

Authority, not interpretation, real issue: Chapman

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor
and Barbara Willie
State Correspondent

Repeatedly underscoring that scriptural interpretation and politics are not at the heart of the 11-year struggle raging within the Southern Baptist Convention, Morris Chapman has cited a different reason for the controversy.

Speaking at Lexington May 15, the conservative SBC presidential candidate declared that authority of the word of God is the "real issue."

Recounting his pilgrimage to the forefront of the battle, Chapman told 177 persons, mostly pastors, at a noon luncheon at Porter Memorial Baptist Church, his "simple faith" as a child growing up in Mississippi was "as real to me now as it was then."

"I believe in the same inspired, infallible, inerrant word of God today that I did then," he said.

Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., observed that Southern Baptists presently have in process a "course correction." He said it had been his experience that "when the rule of 'live and let live' is applied," everything naturally drifts "to the left."



Morris Chapman, of Wichita Falls, Tex., candidate for SBC presidency, made two appearances in Kentucky last week.

"But in order for the course correction to be completed," Chapman admonished, "it was necessary to turn upstream." A lot of tension became a "necessary byproduct," he allowed.

Chapman suggested that Southern Baptists are "well on their way" to finishing that "directional shift." He said he prays for completion of it "so we may get on with our mission" and that the word of God "might explode in our hearts in order that the world might know Jesus."

In a question-and-answer period following a 45-minute address, Chapman gave his personal stance on several issues:

Chapman hopes to see end of struggle within SBC

by Barbara Willie
State Correspondent

When interviewed May 15 by Bill Crosby, pastor of Erlanger (Ky.) Baptist Church and member of the Western Recorder board, Morris Chapman responded in the following way:

Crosby: What do you feel are the needs of the Southern Baptist Convention and how do you plan to address them in light of John Bisagno's and Joel Gregory's desired peace?

Chapman: Well, my desire is to encompass all Southern Baptists who believe in the perpetuation of our allegiance to God's perfect word. I do not know this for a fact, but people of all persuasions—about 85-90 percent of Southern Baptists—believe in the inerrancy of God's word, and if so my desire is to bring us together again with a recognition of the theological parameters which were reported to us and adopted overwhelmingly when the peace committee made their report and to move beyond perceived parameters. I believe with Dr. (Joel) Gregory (pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Tex.), as he stated that he believed, that the election of a conservative nominee would be the quickest end to our struggle. My desire is to see this issue settled, the end of the struggle come, and then to move forward to reach our world for Christ.

Crosby: What criteria for appointment to committees, etc.?

Chapman: My commitment is to appoint qualified, cooperating Southern

• On priesthood of the believer: "I believe with all my heart that every person has direct access to the Lord Jesus Christ. I can pray to him (Jesus) and he will answer the question in my heart. This does not mean you can believe anything you want to and still be free to be called a Southern Baptist."

• On prayer in public schools: "While resolutions adopted by the SBC are not binding, the last word we have on this matter is contained in a resolution adopted in 1982 favoring a return to public prayer in the classroom. That is my position."

• On abortion: "I believe life be-

gins at conception. I am grateful Southern Baptists have an annual observance for sanctity of human life and that we are in a day when adoptions exceed abortions."

Calling his appearance at Lexington and later that day at Crescent Springs, Ky. a "divine assignment," Chapman emphasized, "This (meeting) is not a political rally."

He said he had not joined any political coalition but had been doing "what the Lord convicted me to do."

Saying Southern Baptists, with about 15 million names on their rolls, are the largest non-Catholic denomination in the world, Chapman noted, "You can't find seven million of them. I pray Jesus will be able to find them when he returns to earth."

Of the remainder, about 3.5 million are in church on any given Sunday morning, he said. "I call on these 3.5 million in the house of God to pray as they never have before."

He said it is "imperative" that Southern Baptists "pledge our allegiance to a perfect word from a perfect God."

Chapman contended that "people of every persuasion" suggest that 85 to 90 percent of all Southern Baptists believe in the "infallibility and inerrancy of God's word."

At the conclusion of the two-hour Lexington luncheon meeting, William L. Hancock, who presided, emphasized, "We're not telling anyone how to vote" (for SBC president).

Hancock, pastor of Louisville's Highview Baptist Church and newly elected chairman of the SBC Foreign Mission Board trustees, said, "If you're convinced, convicted and committed enough, it can be done. The Superdome (in New Orleans, where Southern Baptists meet in annual session June 12-14) will hold 70,000 people. I trust Baptists will set the attendance record."

"We are turning the ship of Zion called Southern Baptists," he concluded.

That evening Chapman told about 200 persons at Crescent Springs, a suburb of Cincinnati, Oh., "You can be a Southern Baptist with all the doctrine that Southern Baptists believe and yet be a praising people. God wants us to stand steadfastly in those things which we know to be true. He would have us praise him because it is not by knowledge but by simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that sets us apart from the rest of the world and prepares us for heaven to come."

Later, in an interview, Chapman reiterated—in regard to the struggle in the convention—what he had been saying all day, "the issue is not political."

"The issue is theological—the nature and authority of God's word. Satan is our enemy," he emphasized.

Appearing with Chapman on the northern Kentucky program were several Kentucky pastors: William L. Hancock, Highview, Louisville; Terrell Bradley, New Liberty; Mark Keith, Hebron; Jim Powell, Crescent Springs; Allen F. Harrod, First, Bellevue; Wayne Lipscomb, Fairlane; and Mike Hall, New Bethel, Verona.

Chapman's Kentucky appearances came on the day after the death of his mother-in-law. She had endured a malignancy of several years. Chapman testified to her bravery and spirit.

Baptists who believe the infallibility, inerrancy of God's word.

In response to other questions, Chapman stated, "In all honesty, unity will not come for the sake of unity. It must be founded upon truth and the fellowship borne out of truth that God's word is the perfect word from the perfect God. I believe that all Southern Baptists are weary and desire for the struggle to come to an end, but I do believe from the depths of my soul that our heritage is a belief in the inerrancy and infallibility of God's word."

Crosby: Where does the parameter end? Is it biblical or socio-political?

Chapman: It is a biblical issue. I would do all that I could within the wisdom God has given me to seek to open lines of communication, to bring an end to our struggle, to bring us together for the causes of missions and evangelism.

The interview concluded with the following: "I would like to reiterate that the issue is not political, the issue is theological. There is a political process by nature of our structure in Southern Baptist life. But it must be understood that the issue is theological and that theological issue is the nature and the authority of God's word. My heart's prayer for Southern Baptists is that we are able to settle the issue that that's who Southern Baptists are, come to the end of our struggle and I believe then we will be on the threshold of our greatest days ever in reaching the world for Christ. I would also like to reiterate that Satan is our enemy."



Shown with Morris Chapman (center) in his northern Kentucky appearance last week are Allen F. Harrod (l), pastor, First Baptist Church, Bellevue, and Jim Powell, pastor, Crescent Springs Baptist Church, which hosted the event.

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May 22, 1990

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guest editorial

A serious threat to our mission together

by William W. Marshall
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Kentucky Baptist Convention

I was present for the February meeting of the SBC Executive Committee when it voted to recommend to the forthcoming Southern Baptist Convention that (1) the Christian Life Commission be given responsibility for church-state issues (Southern Baptists currently address these issues through the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs) and (2) to reduce the cooperative program allocation to the Baptist Joint Committee from \$395,000 to \$50,000 (transferring the difference to the budget of the Christian Life Commission).

A minority within the Executive Committee, including former KBC president James Jones, opposed this action and prevailed upon the Executive Committee to permit a minority report. However, significant portions of that minority report have now been ruled out of order and will not appear in the Book of Reports for messengers to review before their vote on this matter in New Orleans.

I had hoped that the Executive Committee would reconsider this matter at its forthcoming meeting just prior to the convention. However, there is no evidence to suggest that such will happen.

Therefore, as executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, I am constrained to call to the attention of our Kentucky Baptist family the direct implications of such an SBC action upon the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

If the convention meeting in New Orleans approves these recommendations of the Executive Committee, our convention will be impacted in at least two areas:

The first relates to the report of the convention's special committee which was adopted by a large majority of Kentucky Baptist messengers meeting last year in Frankfort. The last of the six-statement report reads:

"Finally, we express to the Southern Baptist Convention our concern over the reduction of funding of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and respectfully request that there be no further reduction of financial support."

The recommendation of the SBC Executive Committee clearly differs from the Kentucky Baptist Conven-

tion's stated position on this issue.

The second relates to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Committee guidelines.

Our convention's guidelines for the committee on public affairs state specifically:

"The committee shall also work in close cooperation with the Baptist Joint Committee."

If the convention in New Orleans adopts the Executive Committee's recommendations, the Christian Life Commission will become the primary agency to relate to church-state issues for the Southern Baptist Convention.

Such action will inevitably force Kentucky Baptists to consider whether it will change its committee guidelines to conform to the new SBC relationship or, if not, to consider direct funding of the Baptist Joint Committee by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Either choice will provoke more of our churches into designated giving which will continue the widening erosion of the Cooperative Program.

As of Apr. 30, the Kentucky Baptist Convention leads all of the 14 "old-line" states in the percentage of increase (6.71%) in Cooperative Program gifts to the SBC this budget year.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention currently enjoys a strong sense of mission and an absence of debilitating conflict. Its executive board has just unanimously elected a new Western Recorder editor.

However, the Baptist Joint Committee issue is far more divisive than some of our leaders seem to have discerned. The Baptist Joint Committee has served the Southern (and Kentucky) Baptist Convention well for more than 50 years, helping establish equal-access legislation; working on avoiding taxation of ministerial pension plans; helping the Foreign Mission Board avoid double taxation of missionaries overseas; and helping restore the ministerial housing allowance—to name a few. I agree with a statement taken from the minority report: "An extreme reduction in the BJC allocation (such as is being recommended) can only contribute to division and confrontation."

And if the SBC Executive Committee's recommendations prevail, Kentucky Baptists may be pushed into a battle we have tried to avoid—against each other!

baptist forum

A reign of terror

A tragedy has occurred at Southern Seminary recently. The actions taken by the board of trustees have all but stamped out academic freedom, not to mention soul competency and the priesthood of believers.

I watched as my president and professors were cruelly attacked by persons who not only do not know them but who refuse even to listen to them. These women and men of God are intelligent, competent, loving persons who care deeply about honest and ethical teaching, promoting biblical truths and educating their students to decide crucial issues for themselves in the leading of the Holy Spirit.

I want to make it plain that I am not personally attacking any of the trustees; there are some trustees who take their jobs seriously and really work to support Southern—my heart goes out to them. The actions of the trustees as a whole, however, are deplorable; the agenda of the majority of the trustees is to bring the seminary into submission and crush its spirit. This agenda is morally reprehensible, irresponsible and completely un-Christian, and it must be stopped.

We, as Southern Baptists, conservative and moderate alike, must reject the fundamentalist mentality of "going for the jugular"; we must save our convention—and our mission—from the hostile takeover now upon us. It is time to call a spade "a spade" before it shovels dirt on our caskets. It is time to go to New Orleans and vote for one who will work to end the reign of terror we fear. Please join me in trying to turn the leadership of this convention back to God. There is a faint glimmer of hope yet; let us seize it and nurture it until it illumines all the darkness around us.

Emily C. Martin
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Louisville

For God's sake, and ours, too

I was grieved to see the charges leveled at Dr. Roy Honeycutt by trustee Jerry Johnson: "One would have to be as blind as a mole to not see that Dr. Honeycutt just does not believe the Bible."

When the president of our seminary responded with a strong affirmation of his faith in the Bible, Mr. Johnson told reporters that he was "not satisfied."

