

Plan to allow equitable shortfall funding approved

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's executive board took steps last week to ensure equitable penalties among several entities receiving gifts from the Cooperative Program offering plate should those gifts experience a dramatic downturn.

A motion brought by a 12-member panel specifically charged with studying the threat of decreased receipts brought a proposal which was unanimously received by the 160-member executive board. The board met May 7-8 at Cedar-more Baptist Assembly, Bagdad.

The proposal reads:

"In case of a financial crisis, allocations be reduced proportionately to the Southern Baptist Convention, Kentucky Baptist institutions of Christian education and the (KBC) executive board staff and/or programs."

Bringing the measure to the executive board was committee chairman J. Howard Cobble, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown. He and 11 others had been assigned the task of reviewing the "disturbing results of declining percentage growth in Cooperative Program giving" by James E. Jones in a preconvention meeting last November at Frankfort. Jones, pastor of Campbellsville (Ky.) Baptist Church, was at that time also KBC president and executive board chairman.

The committee was formed in response to a plea by KBC executive secretary-treasurer William W. Marshall, of Middletown, who observed: "The percentage of Cooperative Program growth has declined so much that we can no longer provide for the family (of programs, institutions, agencies and other needs) the way we have in the past."

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

In addition to Cobble, other members of the study panel included Don Mathis, Corbin; Phillip D. Basigner, Hawesville; Curtis H. Warf, Richmond; Paul M. Welch, Owensboro;



Jeffrey Lee Hicks



Hershel B. Atkinson



C. Vernon Cole

Thomas S. Stokes, Whitesburg; James E. Jones, Campbellsville; James W. Haskell, Bowling Green; Rebecca Clark, Hopkinsville; Anne B. Brock, Lexington; Robert F. Browning, Somerset; and A. Harold Pike, Covington.

At Cedar-more last week current KBC president and executive board chairman Bill Messer, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ashland, said the proposal adopted by the board would be implemented only in the case of a "significant shortfall" in Cooperative Program receipts.

Should it become necessary to use it, the plan is to be implemented by the executive secretary-treasurer in consultation with the executive board's business and finance committee.

Messer expressed appreciation for the work of the 12-member study panel and discharged the committee.

Two named to staff

In other action during last week's executive board meeting a detailed 1990-91 budget proposal totaling \$19,450,760 was adopted, a partial reconfiguration of the executive board staff approved and numerous other matters dispensed with, some without question.

In addition, the board ratified the report of its administrative committee which announced the employment of two new staff members.

Jeffrey Lee Hicks, 30, minister of education at Lexington's Gardenside Baptist Church, will become associate in the state Sunday School Department effective July 1. He fills the position vacated earlier this year by the resignation of Wallace Miller, who accepted employment with the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. Hicks will have primary responsibility for youth and adult Sunday school work and small church development.

A native of Covington, Ky., he is a graduate of Cumberland College, Williamsburg, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. His experience includes being youth minister at Grant's Lick Baptist Church, Alexandria, 1984-86; minister of education at Main Street Baptist Church, Alexandria, 1986-87; and the Gardenside post since November 1987.

Hicks is married to the former Angela Collins of Covington and they are parents of three children.

Also employed last week was Hershel B. Atkinson of Louisville as associate manager of Cedar-more Baptist Assembly, effective May 14. He succeeds Gary Curry, who accepted other employment.

Atkinson, 43, is a native of Fresno, Cal. who expects to receive the MA degree in Christian education this month at Southern Seminary. He holds a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

Married to the former Judy Bailey, he is the father of four sons, only one of whom remains at home.

Since August of last year he has been human needs program intern in the KBC's Brotherhood Department. He was assistant Royal Ambassador camp director for the state convention from February through August last year.

An Air Force sergeant 21 years, Atkinson joined the seminary staff as a part time maintenance worker two years ago while a student. He has been assistant to the director of maintenance there since February 1989.

Budget in record time

The consideration of a 77-page budget proposal for 1990-91 which had been distributed in writing to board members two weeks before last week's meeting was dispatched in record time.

While the board meeting's printed agenda allowed about three-and-a-half hours for verbal budget discussion, for the first time in anyone's memory the matter was concluded in less than 45 minutes. Citing the fact it was unnecessary for board members to hear a pre-

sentation by every KBC staff member on his particular budget items as the board had had opportunity to examine the proposal already, a member called for its adoption. This was done without opposition.

The 1990-91 operating projection of \$19,450,760 is up \$255,403 or 1.3%. This includes a one percent anticipated increase in Cooperative Program receipts over the current year's \$19,195,357. The new budget will go into effect Sept. 1, 1990. It includes a four percent cost of living adjustment for all executive board employees.

A proposed budget goal for the fiscal year 1991-92 will be recommended by the executive board to messengers at the Kentucky Baptist Convention meeting in Paducah Nov. 13-14. That figure will not be projected until books close on the current fiscal year Aug. 31 in order that a projection may be made based on recent giving trends.

Staff reorganization

In the reconfiguration of the executive board staff, two positions and one office were deleted; the Stewardship Department was transferred to the Minister-Church Support Division; and a current staff member was named to succeed another who retired.

C. Vernon Cole, director of the now abolished Office of Resource Development, replaces William Rogers June 1 as director of the Minister-Church Support Division. Rogers, 67, retired Apr. 30.

The positions eliminated by the board include those currently held by Cole and his secretary. The division for which he will be responsible now includes, in addition to the Stewardship Department, the Minister-Church Relations Department (Guy C. Futral Jr., consultant); Annuity Department (Don Spencer, director); and Family Ministry and Church Administration Department (John Lepper, director).

No director has yet been named for the Stewardship Department since the retirement of Jesse C. Stricker in July 1989.

Continued on page 2



Speaking in the old dining hall at Cedar-more Baptist Assembly, Bagdad, May 7, KBC executive secretary-treasurer William W. Marshall told executive board members about Here's Hope Kentucky revival successes in recent months. (Greg Hancock photo)

HERE'S HOPE INSIDE

- **FRONTLINE:** New member training—keeping decisions and members alive
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Camp rates rise, computer system purchase ok'd

Continued from p. 1

Other financial matters

In other developments, the executive board raised a previously approved spending ceiling for a new Baptist student center at Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green. Citing costly delays over which it had little control, the board revised the \$690,000 budget, the board adopted May 3, 1988 to \$749,500. Postponement of construction was blamed on title examination, easement negotiations, removal of restrictions, zoning issues and slow execution of deed conveyances by the commonwealth.

A projected completion timetable for the new facility was not presented. The center will be located about three houses from the present one. It will include a tripurpose room, kitchen, staff offices and an apartment for a live-in caretaker.

In another financial matter, after some clarification and discussion, the executive board agreed to reallocate \$30,000 to the matching scholarship fund. The fund, administered by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Middletown, benefits three senior liberal arts colleges—Campbellsville, Cumberland and Georgetown.

Reporting on that issue for a study committee whose purpose was to assist more Baptist students to attend a Kentucky Baptist college, chairman Gerard Howell testified that the idea—"while a good one"—realistically faced an "uphill battle" at this time. Howell, pastor of Lexington's Central Baptist Church, noted that while his committee reaffirmed the original proposal, it suggested that \$30,000 set aside earlier for this purpose from unrestricted funds be transferred to the matching scholarship fund. Following questions, the board voted to do that.

Camp rates increase

In further financial-related matters the board affirmed several proposals by its business and finance committee which affect Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek Baptist assemblies.

Without discussion the board approved rate increases which will raise RA and GA camp rates in 1991 from \$60 to \$65 per four-day week. Youth camps, on the other hand, also four days in duration, will increase from a current range of \$64-\$72 this year to \$65-\$80 in 1991. All rates include lodging, meals and insurance.

In addition, employe housing policies at both assemblies were revised. In the future the manager, associate manager and one person doing maintenance work at Cedarmore will be required to live on that assembly's grounds. The same requirement exists for the manager and his assistant at Jonathan Creek, near Aurora.

Rental value of the residences shall be determined and the employes charged 20% of the rental value plus a monthly utility fee under the policy. Both rent and utility fees may be adjusted annually to the Consumer Price Index.

In a final financial matter the executive board approved the purchase of computer hardware and software necessary for developing and implementing an information management system to replace the existing computer system.

The executive secretary was authorized to enter into a consulting agreement with Lowell Ashby of Shelbyville to design, develop and implement this new system. He may further enter into agreements with selected vendors to purchase hardware and software.

A total of \$225,000 required to complete funding for the proposed system

was allocated from 1989-90 year-end available funds.

In a miscellaneous business period Brandenburg layman L. Russell Adkisson, a former president of the state Brotherhood Convention, focused on a potential lawsuit that could result from "an article appearing in Western Recorder." The "article" was a letter to the editor written by a Kentucky Baptist pastor citing a poor Cooperative Program giving record by First Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga. The material had been previously published elsewhere.

Adkisson called for KBC executive secretary-treasurer Marshall to write a retraction to be published in the Recorder "so there won't be a chance we could be sued."

Members of the board, however, observed that the matter should be referred to the board of directors of Western Recorder. There were only two votes opposed, and it appeared these may have been the only two negative votes cast during the executive board meeting.

In fact, the harmony and unity of the moment was more than at least one board member could contain. William E. Shoulta, pastor of Providence (Ky.) Baptist Church, told the board this was a "historic meeting for this much unanimity among this many Baptists." He said he did not see it as apathy but rather that convention leaders and staff members had developed "an earned trust." His comments were seconded by "amens" from across the room.

Words from Marshall

In his report to the board Marshall highlighted achievements in several partnerships inside and outside the state's borders and the Here's Hope simultaneous revival crusades.

In connection with the revivals he noted that more than \$200,000 had been provided by the executive board for coordination and promotion of the meetings. He said this was the largest amount reported by any state convention for this purpose. He also declared that he would later ask that funds for 1995 simultaneous crusades be put away for similar purposes.

Marshall thanked those who had been personally involved in the current series. He shared a poignant story of his own experience in preaching a revival this spring at Magnolia Baptist Church, Severns Valley Association.

"Thank you for letting me be the person in this position," he concluded. "Pray for me as I will for you in these most difficult days in which we live."

The executive board approved a request by the Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission that the executive secretary-treasurer and Western Recorder editor become ex officio members without vote on that commission.

Finally, at a staff recognition banquet, eight executive board employes were honored for lengthy service tenures, including:

Martha Quire, administrative secretary, Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, 25 years; Carolyn H. Strunk, information processing specialist, Computer Services Department, 20 years; John E. Pate, director, Support Services Department, 15 years; Ira V. (George) Birdwhistell, campus minister, Georgetown (Ky.) College, 10 years; Pat Brunner, campus minister, Berea (Ky.) College, 10 years; Anna R. Coleman, support services specialist 1, Support Services Department, 10 years; George Jackson Palmer, associate, Sunday School Department, 10 years; Rick Trexler, campus minister, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, 10 years.

baptist forum

Apology requested

You folks need to realize that your splat on the information you put in this paper has always shown you to be within the "moderate" camp. There have been times when I wanted to know what was going on in the state convention and had to go to several sources to find the real truth because of your biased reporting. I call upon you to ask Mr. Bridges to vacate the office of interim editor and allow the state convention paper to be chaired by a more unbiased editor. I call upon your reporters to report the news and not their opinion of the news.

More specifically I ask Mr. Bridges

to write an apology to me and others for the statements found in his editorial concerning Dr. Morris Chapman. Dr. Dan Vestal begged and I didn't hear anyone from the Recorder criticize him and call for Ed McMahon or Chuck Yeager to speak.

Stanley Cole
Florence

Confrontation or cooperation?

We have a great many Baptists who have not fully supported the issues in our SBC struggle. It started 11 years ago when a small group of influential Baptist leaders came together and de-

vised a method to take control of the SBC. To gain this control they needed a phrase that would win support among all Southern Baptists.

Knowing that all Southern Baptists believed the Bible is the word of God, these leaders surmised that if they could convince these faithful believers that there was a group of seminary professors and pastors that did not believe the Bible was the whole truth they could win enough support to take over the SBC.

Biblical inerrancy was a rallying phrase used to successfully elect the 11 appointed their "yes" men to dominate or take total control of our six seminaries, Sunday School Board, the Foreign and

Home Mission boards, the Baptist Joint Committee and other committees the president appoints. This is what one of the original organizers meant when he said "going for the jugular."

Every thinking Southern Baptist who values democracy, honesty and integrity ought to speak out against the politics that is taking priority over Christ and his teachings. We have a great opportunity to elect one of our great Southern Baptist men, Daniel Vestal, as president of the SBC in New Orleans in June. This man can lead us away from confrontation into a period of cooperation.

Helen Sparrow
Harrodsburg

western recorder

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Russians surprised to find Baptists in U. S.

by Bill Moore
State Correspondent

A Russian Baptist refugee family in Bowling Green said their greatest surprise in America was "finding Baptists here and having sisters and brothers to pray with." They had been told there were no Baptists in America to try to discourage them from leaving. Five of seven families that have come to Bowling Green this spring are Baptists. They are sponsored by First Baptist Church in cooperation with the Western Refugee Assistance Center.

When asked why they wanted to leave they described persecution because they were Baptist. One man told of working two or three months on a job and not getting paid. Then he was told, "You are a good worker but since you are a Baptist we cannot keep you." He said his children often came home from school bloody from other children using violence against them. They left homes and relatives; several have young children. They left possessions, bringing only what they could carry in suitcases. They left their language and culture. None of them speaks English and they will find practically no Russian-speaking Americans outside of universities.

In the Soviet Union as it has been you cannot belong to the communist party if you are a Christian, and you cannot get advanced education unless you belong to the party. Many of the refugees left not only because of persecution but for greater opportunities for their children.

Some of the refugees in Bowling Green came from the Ukraine. Others came from Tashkent in Uzbekistan. The Moslem majority there may have added to the persecution.

