

Kentuckians hold variety of views on CP giving

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor
and Marv Knox, Editor

Kentucky Baptists' opinions about channeling their cooperative ministry money are almost as numerous as Kentucky Baptists, according to an informal Western Recorder survey.

The Cooperative Program, the Southern Baptist Convention's unified budget that helps finance evangelistic, educational and ministry efforts worldwide, has been at the center of SBC attention all summer.

Angered by an SBC vote to cut its contribution to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs by 87 percent and 12 years of election losses, some Baptists came home from the convention's annual meeting in New Orleans determined to reconsider their financial support for the national convention. Their resolve stiffened when the SBC Executive Committee fired two Baptist Press staff members a month later.

Other Baptists, agreeing that the convention is moving in a positive direction, returned from New Orleans vowing their increased support for the CP.

It is financed by contributions from individual Southern churches. They pass on to their churches, and the churches pass on a portion of their budgets (an average of about 9 percent of undesignated receipts) to state conventions. In the Bluegrass State, the Kentucky Baptist Convention retains 61.25 percent of its CP receipts and passes 38.75 percent on to national causes, to be disbursed by the SBC Executive Committee.

The Western Recorder polled a dozen pastors about the CP issue. None indicated an inclination to reduce or designate their churches' giving to KBC causes, but their views on the national CP varied:

• Don Mathis, Central, Corbin. "The Cooperative Program is not a 'perfect program' but it is the best vehicle we have for support of missions among evangelical Christians. If designated giving becomes widespread, it will dismantle the Cooperative Program. I would hope that churches so inclined would be patient. I might have been inclined to recommend designated giving myself in times past, but certainly not now."

• Jim England, Deer Park, Louisville. "We are designating funds to stay in Kentucky now. It may be the only way to get ourselves heard. We're also hearing very clearly from people on the mission field that,

except for evangelists and church planters, their work. We have escrowed the part of our giving that is to go beyond Kentucky, and hope to make a decision on the rest of it by October."

• Ron Higdon, Broadway, Louisville. "We voted to escrow Cooperative Program funds until we decide at a September business meeting what to do. People are no longer willing to give their money if they have no voice in how it is spent. It's hard to keep your money going in when people keep saying, 'We wish you would get out.' The Cooperative Program was built on missions and evangelism but also on trust, but that (trust) is a significantly diminished factor now."

• David Nelson, First, Owensboro. "I have no statement to make, for we have not studied it as a church as of this date."

• Rob Nash, Buechel Park, Louisville.

"We have voted in mid-June to escrow SBC funds and are to vote this month on a designation plan which our deacons have put together. We had no alternative. We can almost double our gifts to missions by designating our money instead of sending it to boards we don't approve of. We have got to be able to give to missions with integrity, and that's worth a lot to us."

• Ferrill Gardner, Carlisle Avenue, Louisville. "We need to go on as we are. I fully support the Cooperative Program. Our church is to vote next week on a new budget and there is an increase in it for Cooperative Program. I urge churches to continue on in support of the CP as they have in the past."

• Ted Sisk, Immanuel, Lexington. "I am basically against designations. If the people in our churches did that, our unified budgets would be wrecked. And if our churches did, our Cooperative Program would be wrecked."

• C.C. Brasher Jr., Briensburg, Benton. "I have never been against designating. I have always done that. I have lost a vote or two (at conventions) but never came home and changed the situation."

• Steve Shoemaker, Crescent Hill, Louisville. "We will continue to support persons and causes we believe in and which God calls us to support, but we will support them through a mechanism which does not violate our conscience. That is, we send our money to them in another way than through the hands of those who control the SBC and have contempt for those with whom they differ. This may be through direct designation of gifts; it may be through the formation of a new, free cooperative program. We do not intend to leave the SBC."

• Robert Browning, First, Somerset. "I have mixed reactions. The autonomy of the local church allows each church to make

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MASS BAPTISM—New Christians in Kenya were immersed in the Indian Ocean while hundreds of people on the shore sang, clapped and danced following a recent crusade in the African country. Here Joseph Maisha (right foreground), pastor of Ushindi Baptist Church in Mombasa, and James T.

Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Tex., baptize a new believer while others wait their turn. Southern Baptist Convention president Morris Chapman, a crusade participant, looks on.

(BP photo by Charles Ledford)

Agencies discuss mutual telecommunications concerns

by Dick McCartney & Linda Lawson

Leaders of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and Radio and Television Commission have re-opened discussions on ways the two agencies can work together in a telecommunications ministry for Southern Baptists.

