self confidence. Peter had the utmost confidence in his strength. He insisted that even though all others might forsake Christ he never would, but he was mistaken.

Blindness to danger. Although he was forewarned of his danger Peter considered such warning to be entirely unnecessary.

Neglect of communion with Christ. When in intimate touch with Christ, Peter was brave enough for anything.

Bad associates. Following Christ afar off, Peter was soon in the midst of evil companions and his faith began to weaken.

Lack of courage. Peter could not stand sneers or criticism.

When the cock crew Peter realized that he had made a terrible mistake. He was sorry for his sin and wept bitter tears of repentance. After his repentance, Peter was transformed. He became humble, compassionate toward others, zealous for Christ's glory and courageous in the hour of death.



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

## oneida journal

### We'll not have dinner

Two weeks ago I sat beside my second grade teacher, Mrs. Edith Reed Allen, at a dinner I was hosting on the 50th wedding anniversary of Clay and Dorothy Davidson, former students of Oneida. Clay retired some years ago after 25 years as a maintenance man of our school.

We discussed schooldays and Edith gaily asked me if I was still planning a dinner for her 80th birthday nearly six years from now, and I assured her that I was.

We had more than 80 guests that evening in Oneida's oldest building. At least half were former Oneida stu-

dents. Back from Maysville was Edith's only child, Donald Wayne, who married his 1959 OBI classmate, Flora, only daughter of Clay and Dorothy whose wedding anniversary we were celebrating.

We talked about the wonderful dinner we had four months ago in the same room honoring another longtime maintenance man of the school, Ralph Wilson, and his wife Martha. That too had been a 50th wedding celebration.

Then we thought of other dinners in the past two years—one honoring Mary Spurlock, a former laundress and cook of our school, on her 90th birthday; another last spring honoring our school's oldest living former cook, Bertha Davidson, in her 87th year. Then a few weeks later, the night before graduation, we honored a 1931 graduate and former Oneida teacher, Evelyn Cress Kelly.

It has been one of the joys of my years as Oneida's president to reach back to the memories of my childhood at Oneida and help honor many wonderful ones who had such an active part in the work of Oneida at that time. Our newest dorm, housing 118 young people, is named for longtime Oneida cook, Ruby Baker, and her husband Preston who taught and was a principal for 50 years, most of those at Oneida. Our only stone building is a beautiful prayer chapel named for another cook of the school, Bertha Johnson. She was the first black person to be a part of the Oneida family and cooked thousands of meals here. Several years before her death at age 86 Bertha was present for the dedication. The main chapel is named for

Melvin Davidson, himself a former OBI student, who taught Bible to three generations on our campus.

A new building had not been named when I became Oneida's president 18 years ago. Today that building houses our heated indoor swimming pool, our art department and two middle school classrooms. Now it is named for two Oneida graduates who served in nearly every capacity at Oneida over 50 years of combined service including that of president. They were Charles Goins and Saul Houchell.

Last year we named a renovated apartment building, which also houses our used clothing store, for longtime gardener David Cooper Sr. He served nine- and one-half years after his 80th birthday, an unpaid volunteer, thousands of hours of manual labor.

Also an apartment building has been named for Maralea Arnett, who served 40 years ago as an English teacher and librarian. Another set of apartments has been named for Harold and Betty Holderman, staff members for 12 years. Other new staff housing is named for Bill Cole, an unpaid volunteer who has worked a number of weeks each year for the past ten years in carpentry.

Last homecoming Edith, class of '33, and sister Ruth, '36, and sister Ruby, '43, all lifelong teachers, deeded their family farm and the two houses of their childhood to Oneida. The property adjoins our gardens. I am thinking of all this because the Lord called Edith home yesterday. We'll not be able to have that 80th birthday dinner.



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

## homes for children

### Hard decisions

My job involves making a lot of decisions. Most of them can be made fairly easily. It's a matter of reading a memo, talking with a staff member or participating in our monthly administrative staff meeting. Over the years I have learned to accept that that is the job and most of the time I do not think twice about them.

Occasionally the hard decisions come along. Those are the ones where no matter how you decide it's going to hurt someone and you really have to weigh what is the greater good and which is the least harmful.

I recently had to make one of those very tough decisions. Though I have had to make them in the past I find that they do not get easier to do.

As I weighed the situation over time, human nature made me wish I was back at Buckner in Texas and could walk into the president's (R. C. Campbell) office and talk it over with him. In cases like this I usually pulled the facts together and then shared my recommendation, but in the end the final decision was his. I realized that this time that final decision was mine and though I could get all of the advice I wanted, no one could decide for me.