A father and son of one family were baptized at First Baptist, Bowling Green, Apr. 8. The father had made a profession of faith in Russia, but had not been baptized. The teenager had made a profession of faith in a refugee center in Italy.

These families left the Soviet Union last November. Other members of that family and two other families have joined First Baptist by statement, a total of 12. When asked about their hopes and dreams in America one mother said: "To raise our children in the faith."

Since early January the church has gotten housing ready, provided furniture and household equipment, found interpreters and looked for possible



Elena Kamyshin and children Margarita and Vladimir eat their first meal at First Baptist, Bowling Green.

jobs. Two of the families had babies born while they were in Rome and these infants were not on the list given to the church.

The church owns some houses, bought for future parking, and these are used to house five of the families. Other churches are providing housing for two families. A motel being remodeled provided mattresses and bedding at low cost. People donated kitchen equipment and clothing. The refugee center has helped with local transportation. Doctors have volunteered medical services for the children for a year.

After only a month, and speaking very little English, four of the refugees are employed—two in food preparation at restaurants, one in maintenance and one in construction.

Regis O'Connor, speech professor at Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, became chairman of First Baptist's mission committee Jan. 1. He says: "My first job was getting ready for the Russian refugees." He indicates both the church and community have cooperated in many ways in making them welcome.

Pat Glasscock, who has many years' experience teaching English as a second language, teaches the refugees on Monday and Tuesday nights. They also have English classes at the refugee center on Thursday and Friday nights.

School age children were put directly into school at first but a different arrangement is being considered since they need a foundation of English.

Asked how the Russians differ from other language groups she has taught, Miss Glasscock emphasized the definite sense of spirituality. "Their being Christian makes a tremendous difference." She added that Russian is a difficult language with many different sounds from English.

Pat Sprouse teaches the group during Sunday school and mainly tries to extend their English in things concerning church or other areas. One of the refugees is a good pianist so they often sing during that time. They attend the worship service without an interpreter so Pat goes over the bulletin with them. They find the scriptures in their Bibles and sing in Russian if they know the tune. One 19-year-old sang "How Great Thou Art" the first Sunday they were there. He also sang at the service in which his father and brother were baptized.

The new arrivals are very pleased with their temporary housing. One little girl answering the question, "What was your biggest surprise in America?" said, "The big house."

First Baptist people describe the Russians as very hospitable. They always serve refreshments to visitors.

Of the two families who are not Baptist one is listed simply as Christian. The other is Russian Orthodox and is being sponsored by Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

Miss Glasscock observed the Russian women are more active and progressive than women of other language groups with whom she has worked.

Russian Baptists are strict in moral codes. They observe simplicity in dress and have high respect for places of worship. Women always wear head coverings to church.

Asked if they thought there would be peace between the United States and the Soviet Union, one man said they did not know enough about politics to answer. Asked what American Christians can do for peace one said, "pray." Some First Baptist workers feel because the Russians left last November and are distrustful of all news media they are not aware of the significance of events that have transpired since then.

Tashkent, home of some of the refugees, is in a state that borders Afghanistan about 2000 miles from Moscow. There are about 2000 Baptists in Tashkent, a city of two million. There are only two small Baptist churches so most of them meet in homes.

What can Baptists in America do to help Baptists in the Soviet Union? The refugees felt the greatest need was Bibles, children's Bibles and other Christian literature in Russia.



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

Mr. Clean

If I were asked to summarize Marv Knox in a word, I would be hard pressed to improve on *integrity*. To me, that more responsibly characterizes a decade-long observation I have of him better than any other metaphor I can think of.

Marv is, I think, the personification of ethics. My colleagues have watched him bend over backwards to be fair in reporting the controversy raging among Southern Baptists.

I cannot cite an instance when Knox supplied those of us waiting to receive his stories with anything less than straightforward, truthful, objective reporting. He often went the distance by including opinions from several sources, giving more than one viewpoint.

Without patronizing, I think you could inquire of anyone in our business who knows Marv Knox well. The general assessment will be that he is Mr. Clean, with an unblemished record for "telling the truth and trusting the people."

There are some other admirable traits you will come to appreciate in Marv Knox.

While he may be perceived as a rather quiet individual, he possesses a delightful sense of humor beneath that serious looking exterior. His distinctively infectious laugh is unique and you will find yourself enjoying the moment when he becomes tickled.

My perception is that Marv is a tireless, dedicated servant, too, perhaps even to the point of pushing himself to "workaholicism." It may be the duty of his staff to protect him at times from himself in this capacity. All of us will help him, I am sure, any way we can.

Aside from his impressive credentials as a skilled journalist, I also know him as a sterling and caring Christian. Principled in biblical belief and admonition, he is thoroughly rooted in Southern Baptist tradition and practice. A model young adult, he is faithful to his Lord, his denomination, his wife and family and I believe an asset to the community in which he lives.

As time goes on I hope you will have the joy of welcoming Marv Knox to your church and can say of him, "He is my friend." While you may not agree with every word he writes, you may take solace in the fact he does not take his call lightly, and he will attempt to represent us all—accurately and fairly. Kentucky Baptists surely have a new friend in the editor's office. That is good news for us all.



First Russian family for Bowling Green with welcome at Nashville airport. Left to right: Alexandr Tetenko, Lyubov Tetenko, Pat Glasscock, language teacher, Dr. Minia Ritter, Russian Professor at Western Kentucky University; Rear: Sergey Tetenko, Regis O'Connor, Missions Chairman, Mike Craig, Viktor Tetenko, Gary Noffsinger.

baptist news briefs

CLeaR-TV ends boycott of Clorox but not Mennen

A group of U. S. Christian leaders is ending its boycott of the Clorox Corporation in the wake of promises from the giant company to reduce the amount of sex, violence, profanity and anti-Christian stereotyping on television shows it sponsors.

The group, known as Christian Leaders for Responsible Television (CLeaR-TV), began the boycott of Clorox last July.

Clorox officials approached CLeaR-TV in February and asked that the boycott be lifted. The company has not said how dramatically its sales were impacted by the boycott. CLeaR-TV also is unable to put a dollar figure on the amount of sales affected by the boycott.

Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and a member of the executive committee of CLeaR-TV, called the lifting of the boycott "a clear indication we have succeeded in attracting the attention of one of the nation's largest advertisers and persuading that company to stop the downward spiral in the moral quality of TV programming in this country."

The group's boycott of the Mennen Company, which went into effect simultaneously with the action against Clorox, remains in effect. Mennen has not announced any changes in its advertising practices and has not approached CLeaR-TV about the boycott, Land said. (BP)

Land criticizes Bush for inviting homosexuals

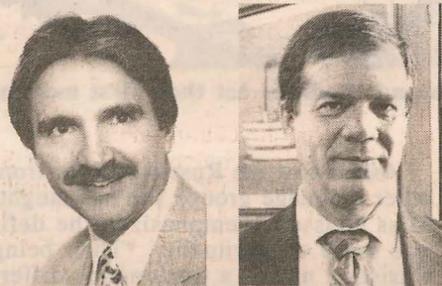
Christian Life Commission executive director Richard Land is asking Southern Baptists to write president George Bush and express outrage over a White House invitation to representatives of homosexual organizations.

The representatives were invited to witness Bush's signing at the White House of new federal legislation requiring records on hate crimes. That meeting occurred Apr. 24.

Land said in a letter to Bush on Apr. 30: "We do not want hate crimes either. Such acts of violence against people are wrong. It is quite another matter, however, for the president of the United States to invite leaders of homosexual and lesbian groups to be guests at an official White House ceremony precisely because they represent such groups."

"Such an action provides an implicit White House approbation of their lifestyle and it is something no previous administration has done."

To write to Bush, letters should be addressed: The President, The White House, Washington, D. C. 20500. The White House comment line is (202) 456-7639. (BP)



Dixon

Goodwin

Dixon succeeds Goodwin at Spring Meadows

Michael C. Dixon, a long-time staff member at Spring Meadows Children's Home, Middletown, was named director of that campus May 2 by Curtis C. Mooney, president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

Dixon had been named Spring Meadows' acting director following the resignation of Mike Goodwin earlier this year. Goodwin, Spring Meadows' director since 1986, took medical disability in March due to an ongoing battle with cancer.

In announcing Dixon's appointment Mooney said, "Dr. Dixon brings to the Spring Meadows campus a unique and impressive perspective on the needs of today's children. His experience in ministry plus a deep commitment to Spring Meadows add greatly to his pro-

fessional credentials. I am confident he will build on the good work done by Mike Goodwin."

Originally from Boyd County, Dixon earned the BBA degree from the University of Kentucky, Lexington, and the MDiv degree with an emphasis in social work from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He received the PhD degree in missions from Southern in 1989.

Dixon and his wife, Carla, joined the KBHC staff as house parents at Spring Meadows in 1978. He later was an overnight worker at a temporary care shelter before becoming Christian education director at Spring Meadows in 1986. He joined the central office staff as a regional coordinator in 1989. The Dixons have two daughters.

Part of minority report out of order, Vines says

Messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention will not be able to see sections of a proposed minority report objecting to the recommended budget allocation for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

SBC President Jerry Vines has ruled that about a third of the proposed minority report is "out of order" and will not be printed in the Book of Reports or the SBC Bulletin.

The entire report, however, will be included in the May issue of the Baptist Program, the publication of the SBC's Executive Committee, and will be available in pamphlet form from the Executive Committee.

During its February 1990 meeting, the Executive Committee adopted a proposed SBC Cooperative Program unified allocation budget which cut funding for the Washington-based BJCPA from \$391,796 in 1989-90 to \$50,000 in 1990-91. The Executive Committee also adopted a revised program statement for the Christian Life Commission which shifted major responsibility for representing Southern Baptists in religious liberty, separation of church and state matters to the CLC from the BJCPA.

"The proposed minority report as written violates Robert's Rules of Order in several places," Vines said. He noted the report "made several references to the majority, and Robert's is very specific that the reference should

be to the committee report, not the majority report."

The minority report, he added, "also made allusions about the proceedings of the committee and in several paragraphs went into detail concerning the committee's work. That is a clear violation of the rules, which say there may be no allusions to the proceedings of the committee." (BP)

Vestal draws endorsement of retired missionaries

After hearing he had won the endorsement of more than 300 retired missionaries Daniel Vestal outlined a plan for "renewal and refocus in the Southern Baptist Convention."

During a rally at Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, Vestal, the moderate candidate for president of the SBC, also pledged an "inclusive" philosophy of appointments if he is elected at the annual meeting June 12-14 in the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans.

"You need to hear me well," Vestal told more than 400 people who attended the rally. "If I am elected I pledge to you that my appointment philosophy will be an inclusive philosophy."

"I mean by that I am not going to shut out people who have shut out folks like me for 11 years. I am not going to shut them out." (BP)

Montoya announces minority nominations

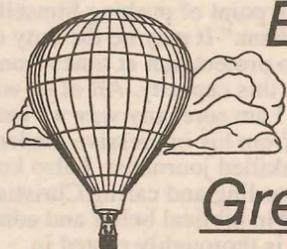
A minority report containing 32 "alternate nominations" to the report of the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention committee on nominations has been released by committee member David Montoya.

Montoya, the Arkansas clergy representative on the 66-member committee on nominations, announced following the March meeting of the group he would challenge some of the 132 people nominated to serve on the boards trust of the 24 entities of the SBC.

The pastor of First Baptist Church, Gravette, Ark., said, "I decided to make this challenge while serving as a member of the committee on nominations. As a member, I heard and observed things which saddened my heart. Throughout the meeting I saw evidence of a political machine using the system to reward and control.

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"The individuals being challenged are either currently involved in the takeover tactics which have introduced precinct-type political machinery into our convention or else have been openly supportive of such activity.

Kentuckians affected by alternate nominations include:

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD: Bob Browning, pastor of First church, Somerset, to replace James Garland of Hazel who was nominated to fill an unexpired term, to end in 1991.

SOUTHERN SEMINARY: Carl Kell, a faculty member at Western Kentucky University and member of First church, Bowling Green, to replace Wayne Gaunce of Glasgow who was nominated to an unexpired term to end in 1992; Alvin Wheeler, a faculty member at Morehead State University and member of First church, Morehead, to replace Ron Meredith, who was nominated to an unexpired term, to end in 1991, as a local member. (BP)

'Recapture future' to be theme of SBC Forum

"Recapture the Future" will be the theme for the Southern Baptist Forum when it convenes in New Orleans this summer.

The Forum will meet at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. June 11 in the Saenger Theatre at 143 Ramparts St., downtown New Orleans. It is among at least 15 meetings held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans June 12-14.

"The theme of recapturing the future means we have a challenge to recall the past as we embrace the future," said Jon Stubblefield, pastor of First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., and chair of the forum steering committee.

"We need to return to our roots and ponder the genius of our denomination's founding fathers. Moreover, we need to reclaim the vision of Bold Mission Thrust. The decade of the '90s is a time to recapture the future."

The Forum will feature six major addresses, presented by Randall Lolley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Greensboro, N. C.; Herbert Reynolds, president of Baylor University, Waco, Tex.; Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler of Cincinnati, retired executive director of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union; John Killenger, distinguished professor of religion and culture at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.; and Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss. (BP)

Documents on BJCPA released in Baptist Program

Documents which differ on the role of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and its budget allocation were published in early May by the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in Nashville.

The two documents were published in the May issue of Baptist Program, the magazine of the Executive Committee and mailed to its 65,000 subscribers, including all churches of the denomination.

One is titled "Some Reasons for the Southern Baptist Convention 1990-91 Budget Allocations to Support Religious Liberty and Separation of Church and State."

The other is a proposed minority report to the action of the Executive Committee, which recommended a Co-operative Program unified budget allocation which cuts funding to the BJCPA from \$391,796 to \$50,000 per year.