RTVC President Jack Johnson and SSB President Lloyd Elder have met twice since the June 21 decision by Sunday School Board trustees to terminate the Baptist Telecommunication Network Oct. 1.

Elder reported that earlier discussions between the agencies have been held beginning with the start-up of BTN and the ACTS network.

In a joint statement, they said, "Our mutual objective is to explore options for working cooperatively within our respective program assignments to enhance one telecommunications system for the benefit of Southern Baptist churches and the entire denomination and to offer customer-supported video products."

Areas of discussion include "joint research, relationships with state conventions, joint productions, the possible marketing of RTVC programs and services through BSSB channels and marketing of BSSB products and services through the ACTS Network," the statement continued.

However, they emphasized, "As these discussions proceed, we may eliminate some of these areas and discover others with greater potential."

Elder and Johnson said they have not set a date for completing their talks.

"Our stewardship demands both careful deliberation and appropriate speed," the statement said. "We want to find out what Southern Baptists want and need from our two agencies."

A Sunday School Board video marketing task force has been named to study Southern Baptist needs in video and other audiovisual products. The task force, to be chaired by Joe Denney, director of the BTN/audiovisuals department, also will consider organizational and personnel needs for

producing and marketing video and other audiovisual products, Elder said.

Conversations with the RTVC are crucial to the board's overall research and service commitment to the churches, he said.

Johnson said the discussions could open up new ways the two agencies can work together for the benefit of local churches.

"The Radio-TV Commission is committed to helping churches take full advantage of the television and video opportunities. These discussions may prove to be the beginning of a new cooperative relationship with very positive implications for our churches and associations," he explained.

In their joint statement, Johnson and Elder concluded: "We believe Southern Baptists must use television, video tapes and other media to share the gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000 and beyond. Our commitment is finding ways we can work together most effectively and efficiently to support Southern Baptists in our common mission." (BP)

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FMB receives reports from Kuwait, Liberia

Conflicting reports on the whereabouts of a Southern Baptist family in Iraqi-controlled Kuwait have been issued by U.S. State Department spokespersons in Washington, who nevertheless assure that Maurice and Laurie Graham and their two sons are safe.

Meanwhile, in Liberia, a rebel commander told Southern Baptist missionaries Ed and Fran Laughridge Aug. 10 that they were free to leave their mission station and depart from the country.

State Department spokesperson Jill Misage said of the Grahams in Kuwait, "We know that they are OK and they have been in contact with the embassy."

On Aug. 8, spokesperson Judy Dunbar reported to Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials that the Grahams and their sons had taken shelter in the embassy.

Misage, however, could not confirm the Aug. 8 report. "I am not even certain they are residing (at the embassy)," she said Aug. 10. "I know that they are with a (U.S. embassy official's) family, but I don't have any further information."

State Department spokespersons said they had no estimates of the number of Americans who have taken shelter in the embassy. An estimated 3000 Americans remain in Kuwait waiting for word from Iraqi officials that they may leave. Kuwait's borders, airports and docks remain closed, Misage said, and thus no evacuation plans for Americans have been formulated.

In Liberia, the Laughridges and their son Edward, 20, have decided to stay on in Mano River because of the need for relief work in the area, Mrs. Laughridge said via radio.

"We feel for now we have a needed ministry here," she said. "Our situation has improved considerably. The regional (rebel) commander said we are free to come and go across the border as we please. There are no restrictions. At this point we are not planning to leave immediately."

Mrs. Laughridge said tension in the area has decreased and the number of rebel troops has dropped.

The Laughridges met with the rebel commander Aug. 10. The commander said the family had been free to leave all along. Their six-day detention was the result of a misunderstanding with a lower-level rebel commander, he said.

Tension between the missionaries and local rebels in the Mano River area began to ease several days before the meeting with the regional commander.

In fact, Laughridge and a group of rebel soldiers drove Aug. 8 to the Sierra Leone border and received a supply of rice from Southern Baptist missionary Dean Ekberg. He had evacuated from the country earlier and now is helping with relief work for Liberian refugees in Sierra Leone, where hunger is severe.

Southern Baptist missionaries working with Liberian refugees in Ivory Coast reported similar hunger needs.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has spent \$98,000 through the Ivory Coast mission organization for the Liberian Refugee Project. Brown and other mission workers have distributed food to more than 16,000 Liberian refugees in the last few months, he said. Recently the Foreign Mission Board released an additional \$150,000 for the relief project.

Women pastors still can't get HMB aid

by Sarah Zimmerman

Rather than rescinding a policy prohibiting financial assistance to churches with women pastors, trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board voted to affirm the role of women in missions support.