When I was pastor at First Baptist Church, Augusta, Ga., until last summer, I exerted whatever influence I had to keep our church a strongly cooperative part of the SBC. We increased our Cooperative Program giving significantly and my hope and prayer were that our denomination would recover its balance and move on in the areas of missions, evangelism and education.

I now see that for this to happen we will need a "new coalition" of people. We need people from every part of our convention to speak out against hurtful rhetoric that divides us and fails to

treat each other as persons. There is no place for the kind of distrust and suspicion that characterize our denomination. If Mr. Johnson were to share the faith of his heart with me, I hope to God that I would not dismiss it by saying, "Not satisfied."

Part of my reason for coming to the Southern Baptist Seminary was my belief in the kind and sensitive leadership of Dr. Honeycutt. I have watched a good man attacked. I do not like it, and I believe that a lot of Southern Baptists are sickened by this kind of thing. I also believe this concern transcends some differences that we may have in theology. We need a "new coalition" of people who are concerned about what we are doing to our denomination but most of all what we are doing to people. In New Orleans, for God's sake and for our sake, we have to send a strong signal that the day of power politics is over and the day when good people are hurt is finished.

Charles Bugg
Professor of Preaching
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Louisville

As blind as a mole

The recent debacle at Southern Seminary, where president Roy Honeycutt's integrity and dedication to the Bible is irresponsibly challenged by a new trustee who is himself a 25-year-old seminary student, is only the latest example of a trend where bickering is our witness to the world and where our divisiveness seeks to benefit the powers of darkness more than our Lord.

As a Furman University and Southern Seminary graduate, I have heard of quite a number of "liberal sightings" of leaders in our institutions that are as accurate and specific as Elvis sightings in the tabloids. I have not found this threat in my experiences. Rather, I have found a fear that the search for knowledge in theology and biblical criticism might somehow put our Christian faith in jeopardy, rather than strengthen it. People would rather assume that Christian faith is all black-and-white issues with a checklist for eternal life rather than wrestle with topics that the Bible never specifically addresses and struggle to "complete our salvation (Phil. 2:12)."

I have dragged my feet, thinking my presence at the convention would make little difference. This latest incident caps off an almost weekly series of abominations, affecting us right down to the local congregation. I am convicted: I must put my faith in action. Now. Not to merely vote for president, but to return our convention to a place where I can rejoice in Christ with all of my sisters and brothers, all equal regardless of their lean towards the left or the right; to a place where I can have confidence in our leaders; where Satan's attack upon our Bold Mission Thrust can be defeated; where our Bibles can be used as God's instrument

western recorder

(ISSN 0043-4132)

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Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., Box 43969, Middletown, Ky., except for one week in July and December. Second class postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Middletown, KY 40253.

Subscriptions: Single, \$7.88; foreign, \$8.50; church budget, \$6.00. Payable in advance, except church accounts, which require tax exemption number.

Advertising: Rates available upon request. Institutional columns on an inside page are paid space.

Directors: Richard Bridges, Bowling Green, chairman; Greg Earwood, Murray, vice chairman; Glenn Mollette, Pikeville, secretary; Bill Crosby, Erlanger; Denzel Dukes, Paducah; Glenn Durham, Harlan; Paul Godsey, Burlington; Garnett Hulette, Frankfort; Don Mantooth, Morehead; Isaac McDonald, Hodgenville; John Searcy, Franklin; George Smith, Leitchfield.

instead of as deadly weapons; and where "power" refers to the actions of an omnipotent God and not of a small group of very fallible men. You'd have to be blind as a mole not to see that!

*Ken Satterfield
Jefferson City, Mo.*

Diminishing returns

We are responding as a congregation to recent actions of Southern Seminary trustees as they pertain to our members.

Just prior to his first trustee's meeting, Jerry Johnson, age 25, delivered a document to trustees and to the Southern Baptist Advocate for national distribution.

Johnson leveled an unprincipled attack on president Honeycutt and faculty members. He impugned Dr. Honeycutt's character and biblical fidelity. Johnson stated: "One would have to be as blind as a mole not to see that Dr. Honeycutt just does not believe the Bible."

We know Dr. Honeycutt as a gentleman of highest Christian character, a leader seeking to serve all Southern Baptists and a scholar who has demonstrated a lifetime of love and devotion to the Bible as God's holy word.

Johnson also attacked the character of Dr. Tupper, citing events which occurred during the spring of 1983, events promptly dealt with by Dr. Tupper, president Honeycutt and the trustees.

That was the time when Dr. Tupper's wife Betty was dying of cancer. We walked with Frank, Betty and their children, Elgin, 13, and Michelle, 9, during her last months. We witnessed Dr. Tupper as a devoted husband and father and as a courageous teacher committed to the faith. Students in that class have spoken to Dr. Tupper's powerful witness as he sought to think theologically and live faithfully during that agony. We commend Dr. Tupper to any Baptist church as a faithful teacher and preacher of God's word.

Fundamentalist trustees also moved in an unprecedented way to take over leadership of the board by removing from the Executive Committee two of our laymen: Henry Huff and Ken Hall. The work of the trustees and well being of the seminary will be diminished by rejecting the resources of these two outstanding Baptist laymen and community leaders.

*Crescent Hill Baptist Church
Louisville*

Where is our moral outrage?

The alarms keep going off. The red flags are waved before our eyes. When will a sufficient number of us rise up and shout, "Enough! Enough!"

The recent trustee action from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was essentially a "gag" order, stating that professor Paul Simmons' "continued activities in this area (Christian response to abortion) may be considered sufficient grounds for dismissal." This reprimand was in keeping with an earlier trustee action which urged faculty and staff "to work for laws prohibiting abortion except to save the physical life of the mother."

Think about it. A particular position on abortion "may be" becoming the litmus test for teaching at Southern Seminary. The threat is clear. The effort to muzzle freedom of inquiry and expression is blatant.

Current ethical dilemmas, like abortion, are emotionally charged, deeply complex. Thoughtful Christians come

to diverse conclusions. As a pastor, by nature a generalist in ministry, I look to seminary professors to share out of their more specialized theological pursuits. We, the church, need the fruits of their disciplined study. From them we need more, not less, boldness.

Let their conclusions be challenged. Let there be debate. But, fight we must, for their freedom to explore the full implications of the gospel of Jesus Christ for our time.

Where is our moral outrage over these continued efforts to harness responsible, relevant scholarship? When do we say "no more" to such tactics of intimidation?

Could it be now?

*M. Mahan Siler, Pastor
Pullen Memorial Baptist Church
Raleigh, N. C.*

In support of SBTS

We, the members of Faith Baptist Church, deplore the accusatory atmosphere of the recent trustees' meeting at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

SBTS has been instrumental in the growth and spiritual development of our church. We have been well served with SBTS graduates as pastors and staff members. SBTS faculty have ministered as interim pastors, retreat leaders and interpreters of our spiritual disciplines. Our appreciation for the men and women of SBTS is great; we are better servants today because of their devotion to Christ, their competence and their caring spirit.

We stand by the historic Baptist principle of soul competency in matters of Christian faith and practice. From this perspective we express our support for the president, the students and faculty of SBTS as they continue the traditions of excellence built by cooperative Baptists over the years at Southern Seminary.

*Faith Baptist Church
Georgetown*

Resolution of support

WHEREAS, Jerry Johnson, a first year trustee of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has written an unfounded and distorted article published in the Southern Baptist Advocate attacking the president and faculty members of the seminary, and;

WHEREAS, the board of trustees of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has refused to address this article by postponing discussion on it for a full year, and;

WHEREAS, faithful members of the Broadway Baptist Church have been criticized severely by this article without opportunities for response, and;

WHEREAS, the board has violated long-standing commitments to academic freedom by threatening the dismissal of faculty persons who take positions on social issues different than those dictated by trustees, and;

WHEREAS, these actions have brought pain and suffering to faculty, staff, and students alike at the seminary, many of whom are members of our congregation, and;

WHEREAS, the Broadway Baptist Church has maintained an historic relationship of support for and pastoral care for faculty, students and administration of the seminary, and;

WHEREAS, our congregation contributes 19% of undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Broadway Baptist Church calls for the resignation of Mr. Jerry Johnson for his irresponsible and destruc-

tive actions, and asks him to apologize publicly for his actions and retract his article as published in Southern Baptist Advocate, and;

FURTHERMORE, we express our strong censure of seminary trustees who by their silence or vocal support concurred with this action, and commend those other trustees who opposed it, and;

We declare our support for president Roy L. Honeycutt Jr. and his fidelity to the authority of scripture and our confidence in the integrity, honesty and commitment of the faculty.

*Broadway Baptist Church
Louisville*

Our hope is Christ

I have responded to very few editorials in my 55 years of adult life. However, I cannot resist the urge to thank you for your editorial in Western Recorder Vol. 164, No. 18 concerning the situation prevailing at Southern Seminary, my alma mater. Thank you for your forthrightness.

When I reflect upon the conditions in our entire Southern Baptist Convention today I am strangely reminded of Jeremiah's lament against the "children of Judah" when he verbalized his frustrations in Jer. 8:11, "For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying Peace, Peace; when there is no peace."

We are supposed to be engaging right now in Here's Hope revivals all across the land. It is hard to believe the peoples of the world are looking to Southern Baptists as a messenger of hope when the power in the blood is all but obliterated by the current political power struggle that is so gravely eroding our image as "fishers of men." I hope we are not drying "hope, hope" when there is no hope for our denomination as a great institution of caring, evangelical, compassionate souls. It appears that the only hope is in Christ Jesus as his Spirit works in and through individuals and individual churches as we impact for him in our world.

*Sam B. Conner
Campbellsville*

We know the truth

We, the members of North Fork Baptist Church, wish in this turbulent time to express our affirmation of and deep appreciation to you, Dr. Honeycutt, the faculty and staff of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

For many years our church has been served faithfully by students obtaining their theological education at Southern Seminary. Consequently, we have directly benefited from the high quality of training they have received.

We are grateful to professors who have devoted themselves to developing the skills, stretching the minds and nurturing the faith of those who have led us in ministry. We are grateful to you, Dr. Honeycutt, for your determination to maintain the vision of academic integrity and commitment to mission which has characterized Southern Seminary since its inception.

Be assured of our continued prayers and support.

*North Fork Baptist Church
Frankfort*

God may be leading us

"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." This statement might be interpreted as a strong endorsement for education by our Lord. But we must also include his preface to

this statement—"If ye continue in my word, ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." Now this statement can be seen to promote not a blanket concept of education, but rather, God's word.

The May 1 editorial classifies me and others like me as unwitting "victims of an illusion of doctrinal and biblical orthodoxy." But three- and one-half years at Southern convinced me that our denominational think tanks were headed in an unhealthy direction—away from a simple, literal translation of the scriptures and toward sophisticated, historical and literary critical methods of interpretation. These methods, which are understood only by a few, have spent the transcendence of God's book by subjugating it to humankind's intellect. My contention is that our intellect should be subjugated to God's book.

For those who disagree, I would ask you to try to place yourself in my shoes and the shoes of others like me. We see this convention as the combined effort of a group of people who would see Christ's kingdom increase. We see many of the values expressed in God's book being relativized and compromised in a misguided effort to acclimate God's book to our contemporary culture (instead of changing our culture to conform to God's will). We desire, in love, to change this situation.

Are those for "academic freedom" truly martyrs and persecuted Baptist disciples? We can deny the need for a change only so long, until its intense stare of conviction finally melts us. If God indeed wills a change of direction, then change we must.

*John Carson
Cynthiana*

Church supports BJCPA

We, Buechel Park Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., protest the recent efforts by the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee to decrease financial support for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (BJCPA). We further encourage our sister churches in Long Run Baptist Association, the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention to take their own appropriate opposition so that, collectively, the denomination might return to a primary unity for Christ's purpose despite our secondary individual differences.