I also did some reading. I read part of Ecclesiastes and a chapter in Chuck Swindall's book, *Living on the Ragged Edge*, entitled "The Lonely Whine of the Top Dog," which focused on Ecc. 4:1-8. Though we often turn to scripture for comfort I found in this case the harsh reality of life which the writer of Ecclesiastes presents. That writer and Chuck Swindall pulled no punches and prescribed no sugar coated answers. Reality can be harsh.

I also prayed for wisdom and help in making the decision. It was here that I began to find comfort.

All of us face tough decisions in life, and often only the knowledge of God's presence can bring peace in a decision where there are no real winners.



75 years of caring



## on mission together

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

### Something unusual

A Southern Baptist church in California will have to delay its "Here's Hope" revival until September because their sanctuary is already overflowing!

The True Vine Baptist Church in Oakland, Cal. has already "netted" 1250 new converts. "They are winning people to Christ so fast," says home missionary Bill Simms, "they can't even keep up with the records." Even the addition of a Friday night service cannot accommodate all who wish to attend at least one worship service.

True Vine is a predominantly black congregation, situated in a poor neighborhood of Oakland. Just around the corner from the small stucco church building is the Acorn Housing Project, 750 apartments the government reserves strictly for single black women with children.

"'Here's Hope' has been more appropriate than anything Southern Baptists could have done for us," explains Sallie Carey, the pastor's wife and church evangelism director. "When you see a family whose 14 year old child has been killed, babies on crack and you go to those families and say 'Here's Hope,' wouldn't that catch your eye?" holding up one of the 12,000 marked New Testaments the church has received for distribution—most of them already given out.

True Vine got its head start on "Here's Hope" by starting a CWT (Christian Witness Training) program two years ago. Mrs. Carey received a CWT manual in the mail and began teaching it in the church.

Armed with nothing but the gospel, the church determined to claim the Acorn Housing Project for Christ. At that time the buildings were riddled with bullet holes and drug deals transpired openly in the streets. Even police didn't go in there at night.

Mrs. Carey and a handful of True Vine members marched around the project seven times, stopping at strategic points to pray and claim the neighborhood for Christ. But nothing happened.

So they marched around seven more times and prayed for a miracle. Soon afterward the church had a block party for the project's residents and things began to change.

The block party opened the way to use the community room in the Project for a twice-weekly ministry to children. On Thursday and Friday nights, about 80 children came for food and Bible study.

Newton Carey Jr., the church's pastor for 15 years, the first 10 of which were "lean," proclaims: "It has to be God. We couldn't have done this."

(The details of this story were provided by Baptist Press)

# Pastors affirm KBHC's Youth Ranch

by Beth W. Prassel

What's going on at the Baptist Youth Ranch just outside Elizabethtown?

Local pastors recently were invited to find out. Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children introduced community pastors to its newest long term care facility at the open house in February.

"We wanted local pastors to be first in becoming familiar with the Youth Ranch," says Audrey Puryear, director of Community Services, KBHC. "We respect the pastors, want to work with them and want their prayers and support."

J. Howard Cobble, pastor, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, says he thought the open house "was an excellent gesture. I came away impressed with what's being done there. It was tough for me to realize these boys showing me around had such problems."

Cobble believes the Youth ranch will provide a program that can offer hope to these youth. "It will have my verbal and spiritual support. I endorse the program and I'm glad it's here."

Although KBHC has provided care through the facility since 1982, significant changes have been made. Until September 1989, the facility, called the Elizabethtown Temporary Shelter, housed boys on a short term basis. Residents waiting for foster care or long term care stayed usually no more than 30 days at the shelter.

Because of a shortage of treatment care in Kentucky, last year the state requested proposals for treatment facilities from child care agencies. KBHC submitted its proposal to convert the shelter into a long term treatment facility.

The state accepted KBHC's pro-

### — classified ads —

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR MUSIC AND OUTREACH:** Applications and nominations are being sought for this full time position. Candidates must have a master's degree in church music, strong administrative skills and be capable of energetic, imaginative leadership in the ministry of outreach. Send resumes to Search Committee, University Baptist Church, 1223 West Main Street, Charlottesville, VA 22903. 3-13-2T

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**Robin Oldham (r), director, Development/Communication Services, KBHC, greets J. Howard Cobble, pastor, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.**

posal and renovations began in October. More staff were added and the transition was completed within a month.

The Baptist Youth Ranch received its first resident Oct. 30. At the time of the open house, staff were caring for eight boys. The facility is planned to care for a maximum of 10 boys, ages 14-17.