Albert Simms, retired pastor from Richmond, Va., offered a motion to rescind the policy during the board meeting Aug. 8.

Earlier in the meeting, trustees heard that 1990 receipts for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are up 6.74 percent over 1989.

The action Simms sought to rescind was passed in October of 1986 and prohibits the HMB from providing financial assistance to churches with women in pastoral roles.

Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., offered a substitute motion to delete all of Simms' proposed resolution except one paragraph dealing with women's contributions to missions support. His substitute motion passed with four votes against it.

The paragraph trustees approved says the HMB "recognizes the significant part women have played in missionary education and in faithful, often sacrificial, financial support of the work of this board." It also expresses gratitude to the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union for promoting the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

After the meeting, Simms called the substitute motion a "parliamentary maneu-

ver to cut the heart out of my resolution."

Johnny Jackson of Little Rock, Ark., chaired the committee which studied the issue for a year before the 1986 policy was established. "The question was not then and is not now the autonomy of local churches," he said. "Any church can ordain and call as pastor any person it so desires. The issue is: Do Southern Baptists in 35,000-plus churches want their Cooperative Program money spent to fund and support women pastors?"

In other business, trustees were told the 1990 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering should total \$34.4 million by year end, based on current receipts. The receipts on Aug. 7 reached \$32.58 million, a 6.74 percent increase over last year. (BP)

Progressive Baptists open door to SBC

by Marv Knox, Editor

The predominantly black Progressive National Baptist Convention has invited disillusioned members of the primarily white Southern Baptist Convention to join its ranks.

PNBC president Fred C. Lofton extended the invitation during a news conference Aug. 6, on the eve of his convention's annual session in Louisville.

"We have met here this week, not to argue about biblical inerrancy, but to put into practice the mandates of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, one in which he states, '...I have come to set the captives free,'" said Lofton, senior pastor of Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.

"As such, we invite those who are disillusioned with the fundamentalist posture to come and join with us as we journey with our Lord in search of the 'beloved community.'"

"We especially invite those Southern Baptists who are disillusioned with the far right in the Southern Baptist Convention to come and join us as representatives of the New South, with an agenda for a new region with new possibilities and potentialities for the Christian church to become an inclusive community of faith, hope and love."

A Baptist church can become a member of the Progressive National Baptist Convention if it contributes 1 percent of its budget to the convention, said PNBC general secretary Tyrone Pitts.

The convention was organized in 1961. It has 1.8 million members in more than 1700 churches in 46 states and four foreign countries.

"They are not dealing with the issues of our day, especially biblical inerrancy," Lofton claimed. "Jesus did not say, 'Worship the Bible.' He said, 'Worship me.'"

Southern Baptist churches could join with Progressive Baptists through dual al-

ignment with both conventions, Lofton noted: "As some of our churches are part of their convention, we are inviting them to become part of us"

"We have no litmus test—just believe in brotherhood and sisterhood; believe in our Lord, Jesus Christ."

Southern Baptists can help Progressives "support black colleges and seminaries that ... have helped to train for over 100 years brilliant black leaders," Lofton said, citing 13 schools in the South.

He also urged Southern Baptists to join in his convention's economic development program. He asked them to join in the boycott of McDonald's, whose franchises, he said, pay workers in predominantly black urban areas an average of \$1 per hour less than workers in predominantly white suburban areas.

Pitts said information about the PNBC is available from the convention office: 601 50th St., NE, Washington, D.C. 20019; phone (202) 396-0559.

Kentuckians cite various perspectives on giving

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decisions and even to make a protest. I would not interfere with that. Our church will be a bit more cautious, however, for two reasons: (1) There are some real emotional ties here. The history of this church includes having a pastor who helped give birth to the Cooperative Program, ... and to discontinue support would be like abandoning a child. (2) We are a church in a traditional setting and people want to be informed even before they register a protest. My personal recommendation, at least for now, is to "stay the course," although I have not ruled out the possibility that we may move in another direction eventually. What we really have now in the convention is "taxation without representation," and you can expect rebellion under those terms."

• Bill Messer, First, Ashland and KBC president. "It's sad it has come to this, but it

reflects a lack of trust of the SBC Executive Committee. Designation goes against everything I've ever been taught about pooling resources and trust and working together, but then these are not normal times. We must maintain the integrity of the state conventions and the local churches. I don't think you'll have mass numbers designating, but a segment will. The result will be that churches like ours, for instance, who are headed for a major renovation project may convert funds they normally would send to the Cooperative Program to building programs or adding a staff member or something similar. They won't be giving less, but they will be giving to different causes than in the past. This sends a clear message to the SBC Executive Committee: "We do not trust you."