By taking this action, the Executive Committee has completely ignored votes at recent meetings of the SBC which supported continued funding at current levels. To defund the BJCPA will significantly weaken the historical Baptist stance to maintain separation of church and state and religious liberty. We are further disturbed by the committee's decision to transfer responsibility for church-state matters into the hands of the Christian Life Commission which already has shown a remarkable tendency to support legislation which threatens the cherished Baptist belief in separation of church and state.

As a part of the Baptist Joint Committee, Southern Baptists enjoy a strong respect in Washington. Because the BJCPA is composed of a number of Baptist groups its representation is more universal and less likely to be influenced by personal biases and agendas of a few politically powerful individuals. We commend and affirm the job Mr. James Dunn has accomplished as director of the BJCPA.

*Buechel Park Baptist Church
Louisville*

baptist news briefs

Attack refuted, issues cited at Kentucky moderate rally

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

Boldly defending himself and the institution he represents before a largely partisan audience, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary president Roy Lee Honeycutt has decried widely circulated accusations of a 25-year-old trustee.

Honeycutt urged his listeners to "go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'ry where" that Southern Seminary and her faculty are "committed to the Lordship of Christ and the authority of the Bible."

"As you go," he added, "please tell the truth."

Honeycutt was opening speaker at an announced moderate rally May 15 at Louisville's Hurstbourne Baptist Church.

In prepared remarks he dealt exclusively with recent charges by seminary trustee Jerry Johnson, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Aurora, Colo. Johnson authored a published document called "The Cover-up at Southern Seminary" which calls into question scriptural beliefs and practices of the seminary president and several faculty members.

Decrying all of what was written, Honeycutt said Johnson makes his most "unreasonable accusation" in stating "one would have to be as blind as a mole not to see that Dr. Honeycutt just does not believe the Bible."

Honeycutt replied that since the age of nine, when he made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ, his commitment to the Bible as the word of God has been "a dynamic and integrating focus of my life."

"Since I learned to read I cannot recall a time when I didn't read the Bible, treasure its divine truths and seek to live out of its revelation," Honeycutt said.

Honeycutt noted that he began study of the Bible in an academic setting in 1947, "about 18 years before the author (Johnson) of the coverup article was born."

Honeycutt concluded that trustee Johnson's accusation he (Honeycutt) does not believe the Bible "remains beyond my comprehension." It was the Bible, he said, which "brought me the good news of Jesus, voiced my call to the ministry and still sustains me daily through circumstances such as these accusations."

Honeycutt was followed on the platform by Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, of Cincinnati, Oh., an announced candidate for the office for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A pastor's wife and former executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, Mrs. Crumpler re-



Honeycutt

Mrs. Crumpler

counted her background and preparation for the office she seeks.

"Nobody is paying me to run," she allowed. "Nobody selected me in a college of cardinals or on a Caribbean cruise." That remark was an obvious reference to an annual winter trip by SBC conservative leaders in which

18 see takeover plan as that, nothing more

Eighteen past presidents of Baptist state conventions have issued a six-part statement decrying the claim of a "historic new day" being promoted by 'conservative' elements in the 11-year-old Southern Baptist Convention controversy.

"We feel a need to speak to the recent claims of several Baptist pastors that they will bring in a 'historic new day' in the SBC that will 'put an end to these painful 11 years,'" the past presidents wrote. "We see no evidence of any new coalition or historic new day."

Their document, "A Statement of the Southern Baptist Convention Controversy and the Claim of a 'Historic New Day,'" says:

"As past state convention presidents who are aware of what the events of the last 11 years have done to our convention, we feel a need to speak to the recent claims of several Baptist pastors that they will bring in a 'historic new day' in the Southern Baptist Convention that will 'put an end to these painful 11 years.'"

"We have no evidence of any new coalition or 'historic new day.' We only see more individuals publicly supporting the continued control of the takeover movement. Morris Chapman has been a vital part of this takeover group since its inception in 1979."

"We believe the division in our convention is the direct result of the infusion of secular political methodology into the Southern Baptist family. This 'historic new day' is simply more political slogan sloganeering."

"We believe southern Baptists are united over the nature and truth of scripture. Those who claim otherwise are, at best, mistaken."

"We believe Baptists are Bible believing Christians and our institutions are led by Bible believing administrators, workers and teachers. We believe the harassment and character assassination of our denominational leaders and employees by the takeover group are unChristian acts."

"We believe missions and evangelism should be the priorities of Southern Baptists. We believe the Southern Baptist Convention has deserted these priorities during the last 11 years in the pursuit of political power."

"We believe the election of another member of the takeover coalition as convention president will only lead to more control, more exclusion and more division in our denominational family."

convention political strategies have reportedly been discussed.

Mrs. Crumpler said she is a candidate because "we are losing missions as our number one priority" in the SBC. She cited figures showing significant decreases in missionary personnel, volunteers and financial support since the struggle to "control the convention" began 11 years ago.

She said she is also concerned that "we have silenced or muzzled" many of the "most experienced" voices in the SBC.

"We have lost the true function of the SBC," she surmised. "At each convention we add to a kind of checklist of what we agree is acceptable and what we disagree with."

The Louisville moderate rally was presided over by C. Carman Sharp,

"We believe a 'historic new day' will come when Southern Baptists elect new leadership committed to inclusion, not exclusion; prayer, not politics; cooperation, not control."

The statement is signed by Lavonn Brown, Oklahoma; Milton Cunningham, Texas; G. Nelson Duke, Missouri; B. G. Hickem, Florida; Raymond Langlois, Tennessee; W. Winfred Moore, Texas; James E. Pleitz, president in Florida, now in Texas; William E. Poe, North Carolina; Floyd Roebuck, Georgia; W. Ches Smith III, Georgia; Leon Smith, North Carolina; Sherrill Stevens, president in Virginia, now of North Carolina; Jon Stubblefield, president in Arkansas, now in Louisiana; Scott Tatum, president in Louisiana, now in Texas; Clifton Tennison, Louisiana; A. Douglas Watterson, Tennessee; Jean Woodward, Virginia; and James F. Yates, Mississippi. (BP)

'Sowing seeds of hate' observation of faculty

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Faculty Club has called for the resignation of trustee Jerry Johnson, who wrote a 16-page article critical of president Roy Honeycutt and five professors.

Meanwhile, Johnson, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Aurora, Colo., has refused to resign. He challenged to professors to take their cause before the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans this summer.

The faculty group's call for Johnson's resignation was made from the steps of the Louisville, Ky., school's Alumni Chapel, where professors were surrounded by cheering, applauding students.

"The Faculty Club, consisting of members and associates of the faculty of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, declares its moral outrage at the actions of trustee Jerry Johnson in attacking the integrity, fidelity to the scriptures and character of the president and faculty of our seminary," it said in a statement unanimously adopted by the group and read by Bill J. Leonard, a church history professor and chairman of the Faculty Club.

"The harm done by Mr. Johnson has in turn been magnified through publication of his article in the Southern Baptist Advocate."

"The intentions of this article are clear: to drive president Honeycutt from office, to do harm to our community of faith, unjustly to accuse faculty of failure in their teaching responsibili-

ties and to sow seeds of hate toward Southern Seminary throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

The statement added: "We declare our support for every colleague named by Mr. Johnson and affirm their fidelity to scripture, their responsible freedom in teaching and their moral integrity. We grieve deeply at the effect of this malicious attack upon their character and their families and pledge support to them in whatever ways possible."

"Furthermore, we respectfully call upon Mr. Johnson to resign his position of trust as a trustee of the seminary, given his declared intention to force the retirement of our president and his demonstrated actions to accomplish such an objective."

"We also call upon every responsible Southern Baptist to attend the Southern Baptist Convention (June 12-14) to stand against the intimidation that is engulfing our denomination by voting for new leaders who will work for the improvement of all boards and agencies of the denomination. What was called a 'correction' in 1979 is now a movement of persecution."

Faculty request for a trustee's resignation is unprecedented in the 131-year-old school's history, Leonard told the crowd.

In an interview, Leonard insisted the issue stretches beyond Southern Seminary. "This just goes on and on. There is no end," he said. "Southern Baptists seem to have no will to stop it." (BP)

Several Southern Seminary students offered music, scripture and prayer during the rally.

The evening concluded with a three-pronged challenge by Richard W. Bridges, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, who urged: "Decide for yourself if you really are a Southern Baptist. If you are, go to New Orleans (for the SBC meeting June 12-14). Then vote for Daniel Vestal for president and Carolyn W. Crumpler for first vice president."

Attendance at the rally was estimated at 450-500 persons.

Earlier that day Mrs. Crumpler addressed another 170 persons at a noon luncheon hosted by Louisville's Broadway Baptist Church.

Resolutions requested in advance by chairman

Mark Corts, chairman of the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention resolutions committee, has asked messengers to send him advance copies of resolutions they plan to submit during the convention meeting June 12-14 in New Orleans.

Corts said resolutions should be mailed to his attention at Calvary Baptist Church, 5000 Country Club Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27104.

He emphasized that messengers who send advance copies of resolutions to the committee also must submit them on the first day of the convention. Committee representatives will be at a table near the platform in the Louisiana Superdome to receive resolutions during business sessions Tuesday, June 14. Titles of proposed resolutions then will be read into the convention record by a convention officer and forwarded to the committee for consideration. (BP)

— classified ads —

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

WANTED: The Youth Minister Search Committee of First Baptist Church, Albany is accepting résumés for a Youth Minister who would also work with Childrens Coordinator. The Youth Minister position would be part time on weekends and full time during the summer months. Send résumé to Pastor, First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 174, Albany, KY 42602. 5-22-2T

Kitty Beggs:

She's the memorable voice of Western Recorder

by Lawanda Smith, Staff Writer

Her voice is smooth and gentle, yet she speaks clearly and quickly.

It's a memorable voice.

So memorable, in fact, people who have never seen her recognize her voice. She's Kitty Beggs and she's a narrator at Studio for the Handicapped in Anchorage.

Located at Anchorage Presbyterian Church, the studio began over 30 years ago as one unit of Louisville's Recording for the Blind. In spring 1981 that organization closed the Anchorage unit, one of three units in Louisville.

But volunteers wanted to keep the service going, so in fall 1981 it reopened as a nonprofit agency, renamed Studio for the Handicapped.

The studio is self supporting but the church has allowed the operation to use its facilities rent and utility free.

Contributions for the studio come mostly from private individuals, though some help does come from foundation grants.

Most of the recording equipment and furnishings have been donated by individuals and corporations.

Mrs. Beggs first became aware of the studio through Junior League. She worked at the studio to receive volunteer hours for the league, but she continued long after she had earned her hours. She's been a volunteer for about 18 years.

Mrs. Beggs works in two-hour shifts, recording different material on tapes to be distributed to the vision impaired. She "narrates" the material, she says, as opposed to "reading" it. The vision impaired say they are "reading" when they listen to recordings.

Part of Mrs. Beggs' weekly duties include narrating Western Recorder. That particular responsibility has led to at least one unique experience.

One "reader" has recognized her voice, though her name was not specified on the tape.

It all started when Mrs. Beggs needed a chair repaired. A friend at Studio for the Handicapped suggested Joseph and Helen Parker, both of whom were blind, could do the work. When Mrs. Beggs called, Mrs. Parker recognized her voice.

"Oh, you narrate Western Recorder," Mrs. Beggs remembers Mrs. Parker exclaiming.

"She said she liked my voice and they enjoyed hearing me read," Mrs. Beggs chuckles. "She said she couldn't wait to meet me and give me a hug!"

Later, at the request of "readers," Mrs. Beggs and other narrators began stating their names on tape before they recorded. "It was neat to meet someone who benefitted from my work," she smiles.

A homemaker, Mrs. Beggs is the wife of Robert J. Beggs, a Louisville advertising agent. The couple has two grown children: Kyle, 24, and Robin, 19.