The "Some Reasons..." document carries a subhead that it was "adopted by the Executive Committee Feb. 20, 1990, which consists of 77 members."

The proposed minority report questions whether the document was, in fact, adopted by the Executive Committee. (BP)

Women in Ministry: 'Welcoming the Stranger'

"Welcoming the Stranger...Sojourners in the Fellowship of God" will be the theme for the eighth annual meeting of Southern Baptist Women in Ministry June 9-10 at the Intercontinental Hotel in New Orleans.

The theme expresses the concept of hospitality, noted Betty Winstead McGary, president of the organization and minister to adults at South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Tex.

Program personalities will include Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler of Cincinnati, Oh., retired executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, and Katrina and Greg Pennington, ministers at Northwest Baptist Church, Ardmore, Okla. Music will be provided by Agape, the women's ensemble of South Main Church, Houston, Tex., and the chancel choir from Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.

Registration for the meeting costs \$25. The riverboat dinner party costs \$15 with registration and \$25 without

registration.

For registration information, call Betty McGary at (713) 529-4167, Pam Tanner at (713) 980-4431 or Nancy Campbell at (713) 526-1675. (BP)

Radio-TV elects Arizona president

Jack Johnson, 55-year-old executive director of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, was elected president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television commission in a called meeting of the commission May 3.

Jackson implied he would accept the call to head the Ft. Worth, Tex. agency but said a formal announcement would have to wait until he had talked with the Arizona convention's executive board May 7.

"I am very excited about the prospects and impressed with the opportunity," he told the commission.

Commission chairman Michael S. Hamlet, pastor of First Baptist Church, North Spartanburg, S. C., announced Johnson's election following two closed sessions of the commission lasting almost two hours at the Sheraton Grand Hotel near the Dallas-Ft. Worth Airport.

A vote count was not announced although the vote apparently was not unanimous, observers noted.

In announcing Johnson's election following the second of the two closed sessions, Hamlet added that with the election the commission had given Johnson an "expression of our unanimous support." (BP)

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September 1989-April 1990 gifts

	Month	YTD 8 mon.
April 90	1,198,383	11,023,267
April 89	1,098,591	10,647,745
\$ Change	99,792	375,522
% Change	9.1%	3.5%
Budget	1,476,441	11,811,526
\$(under)/over	(278,058)	(788,259)
%(under)/over	-18.8%	-6.7%

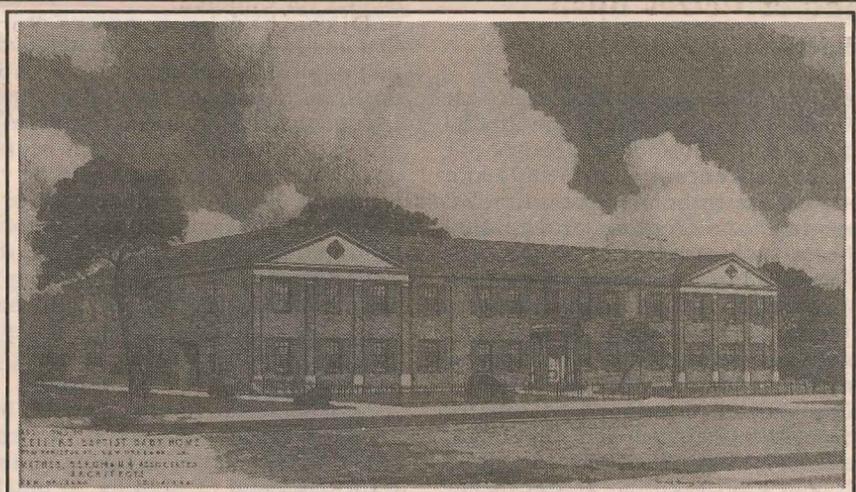
Year	\$ Over/(Under) Budget to Date	% Increase/Decrease Over Prev Year
89-90	(788,259)	3.5%
88-89	(709,492)	-1.3%
87-88	(128,846)	1.2%
86-87	258,272	7.9%
85-86	(526,569)	7.6%
84-85	(452,521)	7.3%
83-84	(444,356)	1.4%

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AVAILABLE: Ordained Baptist minister available for supply or fill in. For information call 502-343-4056. 5-8-4T

POSITION AVAILABLE: Full time youth and music minister. If interested, send résumé to Ross Baptist Church, 4790 Noble Street, Gary, IN 46408. Contact person: C. Keith Rogers, 219-980-1533. 5-1-3T



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baptist forum

An exercise in mind control

Referring to abortion, the resolution vis-a-vis "the greatest moral issue faced by Christians today" adopted recently by the Southern Seminary trustees is an indication of the lack of logical, sociological and theological sophistication endemic to the majority trustees who enacted this bit of silliness.

Logically, a far greater moral issue than abortion is that of fornication/adultery, without which elements there would be no abortion problem since most abortions eventuate from sexual promiscuity, not marital choice.

Theologically, notwithstanding Bible references to fetuses, abortion per se, though a despicable exercise, is not discussed in Scripture. Moreover, both theologians and laypersons, when making biblical determinations regarding any subject, must consider sin—not morality—as the final determinant. Sin is defined by God. Morality is defined by men and women who can honestly disagree.

Sociologically, the resolution constitutes an exercise in mind control, an element completely alien to a free society. In enjoining seminary personnel to take a prescribed position on a social problem the trustees committed the unpardonable intellectual sin. Hitler, Jim Jones and Charles Manson indulged in mind control. The seminary does not exist to emit clones of David Miller, the resolution's author. It exists to create a climate conducive to individual search for truth.

James L. Clark
Danville

Temperance

Over 100,000 Americans die each year because of alcohol—more than 20,000 as a result of automobile crashes (41 percent in Kentucky for 1989) and 80,000 more in homicides, suicides, drownings and from alcohol related diseases such as cirrhosis of the liver and various kinds of cancer. The monetary cost to society has been estimated by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services at \$136 billion annually. The emotional toll is incalculable.

Legislation introduced by senator Albert Gore (D-Tenn.) and representative Joseph Kennedy (D-Mass.) will let kids and adults know, among other things, that alcohol may be addictive and that pregnant women should never drink. In print advertisements a 1-800 number will let people know where to call if they want to know more about alcohol.

I urge everyone to take a few minutes today to write to senators McConnell and Ford to ask them to cosponsor S. 2439 and H. R. 4493. It's the very least we can do to prevent the tragedies caused by our number one drug problem—alcohol.

Claude M. Witt
executive director
Temperance League of Kentucky

Reader feels persecuted

Richard Bridges, your article "the mystery of persecution" is as much a persecution of conservatives as you claim has been carried out against moderate/liberals. As a matter of fact it is persecution on a greater scale. Before your paper reached Baptist homes many Baptists were simply serving Christ according to their convictions with no malice concerning the trustee's meeting. You have chosen to indoctrinate the fortunate (who prefer to live by their convictions from God's word)

in the malicious attitude of viewing conservative/fundamentalists as denominational terrorists and yourself (along with others) as the saviors and champions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Friend, if you feel persecuted and follow Christ as Lord, then persecution requires a silent endurance. (I Pet. 2:21-23). Your article was filled with guile. Your intent is clear—to lure others into your politics with the absurd cries of "persecution" and "disloyalty." You are seeking to mount a persecution of your own.

Brother, voice the facts and not your malice and accusations. Just tell the truth without a twist. Let God's people pray and vote their own convictions.

Greg Pearson, pastor
Bashford Manor Baptist Church
Louisville

Southern student responds

The situation regarding the board of trustees at Southern Seminary has received a great deal of publicity. Some of this publicity has been well deserved; some has not. No matter what has been written it has served to have the same main effect upon everyone: choosing sides. Is not our denomination divided enough?

I, as a student at Southern Seminary, am as outraged and hurt by what has been going on as anyone else. I resent the fact that Jerry Johnson, who has never attended a Southern Baptist seminary, is a pivotal figure on the board of trustees. I feel that he is too young to even know what he is doing there, and that he has little idea of the tremendous responsibility inherent in a trustee's position. I am also resentful of the fact that education is shifting from a free process in which the student hears all possible views of what could be right and then proceeds to make his or her own decision upon the "truth" into a tyrannical, authoritarian process of indoctrination. I want to make up my own mind about what is right, based solely upon God's leadership in my life and my ministry, instead of being told that there is only one set of truths.

All personal feelings aside, however, I think by looking at this entire situation that history is repeating itself. I am reminded of nothing so much as Saul of Tarsus' campaign against the church recounted in Acts 8:1-3 and Acts 9:1-2. Saul did not do this on his own; rather, he represented an entire school of thought. Just as Saul represented the Pharisees of that time, so I feel that Jerry Johnson is a modern day Saul representing the conservative faction of the SBC. The zeal of both is apparent and even commendable. However, it bears noting that nothing but an encounter with the risen Christ our savior and Lord could change Saul. For that matter, nothing but an encounter with the living Christ can change anybody. And I feel that we as the church should be praying for this group of people instead of pointing accusatory fingers.

Ellen Douglas
Louisville

Praise for new editor

I have learned that Western Recorder board of directors recommended Marv Knox to the Executive Committee of the Kentucky Baptist Convention as editor of Western Recorder. As a native Kentuckian I rejoice at the prospect of Kentucky Baptists having such a capable journalist at the helm of its state

paper. I also rejoice with Marv in sensing this is a further manifestation of God's leadership in a vocational calling to serve him through a highly respected Baptist newsjournal. I grieve, however, at the thought of losing Marv and his family from the life of our church.

I have never worked with more committed and more capable people than the Knoxes. Joanna has headed up our preschool department and supervised nursery and extended session workers. Marv has served as a deacon, Sunday school teacher, Church Training director and chairman of the publicity committee. Both of them have sung in the choir. As you can see their contribution to the life of our church has been significant.

Marv Knox is a consecrated Christian, a man of brilliant intellect and moral integrity and a hard and efficient worker. You could not have done better in your search for a new editor of Western Recorder.

C. Kenny Cooper, pastor
Bellevue Baptist Church
Nashville

Support for CLC

I am writing in regard to several editorials which have been written in Western Recorder. The Kentucky Baptist Convention paper often speaks against conservatives and any changes made in the Southern Baptist Convention. The Feb. 13 editorial and several others have criticized the changes being proposed in the BJCPA. I want to briefly show my support of these changes. I think the budget reduction is good and the new role for the Christian Life Commission would be favorable.

As a pastor I want to say to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, "Keep up the good work."

Michael W. Hail
New Bethel Baptist Church
Verona

Urge to moderate pastors

Dr. Honeycutt, Dr. Dilday, Dr. Parks, Dr. Lolley, Dr. Dunn, Dr. Elder—how many more fine Christian leaders have to be maligned before we wake up and realize we are not physically asleep and having a nightmare?

How much longer are the moderate pastors of our SBC going to wring their hands and moan about what's happening? It is time these Christian leaders realize that the time has passed when the annual meeting of the SBC is just a time for fun, fellowship, food and inspiration, that is, if they attend at all!

The fundamentalists in control of our SBC are bent on the destruction of our organizations and seminaries as we know them. No, it hasn't affected your own little church yet—but it will if fundamentalists are allowed to maintain control of our convention. The *Baptist Faith and Message* will be rewritten. Little by little this is being done by resolutions adopted at the annual convention. Some day it will directly affect your little (or big) church.

The laypersons have already been disenfranchised. There is no such thing as the "priesthood of the believer." I, as a layman, cannot interpret scripture on my own. I need a good fundamental preacher to enlighten me on scripture; the Holy Spirit just isn't enough! Of course, as a man I guess I am just a little above my wife.

If allowed to go unchecked, the fundamentalists will transform our world class seminaries into third rate

Bible institutes. Institutions where the study of God's word under world recognized theologians will be replaced with schools whose instructors will parrot the rote of the fundamentalists.

What can you moderate pastors do? Get the members of your church involved. Approach the Southern Baptist Convention with the same zeal, dedication and enthusiasm that you do a new building project. As you enlist church members to attend the annual meeting, have the same sense of urgency you have when you are staffing your Sunday school or vacation Bible school.

Moderate pastors, stop wringing your hands and do something positive! Get the laity of your church involved. It can be done.

Herbert Wilson
Baptist Tabernacle
Louisville

A split would be best?

I, like so many Southern Baptists, have been reading and hearing so much concerning the conservative-moderate issue. Isn't it a political issue? Maybe one year a conservative could serve as president, then a year of moderate. No, on second thought, that would really create confusion because as a Southern Baptist I really don't feel we know what we really stand for. What we need to do is get it together!

My idea would be to post what we stand for and believe. The ten commandments would be excellent—no interpretation humanly speaking, just the same ones God gave Moses. It is no wonder we have confusion within our churches because some of our ministers haven't really settled it within themselves what they believe. How can there be strong spiritually maturing churches under such weak guidance?

A split in the denomination may be the healthiest way to point entirely to what we do believe, whether it be conservative or moderate, as Baptists. Maybe some who haven't been involved in church may return. Membership may increase. Freedom of choice is the phrase!

Phyllis Barnes
Louisville

Praise for Here's Hope

Week after week I read with great interest your emphasis on *Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you*. My compliments to you for the great job you have done and the thoroughness by which you have promoted *Here's Hope* in Kentucky.

I get several state papers but I know of no state convention that has better promoted the *Here's Hope* emphasis than Kentucky. I have tried to keep each of the *Here's Hope* inserts for our files. If *Here's Hope* is not a great success in Kentucky it will be a great surprise to me. It will not be because it was not adequately promoted and emphasized through the state paper. You have done a fantastic job!

I know Bill Jagers and Gene Enlow must be very thankful for all of the cooperation and support they have received on this great effort. They have done their part in mobilizing Southern Baptists in what I believe is one of the greatest evangelistic opportunities we have ever had. I do believe Kentucky will have one of the highest years of baptisms in its history. You will have a great part in the results.