As pastors and KBHC staff toured the ranch, they were introduced to the "intensive" care given these boys. According to Bob Milburn, BYR director, the ranch will help "emotionally disturbed young men."

"Our work with them will let them know that, yes, there are people out there who love them and yes, there are people who can discipline them with balance, not with abuse or neglect."

One of the major goals of the program, explains Milburn, is to teach a "self corrective lifestyle."

"When they first come in, sure, we have to correct their behavior," he says. "But at the end of the program we want them to leave with the ability to correct themselves."

Boys learn discipline through well structured daily schedules and a point

system, requiring boys to earn points daily through school work, chores, behavior and other responsibilities. As boys earn points they work through four "phases" of increasing responsibility and privileges. Recently Youth Ranch staff led the first resident to begin "graduation phase," the last step in successfully completing the program at the ranch.

All activities at the ranch are "therapeutic." They help boys develop normal lifestyles so they can go back home, graduate from high school, get a job.

Residents attend school at the ranch. The Hardin County School District provides a certified special education teacher, a teacher's aide and an art therapist. In the school room boys study life skills as well as regular academic subjects.

Milburn says residents look forward to Saturday mornings when they participate in weekly community projects.

Staff help deal with specific problems through regular counseling sessions. In group counseling boys learn to encourage and confront each other in positive ways. Each resident participates in formal individual counseling with Milburn and the home's unit therapist.

The Youth Ranch, like all KBHC programs, provides care in a Christian atmosphere. Weekly Bible studies and church attendance help boys develop spiritually.

Ranch staff recently witnessed for the first time a resident's profession of faith in Christ. Even with a background of physical abuse and drugs, this boy has reached the ultimate goal Milburn has for all the boys. "Our goal is that they all walk out of here with Christ. That's what separates us from other places."

Milburn wants each boy, after finishing the program, to be able to say, "I helped myself. I did it. But I thank God for Baptist Homes for children." He hopes each boy will feel he has been given the skills and abilities to handle life, "to contribute to society instead of taking away from it."

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DIRECTORY DIVISION

# SBTS professor sees no grey areas in apartheid

by Pat Cole



Jonsson

While "enormous progress" has been made in the struggle for freedom in South Africa, a Southern Baptist professor said the country must now deal with the fear and suspicion engendered by the policy of apartheid.

John Jonsson, a South African native who teaches at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, said white people are unfamiliar with black people and thus are apprehensive about

new freedoms granted to blacks.

"It is purely because apartheid was so successful in completely screening off" the plight of blacks, and "99 percent of the white people have never been to a black township," said Jonsson, the seminary's W. O. Carver professor of missions and world religions.

Jonsson, a naturalized American citizen, visited South Africa from December through early February while on sabbatical leave.

White South Africans "don't realize how patient and compassionate black people are," said Jonsson. "They don't need to fear them if they can only understand" black people apart from "the political descriptions their opponents give them."

Jonsson said he always thought it "would take a miracle" to effect change in South Africa. The miracle, he pointed out, has happened but the rapidity of change has prompted worry both inside and outside South Africa that "things will go wrong."

However, "things have been going wrong" for 40 years of apartheid rule in South Africa, Jonsson said. "Now there is at least a possibility that things can go right and we must major on that," he added.

Whites in South Africa fear the country will be dominated by blacks, he continued. Yet African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela repeatedly has said he envisions a democratic nation that is dominated by

neither blacks nor whites.

To ensure rights for all citizens the government must begin to steer the nation away from a focus on group rights to human rights, he said.

Apartheid has emphasized group rights that mostly have served to guarantee rights for white people, Jonsson said. Noting South African President F. W. DeKlerk has made much progress by recognizing all groups have rights, Jonsson said the government must now shift to a policy that assures basic human rights for individual South Africans. Such rights, he explained, will help both blacks and whites.

"If you have human rights, the majority group must always take cognizance of the minority groups," he said. "That's the biblical concept of justice that you must remember that you were once a slave and therefore your laws must be exemplary and equitable, even

to strangers."

While in South Africa, Jonsson, a longtime opponent of apartheid, was one of about 30 guests invited to attend the Conference for a Democratic Future. Representatives from 2,100 anti-apartheid organizations met to discuss how negotiations might take place with the South African government.

"This was the first time since 1956 that all the different fragmentations of anti-apartheid movements in South Africa were allowed to come together in a conference," he said.

For apartheid to be dismantled, Jonsson said economic sanctions imposed against South Africa must be kept until "the structures of apartheid are addressed." He added that Christians in other nations must try to persuade the white churches in South Africa to step up their activity in fighting apartheid. (BP)

## Restaurant feeds body and soul

by Charles Willis

A family-owned restaurant in the crossroads town of Wytheville, Va., is offering road-weary travelers refreshment for the soul alongside country ham and vegetables.