Mrs. Beggs doesn't have another job and she doesn't have to earn volunteer hours for Junior League any more. Yet her interest in the studio runs deep.

"I just work there because I love it," she admits. In July she will begin working on the studio's board of directors.

She's not the only one who loves it. Over 100 people volunteer their time to the studio, under the direction of Sandy Koukola since 1983.

Volunteers are recruited by various



Kitty Beggs narrates Western Recorder as part of her volunteer work with Studio for the Handicapped, Anchorage.

methods, Mrs. Koukola says. The Younger Women's Club requires volunteer work hours for new members. Members of the board of directors speak to different church meetings. Still, volunteers often enlist other volunteers, she allows.

Not all the volunteers are narrators. There is a system to the operation, and everyone has a part.

Jan Magruder and Helen O'Leary are reading supervisors. They set up the materials, including Western Recorder, to be read and give narrators directions as shifts change.

Each narrator states his or her name on the master reel-to-reel tape, records two hours, then hands the reins over to a relief narrator. Izzy Zahler, a Jewish volunteer, copies the master onto cassette tapes and prepares them for distribution to the vision impaired.

The studio operates five days a week. Some volunteers work for more than one shift or come more than one day.

Though the studio is located in the Presbyterian church and distributes weekly tapes of Western Recorder, the ministry is an ecumenical effort.

"We have all denominations reading," Mrs. Koukola acknowledges, "Catholic, Episcopal, Baptist, Presbyterian, Jewish."

Volunteers narrate materials in addition to Western Recorder, some for other denominations and some for the community.

The front wall of the studio is lined with cubicles, each containing material to be narrated and distributed. Each week narrators record TV Guide, the opinion page of the Courier-Journal and the Louisville Magazine. These three are sent to the "Talking Book Library" at Louisville's public library.

Two state magazines, "Back Home in Kentucky" and "Kentucky Living," are recorded and distributed to Frankfort.

United Crescent Hill Ministries' senior citizens' monthly bulletin is narrated and distributed by the studio.

Narrators also record for volunteers, Mrs. Koukola says. "We'll do anything that has not been previously recorded."

From the cubicles she lifts recipe and business books, even a "grandmaster of chess" book. There is a general

ogy being prepared for a vision impaired lady in Louisville.

One of the biggest projects has been recording 19 science textbooks for Jefferson County schools, grades one through 12.

"We narrate for anyone who has a physical handicap that keeps them from enjoying the printed word," Mrs. Koukola acknowledges. "For example, we do some things for people in nursing homes that can't hold a book."

Studio for the Handicapped began distributing tapes of the paper in November 1983. Now about 35 people from Kentucky and other states "read" Western Recorder on tape. Tapes go to

Indiana, Cincinnati, North Carolina. Persons interested in receiving a weekly tape of the state Baptist paper contact Western Recorder office. The staff then passes the information on to Studio for the Handicapped.

Though Mrs. Beggs narrates most of Western Recorder, she hardly ever completes the entire paper. It never takes less than three hours to read Western Recorder, says Mrs. Koukola, and they use different voices for variety.

But Western Recorder is a favorite for Mrs. Beggs.

And Mrs. Beggs, speaking quickly but clearly and soothingly, is a favorite of "readers."

Baptist Regional Medical Center has new administrator

Baptist Hospitals, Inc. (BHI) announced the appointment of John M. Burt EdD as administrator of Baptist Regional Medical Center effective June 18. Burt will succeed Kerry G. Gillihan, who earlier this year became president of Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah.

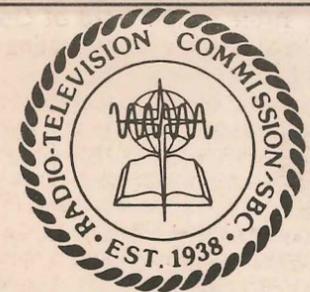
Currently, Burt is senior vice president and chief operating officer at St. Luke Hospital-East, Ft. Thomas. He was senior vice president of Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington, Apr. '86-July '89. Burt joined Central Baptist as vice president in March 1985.

Burt has a total of more than 10 years of hospital administration experience. In prior positions he was assistant administrator at The Medical Center at Bowling Green and served in the same capacity at Bowling Green-Warren County Hospital.

In addition to his health care experience Burt has had an academic career at Western Kentucky University. June '73-June '81, he was assistant professor in the department of health and safety and assistant to the dean of WKU's College of Applied Arts & Health.

He received a doctorate in education from Vanderbilt University. He also holds an MBA in hospital administration from Xavier University and a bachelor's degree in business administration from WKU. He is a nominee of the American College of Healthcare Executives, and a member of the American Hospital Association, the Kentucky Hospital Association and the Bluegrass Hospital District.

Burt, 47, is a native of Covington. He and his wife Catherine have three sons.



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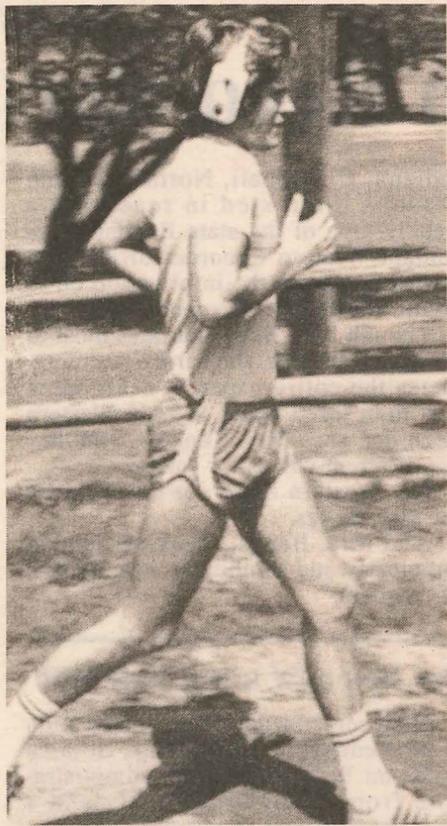
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Radio and Television Commission



The Radio and Television Commission produces and distributes for public service broadcast six weekly radio programs, all 30 minutes in length, to reach people "on the run."

RTVC: award winning programs

by Madge Hammond

Southern Baptists observed Radio and Television Sunday May 20, a day focusing on how the denomination uses electronic media to reach the unsaved with the gospel and provide sustenance to Christians.

The Radio and Television Commission is the Southern Baptist Convention agency with the main responsibility for carrying out this task.

Its objective is to support the convention in bringing people to God through Christ by presenting the gospel over radio and television and by assisting churches and their pastors—as well as other Baptist organizations—in effectively using radio and television.

From its beginning as the convention's Radio Committee in 1938 the commission has grown from one radio program carried on a handful of southern stations to become the largest producer of public service radio programming in the world.

Award winning programs produced at the RTVC's Ft. Worth, Tex. communications center are heard more than 7000 times each week throughout America and around the world on Armed Forces Radio.

In addition, the RTVC:

- Owns and operates the American Christian Television System (ACTS), a satellite-delivered television network that offers inspirational programming produced by Baptists and other mainline faith groups plus other programs suitable for family viewing obtained from a number of sources.

- Produces television programs both for ACTS and for presentation on major television networks. The programming for ACTS includes TV versions of the Baptist Hour.

- Recently was consultant on an NBC television Easter special about Southern Baptist work.

- Provides counseling to people with problems—both through COPE, a live call-in counseling show seen on

ACTS and through a Counseling Services Department that assists people who contact it in response to RTVC radio or TV programs.

Preparations are under way for a nationwide 50th birthday celebration in 1991 of the first RTVC radio program, the Baptist Hour. The first Baptist Hour was broadcast from First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., Jan. 5, 1941 and was carried live on 17 radio stations in 11 southern states.

Heard today over more than 500 stations per week throughout the U. S. and in some foreign countries, the Baptist Hour is one of six weekly radio programs the RTVC produces and distributes free for public service broadcast. It's the only one that uses a preaching format.

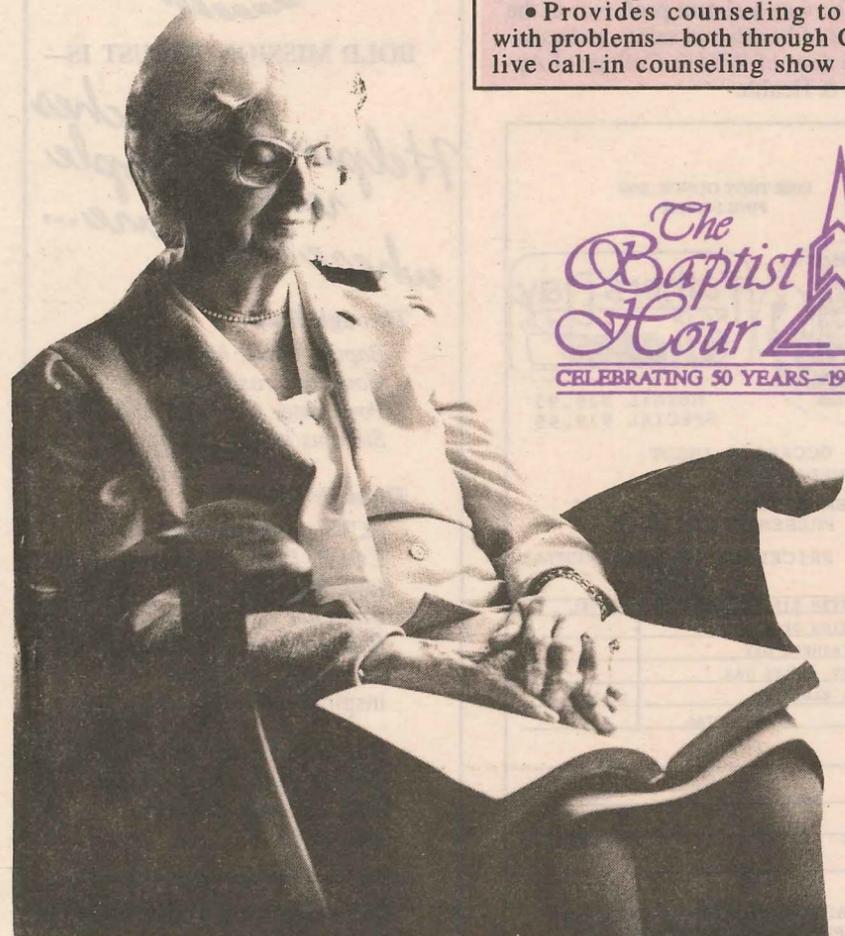
The other five include MasterControl, which had its 30th birthday in 1989; Country Crossroads and Powerline, each of which had 20th anniversaries that year; On Track; and Streams in the Desert. The three programs that had anniversaries last year received Angel awards from Religion in Media for contributions to the religious life of America.

An RTVC television documentary titled "China: Walls and Bridges" received an Emmy from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences last year and an Angel award this year. That documentary and another RTVC television documentary, "Still a Family," were carried on the ABC network. An RTVC-produced television program about ethics in American society, titled "Choices," was aired by the NBC network this year.

The Radio and Television Commission makes no appeals for funds on any of its programs, although it does accept gifts from individuals, foundations and corporations. The commission receives four percent of the Cooperative Program, the Southern Baptist Convention's annual budget, which comes from voluntary contributions by churches. Other funds come from sources such as revenue from purchased air time.



Country Crossroads is one of six radio programs produced by the Radio and Television Commission. Created to appeal to country music lovers, the program features music by and interviews with country music stars, as well as Christian testimonies and inspirational comments by hosts and guests.



Baptist Hour listener response shows the weekly half-hour radio presentation reaches a wide variety of people in all walks of life. The Radio and Television Commission is planning a six-month long nationwide celebration of the program's 50th anniversary in 1991.