Richard H. Harris
Home Mission Board
Atlanta, Ga.

HERE'S HOPE TODAY

"Mobilized and motivated" marks successful revival

by Denise Spencer
State Correspondent

Steve Carney, pastor of Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Nelson Association, has been pastor and vocational evangelist. He responded to the following questions:

■ When do you feel a revival has been successful?

"I feel like revival truly takes place when people are mobilized for the master....motivated to become soul-winners."

■ What can a church do to best prepare for revival?

"Be a people of prayer. I believe when a pastor can move his people to be on bended knee, revival will happen."

■ What was one of your most memorable revivals?

"At New Brandenburg Baptist Church, the people responded marvelously. Thursday night I preached about the rich man and Lazarus. I asked 'How many of us are concerned enough about the lost to fast and pray?'" Unknown to Carney, one listener went home from the service and began calling others. She challenged them to join her in 24 hours of fasting and prayer. Carney laughed, remembering his first indication that something was afoot. "When I went to the church for the meal Friday night, I was the only one eating!" That evening a man for whom the church had prayed for years finally attended the services. He made a profession of faith that night.

Victories reported across SBC as Here's Hope ends

by Mark Wingfield

Southern Baptist churches nationwide report victories as *Here's Hope*. Jesus cares for you draws to a close.

During the six-week period between Mar. 18 and Apr. 29, about 80 percent of the denomination's 37,000 churches were to participate in the simultaneous revival effort sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Greenhills Baptist Church, Collierville, Tenn., surpassed its goal for 25 professions of faith by recording 171 commitments during its *Here's Hope* revival. Pastor Terry Stewart said church members had been skeptical of setting a goal of 25 decisions because they had never seen that many people make decisions during one week.

At the opening service of the church's revival, 15 people committed their lives to Jesus Christ. Within two days, the church was host to 350 teenagers at a "pizza blast" where 72 people professed their faith.

The church followed the *Here's Hope* guide produced by the Home Mission Board, which led to setting what they thought was an ambitious goal for decisions during the revival.

"We thought we had faith in asking for 25," the pastor explained. "We realize now that God answers prayer. God will do far beyond what we would ever hope or ask."

As excitement built during the week, people began to bring their unsaved friends and family members to

the revival, hoping they would make commitments, Stewart said. Also, the evangelist spoke in local schools with an antidrug message.

The church, which averages 140 in Sunday school attendance, has learned that size has no bearing on what God can do, Stewart reported. "This has helped us realize we're not limited by what we don't have. The only limits we have are the ones we put on ourselves."

A small church in southwest Illinois also made a big impact with its *Here's Hope* revival. Steeleville (Ill.) Baptist Church averages 195 in worship, but attracted 419 people on the final night of revival. In all, 121 people made public decisions for Jesus Christ.

"In the last services, chairs were added everywhere, even in the altar area, to accommodate the crowd," said pastor Richard Newcom. "The revival was the talk of the whole town."

The Steeleville revival also had an emphasis on youth, with 83 teenagers making professions of faith in one night. "They could not even stand at the altar," the pastor said. "They stood halfway down the side aisles as they were recognized."

In Indiana, Central Baptist Church, Richmond, nearly doubled its attendance during the *Here's Hope* revival and is still baptizing people in every service, pastor LeRoy Wagner said.

The church previously averaged 270 in worship attendance, but ended the revival with 480 in attendance. During the week-long meeting, 56 people com-

mitted their lives to Christ.

Lay participation also led to a successful revival at Hillcrest Baptist Church, Riverton, Wyo., where Paul Carter has been pastor for only four months.

The church had not done the suggested full year of revival preparation because they were without a pastor. But once Carter arrived, the congregation began making plans for revival.

They cleaned up the church grounds, painted buildings, sent out a direct-mail piece, placed *Here's Hope* ads on the local radio station and began to pray. A *Here's Hope* banner was hung over Main Street at the point where two major highways intersect.

Although Hillcrest Baptist had started 18 missions in Wyoming in the past 36 years, it had encountered difficult times due to a split two years ago, the pastor said.

The revival "has taken our focus off the split two years ago," he said. "It's exciting now to be in church."

The church, which previously averaged 65 in worship attendance, saw a high attendance during revival of 105. Four people made commitments to Christ during visitation leading up to revival. Another 11 people made commitments during the revival, and yet another eight made decisions during follow-up.

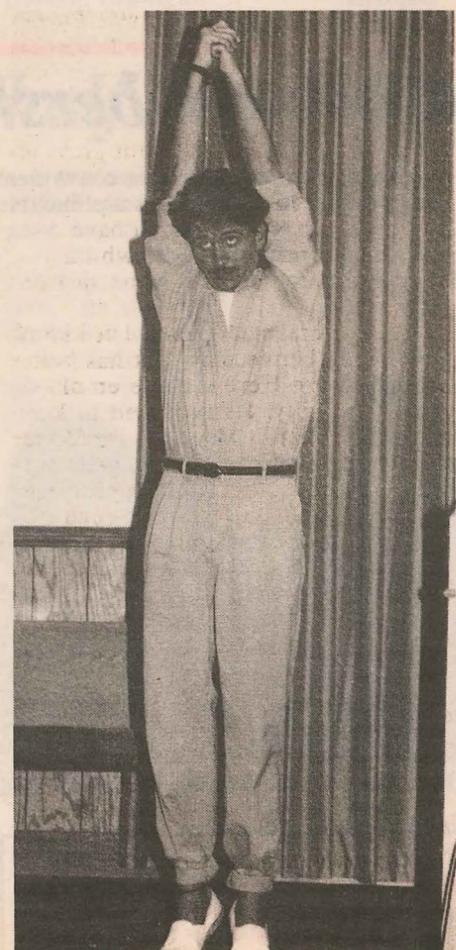
"We've been baptizing every week for five weeks," the pastor said.

Similar stories were reported across the nation. (BP)

Murray BSU drama team brings revival to Bandana

by Janice Hughes
Special Correspondent

It seemed like opening night of any revival as Craig Boaz from Madisonville led the congregation in the first hymn.



Derek Duvall

However, when Frank Queen, pastor of Bandana Baptist Church, West Union Association, introduced the evangelistic team, it was apparent it would be no ordinary service.

Seven members of the BSU drama team, ACTS, from Murray State University, stepped forward to lead the small gathering in worship. For the next hour and a half they led in skit, song, sign language, testimony and preaching.

Leader Jeff Dixon from Henderson, explained that their name came from two things. First, they are a drama group and the name, ACTS, seemed appropriate.

Second, their purpose is to reach out to others through evangelism. Since the book of Acts in the Bible mirrors that message, its title was selected as the team's name.

Dixon said that it was the first revival for the team. Usually they are in a church for only one service.

Derek Duvall, from Monticello, performed a skit entitled, "Mustard Seed Faith," which showed a mountain climber who slips but still holds onto a safety rope after God has asked him to let go.

Mark Games of Radcliff gave his testimony saying, "It is nothing dramatic, just learning to walk the walk (of the Christian life)."

He spoke of his parent's divorce when he was seven and of his father's and grandfather's deaths when he was 14. The final words his grandfather spoke were "You and Jesus, Mark."

"That has stuck with me," Games said.

Ruth Ann Daly of Clinton performed a song, "Lord of All," in drama and sign language. She asked the congregation to join her in looking behind the words to see the meaning. Her hands raised in praise to the song's



Ruth Ann Daly

ending, "Jesus is Lord of All," brought hearty applause.

Duvall sang "Bring Back the Glory" and just prior to the message was joined by Shawn Lockman of Paducah for a discussion between 'Self' and 'Conscience' which examined a Christian's motivation for service.

'Conscience' reminded 'Self', "It is my job to keep you from feeling pride in things which keep you from knowing God."

Twenty-four-year-old Karl Thomsen, a student preacher from San Antonio, Tex., set the tone for the message in his prayer when he prayed, "Help us to dive into your word with the passion you've called us to do."

Using the first chapter of I John as a test, Thomsen issued a challenge:

"Christians need to get to the point where we no longer wait for the manna of the word to be brought to us but need to go into the land to grow our food through study of the Bible."

"There are no plateaus," he said. "A person is either growing or dying."

Thomsen, who has been a Christian for less than two years, said he has observed that Christians build up two different worlds, a religious or spiritual world and a secular world.

He suggested if Christians are to win the lost, the two must come together. He said seeing such a life in his cousin, Paul, brought him to the Lord.

"When I had tried everything—alcohol, drugs, girls, cocaine—and realized I was going nowhere, I knew I had an option because of the example Paul had given me," he said.

Prior to the second service on Saturday, the team directed a youth rally with 32 youth present.

Queen said, "It was a large group for us. The team has revitalized our youth program."

Dixon believes it is good for a small church to see young people "on fire" for the Lord. He said, "One of the purposes of the team is to provide a role model for youth."

BSU director, Keith Inman, culminated the drama team's revival efforts with the Sunday morning message. Queen reported 115 in worship and 91 in Sunday School.

He said, "The revival has created a wonderful spirit among us. We are proud to be a part of the team's dedication and enthusiasm."

Bandana's love offering to the drama team will go to BSU summer missions.

HERE'S HOPE

HOPEFUL SIGNS

■ First Baptist Church, Morganfield, Green Valley Association, reports 11 professions of faith and six additions to the church during revival Apr. 22-25. E. Keith Judy of Henderson was the evangelist.

■ First Baptist Church, Sturgis, Ohio Valley Association, held revival Apr. 15-18. Pastor Eddie Benton reports 18 professions of faith, 10 rededications and 2 joining by letter.

■ Mill Creek Baptist Church, Radcliff, Severns Valley Association, held revival despite the fact they are without a pastor. They report 37 rededications and one profession of faith following revival.

■ Three Forks Association 34 of 35 participating churches report 116 professions of faith, 11 transfer of letters, 323 other decisions and commitments and 108 of those reported have been baptized or anticipate baptism soon.

LIFE IMPACT

"God didn't leave me. I left him," stated Gary Moore, Cunningham, a reformed alcoholic and drug addict with a glowing testimony.

"I had some peer pressure but mostly I did just what I wanted to," he recalls. "It was fun until I became addicted."

Moore lost several good jobs. He almost lost his wife and three children.

"I went to a drug abuse center to stay 28 days but stayed only 16. Eighteen months ago I went to another hospital."

Someone sent him a Bible but it didn't make sense to him because of confusion and DT. He wondered if the "Lord would even listen to me."

But he prayed and rededicated his life. The next day he was better.

After "drying out" he continues to pray, read the Bible daily and go to church at Bethlehem Baptist.

"That is the way to remain constant," he asserts. "I don't turn down any church job, even small ones. I try to set a good example for my old friends. They won't be helped by shunning them."

He recently witnessed to a convicted junkie. The man was saved.

Moore believes it is possible for Satan to take over the life of a saved person temporarily, as in his case.

"But some people prayed 10 years for me. Praying is better than pushing."

"I'm willing to talk to anyone with an addiction," Moore offered. "If they will call me, my pastor Tom Hughes and I will pray and do all we can." (Moore's phone number is 502-642-2608.)

Pauline Stegall

DIRECTIONS

"As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world...My prayer is not for them alone. I pray for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one....so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

(John 17: 18, 20-21)

Here's Hope movers and shapers in state: "a team of leaders" committed to revival

by Greg Hodnett
State Correspondent

"Kentucky Baptists have apportioned more money than any other state for Here's Hope revival promotion," stated C. Benton Williams, director, Missions, Evangelism and Church Services Division, Kentucky Baptist Convention.



Williams

Referring to the KBC expenditure of \$226,189 for Here's Hope, Jesus cares for you, he continued, "Eighty per cent of that amount went to promotion including \$300 for each participating association."

In addition to "a strong commitment of money and other resources from Bill Marshall," executive secretary-treasurer, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Williams listed several Kentucky Baptist leaders who have "shown exceptional levels of commitment" in the shaping of the 1990 Here's Hope revival effort.

He mentioned leaders from among his staff including Billy Compton, associate director, Office for Evangelism; Eugene I. Enlow, coordinator, Here's Hope, Office for Evangelism; and William D. Jagers, director, Office for Evangelism. But Williams emphasized, "It was the directors of missions and evangelism directors at the associational level who really brought Here's Hope together."

Williams sees Here's Hope as a success noting, "One key to the success of Here's Hope was getting the word out. We ran 612 television commercials, radio commercials on 51 non-metro stations, 50 advertisements in 25 area or larger newspapers and 40 bus signs

in Louisville."

Williams added, "All of our colleges and institutions have had a part in the Here's Hope emphasis, and eight of our 65 participating associations have had 100% participation from their churches." Reflecting on keys to the success of Here's Hope, Williams included "a capable and committed steering committee led by Eugene Enlow."

Williams identified several ingredients which made Here's Hope successful, but first he defined success in terms of baptisms.

"Everything we have seen this year says we will go over our goal of 17,000 baptisms for the year," he began. "Much of this growth is due to the Here's Hope campaign."

Williams' division took primary responsibility for shaping and promoting Here's Hope in Kentucky, but he also credited "a team of leaders at every level of Kentucky Baptist life."

"We ought to surpass the number of people baptized in Kentucky last year by nearly 2000."

Williams added, "Ken Forman (associate director, Direct Missions Department, KBC) has also been instrumental in reaching this goal of increased baptisms. I am very pleased that most of our 300 new congregations held Here's Hope revivals."

Forman's responsibilities include

helping churches in establishing new missions, churches and preaching points in Kentucky.

Williams also averred, "At least 1500 churches have been involved (in Here's Hope revivals)." He cited that figure as the main reason he expects "to surpass the number of people baptized in Kentucky last year by nearly 2000." The Southern Baptist Convention goal for 1990 baptisms is 175,000.

Reiterating the necessity for adequate publicity, Williams also said he "counted on the Home Mission Board personnel for promotional materials including excellent television commercials."