• J. Robert White, First, Paducah. "The move currently afoot to escrow and desig-

nate Cooperative Program funds, while an act of frustration, has the inherent danger of doing serious damage to the structure that has served us well. While Conservative leadership has drawn a circle that has shut many out, I would counsel concentration on the fruit of the Spirit.... Traditionally Moderate churches have given well through the Cooperative Program. The alienation of Moderates will require a significant commitment to Cooperative Program giving by Conservatives if the Southern Baptist ship is to stay afloat."

The Western Recorder has heard from several churches that have taken action regarding the Cooperative Program. Some, such as Campbellsburg in Campbellsburg and Evergreen in Frankfort, are escrowing funds and studying the situation. Others, such as Pleasant Green in Cynthiana, have passed resolutions affirming the CP.

Other Southern Baptists look at Cooperative Program

Kentuckians are not the only Southern Baptists taking a look at the convention's Cooperative Program unified budget:

• Virginia Baptists will consider this fall a new budget that would split its allocation of funds going beyond the state. Fifty percent continue to go through the national CP, but 50 percent also would be routed according to a formula developed by Virginians.

• In Arkansas, an unofficial group voted to create a 16-member committee to recommend appropriate responses to the "recent tragic events" in the SBC and to establish avenues for discussion among diverse groups of Arkansas and Southern Baptists.

• An unofficial group of 150 Missouri Baptists recommended a plan for support of SBC causes that would exclude contributions to the SBC's Executive Committee and Christian Life Commission and would provide support for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Also in Missouri, a group of Conservatives are holding a series of seven organizational meetings and planning to launch a monthly newspaper.

• North Carolina Baptist executive director Roy J. Smith has told Tarheel Baptists that he will ask the state convention's budget committee to propose a budget that

will "provide the vehicle for each church to express its autonomy and commitment to world missions through a wider range of options."

• Churches across Texas have formed study committees to explore options for directing their Cooperative Program gifts around the SBC Executive Committee.

• SBC Moderates will convene in Atlanta Aug. 23-25. A major purpose of their meeting will be to consider a mechanism for cooperative funding of Southern Baptist missions and ministry efforts outside of the Executive Committee-controlled national Cooperative Program.

Summer work offers growth for student missionaries

by Lawanda Smith, Staff Writer

Missions around the world gets a boost during the summer, thanks to Baptist college students.

Student missionaries get a boost, too, and they send back glowing reports.

Many experience "firsts" at home and abroad. This summer, Janet Wilson, from Cumberland College, saw the ocean for the first time at Hilton Head, S. C.

University of Kentucky student David Carpenter writes from Israel: "We have had the opportunity to travel 'God's country.' We spent a day and a half in Jerusalem, and three and one-half days in Nazareth and Galilee."

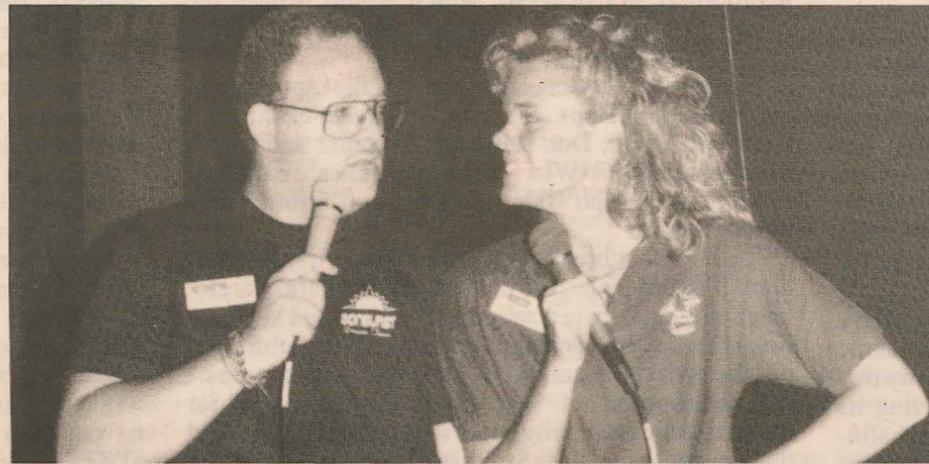
Another reward comes with forming new relationships.

"I'm staying with a sweet lady," says Dorinda Walker, a student from Paducah Community College working in Bardstown. "She is a great inspiration to me. We sit for hours talking about Jesus and the Bible."