ACTS
An oasis in a spiritual desert

COPE

SBC Annuity Board

The health-care crisis: Southern Baptists part of national scene

by Janet Cramer

The annual cost of health care in the U. S. has skyrocketed from \$50 billion to \$650 billion during the last 20 years. If salaries increased as fast, a person earning \$4500 in 1970 would have made \$54,000 in 1989.

A 35-year-old pastor paid an average \$51.75 a month for medical coverage for his family in 1973 when the Annuity Board began offering coverage through Aetna Life Insurance Co. In January 1990 a 35-year-old pastor paid \$256 to \$313 a month for family coverage.

Just in the last 10 years the Annuity Board has seen medical claims climb from \$17.5 million to \$89.4 million—a 410 percent increase. Theoretically, every participant in Annuity Board medical plans had a claim of more than \$2300 in 1989.

"These statistics are alarming," said Mac H. Perkins, a director in the Insurance Services Division of the Annuity Board. Perkins was one of several Annuity Board officials who addressed state Baptist executive directors and editors recently in Dallas.

"Gallop health care inflation must be reined in. Americans view health care as a right, not a privilege afforded only to the very rich," said Perkins.

What is causing rising insurance costs?

Perkins listed 13 factors that contribute to skyrocketing health care costs:

1. Increased sophistication of medical technology
2. Geographic redundancy in health care services
3. More malpractice suits
4. Defensive medicine
5. Unnecessary procedures
6. Doctors' fees
7. Growing administrative costs
8. Mandated coverage
9. Growing numbers of uninsured people
10. AIDS epidemic
11. An aging population
12. Increased insurance usage
13. Inflation

What are people doing to contain insurance costs?

Managed care programs
The number of Americans enrolled in managed care programs tripled between 1980-89. The Group Comprehensive Medical Plan incorporated medical review services in 1986; the Church and Seminarian Comprehensive Medical plans included the review service in 1989.

Cost Shifting
The federal government has tightened payments under Medicare and is shifting more health care costs to the private sector.

Tightening eligibility
Employers are tightening eligibility for employer paid plans, Perkins said. Some are requiring employees to pay part or all of the premium.

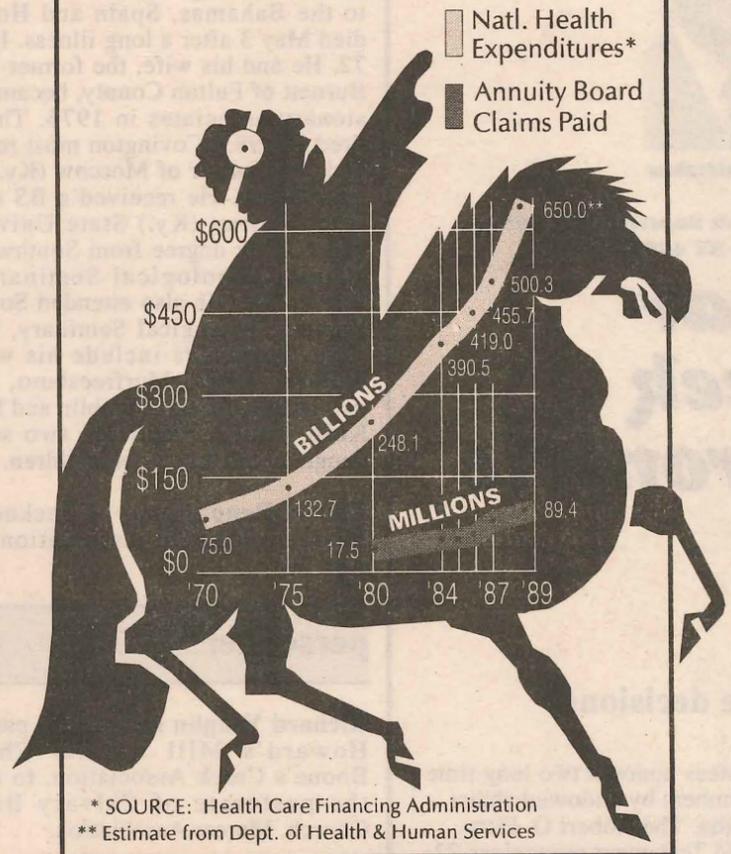
Uninsured/underinsured
Some workers without employer provided insurance are choosing inadequate coverage or in some cases no coverage at all—many because they simply can't afford the premiums. Fortunately, Perkins said, the Annuity Board survey found only one percent of church workers had no health insurance.

Health promotion and disease prevention
Perkins shared some comments made by Health and Human Services secretary Sullivan. Sullivan believes the personal health choices Americans make present the greatest single opportunity for improving the nation's health.

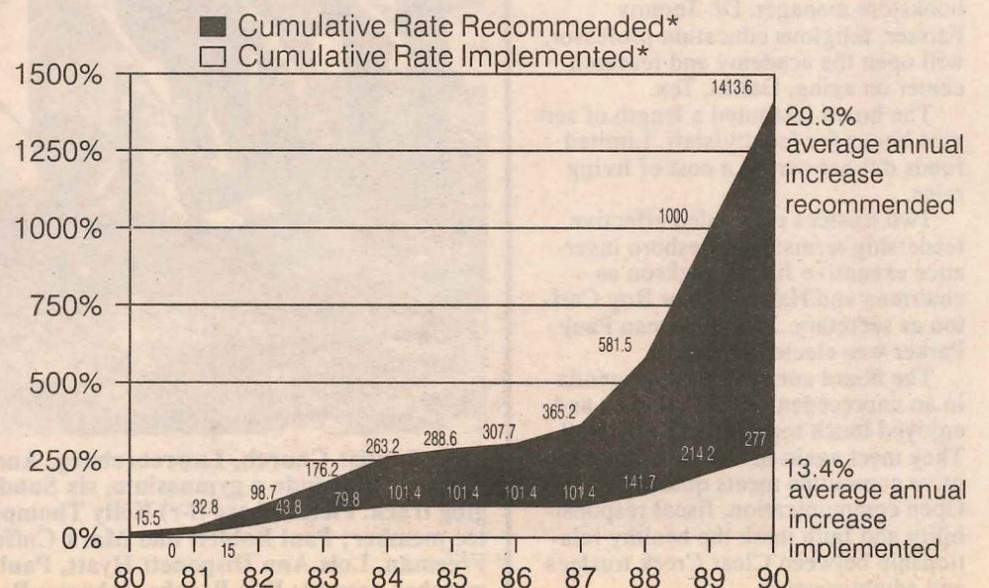
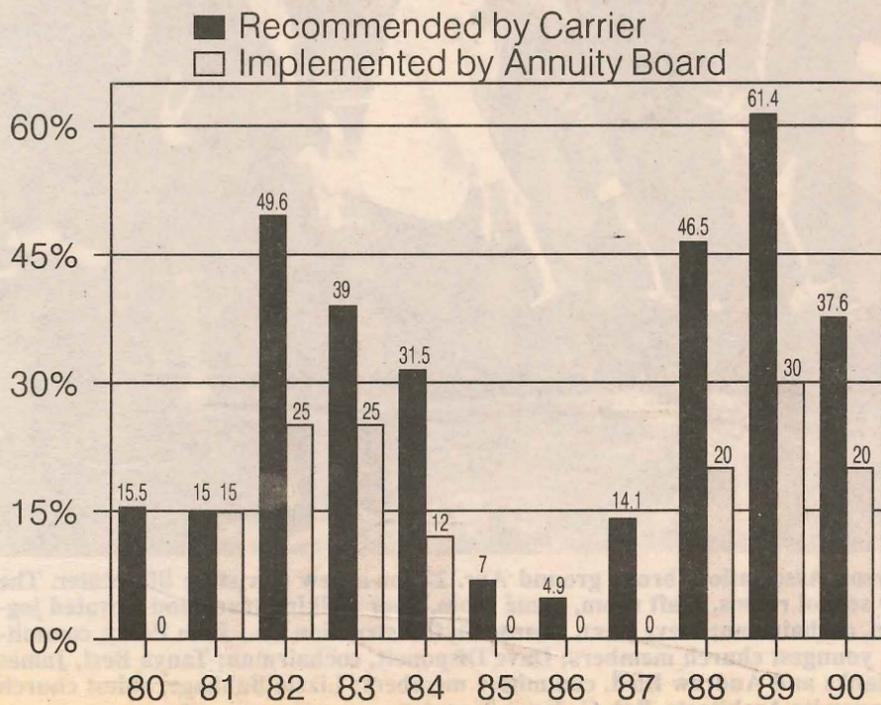
Analyzing alternative medical treatments
The Bush administration proposes to dramatically expand research on the effectiveness of certain commonly used procedures and treatments.

The challenge
Insurance companies, health care providers, employers, employees and public officials must find ways to address the health care crisis, Perkins said. As America's population ages and new technologies continue to be developed there is little doubt that the U. S. will devote more and more resources to health care. Annual health care costs could reach \$1.5 trillion—\$5550 per person—by the year 2000.

Gallop health-care inflation must be reined in.



Premiums recommended and premiums implemented



mountains to the mississippi



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

clear creek chronicle

Trustee decisions

May 3 trustees honored two long time faculty members by endowed chairs of instruction. The Robert O. Fitts chair of Old Testament recognizes 22 years of teaching by Harrodsburg retired professor Robert Fitts. He teaches one class at Clear Creek's external center in Stanford. The LeRoy A. Peterson chair of homiletics honors the first Clear Creek graduate to return as a faculty member. Peterson began teaching in 1962 and continues as a distinguished professor. His tenure has included academic dean and 22 years of homiletics instruction. Both chairs seek a \$200,000 goal. Trustees allotted \$50,000 to each of the two endowments.

Dr. Billy J. Pfoff was elected as an associate professor with emphasis in general education. Pfoff holds a PhD in physiology from the University of Southern California and two masters in Bible and theology from Dallas Theological Seminary. The Harlan native attended camps at Clear Creek as a boy. He is a 26-year Air Force veteran and holds board certification in chemical dependency.

Trustees commended five personnel for "faithful years of service." Music faculty Ron and Sherry Goodwin will assume a church music ministry. Director of campus operations John Holloway has announced plans to retire. Mrs. Lucille Holloway was bookstore manager. Dr. Tommy Farmer, religious education professor, will open the academy and research center on aging, Dallas, Tex.

The board instituted a length of service bonus for faculty/staff. Limited funds did not permit a cost of living raise.

Two trustees concluded effective leadership terms: Middlesboro insurance executive Jimmy Jackson as chairman and Harlan pastor Roy Carlton as secretary. Vice chairman Paul Parker was elected chairman.

The board concluded their agenda in an unprecedented 135 minutes and enjoyed lunch together in Kelly Hall. They meet again in October. The executive committee meets quarterly. Open communication, fiscal responsibility and faith mark the healthy relationship between Clear Creek trustees and administration.

deaths

Robert Covington, retired missionary to the Bahamas, Spain and Holland, died May 3 after a long illness. He was 72. He and his wife, the former Laurie Burnett of Fulton County, became missionary associates in 1976. They retired in 1983. Covington most recently had been pastor of Moscow (Ky.) Baptist Church. He received a BS degree from Murray (Ky.) State University and a BDiv degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex. He also attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. Survivors include his wife; a brother, Hubert, Murfreesboro, Tenn.; two sisters, Aileen Gamblin and Louise Kolb, both of Paducah; two sons, a daughter and five grandchildren.

Robert Reno, pastor of Becknerville Mission, Elkhorn Association, died Apr. 30.

personnel

Richard Vaughn resigned as pastor of Howard's Mill Baptist Church, Boone's Creek Association, to accept the pastorate of Calvary Baptist Church, Mercer Association.