Here's Hope promotional materials were conceived, produced and distributed in part by Home Mission Board personnel including Richard H. Harris, director, Mass Evangelism Department; James R. Newton, director, public relations; Joe Westbury, associate director, News Department (to Mar. 1); and Mark Wingfield, associate director, News Department (after Mar. 1).

Williams also counted on in-state promotion. He stated, "The four regional black/white church rallies stirred up some of the churches."

Williams credited Lincoln Bingham, cooperative ministries consultant, Office for Evangelism, KBC, with the concept of using regional rallies to promote Here's Hope. Bingham said it was "difficult to measure the exact participation of our (black) churches, but there were many involved."

Williams concluded, "Our KBC leaders in the Here's Hope effort managed to keep up with their work at the office, working diligently in the churches at the same time. Some KBC leaders preached in as many as five Here's Hope revivals this spring."

He said 1995 was slated for the next simultaneous revival effort of Southern Baptists.

New member training cuts inactive membership in

by Janice Hughes
Special Correspondent

Surveys based on reports from the Baptist Sunday School Board show that over 50% of new church members become inactive in their first two years of membership.

Jim Clontz, associate, Discipleship Training Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, believes an organized plan of new member training would help to reverse that trend.

He says, "It has been shown that drop out rates can be reduced by at least half by having new member training classes."

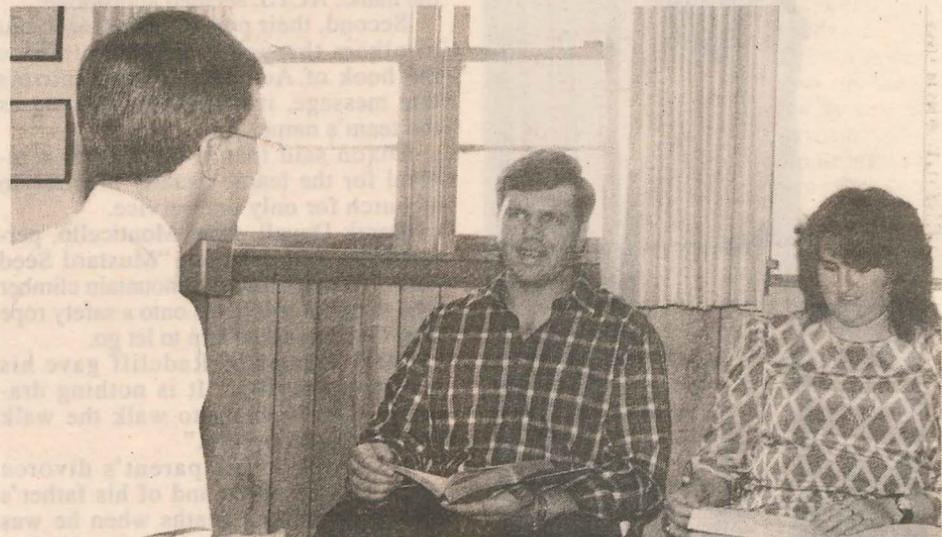
"Churches can't put too much emphasis on it," he adds. "Training helps individuals to become assimilated into the church and to learn the importance of their decision of conversion and accepting Jesus as Lord."

Dwight Bond, pastor of Bellview Baptist Church, Elkton, says, "New member training makes a more responsible church member."

He and his wife, who teaches the youth and children's classes, began new member training four years ago soon after he came as pastor. The church voted to require it for all new

Christians and for those from a church of a different faith and order.

Bond tries to make it as convenient as possible. Meeting times are flexible



Dwight Bond, pastor of Bellview Baptist Church, Elkton, leads Randy and Kristi Thomas in discipleship training.

FRONTLINE

HOPE TODAY

Ky. Baptist churches join forces to bring hope to the homeless

by Marc C. Whitt
Special Correspondent

Twelve Kentucky Baptist churches from Fayette, Jessamine and Scott counties have joined forces to bring hope to the homeless of the Greater Lexington area.

Continuing the Southern Baptist Convention's spring simultaneous revival theme, *Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you*, the central Kentucky congregations will hold an old-fashioned tent revival July 11-14 on the grounds of South Elkhorn Baptist Church, Lexington.

"The bottom line goal of this revival is to reach the lost in our communities," said Harry Hargis, pastor of Cane Run Baptist Church and revival committee chairman.

All of the money collected, said Hargis, will go to the agencies, primarily those in Lexington, that aid the area homeless.

Working with the theme, "Giving Hope to the Homeless," the participating churches will hold revival rallies Apr. 29, May 20 and June 24. The churches will then hold a mass rally July 8 at Rosemont Baptist Church in Lexington at 7 p.m.

A press conference will be held Tuesday, June 19 at Elkhorn Baptist Association Building, Red Mile Road in Lexington, at 10 a.m.

Churches participating in the revival include: First Baptist Church, Lexington; Gano Avenue Baptist, Georgetown; Great Crossing Baptist, Georgetown; Highlands Baptist, Lexington; South Elkhorn Baptist, Lexington; Rosemont Baptist, Lexington; Southside Baptist, Lexington; Faith Baptist, Nicholasville; Northview Baptist, Lexington; Cane Run Baptist, Lexington; Russell Cave Baptist, Lexington; and Open Door Community Baptist, Lexington.



The first deaf mission sponsored by an association participated in the *Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you* simultaneous revival efforts Apr. 27-29. The Danville Deaf Baptist Mission, constituted Apr. 27, welcomed four by profession of faith on the first day of revival. An additional 16 united by promise of letter. The Danville mission reported 150 attending Friday night services, 65 Saturday night and 49 for Sunday worship. W. O. Willham is director of missions for South District Association and Robert W. Morrison, Perryville, is missions development council director. They meet at Lexington Avenue Baptist Church.

HOPEFUL SIGNS

- Blackford Baptist Association reports the largest crowd in memory for the Here's Hope rally Mar. 15. A crowd of 400 attended at Cloverport Baptist Church.
- Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Shelby County Association, held revival Mar. 25-28. They report 34 of 35 enrolled in Sunday school attended the first Sunday of revival. Pastor Chester Irvin reports seven professions of faith.
- Central Baptist Association reports 185 in attendance for their Here's Hope rally. Chairman Chuck Overton said there were "three times the number in attendance" than he expected.
- Pike Association reports 240 attending the Here's Hope revival rally Mar. 5 at First Baptist Church, Pikeville. Eighteen churches and one mission are participating in revival efforts Mar. 18 through June 17.
- Eminence (Ky.) Baptist Church, Henry County, reports 18 decisions. Evangelist was Kevin Shrum, Bedford.

PERSPECTIVE

With this issue the 15 consecutive weekly instalments of Here's Hope Today begun February first are complete.

The longer features examining traditional Baptist practices in revival have been informative. The on-site reports from churches participating in simultaneous crusades have made us feel part of something larger than our own churches. The "how to do it" articles have been inspiring to many. But most of all, the short vignettes about heretofore unknown people have been genuinely appreciated. Surely we have seen God's love applied in mighty ways in the "Life Impact" pieces and other testimonies of one-on-one witnessing and salvation experiences.

Regretfully, we've not received very much mail on Here's Hope Today from readers. Yet I suspect the series may have blessed thousands of hearts just the same. It has certainly moved mine.

It offered me an opportunity to attend rallies and revivals, to feel the pulse of a denomination still in love with God and to sense the profound enthusiasm of 24 regular contributors who covered the commonwealth for you. I express gratitude to them, and particularly to editorial assistant Mary Royals Driskill who coordinated all that you have read here.

I pray for your church and mine to be strong lighthouses because good things have happened in Here's Hope.

James H. Cox

ip in half says KBC discipleship training associate

and may vary with each group.

He believes the success of any program depends on the pastor.

"The church needs to see the pastor committed to new member orientation," he says. "He may have to lead the first few groups himself."

Bond stresses that time and patience are the important ingredients for building a long term program.

Harold Pike, pastor of Southside Baptist Church, Covington, agrees. His church is an inner city church with 70% of the members coming from a non church background.

"The progress is very slow," he says. "We work with people years before they are up to the starting point of most new Christians."

During his 24 years at Southside, Pike has tried every new training tool offered by the convention. He thinks it is vital for the pastor to have a working knowledge of training. From it all, he has gleaned ideas which work in the inner city and incorporated them into his ongoing class.

"It is my conviction that one on one teaching is the scriptural way and the best way, but it is also, by far, the hardest way."

Joe Digg, pastor of Van Buren Bap-

tist Church, Louisville, also keeps close touch with new members. He feels they want to know what is expected of them and he gives priority to helping them learn.

He counsels individuals when they come for membership to determine their level of understanding and gets them into his class the next week.

"It's important to get a person into a class as soon as possible," he says. "If people feel at home in a church, they will become contributing members."

Anna Vincent, office manager at Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green, thinks new people feel more comfortable in a small group.

She says, "With two worship services and three Sunday schools, it's hard to know many people. Getting to know a few people in the beginning makes it easier for new members to find their place."

Twelve years ago when Living Hope was organized, new member training was written in the constitution and by-laws as a requirement. Only three or four people have declined membership since then because of the policy.

No one, including pastor Brad Johnson who came in August, is exempt from the new member training. Once

the requirement is met, class participants are voted into the church.

Teaching of the age group classes is a shared responsibility. When a new person joins, the pastor or minister of education speaks with him and explains the purpose of the requirement. A letter follows from the pastor which gives details of the class and what is expected of the person.

Clontz says that churches which make new member orientation a requirement for membership have a higher rate of success with ongoing classes.

He estimates 18-20% of churches in the Kentucky Baptist Convention have training for new members.

The Discipleship Training Department is available to help associations with training in getting started and available for consultation with individual churches by phone or mail.

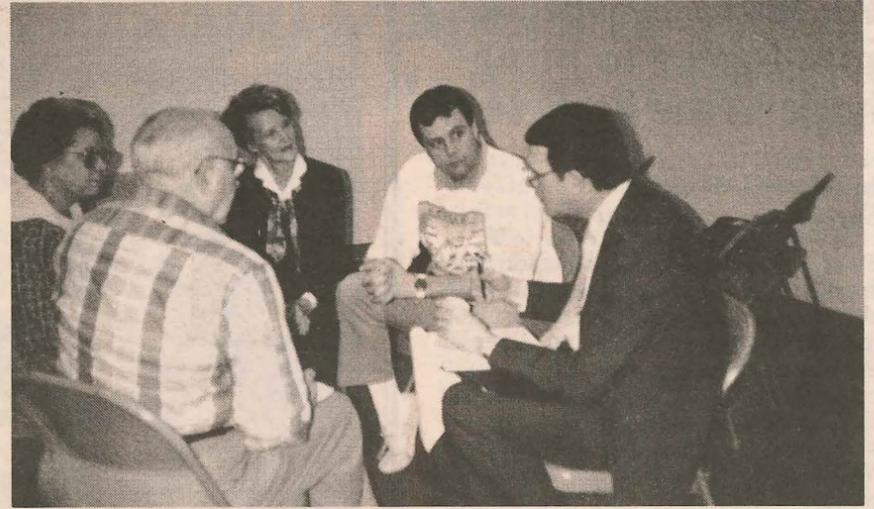
Clontz feels that Gerald Jud summed up conditions of the times well in his book, *Strengthening The Bonds*, when he wrote, "Many are being won in these days to membership in the churches. Yet it is not enough only to gain a new member. The new member must be made an intimate part of the church community."

HOPE QUOTE

"This was definitely not to call attention to ourselves but to Christ and the work he did on the cross for all mankind."

Mike Copen
Evangelism Services Consultant
Illinois Baptist State Association

HERE'S HOPE TODAY



Kentucky Baptists rallied around the theme *Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you* long before the Mar. 18 through Apr. 29 emphasis. For Kentucky Baptists, it has been a year-long theme and promises to continue yielding results.

Part of the preparation for revival came in the form of life style evangelism training at Cedarmore. Life style evangelism seminars were held in several churches and associations throughout the commonwealth.

Prospect discovery was a



major theme in revival preparation. Director for the Office of Evangelism, KBC, William D. Jagers, met with several pastors and associational workers like Ron Gaynor in Madisonville for prospect discovery seminars.

Billy Compton, associate, Office for Evangelism, KBC, led several seminars like this one in Greenville in preparation for *Here's Hope*.

Without the cooperation of Kentucky Baptists at every level, the 1990 evangelistic emphasis would have been "hopeless."

The imperatives for revival in Kentucky now

by Eugene I. Enlow
Here's Hope Coordinator, KBC

As Kentucky Baptists we have participated in probably the greatest combined evangelistic effort our convention has experienced through the *Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you* simultaneous revivals 1990. We are challenged to answer the questions, "Why have revival?", and "Why so much effort to ask our churches to cooperate in simultaneous revivals?" Following are several answers to questions concerning revivals.

The imperative of Biblical examples:

Revivals are a vital part of our biblical heritage and Christian experience. The account of Bible revivals occurs regularly throughout the scriptures as God appeals to his people to repent and return to him, and as the prophets both preach to the people and appeal to God for his presence. Habakkuk cried, "O Lord revive thy work in the midst of the years" (Habakkuk 3:2). Samuel appealed to the people, "If you do return to the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the Lord, and serve him only; and he will deliver you from the hands of the Philistines" (I Sam. 7:3).

The Christian era has experienced its major growth through revivals. The names of Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, John Knox, George Whitfield, Dwight Moody, Billy Sun-

day, Billy Graham and many others have appealed to the churches and masses to exemplify the necessity of revivals. Our example for revivals is both biblical and experiential.

The imperative of our Lord's command:

We are under the imperial orders of our savior to keep alive the call to redemption and revival. The Great Commission of our Lord commands, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:19-20).

Every Christian and every church is under this command. Revivals help to initiate, implement, and consummate this divine assignment from our Lord.