For 40 years Durham's Restaurant has offered home-style cooking. And for almost 11 of those years, patrons have had the opportunity, at no additional charge, to select from among 50 tracts addressing a variety of life needs from a Christian perspective.

Customers have helped themselves to about 100,000 copies of "Choice Creations" tracts at the restaurant.

The Durham brothers were reared in a Christian home, and their father, Otis L. Durham, "lived the kind of life compatible with his beliefs," Bill Durham recalled. "He taught us, 'If it's written in the Bible, you go by it.'"

So it seemed natural, said Bill Durham, to dedicate their business to God.

"He blessed us with the restaurant and the location and he has helped us through hard times," Bill Durham reflected. "My purpose here is to be a witness."

When the brothers—Bill, a Presbyterian, and Chimer, a Methodist—decided to offer tracts to their customers, they sought the advice of their friend and customer Wesley "Binky" Huff, then pastor of Wytheville Baptist Church.

A regular at the "round table," an informal breakfast group of local businessmen, Huff introduced the brothers to the tract line produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Media Library Department.

Chimer Durham liked the samples he read because they "stick to the gospel without trying to drag you into a particular church." Chimer Durham is also convinced Durham's Restaurant is a much better place to distribute tracts than in the foyer of a church. After all, he reasoned, why offer them to the people who are already in church?

"We were inspired to do it," Chimer said of the decision to set up a tract rack near the cash register. "We decided if the Lord's behind them and he's moving them, people are going to pick them up."

Huff said he had been impressed with the Durhams as "Christians in today's society, running a restaurant without serving alcohol."

He recommended the Southern Baptist-produced tracts to the brothers and, he recalled, the Durhams never hesitated to spend their money for the giveaway items.

Offering tracts along with home cooking is a natural extension of two sincere men who want to share Christ, Huff noted.

"I can honestly say I have never seen them showcase their religion," he said. "It's just them." (BP)

## Winds damage church twice

by Charles Willis

"We have a beautiful ceiling today," Pastor Clyde Roberts joked as he escorted guests into the sanctuary of Grace Baptist Church, Oxford, Ala., in late February.

The ceiling, in fact, was part tongue-and-groove wood and part blue sky with fluffy clouds floating eastward. The unusual interior/exterior decor was the result of tornado-like winds that blasted the worship center in the early hours of Feb. 9.

The story began April 4, 1989. That is when the first tornado swept through the eastern Alabama town, tearing off the church steeple and picking up the roof. Part of the roof shifted six inches before it fell back on the beams. The steeple landed tip down inside the sanctuary, mashed and wedged in the roof's separation.

The 400-member congregation reoccupied the facility three months later, in July, and, Roberts said, everyone was proud of the fresh, clean appearance of the sanctuary following \$100,000 in repairs.

But the memories of Feb. 9, 1990, have far overshadowed those of the first disaster. About 4:30 that morning, Roberts was in bed, listening to the sounds of strong winds moaning between his house and the church.

"I heard a loud noise, and I thought, 'Here we go again,'" he said.

The source of the noise was the recently replaced steeple landing in Roberts' driveway. Flashes of lightning illuminated the church enough that he could see the roof was open to the rain.

Members began gathering at the church by 6:30 that morning, and by noon they were working to load drenched pews onto a flatbed truck for

temporary storage in a warehouse. They worked throughout the day, part of the time with rain falling inside the building.

While the members of Grace Baptist Church were experienced in coping with distress and inconvenience, they were not as well prepared to deal with decisions about building repairs.

Since the February damage had split and shifted some of the laminated beams arching the sanctuary, opinions varied on building repair or total replacement. Separation of the exterior brick veneer from the interior walls led some to wonder if total demolition might be required.

"We had been working with the (Baptist) Sunday School Board's church architecture department on plans for an educational wing," Roberts said. "After the latest sanctuary damage, I called Gwenn McCormick (director of the architectural service) to ask him to put our plans on hold and to see if he could advise us on the sanctuary. The following Saturday, he was here to meet with us."

"He pointed to obstacles and disadvantages the average church member wouldn't consider. And he helped us consider the future and our immediate needs," Roberts continued. "He brought experience to put into focus matters most of us couldn't handle."

Costs of building repairs, the services of a structural engineer and refinishing pews are expected to exceed \$200,000.