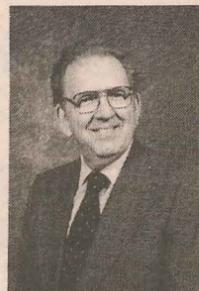
Corinth Baptist Church, Boone's Creek Association, called **Ron Shaw** as new pastor. He goes from New Salem Baptist Church, Laurel River Association.

Thomas A. Wicker has been called as pastor of Jackson Grove Baptist Church, Warren Association. He is a graduate of Cumberland College and will complete his work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, this summer. He is married to the former Teresa Gilbert and they have a daughter, Amanda, age one.

Sinking Creek Baptist Church, Laurel River Association, called **Mark A. Wicker** as pastor. Apr. 29 the church honored Earl Clark, former interim pastor and a professor at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.



Covington



Bell

Earl S. Bell, pastor in Kentucky 36 of his 45 years in the ministry, announced his retirement effective July 1. He has been pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Frankfort, 11 years. He has served two terms on the executive board and has been on the board of directors for Baptist Hospitals Inc. He is currently second vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and chairman of the state committee of Kentucky Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Bell will be available for interim pastorates and supply work in Kentucky. He will continue to reside in Frankfort.

First Baptist Church, Russellville, called **Marvin Shelton** as minister of administration and education, effective the first Sunday in June. He goes from First Baptist Church, LaPlace, La.

revivals

Big Creek Baptist Church, Three Forks Association, had 20 professions of faith, one addition by letter and 25 other decisions in Here's Hope revival. John Tallent was evangelist. Douglas Lewis is pastor.

Harris Memorial Baptist Church, Tates Creek Association, had nine professions of faith and one rededication in Here's Hope revival. William R. Beard, director of missions in Taylor County, was evangelist. George Lee Shelton is pastor.

First Baptist Church, Corbin, experienced Here's Hope revival with evangelist Angel Martinez and musician Pete Nunez. There were numerous rededications, 13 professions of faith and

two additions by letter. John Dunaway is pastor.

Highlands Baptist Church, Elkhorn Association, held revival Apr. 22-25. Damon Jones, pastor of First Baptist Church, Artemes, was evangelist. William Mitchell, Northview Baptist Church, led music. There were seven professions of faith and several rededications. James Stanhope is pastor.

Bruner's Chapel Baptist Church, Mercer Association, held Here's Hope revival Apr. 22-27. Arnold Moon was evangelist and Jerry Lester directed music. The church had 240 in Sunday school, 320 in morning worship and an average attendance each night of 211. There were 23 professions of faith and six additions by letter. Don Reed is pastor.

congregations

May 20 **Second Baptist Church**, Hopkinsville, Christian County Association, celebrated its 80th anniversary with homecoming. The church was organized Apr. 3, 1910, having begun as a mission of First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville. There were 33 charter members, and the congregation is now in its third sanctuary with more than 2000 members. At homecoming, lunch was served following morning worship. An afternoon program featured former members and staff and descendants of charter members. Kent Workman is pastor.

Hill Grove Baptist Church, Salem Association, promoted the Annie Armstrong Easter offering in two unique ways. It held a "missions slave auction" in which members "bought" youth and adults who donated up to five hours of work as "slaves for Annie." Members gave their "bid" to the Annie Armstrong offering. The children's Sunday school department held a "flying kites for Annie" drive. A scale was set up on a wall and each class could see its kite rise as children gave their offerings. The church increased its home missions offering by 66 percent.



First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, Anderson Association, broke ground Apr. 22 for a new Christian life center. The center will include a gymnasium, six Sunday school rooms, craft room, game room, floor walking track and elevated jogging track. Pictured are (l-r) Kelly Thompson, cochairman; Steve Kerr, Branscum Construction Co.; John Perry, committee member; Paul Boblett and Mark Coffey, youngest church members; Dave Disponett, cochairman; Tanya Best, James Freeman, Lois Ann Disponett Hyatt, Paul Hanks and Andrew Bird, committee members; Lizzie Babbage, oldest church member present; Ken Brooks, Johnson-Romanowitz Architects. Bob C. Jones is pastor.



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR MAY 27, 1990

Life and work series

Forsaking the Lord

Jer. 2:5-8: How startling was Jeremiah's description of the transgressions, corruption and idolatry of God's chosen people! Being the true patriot that he was, as well as a lover and devoted servant of God, Jeremiah had not close his eyes to the enormity of their sins. One is made to shrink in horror at the shameful spectacle of the Israelites indulging in their sinful ways of

disobedience and disloyalty to their God and devotion to false idols.

Jer 2:11-13: God mentioned to Jeremiah two tragic sins of his people. The first was the sin of desertion: "They have forsaken me." It seems almost impossible that a nation which had been so blessed of God and had risen to such grand heights because of his blessing and guidance should, in the midst of prosperity, turn from the one who had done so much for them. God had been merciful and just in all his dealings with them and there was not justifiable reason for them to desert him.

Their second sin was substituting something else for Jehovah. No one is ever justified in substituting false gods for the true and living God. How tragic that so many people have hewn out a little cistern for themselves that cannot hold any water!

These same sins are still being committed by nations of the world on a wide scale today. The sin of forsaking God is irrational, unnatural, unjustifiable and ungrateful. The most common evidence of desertion is forgetfulness of God. It is tragic that so many live in the land of forgetfulness where the voice of praise and thanksgiving is never heard. When they come to this fountain and drink of these living waters they will enjoy the complete satisfaction of the divine provision. The supply from this fountain is inexhaustible and all sufficient.

International series

Loyalty and discipleship

II John 1-6: John penned this short

epistle to a Christian lady and her family. He assured them that other believers also loved them. John gave them the blessed assurance that God their Father through Christ his Son would bestow upon them the wonderful gifts of grace, mercy and peace. John requested the believers to continue walking in the truth and in sacrificial love.

John warned his readers that false teachers and deceivers would attempt to lead them astray. Those who perverted the biblical message concerning the deity of Christ and sought to place him on the mere human level were to be refused hospitality, encouragement or approval.

III John 1-8: The recipient of this brief epistle from the apostle John was "the well beloved Gaius." Gaius was held in high and affectionate esteem by all sorts of men. John had a special love for Gaius, who had received God's truth from him.

John informed Gaius that it was his earnest wish and prayer for him that his financial prosperity and physical health might come to match his spiritual condition. Regular feeding on the word of God, faithfulness in earnest prayer and walking in the spirit will keep Christians in a healthy spiritual condition.

Diotrephes, who wanted to have his way about everything that was done in the church, made false accusations against John in the hope that he could thereby turn the members of the church against him. He thought that if he could undermine the influence of the apostle he could thereby exalt himself and increase his own influence but in this he was wrong.



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homes for children

Why our children need us

L. Stanley Chauvin Jr., president of the American Bar Association, in an article in the February 1990 edition of the *ABA Journal*, painted a tragic picture of what happens to children in just one day in America. Using statistics drawn from the Children's Defense Fund, 1988 census data and annual crime reports he noted that on the average:

- 2795 teenagers become pregnant (1106 will later have abortions; 372 will miscarry)
- 1027 babies are born drug or alcohol exposed in utero
- 67 babies under one month old die
- 105 babies under one year old die
- 211 children are arrested for drug abuse
- 437 children are arrested for drinking and/or drunken driving
- 10 children die from gunshot wounds
- 30 children are wounded by gunfire
- 135,000 children bring a gun to school
- 1512 teenagers drop out of school
- 1840 children are abused or neglected
- six teenagers commit suicide
- 3288 children run away from home
- 1629 children are in adult jails.

When you multiply those numbers by 365 days, you suddenly realize how tragic life is for many of the children today.

From my vantage point those numbers turn into real faces with names and stories most of us find almost impossible to believe. Those children are at Glen Dale, Spring Meadows, Youth Ranch, Dixon and Morehead. In some ways those children are the fortunate ones. They have a place to sleep, food to eat and someone to care. I am concerned about the thousands of children whose cries for help go unheard.



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

A perfect baseball game

Have you ever seen a perfect baseball game? Such a game was played on Saturday, May 12 on the Cordia field between Oneida and Cordia which had won the conference baseball championship each of the past nine years. Oneida won 15-0 with the game called at the end of five innings.

Our Mountaineers allowed Cordia no hits, no walks. There were no errors. Brandon Bowman, a junior who came to us three years ago after the graduation of a cousin, pitched the entire game. He is a solid "B" student and had previously pitched five other "no hit" innings this season. Brandon's father died only two months after he became an Oneida student. He is the tenth of eleven children.

Another player of note is Jeremy Hunter, an eighth grader playing on our high school team. He is the youngest of three children and his father also died three years ago. Jeremy has broken some of our baseball records even though he is quite young. Our team is going into district competition with an 18-12 overall record.

Back at Oneida, our boys track and field team was setting new regional records in daylong competition with eight other teams. Our team defeated Harlan which was ranked second in the state in Class A competition. Oneida got 153 points to Harlan's 138.

Senior Jeff Jackson set a new regional record with a discus throw of 143'2". With us four years, he also won first place in shot put with a throw of 41'3".

Junior Damon Tigner set a new regional record of 6'8" in the high jump, matching the jump he made last year to win the state championship at Lexington. He also took two other first places with a 21'10" long jump and a 41'2" triple jump. He has been with us three years.

Freshman Micah Hasty who came to us in the eighth grade came in first in the 1600 meter run in a time of 4:47.3. He also had second place in the 800 meter dash in 2:07.1.

Joey Smith, a junior who came to us in seventh grade, ran first in the 3200 meter run in 10:56 and was second in the 1600 meter run in 4:56.

Louie Lagunsad took first place in the pole vault with a jump of 10'6". He is a freshman who first came to us in the sixth grade. His stepfather graduated here 35 years ago.

Another freshman, Jimmy Black, who also came in the sixth grade was second in pole vault behind Louie with 10'0" and fourth in the 110 hur-

dles in 16.9 seconds. He has been with us four years.

Junior David Dewar came to us as a seventh grader. He came in second in the high jump behind state champion Tigner with a 6'2" jump.

Senior Amare Gurum, with us three years from Ethiopia, came in third in the 300 hurdles in 43.7 seconds.

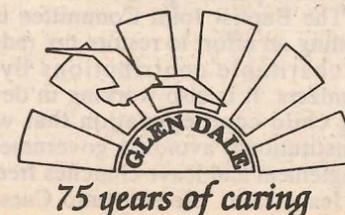
Our Oneida girls came in seventh in the region out of ten schools competing. Teresa Quillen took second in the high jump with 4'6" and third in the long jump with 14'5". She is a senior having come as a freshman.

Rick Coffey has coached five state champions in track and field in the past five years and was voted "swimming coach of the year" by the coaches of 22 counties three years ago. He and Mrs. Coffey, an outstanding middle school teacher, came to be with us one year and have now served 12 years.

Harold Underwood was voted "coach of the year" in baseball by the coaches of our conference recently for his first year results. It was also his first year as soccer coach and a district championship win, and his third year as wrestling coach. In his fifth year of service here, he is our auto mechanics and welding teacher.

Coach Polly Derryberry's Lady Mountaineers also won the conference softball championship defeating Cordia on the Red Bird field. As I told you last week it was a thriller to the last second of the game.

We have gotten the news that a 1989 graduate is the president of the student body at Morehead State and a 1988 graduate has been elected president of the West Virginia Tech student body. Two '86 grads and a former student have been accepted into medical colleges in the past month. To God be the glory!



christian education

georgetown college

Several members of the Georgetown (Ky.) College faculty and staff were awarded service pins during the college's annual faculty and staff banquet May 4.

Those honored: 10 years—Jack Birdwhistell, Joyce Davis, Donna Hawkins and Cathy Smith Buckman; 15 years—Fred Cook, Robert Davis and Ishmael Gibson; 20 years—Lindsey Apple, Keon Chi, Margaret Greynolds, Martha Simpson and Lois Muddiman; 25 years—Dennis Dedrick, Ilse Newbery and Robert Williams; 30 years—David Davila, James McCormick and Robert Snyder; 35 years—Wayne Johnson.