The imperative to deal with present needs:

To carry out our Lord's command we must identify and appropriate our energies as empowered by the Holy Spirit to deal with life's greatest needs.

The positive affirmation of obedience to our Lord's mission challenges us (1) to actively engage in winning the lost to Christ, (2) to work for the strengthening of the church, (3) to re-commission God's people in love, in prayer, in power, in purpose, in personality, (4) to give assurance of a present and future hope in Christ to everyone for today's living, (5) to confirm the experience of eternal life and heaven as

provided by our Lord.

This imperative was implemented through the *Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you* revivals.

The imperative for authentic evangelism:

Here's Hope revivals gave us an opportunity to again present to our generation the essentials for authentic evangelism. Following are some goals to incorporate in our imperative for revival now:

- We need to reestablish in our generation the authenticity of the gospel.
- We need to confirm the inspiration and authority of the scriptures.
- We need to reassert the integrity of evangelism both in the local church and mass evangelism.
- We need to reissue the call to holiness and morality.
- We need to proclaim and interpret properly the law of sin and retribution.
- We need to warn of judgment impending now and at the end of the age.
- We need to emphasize that Jesus loves each one of us and there is hope in his comfort, companionship, and conquest.
- We need to prepare people for the imminent return of Christ.
- We need to affirm the divine change that one experiences and eternal destiny that conversion brings.

The imperative of divine mystery and grace:

God comes in mysterious ways, his

wonders to perform. *Here's Hope* revivals provided a means for God's mystery and grace to be experienced.

Notice how true revivals come in mysterious ways:

- Revivals come in supernatural manners. The Holy Spirit works in mysterious, life changing, redemptive ways. Conviction for sin weighs heavily on the hearts of the people. Miracles come to pass.
- Great revivals are preceded, accompanied by, and continued through vigilant prayer.
- The authentic revival is always contested and opposed by Satan. The devil's opposition is both subtle and confrontational.
- Revivals are spread by personal testimony, personal solicitation, and public proclamation (preaching). The gospel has social as well as spiritual consequences. Therefore, through cooperative and simultaneous revivals a stronger united impact can be made on our nation appealing for righteous living and moral responsibility.
- True revivals begin with God's people. They must feel the burden, repent and receive God's enabling presence and grace. We must lengthen the days of our revivals to give God's spirit ample opportunity to work in his own time and way.

In conclusion, we are under a divine mandate to bear the good news together and to tell our present generation *Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you.*

“If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.”

For 11 years now, Paul Pressler and Paige Patterson have led a movement to *fix* the Southern Baptist Convention. In the process, they have come dangerously close to destroying our **cooperative missions** effort.

The WALL STREET JOURNAL, on April 25, reported that Paul Pressler believes he is on a crusade to eradicate what he calls the “fruits of liberalism from the Convention.”

What “fruits of liberalism” did he see threatening the SBC? In the years prior to the Pressler-Patterson movement to purge the convention of liberals:

- the Convention had adopted **Bold Mission Thrust**; and all our boards, institutions and agencies were committing their energies and resources to *reaching every person in the world with the gospel by the year 2000*;
- Southern Baptist Churches experienced an annual net growth of over 200,000 persons per year;
- Seminary enrolment *increased annually*;
- the Convention adopted an *unprecedented effort* to send thousands of mission volunteers from our churches to home and foreign mission fields;
- gifts through the Cooperative Program at the state and national level *rose steadily*.

Discerning an internal weakness which threatened our continued growth and to derail **Bold Mission Thrust**, Paul Pressler and Paige Patterson set out to *fix* the Southern Baptist Convention.

What **fruits** have they borne?

Since the **Pressler-Patterson Purge** began:

- growth* among Southern Baptist churches is *less than 1/2* what it was 11 years ago;
- Cooperative Program** growth has slowed from *14% annually to under 2%*;
- agencies at the state and national level are *cutting* staff and services;
- the number of career missionary appointments is down;
- Southeastern Seminary’s enrolment has declined from 1200 to 400 in four years;
- Bold Mission Thrust** has been largely *forgotten* in the midst of the “battle for the Bible.”

As if all that were not cause for alarm, over the past 11 years *several hallmark features of Southern Baptists* –

- unity amidst diversity
- cooperative missions
- religious liberty
- soul competency

have been repudiated in the practice and rhetoric of members of the **Pressler-Patterson Purge**.

Eleven years after the **Pressler-Patterson Purge** began to *fix* the Southern Baptist Convention, what do they have to show for their efforts?

Instead of a convention looking beyond itself and putting *all of its energy and resources* toward reaching every person with the gospel, we have become obsessed with ourselves. The energy and drive for **cooperative missions** is at a standstill. We are in danger of *losing our souls*. And all because some people set out on a misguided mission to *fix* the Southern Baptist Convention!

Before damage to the **cooperative missions** effort of the SBC becomes irreparable, something must be done. Allowing the **Pressler-Patterson Purge** to run its course is not the answer. If they are permitted to continue or consolidate their power, *they may break the convention* for good.

RIGHT NOW, we believe something **can be done!** Persons who share our concern can go to New Orleans and **vote** for **DAN VESTAL**. If you or your church have not chosen messengers for the convention, it is *not too late*.

Talk with the leadership of your church. Elect as many as possible as messengers. Go to New Orleans and help end the dismantling of our **cooperative missions** effort.

We cannot take much more of the **Pressler-Patterson repair job**. Help us take the convention out of their hands and put it back where it belongs –

in your hands and mine. In the hands of persons who believe that **cooperative missions** is the way to fulfill our God-given mandate to **reach the world with the gospel**.

For the cause of World Missions,

H. Stephen Shoemaker
Crescent Hill
Baptist Church

Tom Curry
Parkland
Baptist Church

Jim Holladay
East
Baptist Church

Don Mantooth
First Baptist
Morehead

Rob Nash
Buechel Park
Baptist Church

mountains to the mississippi



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

clear creek chronicle

Trustee officers

Growing up in Pineville, Paul Parker went to summer youth camps at Clear Creek. One of the school's first professors, Dr. R. P. Mahon, led him to Christ. May 3 trustees chose Parker as 1990-91 chairman of the board. The Corbin retired insurance executive brings to the board the perspective of 17 years as a trustee and involvement on four other boards. Corbin First Baptist appreciates his involvement as a deacon, choir member and assistant department director. Parker would like to see Clear Creek, "double its number of students in the next 10 years, improve student housing and increase faculty/staff salaries."

Elected vice chairman was Harold Robinson, owner of the Robinson Milling Co. Inc., Somerset. His leadership in High Street church includes deacon, senior men's Bible teacher and previously a trustee and moderator. His pastor is 1973 alumnus Sammy Atkins.

In the community Robinson was chamber of commerce director and a hospital trustee. Robinson appreciates, "the spirit and desire which is evident among the students, faculty, administration and trustees to be in the will of God in every decision. Being part of these Christians makes one proud but yet is a humbling experience."

For secretary trustees selected Richmond First Baptist member Mrs. Mary Lou Salter. On the board since 1986 Mrs. Salter has been an avid supporter of the campus thrift shop. Each trip to campus she brings a load of good used clothing gathered from church members. Mrs. Salter is a registered nurse, graduate of Berea College and a former Berea trustee. In her church she is on the finance committee and works with 4-5 year olds in extended session. Three grandchildren are a special joy. When elected to our board Mrs. Salter had heard about Clear Creek but had never been on campus. "I did not realize the far reaching effect of the school's ministry. I am thankful for the dedicated staff and their love for the work. I hope the spirit, love and openness of the campus family continue."

These three officers are representative of the other 21 competent trustees elected by the KBC. Clear Creek is in good hands.

revivals

Three Graves County Association churches report successful revivals. **Liberty Baptist Church** had 13 professions of faith, **Melber Baptist Church** had 10 and **Northside Baptist Church** had 40 professions of faith and four additions by letter.

Hazel Baptist Church, Blood River Association, conducted a Here's Hope revival Apr. 8-14. There were eight professions of faith, three additions by letter and several rededications. Evangelist for the revival was J. Russell Miller, pastor of Union Ridge Baptist Church, Blood River Association. James T. Garland is pastor of Hazel.

congregations

Mt. Calvary Baptist Mission, Crestwood, is a new mission pastored by B. R. Green Jr.

Bob Gray is pastor of **Cardinal Creek Baptist Church**, a new church in Elizabethtown.

Immanuel Baptist Church, Glasgow, has joined Liberty Association.

deaths

William Pierce Edmunds, 68, former Kentucky pastor, died Mar. 19 in Augusta, Ga. Funeral was Mar. 21. Edmunds received an MDiv degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, in 1950. He pastored Goshen and Rockport Baptist churches in Kentucky. Survivors include his father, Clifford, Thomson, Ga.; four sisters: Edith Mazzarisi, St. Petersburg, Fla.; Dorothy GiaQuinto, Albuquerque, N. M.; Angie Penner, Phoenix, Ariz.; Ruth Gerlach, Thomson, Ga.; and a brother, Robert, Cumming, Ga.

Roy E. Miller, 70 died Mar. 27 at Humana Hospital-Audubon, Louisville. He was a native of Hart County and was interim pastor of Lynn Acres Baptist Church. Miller was retired pastor of Bicknell Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville, and had also been pastor of Oakdale, Cove, Long Run, Brookview, Eastern Gate and Ninth and 0 Baptist churches as well as First Southern Baptist Church of Greater Louisville, where he was a member at the time of his death. He helped start twelve missions



Mallard Point Baptist Mission, Lexington, dedicated new facilities Apr. 29. Speakers for the occasion included Harold Polk, director of missions, Elkhorn Association; William D. Jagers, Evangelism Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention; Dan Cobb, missionary, Mallard Point Baptist Church; and Dick Allison, pastor, Georgetown Baptist Church. Ed McKinney is pastor of Mallard Point.

and was on several committees of Long Run Association. Survivors include his wife, the former Ruth D. Felia; a son, Ervin; a brother, C. Everett; two sisters, Nanomi Parker, Summerville, and Katherine Vaughn, Louisville; and two grandchildren. Funeral was Mar. 31 in Louisville with burial at Knox's Creek Baptist Church, Hart County.

ordinations

Liberty Baptist Church, Pulaski Association, ordained **Jessie Reynolds** a deacon. Pastor is Michael Bryant.

David Voyles, pastor of Newton Springs Baptist Church, Blackford Association, was ordained to the ministry at Mt. Eden Baptist Church, Blackford Association, Apr. 8. Charges were preached by his father, Ralph Voyles, pastor of Mt. Eden, and Phillip Basinger, pastor of Hawesville Baptist Church, Blackford Association.

Jerry Smith, new pastor of Salem Baptist Church, Boones Creek Association, will be ordained May 20 at Friendship Baptist Church, Boones Creek Association. Pastor of Friendship is Carl Hess.

Wooton First Baptist Church, Three Forks Association, ordained **Cecil Morgan** to the ministry Apr. 22. He is pastor of Dwarf Baptist Church, Three Forks Association. Ronnie Pennington is pastor of Wooton.

personnel

Grace Baptist Church, Blood River Association, called **Kevin Rudicel** as minister of music. His first Sunday was Apr. 29. He goes from Mt. Zion Baptist Church, West Union Association.

Bellview Baptist Church, West Union Association, called **Craig Holloman** as full time interim minister of music and youth. He goes from Trinity Baptist Church, Christian County Association.

Robert L. Lambright is minister of music and youth at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Long Run Association. He is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Columbia Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association, called **Gene Crowder** as pastor.

Boone's Creek Baptist Church, Boone's

Creek Association, called **M. Chuck Bass** as pastor.

Rick Stone is new youth minister at Calvary Baptist Church, Boones Creek Association.

Pellville Baptist Church, Blackford Association, called **James Watt Sr.** as interim pastor.

Old Salem Baptist Church, Bell Association, called **Larry Woodward** as pastor.

McKinney Baptist Church, Pulaski Association, called **Rick Reynolds** as pastor.

Roy Alexander announced his retirement as pastor of Duke Memorial Baptist Church, Pulaski Association, effective the last of May.

Ted Morgan resigned as pastor of East Pittsburg Baptist Church, Laurel River Association.

Jerry Ballou is new pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Boone's Creek Association.

Russ Taylor resigned as pastor of New Zion Baptist Church, Booneville Association. Aaron Melton is the church's new pastor.

Earl Brooks resigned as pastor of Faith First Baptist Church, Red River Association.

Woodwards Valley Baptist Church, Ohio County Association, called **Barry Black** as pastor.

Louis W. Shepherd, director of missions for Russell County Association since Mar. 1, 1978, announced his retirement effective June 30. He has accepted the call as pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Jamestown, Russell County Association. Shepherd has also been director of missions in Freedom, Wayne County, Liberty, and Pulaski associations. He has pastored several churches in Kentucky.



Greg Whitetree of Hellier Baptist Church, Lookout, and director of Marrowbone Baptist Center there, prepares to join more than 100 other national clowning seminar participants as they walked the streets of Nashville as Christian clowns. The clowning seminar was sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Recreation Department in late March.



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR MAY 20, 1990

Life and work series

Taking the long look

Jer. 32:2, 6-7: Jeremiah was accused of treason and imprisoned in the palace of Zedekiah. In spite of his confinement Jeremiah remained hopeful that God was going to restore a remnant of the people to Jerusalem. God informed the prophet that one of his cousins, Hanameel, would come to enlist his assistance in retaining possession of a field which was a part of his inheritance. Jeremiah was the first man in line for the property which was being offered for sale.

Jer. 32:13-15: Jeremiah made the purchase and it was sealed and recorded in the presence of witnesses. Copies were entrusted to Baruch, Jeremiah's faithful secretary. Jeremiah's daring faith in God and in the future of the nation after the Babylonian exile was unquestioned after he personally invested his money to preserve a family heritage. Others did not cherish the hope which the prophet did, namely that the people would return to their native soil someday and be stronger than before their captivity.