"Our goal is to be back in the sanctuary by Easter morning," Roberts asserted. "In a way, the storms have helped. Having the problems to deal with has brought us closer together. I tell our folks God chastises those he loves. He must love us a lot." (BP)



Southern Baptist "Binky" Huff (l) introduced Bill Durham (c), a Presbyterian, and his brother Chimer, a Methodist, to the "Choice Creations" tracts they have distributed from their restaurant for more than 10 years.

# Convention Feature

A news focus about Kentucky Baptist Building departments and programs

## Video magazine celebrates its fifth year

## SBR:KE serves Kentucky Baptists as an educational and informative resource

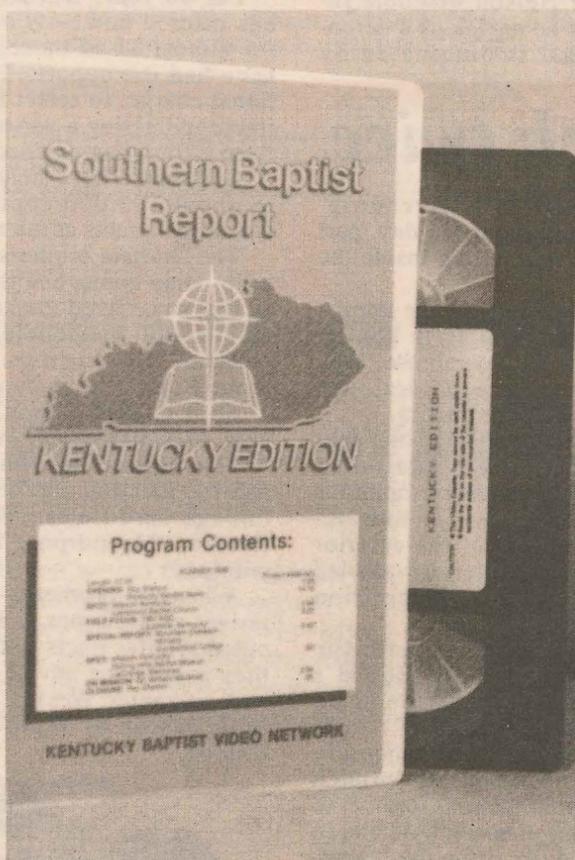
Few, if any, state Baptist conventions have a video magazine which helps put local congregations in touch with the latest news related to their cooperative work and ministry. Kentucky Baptists are fortunate.

Southern Baptist Report: Kentucky Edition, produced by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Media Department, began its fifth year of production with its fall 1989 release. The video magazine format is for and about Kentucky Baptists.

The video magazine's professional competency was recognized as the 1986 national ACTS award winner by the Southern Baptist Convention's Radio and Television Commission for its contribution to missions education production.

Each edition is guided by a selected Media Advisory Group. Its members represent each of the divisions of the Kentucky Baptist Convention as well as from the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. The advisory team comprises a cross-section of Kentucky Baptist work. It seeks to evaluate suggestions for each production and oversees its content and quality.

Producing Southern Baptist Report: Kentucky Edition is a time-consuming task. "Our video shoots out on the field usually take up to 100 hours and editing, which often involves special graphic features, consumes between 30 and 40 hours," Paul Lee, director, Media department, pointed



out. Video footage has been shot at state conventions, conferences, camps and assemblies, new mission church starts, Disaster Relief sites, partnership missions assignments in Kenya, Ohio and Brazil as well as many other locations across Kentucky.

According to Lee, many Kentucky Baptist churches and associations are using the production as an educational resource for missions

promotions, GA's and Acteens programs, home and foreign missions studies and church-wide cooperative program emphasis.

Southern Baptist Report: Kentucky Edition is produced every fall, winter and spring. With its release, copies are sent to every associational office for usage by local churches. If interested in securing a copy for free loan, contact the Kentucky Baptist Video Network, Communications Division, at the Baptist Building, P. O. Box 43433, Middletown, KY, 40243-0433, (502) 245-4101.

The winter 1990 release of Southern Baptist Report: Kentucky Edition, the most recent production, is now available for loan.

The winter program features Ray Shelton and Karen Jones informing viewers of Kentucky Baptist news; a focus on the Kentucky Baptist Foundation by its executive director, Richard Carnes; a Mission Kentucky segment featuring Mallard Point Baptist Church; a special report focus on the Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief assistance to victims of Hurricane Hugo in Sumter, SC; a spot with Dee Gilliland, executive director-treasurer, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, highlighting the recent International Student Conference; a field focus at Baptist Fellowship Center, Long Run Association, with home missionary Micki Davis; and an On Mission report by Dr. William W. Marshall, executive director-treasurer, Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The winter edition is 32 minutes in length.