Revere bowls were presented to retiring personnel: Ruby Burden, Harold Cook, David Davila, Henry Devers, Wayne Johnson and Anne Lewis.

campbellsville college

Campbellsville (Ky.) College has a new 800 telephone number. The number is 1-800-264-6014.

Frank Cheatham, professor of math and computer science, Campbellsville (Ky.) College, was honored during the school's honors day program May 2.

Cheatham received a Sears-Roebuck Foundation award for teaching excellence and campus leadership. He was presented a certificate and check for \$1000.

Campbellsville (Ky.) College assistant professor of music Robert Gaddis has been chosen president elect of the Kentucky Association of College Music Departments.

KACMD is a service organization "acting in advisory capacity of music matters as they affect higher education." Its purpose, among others, is to increase the effectiveness and standards of departments of music in institutions of higher learning in Kentucky.

Gaddis has been teaching at the college since 1982. He received his BA and his MA in music education from Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green. He is working on an EdD degree with an emphasis in music education at the University of Kentucky, Lexington.

southern seminary

Louisville attorney Joseph E. Stopher has been chosen by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, to receive the 1990 George W. Norton Award.

The award, named in memory of the late Louisville businessman and seminary benefactor, is presented annually to honor outstanding service and contributions to the seminary.

Stopher, senior partner in the law firm of Boehl, Stopher, Graves and Deindoefer, ended a 33-year tenure on the seminary's board of trustees in 1985. His current civic activities include service as vice president of the Kentucky State Fair board and president of the Gheens Foundation. He is also a director of Liberty-United Bancorp Inc.

Stopher did undergraduate studies at the University of Louisville where he also earned the JD degree from the university's law school.

southeastern seminary

Sherryan Yarbrough of Glasgow is the

recipient of the Broadman Press Award from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

Miss Yarbrough received the award as the graduating senior with the highest academic average. The award was presented during the schools commencement exercises May 14.

southwestern seminary

A group of 12 persons from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., traveled to the central coast of Brazil this month to share information and strategies for evangelism with Brazilian Baptists.

Carol Gatz, of Southwestern's World Mission and Evangelism Center, said the group includes seminary students, their family members and one seminary graduate. The group left May 13 to spend two weeks in Feira de Santana in the Brazilian state of Bahia.

"We'll be teaching classes at the Baptist Bible Institute there and we'll also be working in area churches," said Miss Gatz, who is part of the team. "Our teaching emphasis will be evangelism in the local church," she said.

Group members are also taking boxes of clothing to distribute in the city, located in a poor district hit hard by recent flooding. Several professional athletic teams in the Ft. Worth-Dallas area, along with Baptist agencies, have donated T-shirts and other novelty items to be distributed as Texas souvenirs.

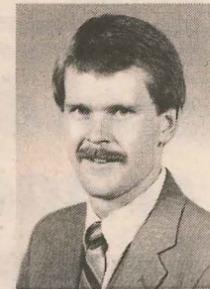
"It's a good way to share with the people something that is an important part of our culture," said Bruce Barrs, an MDiv student from Kermit, Tex. Barrs, who may pursue appointment as a foreign missionary, will be making his second mission trip to the South American country.

Five Kentuckians were among the 462 students who graduated May 11 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

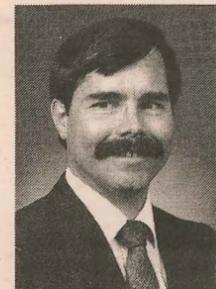
The Kentucky graduates are—Ricard Dean Allen, Somerset, MDiv; Sidney Potter Fulton Jr., Paducah, MDiv; Steven Dale Kellough, Henderson, MM; Joe , Pineville, MDiv; Darrell C. Nimmo, Louisville, MRE.



Miss Yarbrough



Allen



Fulton



Kellough



Lewis



Nimmo

baptist forum

Support for BJCPA

The proposal to defund the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention is a political decision by the present Executive Committee.

The Baptist Joint Committee has saved every pastor and staff member in the Southern Baptist Convention who have funds with the Annuity Board a considerable sum of money in seeing that the Tax Reform Act of 1986 did not tax church pension plans which was in the draft of the act.

The Baptist Joint Committee helped legislation to be amended regarding overseas earned income saving the Foreign Mission Board some two million dollars annually.

The Baptist Joint Committee worked diligently in amending Employees Retirement Income Security Act which saved everyone within the Annuity Board account hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The Baptist Joint Committee informed Baptist pastors of the necessity to restore parsonage allowances.

The Baptist Joint Committee is now leading an effort to restore tax reduction to charitable contributions by non-itemizers. It is also working in developing child care legislation that will be constitutional avoiding government entanglement and leave churches free.

Jesus said, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God

the things that are God's." Let every Southern Baptist be aware of the difference and not so mingle the two—we end up with a watered-down religion, State maintained and controlled

Henry B. Huff
Louisville

Our greatest threat yet

It will be a tragic day for Southern Baptists when the Executive Committee brings its recommendation to, for all intents and purposes, defund the BJCPA. It will be another attempt to do what the convention has refused to do for several years.

"The SBC representation on the BJC is not proportionate to our contribution," they say, but we do not have messengers to the SBC based upon contributions to the Cooperative Program. A church with a \$2500 contribution has the same number of messengers as one which gives \$500,000. Should the churches which give 20% of their budget to the Cooperative Program "defund" our mission program because their representation is not proportionate?

"The BJC is not responsive to the views of the convention," they say, but this committee representing nine Baptist conventions has been a major force for religious liberty in our nation's capital for 50 years.

When Kentucky has been threatened with the use of public funds for parochial schools, our public affairs com-

mittee has gone to the BJC for help and we have received it. I was chairman of the committee on two occasions when this happened and I was grateful for their counsel.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention spoke out on this issue of funding for the BJC last November and the Executive Committee is challenging us—or ignoring us. Kentucky Baptists should not be ignored.

This proposal to defund the BJC is the most threatening action yet to destroy the unity of the SBC. This is not retaliatory action to "get" Dr. James Dunn; this is an action to make suspect the integrity of the SBC in its stand for religious liberty. I fear for our future if we cannot defeat this recommendation in New Orleans.

Malcolm G. Lunceford
Frankfort

We need the BJCPA

The continual personal vendetta against James Dunn and the Baptist Joint Committee by members of the Executive Committee is a divisive issue in our convention. The basic move is to defund the Baptist Joint Committee by something like 87% and turn their responsibilities over to the Christian Life Commission and thereby have only a Southern Baptist voice in Washington to represent us.

Is this wise? I do not believe it is for two reasons: one is the motivation is

wrong because it is a personal vendetta. Second, a new organization neither has the experience or the respect to accomplish what the Baptist Joint Committee has over the years. The BJC has, over and over, demonstrated its value to Southern Baptists. Within the last year the Baptist Joint Committee has been involved with the Helsinki Commission, working to guarantee religious freedom to Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria.

It has assisted the White House in shaping the Act for Disabled Americans to protect the churches from government intrusion. In addition to this it has helped the Internal Revenue Service formulate policies that prevent additional taxation on church programs such as day care.

At this time it is helping the Foreign Mission Board meet with the top State Department officials to discuss the free movement of missionaries in eastern Europe.

The route the Executive Committee is recommending would harm Southern Baptists in the total Baptist efforts in religious freedom and the separation of church and state. I would hope Southern Baptists will vote their recommendations down in New Orleans and assure the agency of our support and encourage the Christian Life Commission to continue their work in the field of ethics and human rights.

John Dunaway
Corbin

Islam playing major role as USSR unravels

by Erich Bridges

If Mikhail Gorbachev thinks he has problems with little independence-minded Lithuania, wait until Soviet Central Asia awakens.

The giant already is stirring, with separatist violence in Azerbaijan, Muslim riots in Tadzhikistan, nationalist unrest in Kazakhstan, and demonstrations and deaths in Uzbekistan. But these are only the beginnings of the birth pangs, according to Soviet experts.

The Soviet Union, or "Disunion" as some now call it, sprawls over 15 republics with 289 million people, some 150 languages, and scores of ethnic nationalities stretched over 8.6 million square miles and 11 time zones. But now the ethnic and political patchwork—stitched together over the centuries by warlords, regional monarchs, the czars and finally the communists—is beginning to unravel.

Sovietologists estimate between eight and 14 separate nations may exist in what is now the Soviet Union by the end of this decade. A Soviet journalist commented, "We have 100 ethnic groups and 15 republics which have nothing in common besides that, unfortunately, they are part of the Soviet Union."

Gorbachev's own reforms—along with nationalism in the republics, renewed ethnic identities and the decline of communism—are contributing to

the collapse of the monolithic Soviet state. But the religious forces Josef Stalin tried so hard to stamp out also are playing a role. Christianity is the major faith to be reckoned with in Russia itself, the Baltic states, the Ukraine and other European Soviet republics.

Orthodox believers, Roman Catholics and Protestants, long persecuted by the communists, are exercising their new freedoms and asking for more. But Soviet Central Asia is a different world, an Islamic world. Along with Azerbaijan, five Central Asian republics remain Muslim despite seven decades of religious oppression and the influx of masses of ethnic Russians. And Soviet reforms are allowing Muslims to rediscover their identity and power.

Soviet Central Asia reaches from the Ural Mountains in the northwest to the China border in the east. Islam arrived there more than a thousand years ago with armies of various invaders and along trade routes like the Silk Road. Muslims in the Soviet Union now number some 55 million, the fifth-largest national Muslim population in the world. They are growing at five times the pace of the rest of the Soviet population.

One of every six Soviet citizens is Muslim. Many Soviet Muslims now operate their own schools, courts and other institutions. Some are calling for a return to a modified Arabic alphabet.

Many have close religious, ethnic and cultural ties to Muslims in neighboring Turkey, China, Iran and Afghanistan. And to the dismay of Soviet authorities, many seem eager to expand ties with the 800-million-member world of international Islam.

"They're very different from the Russian people," said a researcher on the Soviet Union. "They have a different heritage, different values, different ethics. The ideal was that the Soviet Union would produce the 'Soviet Man'—socialist, atheist and committed to the Soviet state.

"But indications are it's going in the opposite direction," he said. "The Russian Slavs are carrying on a European civilization. Central Asian civilization is much more nomadic and even when it's sedentary it's not urban or technological. It's very Islamic." Some Uzbeks and Tadzhiks talk of establishing independent Islamic republics.

So do many Azerbaijanis, 70 percent of whom are Shiite Muslims related to their cultural cousins in Iran. (Most other Muslims in the Soviet Union are members of the Sunni branch of Islam, which encompasses 85 percent of the world's Muslims.) Talk of independence stems more from nationalism and anti-Soviet feeling than Muslim fervor, most observers agree. But Islam is a powerful rallying cry.

"That's one of the real threats Islam

poses to the Soviet Union," said the researcher. It offers one of the few comprehensive alternatives to Soviet communist society. It's so diametrically opposed to that society that it's really a life-and-death issue."

Stalin, in his merciless drive for power, understood that threat well. He executed or imprisoned thousands of Muslim mullahs and closed or destroyed thousands of mosques during his campaign to eradicate religion.

"Islam has suffered more persecution than Christianity has in the Soviet Union," claimed one mission specialist, citing systematic effort to suppress the faith even into the 1980s. "And yet it's proven to be perhaps even more resilient than Christianity." The persecution produced an underground network of mosques that continue to thrive, far outnumbering the 450 or so "official" mosques now in operation.

Also growing are powerful cells of Muslims called Sufi brotherhoods, which practice a mystical form of Islam led by holy men called shamans and characterized by ecstatic worship. They are involved in Muslim missionary activity—and virulently anti-Soviet.