Through Jeremiah God sought to make known to his people that the approaching defeat of the country was not the end, so he said: "Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land." In other words the time would come when they would cultivate again the soil and raise the crops.

When he had completed the transaction Jeremiah prayed unto God. Jeremiah believed that God would do that which was right and best for those whom he had created. He believed that God was keeping watch over his people and that nothing was too difficult for him.

Jer. 32:24-25, 42 Following the section of praise to the Lord in his prayer Jeremiah made it known that because of their disobedience God was about to punish them. God began his response to Jeremiah's prayer by giving the prophet a promise of his tremendous power.

International series

Faith and life

I John 5:1-5: The mutual love of fellow believers is based on the divine

life which they share. The genuineness of their love for God is proved by their obedience to him. When we are exposed to the temptations of the world it is possible for those of us who are Christians to overcome the world by faith, by holy living and by bearing a faithful testimony for Christ. In Christ are all the resources which we shall need to triumph over sin and over the world. Repeatedly the Bible warns us that we are not sufficient within ourselves to win the victory over temptation. Nevertheless, in spite of the presence of evil as well as our own inherent weakness, it is possible for us to be strong and victorious in and through Christ. To overcome the world is a praiseworthy ambition and a possible attainment.

I John 5:6-13: Contrary to the opinion of many today, John taught that only those who believe that Jesus Christ the incarnate Son of God is the Messiah and receive him by faith as their personal savior are born of God. Through repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ one enters into the child-parent relationship with God. Then the apostle makes bold to say that the one who loves God will also love those who are begotten of him, meaning his fellow Christians. Any person who is saved will certainly have a genuine love for the children of God.

John wrote to inform believers that it is possible for them to know for a certainty that they are saved. Since the assurance of salvation is clearly and unmistakably taught in the Scriptures, and since it means so much to the Christian's life and service, it is exceedingly important that every Christian should possess and enjoy it. God wants sinners to be saved and also to know that they are saved.



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

homes for children

Runaway kids

We in the Louisville area are living in the shock of news stories about a 15 year old girl killing the man who held her captive for three weeks at a remote camp site in Larue County and repeatedly raped and abused her. In addition, two of her friends who had been considered runaways since January are now believed to have been held captive by the same man, then brutally killed and their bodies scattered across three rural counties.

The killer and his alleged accomplice have a long history of rape and other criminal activities. It is hard to understand how they were free to commit such heinous crimes.

To me one of the real tragedies is the way we accepted the idea that the two young girls, now assumed dead, were just runaways. Somehow in our society children running away from home is accepted. Oh, we report it to the police and they search, but for the most part we just assume the kids will turn up somewhere. We never really stop and think what life on the run for a teenage girl or boy is really like.

At the same time, here in Jefferson County tremendous budget cuts are necessary because we have lived too high in the past. The largest cuts will come in human services, but swimming pools, libraries and community service centers are also on the chopping block.

Those cuts will only ensure that there will be more family problems and more runaways. There will be fewer legitimate places for youth to go and many more will find inappropriate and perhaps illegal ways of occupying their time.

Somehow we as a people must get our priorities straightened out. The children we assume will be okay are being terribly abused, and cutting back programs to help them will only lead to more runaways. These youth are our future; we must begin to realize how important they are to us.



75 years of caring



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Oneida publishes another book

Another hardbound beautiful book is now available from the Oneida Mountaineer Press. It is titled *Dear Hearts and Friendly People* and is selling for \$7.35 counting tax. The author is Marie Elliott Hocker of Rose Hill Baptist Church, Ashland. Printed in larger than usual print the 167 pages of narrative and eight pictures of print will grip your heart from the first paragraph.

Therion and Marie Hocker, both active Christians, are among the many thousands who became part of the Oneida family as partners through their

financial giving, prayer, telling others. That is how we became aware of them.

Hocker told me that his wife had written her life story at the urging of her children. Hearing her read it aloud as she wrote he became enthused that it was worthy of a wider audience. Skimming the manuscript I immediately agreed. I volunteered to print it in our school's print shop and to act as editor and publisher.

The story of Marie Hocker is the simply told story of a woman with an eighth grade education. Yet it is a book that would do credit to any college graduate. She recalls the events of a life that first knew tragedy with the death of her mother when she was five years old. Hers is the story of triumph over every adversity as she has lived her life, day by day, into her mid-70s.

The appeal of her story is its accounting of so many experiences that each reader can identify with. It mirrors much that is part of each of our lives, unique though each individual is. There are many things that are common to the human family experience of whatever generation or place lived.

After we agreed to publish Mrs. Hocker's story, she and her husband said they wanted Oneida to have every dime of whatever income might be received. Thus it is that you and everyone who buys this book not only benefits from a story well told but, in the purchase, have invested in the Christian education of hundreds of worthy and, in many cases, needy boys and girls. What better investment can anyone make?

Before this book could be printed, Hocker died suddenly. However, we are confident that he is smiling from

heaven at the pleasure and inspiration you will experience in his wife's story. If you know Marie Hocker personally you will recognize her in every paragraph. If you should be privileged to meet her for the first time after reading her book you will feel immediately that you have known her a lifetime!

Wayne E. Oates of Southern Baptist Seminary, himself the author of various books, has written in review: "I have read *Dear Hearts and Friendly People* with absorbed interest. The autobiography is a living human document of a very bright person whose powers of observation, energetic commitment to her own self education and service to anyone who needed her are evident in every page. She describes the industry, caring and mutual ministry of her family and community as a network of people who take time to know each other personally and to serve each other generously. Through the 1937 flood in Kentucky, the Great Depression, World War II and the births and deaths of loved ones, especially very young children, Mrs. Hocker has lived the days of her years in intimate awareness of the presence of God. No person can read this book, it seems to me, without being a better, wiser person."

Also author Loyal Jones, director of the Appalachian Center, Berea, has written: "Mrs. Hocker's story is about the strength and love in four generations of an eastern Kentucky family. It is an account of births, deaths and faith of her childhood and young womanhood in the first quarter of this century when times were hard, sickness and death sure, but family bonds strong and encompassing."



on mission together

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

Not just another meeting

The May meeting of the executive board is behind us now. A number of regular observers remarked that it was one of the best.

Gathering at Cedarmore, the usual site for the two-day meeting, were 111 executive board members and 70 other visitors including representatives of KBC staff, agencies and institutions. Only at an annual state convention would as many Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders be gathered.

The meeting was one of the more significant ones. That assessment is based on the following:

- The executive board **unanimously** elected Western Recorder's nominee, Marvin Knox, to become its next editor. The directors of Western Recorder had been **unanimous** in their selection of him as their nominee. Few, if any, anticipated a unanimous vote in times like these. Some called it a "miracle." It was a priceless gift to give our new editor.

- **Dr. Vernon Cole** was elected to replace the retiring **Bill Rogers** as director of the Minister/Church Support Division. This decision was also part of an administrative action to reduce the executive board staff by two positions and eliminate a \$26,000 operating account. With the continuing decline in the percentage of Cooperative Program Growth, it became necessary to reduce executive board staff.

- The 1990-91 operating budget was approved, reflecting the convention's earlier action to increase the new budget by only 1%. The budget also reflects the **third consecutive year in which executive board program funds could not be increased.**

- The board heard and accepted a report of the "S.T.E.P." (Student Tuition Endowment Plan) Committee chairman, Gerard Howell, to postpone indefinitely any action on a plan the committee had developed. The plan would have required funds from the current allocations to the colleges whose allocations have already been impacted by current Cooperative Program realities.

- The recommendation of the "Financial Crisis Committee," presented by chairman Howard Cobble, was approved by the board. It authorizes the executive secretary, in the event of a significant decline in receipts, to recommend a proportionate reduction in allocations to SBC causes, Christian education, and the executive board.

With each full meeting of the board I find convinced that the ingredients for a "good" board meeting include trust, adequate information and committees which have "done their homework."

This meeting had them all.

Providence church gives over and beyond

by Jane Taylor Howell
State Correspondent

What motivates a church to give sacrificially beyond the budgeted items and not cut its regular contribution to denominational causes?

Providence Baptist Church, Franklin, does just that. Pierce Dodson, pastor, has led Providence in the last 13 years to give over and above its regular offerings to help young churches in various parts of the country. In the past few weeks the church adopted still another mission church to support.

First Baptist Church, Silver Creek, N. Y., was the first church Providence chose to sponsor. Today along with the Silver Creek church they aid Brushy Fork Church, Magoffin County, and Burlington Church, Minoit, N. D. They most recently added the Oceanside community of San Diego County, Cal. Dan Grider, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jamestown, will begin mission work at Oceanside in May.

Providence gives nearly a double tithe of its regular offerings to SBC causes. They give additional monies to their local association and these four mission churches. The budgeted support of the four missions alone totals over \$6000 annually.

"The membership of 215 which meets a budget of between \$112,000

and \$115,000 is an accurate count," Dodson confirms.

"In Providence we see the principle 'Give and it shall be given to you.' We have given thousands of dollars to others and to other non-Baptist services and organizations," Dodson states.

"I don't understand how we give away and it's still being replaced, other than God honors giving which furthers the gospel. We don't give for that reason but our sending money benefits us too. These pastors we support correspond and come to speak to us. Youth and adult mission teams have gone to New York four times.

"On one occasion a group was just back from New York with a report of the personal needs of the pastor there. Providence had just given my wife and me a trip for our 10th anniversary with the church.

"I was touched with the basic needs expressed for the pastor and asked the people for \$300 to send to New York. I got a commitment of \$500. Another asked, 'Can I add \$100?' Another added \$100 and before we finished we had almost \$2000 to meet the pastor's personal needs. Our involvement keeps us motivated to give."

The involvement and support do not end with home missions. The church adopts missionary families in Africa by sending books to them at Christmas.

In April they sent \$1000 for Bibles to eastern Europe through the International Bible Society.

They use 30 radio spots during University of Kentucky ball games for outreach in the Frankfort community—their "Jerusalem."

"We choose an evangelistic message all the way, using the testimony of a Christian athlete. The people listening don't expect to hear Pete Maravich give his testimony!" Dodson clarifies.

During this spring for six weeks and two weeks prior to Easter Providence aired additional 60 second spots. "I stress to our people, don't judge success of these spots by phone calls or people coming to church. We may reach someone who will join another church and we'll never know."

Perhaps the answer to motivation lies in Dodson's statement, "Missions has always been emphasized in our church. Our mission trips are important. We work to stay involved."

Weekly Dodson shares with his people information about a different world country with needs for the gospel. He takes his information from Operation World by Patrick Johnstone.

Providence's giving seems to have no boundaries. They may seldom see when their resources help one become a Christian. But they continue to find needy and varied places to give sacrificially.

Seminary's 1st black graduate to be honored

by Scott A. Collins

Emblazoned on the stained-glass window at the rear of Ebenezer Baptist Church is an ankle bound by a chain, and written above it is the word "Freedom."

The message is simple, says the window's designer, Marvin Griffin. But for the 67-year-old African American Baptist preacher, the etching is a symbol of hope.

Today, 35 years after he became the first black to graduate from Southwestern Seminary, Griffin himself is a symbol. He is being honored June 11 with the seminary's distinguished alumnus award. The presentation is to be made during Southwestern's annual association luncheon in New Orleans.

To the 1000 members of Ebenezer, he symbolizes leadership. As Griffin moves around the church plant, he is greeted with reverence and respect.

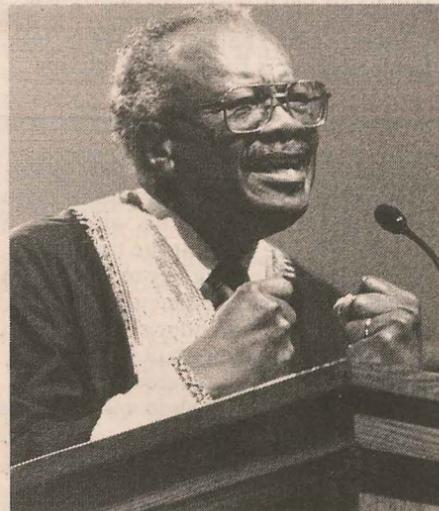
But as a student at Southwestern in the mid-1950s, Griffin was not allowed to live on campus. Instead, he and fellow black student, Leon Hardee, had to live in the downtown YMCA and ride a bus to the campus.

"I got up every morning and took a bus from the YMCA downtown and I ate breakfast out there (on campus). Most of the time I would go to a table and sit alone," Griffin adds.

Griffin says he bears no malice toward anyone for the treatment. Instead, he says the professors "were warm, particularly (T. B.) Maston and (J. M.) Price. They were very concerned and helpful. I didn't have any incident where any student did anything to me. Nothing like that happened."

For Griffin the master of religious education degree he earned in 1955 is his second seminary degree. He earned the master of divinity degree in 1947 from Oberlin (Oh.) Graduate School of Theology after receiving his bachelor's of art from Bishop College, Dallas, Tex.

"At a very early age I felt the urge to



Griffin

preach. I used to preach out in the yard. I'd get out under the street light and announce there was going to be a sermon that day. When people asked me what I was going to be I said I was going to preach."

Griffin was introduced to Southern Baptists through a vacation Bible school that First Baptist, Dallas, conducted across town from his neighborhood. Griffin says he was so intrigued he walked five miles every day to attend. "I'll never forget that because it was the first vacation Bible school I attended," he says.

As Griffin grew and began understanding his call to preach he felt the need for special training. "One of the instructors at my elementary school told my mother that I had a good mind and that it would be a tragedy for me not to go to college," he says. "So be sure and see that boy goes to college," Griffin says the teacher told his mother.

Griffin says he enrolled in Bishop College on faith. "My mother would say 'If you just get there God will provide a way for you.' I ended up finish-

ing my four years of work in three and I was selected to deliver the commencement address for my class."

Griffin continues at the same pace, even after 45 years in the ministry. He was pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Waco, Tex. for 18 years after working as director of city missions in Dallas from 1948-51.

Griffin has been at Ebenezer Baptist 21 years and shows no signs of slowing down. The church recently sold an adjacent parking lot to an Austin developer and has used the money to purchase two abandoned, drug-infested buildings. Griffin says the church is remodeling the buildings and will turn them into community development offices offering vocational classes and drug counseling. The church will begin construction on a new educational building soon.

"My ministry is a holistic ministry—to provide for the whole person, all of his needs," Griffin says. "We have tried to help people in every aspect of life—the spiritual, economic—the total life of a person."

And Griffin practices the kind of civic involvement he preaches. In 1978, he became the first black president of the Austin Independent School District Board and has served on several special task forces in the city and statewide.

Griffin's involvement stretches through denominational service, too, as a member of the board for the American Christian Television System (ACTS) and the Home Mission Board of the SBC. He has been the historian for the National Baptist Convention, Inc., for 35 years and has recently published *The President Speaks*, a history of the NBC based on its past presidents.

"I am deeply humbled," Griffin says, of receiving the distinguished alumnus award from Southwestern. "I have always taken great pride in being numbered among the graduates of Southwestern. The award is something I have not really expected, but greatly appreciate."

Here's Hope campaign ads: Baptists enter new era

by Mark Wingfield

The old-fashioned revival meeting has a new-fangled twist.

With this spring's nationwide simultaneous revivals, Southern Baptists have moved from pitching dusty old tents to pitching carefully placed advertisements.

Southern Baptists, along with other evangelical groups, have a long tradition of pitching tents for extended meetings. Especially in smaller towns the tents attracted attention and drew a crowd for the visiting evangelist.

Pitching ads, however, is a new idea for the 145-year-old denomination.

During the "Here's Hope" simultaneous revivals being held across the nation this month, some churches will still put up tents. But the denomination's major efforts in drawing a crowd have moved from tents to high-tech.

The image of the hellfire and brimstone preacher is being reshaped by a series of soft-sell print and broadcast ads claiming *Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you.* The ads are part of a comprehensive media campaign developed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for the Here's Hope revivals. The same ads that have run in Time magazine also are being used locally by the denomination's smallest churches.

During the six weeks of revivals, a Here's Hope message will be broadcast somewhere in America every minute of every day. Working with JDK, a Dallas-based public relations firm, the board placed 55,300 radio and TV spots nationally, in addition to thousands of additional spots placed by state conventions, associations and local churches.

Every person watching the NCAA final four basketball games on a South Carolina television station saw one of the Here's Hope ads. In Tulsa, Okla., viewers of the annual Academy Awards were introduced to Here's Hope. And in Oklahoma City, the message from Southern Baptists was revealed between Vanna White's turn of the letters on "Wheel of Fortune."

Creating a positive image was the primary purpose of the ad campaign, explained Tom McEachin, HMB associate director of mass evangelism. He supervised production of the seven television spots, 15 print ads and seven radio spots that are being used in small towns and large cities from coast to coast during the six weeks of simultaneous revivals.

McEachin said the HMB's evangelism section has realized that media can shape the public's opinion of churches and make people more receptive to hear the gospel. Advertising does not replace a personal presentation of the gospel, but paves the way for that presentation, he said.

"In terms of positive imaging, this is the finest thing Southern Baptists have ever done," said Cade Garrison, media director for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

"I think most pastors would agree that television is not the best witnessing tool. But it is a means toward an end. It is a tool that can be used effectively in softening the hearts of people who need to hear the gospel."

Mark Jeffcoat, public relations director for the South Carolina Baptist Convention, said the ads create a "table-top agenda" for Baptists to

share their faith with co-workers and neighbors. "It provides an opportunity for Southern Baptists to mention, 'Did you see the ad that's running on TV?' and then give a testimony."

Nathan Pillow, evangelism director for Arizona Baptists, said he has seen the softening effect work. "I went into a home to witness to a lady and was wearing my Here's Hope lapel pin. She looked at the pin and said, 'I've been seeing your ads on TV,'" he reported. "I had a chance to win that lady to the Lord. I'm sure the ads opened the door."

Even ads not designed to elicit an evangelistic response are creating inquiries about the gospel, McEachin said. For six weeks a Here's Hope ad has appeared nationally in Time magazine and Better Homes and Gardens.

These ads do not ask for a response but include a small tag at the bottom with the HMB's address. Since the ads started appearing, McEachin has received 15-20 letters a day in response.

He has heard from people struggling with divorce, from Christians who have fallen away from the faith, from prisoners, from people who need someone to listen and from people curious about Southern Baptist doctrine. The letters have come from as far away as Kuwait.

"A lot of these letters—at least half—are from people who say they are interested in finding the hope we're talking about," McEachin said. He responds to each letter, including tracts and personal commitment guides where appropriate. Those who request a follow-up are referred to state evangelism directors.

This response illustrates the effectiveness of the Here's Hope theme, McEachin said. "Here's Hope has been a theme everybody feels good about. It reaches the lost, and our people like it because it involves ministry and evangelism. It's a theme that hits the pulse out on the street."

Ed Gilman, director of missions for Florida's Suncoast Baptist Association, said his association adopted the Here's Hope theme for that reason. "We need better public relations about Southern Baptists in Southern Florida," he said. "We're not in the Bible Belt."

"I feel like the message of Here's Hope was so simple and relational that people couldn't help but feel positive about it. We were saying: 'Here's Hope. God cares for you even if nobody else does.'"

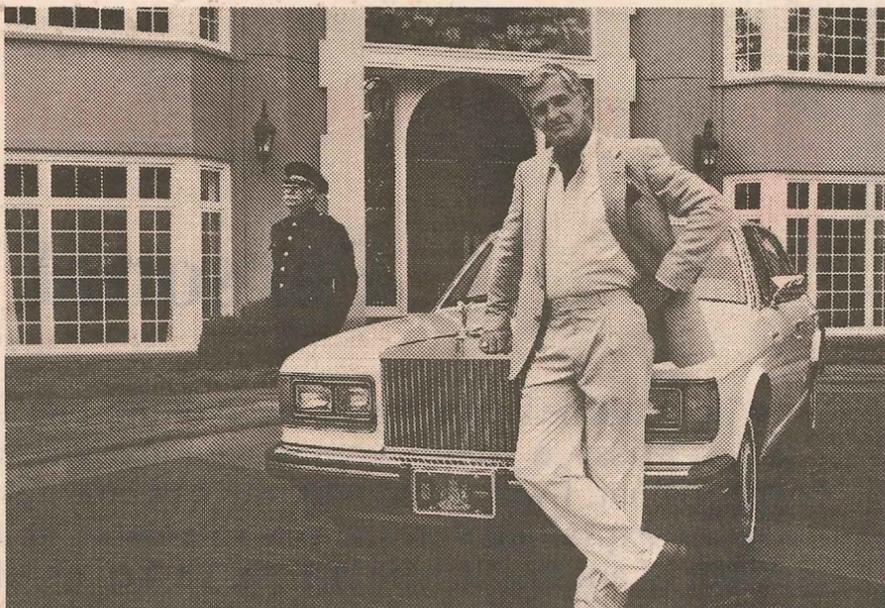
The ads also have generated excitement among Southern Baptists.

"People are proud that we've put so much time and effort into something of this quality," Garrison said. "We've had the most positive feedback on this of anything we've ever done."

"We've had people call our office and comment about the television spots. Most of them were saying, 'I thought the Mormons were running another series and was delighted to see Southern Baptists were doing it.'"

W. C. Garland, evangelism director for Hawaii Baptists, said Baptists from the islands who have visited the mainland in recent weeks were surprised to see the same ads that they had been seeing at home. "Some of our people who were on the mainland came back saying, 'Hey, this thing is big.'"

"So often we're in our own world here. This has helped our people see that Southern Baptists are about a worldwide mission." (BP)



Where Do You Turn When Something's Still Missing After You've Got It All?

In the pursuit of happiness, most of us develop an affection for possessions. And end up measuring our success by the amount of things we accumulate. For some reason, we think that material wealth will bring happiness. The trouble is, it doesn't. Happiness springs from an inner peace. The kind of peace that comes from knowing God. That's why we're inviting you to join us for worship. To experience God's love and the peace He offers. At our services you'll discover that there's hope for happiness regardless of what you own or don't own.

Because Jesus cares for you.

Here's Hope.
A message of life from Southern Baptists.

© A national revival emphasis sponsored by Southern Baptists and the Home Mission Board

One of the 15 print ads produced by the HMB.

Hymns Baptists sing

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

"Abide With Me"

In 1888, while singing in a revival meeting in Hartselle, Alabama, Anthony J. Showalter received letters from two men in South Carolina who had attended a recent singing school.

The letters told of the deaths of the wives of both men. Wanting to express his sympathy to his friends, Showalter thought of the biblical promise, "The eternal God is thy refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deut. 33:27).

When he could not think of a hymn based on this scripture, he began to piece together some lines. After the words and music for the refrain were completed, he wrote the melody for the stanzas, but the words of the stanzas would not fall into place. He sent the incomplete song to Elisha A. Hoffman, an experienced writer of hymn texts.

Several weeks later, while Showalter was in a revival meeting at the Pine Long Methodist Church in Bartow County in northwest Georgia, Hoffman's letter containing the stanzas arrived. That evening Showalter sang the completed hymn for the first time.

A student at the Ruebush-Kieffer Music Company in Singers Glen, Virginia, Showalter began teaching music schools in 1880. He moved to Dalton, Georgia, established a music publishing firm that produced more than 60 collections of music, of which more than two million copies were sold. He died in 1924 at the age of 66.

A frail village minister, Henry Francis Lyte, had ministered in Lower Brixham, Devonshire, England for 23 years. Faithfully he had conducted services, read the marriage vows when the young people married, comforted the bereaved when their loved ones died, and shared with families in times of joy and sorrow.

At age 54, his physician advised him to leave the moist climate by the sea and seek a drier climate in Italy. On Sept. 4, 1847, he preached his last sermon and administered his last communion service.

That afternoon he went for a walk along the shore. His mind was flooded with memories of his years as a pastor, and he had a deepening awareness of his own physical wellbeing.

As he walked along, the lines of "Abide With Me" took shape, and he hurriedly penciled them in his notebook. That evening he gave the poem to a dear friend and thought no more of it.

A few days later he began a leisurely trip to Italy, but he never reached his destination. On the journey he sickened and died in Nice, France.

More than a dozen years later, William H. Monk, an English church musician and composer, wrote the tune for Lyte's text that bears the name "Eventide." Translated into many languages, the hymn has been especially helpful to Christians in times of trial and stress.

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



KENTUCKY WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION



Personal Witnessing

"Who could be knocking on my door this late at night?" I wondered, as I roused from my easy chair. It was Missy, a young woman who had visited my Bible study class. Smiling, she sat down and began to chat. I wondered why she had come at this hour...surely not to talk about the weather. Finally she explained that she was interested in joining our Baptist church. Knowing that she was a member of another denomination, I asked her if she knew for certain that she was a Christian. She told me how good she had been and that she had given many years to various church ministries.

As we talked, I realized that Missy was trusting in her works and not in Jesus. I breathed a silent prayer of thanks to God that I knew the right words to lead her to Him.

"Missy," I said, "believing in your ministries—the good things you have done—will not save you; that is, insure your eternal life. I believe that Jesus Christ—and he alone—is my means of salvation. Do you believe that?"

Missy hesitated. "Well," she said, "I've been around church people all my life, but I always believed that God held a giant scale for them, and that if their good deeds outweighed their sins, then they would go to heaven. I know that I've been better than many of them. I've always hoped I would go to heaven. But tonight, I was sewing a new dress...." She pulled a scrap of twisted blue cloth from her pocket. "I remembered that your pastor said last Sunday that our good works were like dirty rags. As I sewed and looked at this scrap of cloth, I wondered if my sins outweighed my good deeds."

"There's much more to it than that," I explained. "And yet receiving eternal life is so simple. Do you want to receive Jesus as your Savior, to trust Him—and Him alone—for your salvation?"

"Yes."

This time, there was no hesitation. We prayed, and then I asked her if she were sure of her salvation. She nodded, weeping tears of joy. She crumpled the scrap of blue cloth and tossed it lightly into my wastebasket.

"I feel good all over," she said.

I knew that Missy would learn to rely on faith, and not feelings, in the months to come, but I had to admit that I, too, felt "good all over" because God had allowed me to be a part of an exciting personal witnessing experience. I, like many other Baptist women, could reach out to others like Missy, teach them what I knew about Jesus, and then touch their hearts through the gospel message.

Reach, Teach, and Touch. As we serve Christ through missioning lifestyles we can reach out to persons around us and teach them about Jesus, touching their hearts through our special gifts in personal witnessing.

Are you a woman who enjoys entertaining people in your home? As a member of a personal witnessing group, you may wish to use your gift of hospitality to begin an evangelistic Bible study group for non-Christians. As women meet in your home, you can use *Mark My Word: A Bible Study in Mark* to help you lead in discussion.

Do you enjoy interacting with people? If you "never meet a stranger," you might enjoy lifestyle witnessing everywhere you go, or distributing Scriptures (a Bible, New Testament, or a Scripture portion) to those in many settings.

If you are a risk taker, you may wish to distribute Scriptures or hold a Bible study in a women's prison, a hospital, or a mobile home park. Be sure to read in 1989-90 Royal Service the personal accounts of women who used unique opportunities to witness to others.

The best part of Reach, Teach, and Touch witnessing is that you do not have to do it alone. You may witness one-to-one, one to a group, or group-to-group. You may wish to join a special project with Acteens or with Baptist Men.

Whatever you decide to do, **DO SOMETHING**. People like Missy are waiting for you to help them throw away their scraps of blue cloth.