However, many Soviet Muslims also are hostile to Christianity, which they still see as a legacy of Russian colonial culture despite official Soviet atheism. That view poses a challenge to Christian missions, whether or not the Central Asian republics remain a part of the Soviet Union.

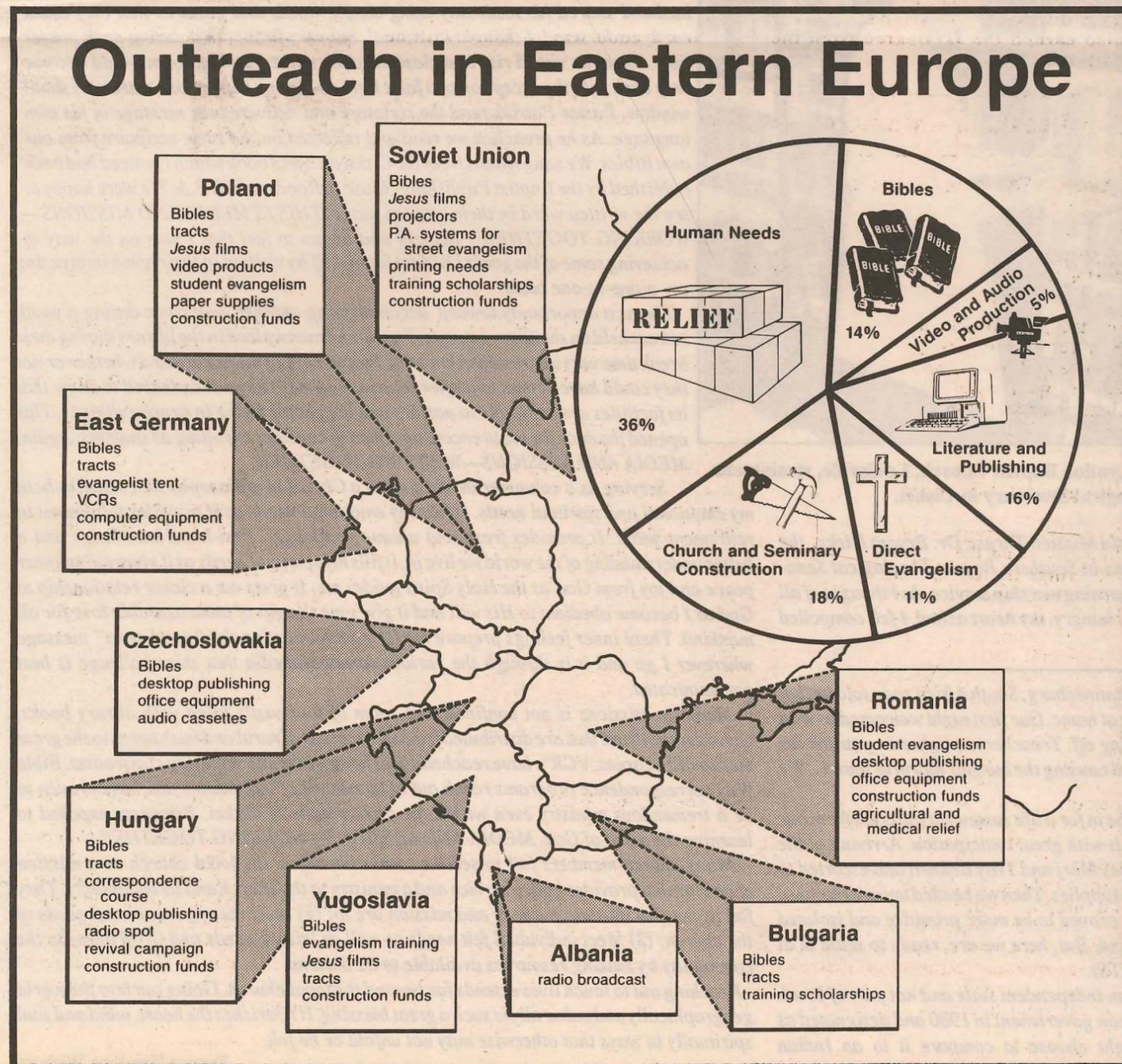
"This is in the heart of the unevangelized world," said one Christian observer, referring to the swath of countries stretching from north Africa across Asia containing most of the world's major unevangelized people groups.

Christians in Soviet Central Asia, mostly ethnics from other parts of the Soviet Union, reportedly are working to spread the gospel in the area. Christians elsewhere, experts say, need to pray for the peoples of the region, support Bible translations and Christian broadcasts, and send trained professionals to share their faith while meeting needs in education, business, technology and other areas.

Government officials in the Asian republics reportedly are eager for such foreign assistance. As one Christian researcher noted: "The opportunities for relationships and involvement of Christians in these republics are unprecedented in modern times. Not since the earliest Muslim traders carried their faith with them into Central Asia have there been such clear openings for a new infusion of people, trade and ideas." (BP)

Baptists respond...

Veteran missionaries George and Veda Rae Lozuk will be Southern Baptists' first full time workers assigned to the Soviet Union. The son of a Russian immigrant father and Polish immigrant mother, Lozuk currently is associate director of Southern Baptist work in the Spanish-speaking countries of South America. He is from Ft. Worth, Tex. and she is from Corpus Christi, Tex. The Lozuks are among some 25 workers who have been selected or are being sought by the Foreign Mission Board for full time positions in eastern Europe. In addition to personnel, Southern Baptists have earmarked more than \$2.5 million for the region (see adjacent graph). (BP)



Convention Focus

A news feature about Kentucky Baptist Building departments and programs

Published by the Communications Division, Kentucky Baptist Convention

Media library ministry goes beyond the local church

Margie Bowling, media library director at Lyndon Baptist Church, Louisville, and her husband, Paul, a retired bank executive, believe in missions. Just recently—December 1989 through March 1990—the Bowling's served as volunteer media library missionaries at the Baptist International Theological Seminary in the Republic of Ciskei. This assignment was not their first.

Following Mr. Bowling's retirement in 1981, the couple has served as volunteer missionaries three times in Zimbabwe and as mission corps volunteers in Yakima, Washington and Billings, Montana (Yellowstone Bible College). Although a majority of their service has been media library-related, the Bowling's have performed other duties. Mrs. Bowling has worked as a secretary to a college registrar; Mr. Bowling has supervised Baptist Book Store management and worked as an accountant.

Before leaving for Ciskei, Mrs. Bowling was asked to write a journal concerning some of their experiences during this mission trip. The following are excerpts from her entries:



Margie Bowling, media library director at Lyndon Baptist Church, Louisville, straightens library books at Baptist International Theological Seminary in Ciskei.

It was in 1976 that I first became aware of Bold Mission Thrust. Dr. Bryant Hicks, the M. Theron Rankin Professor of Foreign Missions at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, presented the challenge during a Sunday morning worship service. As I thought of all the lost people in the world who were spiritually hungry, my heart ached. I felt compelled to do something about it.

The rains had already begun. Our arrival in Johannesburg, South Africa soon told us that the hard rains here are quite different from those at home. Our first night welcomed us with claps of thunder that we mistook for bombs going off. Treacherous lightning struck the missionary guest house knocking down bricks and causing the burglar alarm to sound. We were reminded we were once again in Africa.

Leaving Johannesburg, I knew we would soon be in for a life somewhat different from our past experiences in Africa. I looked forward to it with great anticipation. Arriving at the East London airport, we were met by missionaries Marj and Troy Bennett and escorted to King William's Town where we shopped for food supplies. Then we headed toward our final destination—the African homeland of Ciskei. It proved to be more primitive and isolated than the image I had conjured up in my own mind. But, here we are, ready to settle in at Baptist International Theological Seminary (BITS).

Our mission site—the Republic of Ciskei—is an independent state and not part of South Africa. Ciskei was established by the South African government in 1980 and designated as belonging to the African Ciskeians. One might choose to compare it to an Indian reservation. However, the difference is that Ciskei has its own government and presidency (His Excellency, Dr. L. L. Sebe) heading up its Parliament.

When we began our duty on December 2, the Christmas season was well underway. King William's Town was experiencing an exodus as families were striking out to the beaches of Cape Town and East London for a sophisticated holiday. This is the normal time of year for summer vacations. The absence of towns people is particularly noticed in the churches. Sunday School sessions and Wednesday evening services are dispensed with until the first of the new year.

Settling in means getting used to receiving electrical current from a generator that operates from 6:00-10:30 p.m. Within that time, we manage to do our laundry, iron, vacuum, use the hair dryer and other such tacks. We have hot water once a day for taking showers which are heated by a coal stove. To make a phone call, it is necessary to crank it up for 10 seconds to get the operator to answer. Managing to get a call through on an unknown number of party lines is nothing less than a miracle.

When it was discovered that the library had lacked proper organization, immediate steps were taken to reclassify, reaccess and retype all catalog cards. Missionary Marj Bennett was assigned the challenge of reorganizing the library. Prior to our arrival, volunteers had already come from the United States to help with the project. Following their departure my husband, Paul, has continued with the process of mending books and I am reclassifying and retyping catalog cards.

As we worshipped in Pastor Patrick's round hut one Sunday morning, I thanked the Lord for protecting us from the hot burning sun and for the opportunity to join our brothers and sisters in Christ in giving praises to the one and true God. My husband shared his testimony using simple words and gestures that they could easily understand. I thought it unusual, but very fitting, that during each prayer time, someone would rise and close the door to the hut. The room would become very dark with the exception of a faint light streaming in from one extremely small window. Pastor Patrick read the scripture and delivered the message in his own language. As he preached we read and reflected on the same scripture from our own Bibles. We sang hymns from the Ciskeian hymn book which I noticed had been published by the Baptist Publishing House in Roodeport, R.S.A. We were happy to see the written word in their own language. THIS IS MEDIA AND MISSIONS—WORKING TOGETHER I thought and began to feel that I was on the way in achieving some of the goals I had set for myself by visiting in their home interacting on a one-to-one basis.

The next opportunity toward accomplishing another goal came during a youth retreat held on seminary campus. Two young men walked in the library during their break time very interested in knowing the purpose of the library and whether or not they could have access to it after returning home. They were pleased to know that its facilities are available to pastors and lay people living in nearby villages. This opened the door for me to encourage them to consider enrolling as students. Again, MEDIA AND MISSIONS—WORKING TOGETHER.

Serving as a volunteer in missions is a Christian philosophy that satisfies both my emotional and spiritual needs. It fills my emotional needs as it provides fulfillment in retirement years. It provides fresh and unique challenges, first-hand knowledge and a better understanding of the world we live in. It fills my spiritual needs as it gives me an inner peace and joy from God as the Holy Spirit guides me. It gives me a closer relationship to God as I become obedient to His will and it gives me the gift of immeasurable love for all mankind. These inner feelings prepare me for communicating the "good news" message wherever I go and it is through the various forms of media that this challenge is best communicated.

Media in missions is not confined to a room of four walls filled with library books. Consider the tracts that are distributed from the smallest of rural and bush areas to the great metropolitan areas. VCR's have reached even the most remote seminary classrooms. Bible Way correspondence programs reach out to thousands of individuals and have proven to be a tremendous ministry even within the prison walls of Ciskei. Prisoners exposed to learning the word of God. MEDIA AND MISSIONS—WORKING TOGETHER.

Many church members fail to see the media library in the local church as a mission endeavor that provides both a service and a ministry to the church and its community. They fail to see that its main purpose and mission are to: (1) Meet the organizational needs of the church; (2) Meet individual felt needs as well as leisure needs and (3) Witness to the community by making resources available to its citizens.

Reaching out to touch lives extends far beyond the local church. Going out into the world geographically and culturally is such a great blessing. It nourishes the heart, mind and soul spiritually in ways that otherwise may not unfold or be felt.

Denise Hawkins Withers