Missionaries strengthen friendships with each other, too. One Son Team performance group member relates: "Son Burst has five people that are all gifted in different ways, but we have been able to work together very well. There is a feeling of friendship and love that has developed faster than

any I've experienced before."

But the greatest reward comes from ministry itself. Missions is service and sharing Christ, not just glamour, students say. Robert Smithouser, University of Kentucky missionary at Hilton Head, explains: "We opened the Christian coffee house this weekend. In just two nights, we've met a lot of interesting people. You see, we don't just perform. We serve. We



Ed Wesley (l), from Georgetown (Ky.) College, and Tina Miller, from Cumberland College in Williamsburg, are members of Son Team performance groups. In all, 68 students from Kentucky participated in summer missions this year.

wait tables, talk to the customers and witness."

Many students work in the inner city. "We spent the first evening at the Open Door shelter in Omaha, Neb.," writes Hoover Lee of Cumberland College. "The people there are street people who have nowhere to go. The ministry includes hot meals, an excellent discipleship and evangelism program that also helps with reha-

bilitation from substance abuse and an overnight program for men and women. The key is that lives are changed through ministry."

Lives are changed for student ministers as well. "I am beginning to value things with a new set of values," says Joy Morris, from Mid-continent Baptist Bible College, about her Brazil experience. "Love is what makes a home, not the walls and roof."

This summer, 68 students from Kentucky colleges and universities are missionaries in foreign countries, the United States and Kentucky. Twenty-seven are members of Son Teams, five performance groups that work with the state's churches, agencies and youth weeks at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore Baptist assemblies.

In addition, six students spent several weeks in Russia.

For student missionaries, the hard work is worth the effort because summer affords opportunities for growth.

University of Louisville student Elizabeth Baird writes from Liberty Baptist Church in Russell Springs: "There are some moments that cannot be confined to a single emotion....It seems each day has at least one such moment—a rare and beautiful half-second when being a summer missionary is the greatest blessing in the world."

Size doesn't limit ministry at Mt. Eden Baptist Church

by Denise Spencer
State Correspondent

Mt. Eden Baptist Church has an unimposing structure. Flanked by woods on Hwy. 44 West, it is a dot on the Bullitt County landscape. But Mt. Eden, with about 50 members and an average attendance of 30, performs a variety of ministries.

Its most recent endeavor is a ministry at Louisville's Salvation Army shelter. Once a month, 8 to 15 Mt. Eden members drive to the Brook Street shelter to lead worship. They began three months ago after pastor Don Daniel contacted the Salvation Army's Major Hipps. "I asked him, 'Is there anything we can do as a church to reach out to these people?' I really thought he would just ask us to donate some food," Daniel recalls. To Daniel's surprise, Hipps invited him to coordinate a monthly service.

Mt. Eden has helped the Salvation Army in more traditional ways, too. In April the people donated 300 Here's Hope New Testaments and canned goods to the shelter.

Although Daniel prompted Mt. Eden to begin Salvation Army work, the small

congregation already was involved in local ministry. Members had been leading a monthly worship service at Shepherdsville's Colonial House nursing home. In Daniel's words, their goal is "to make it a bright, happy place while we're there."

The small congregation boasts individual talent as well. Deacon Marlin Kimball and his wife, Minnie, sing once a month on a Sunday morning radio broadcast from WBRT in Bardstown. The couple also drives the church van to pick up children every week before Sunday school.

In recent years Mt. Eden pastors primarily have been seminary students. Mary Lou Ballard sees Daniel's arrival as a bivocational pastor as a positive step. "Now we're really starting to take off!" she exclaims.

The church needed to feel some sense of permanence in a pastor, Daniel explains: "The first question the pulpit committee asked me was, 'Do you plan to stay in this area?'"

Daniel has been at Mt. Eden since August 1989. He is happy with his bivocational status, saying, "That's my calling."

Daniel recommends ample delegation of responsibility to give members a feeling

of project ownership: "Every church needs someone willing to take the initiative. I'm the type of person who will look for ways to help our church reach out. If we're not

going to reach out, we may as well put a 'closed' sign on the door. We worship and fellowship on Sunday, but serve when we leave the church."

Subscriptions rates rise 50 cents to offset increase in postage

Western Recorder subscription rates will increase by 50 cents per year, beginning Sept. 1.

Escalating costs—particularly a scheduled 30 percent increase in postage rates for non-profit second-class mailers—forced the price increase, said business manager Ray Hayes.

The rate gain was approved by the newspaper's board of directors last spring, after the U.S. Postal Service announced its rate hike, he said.

During the newspaper's next fiscal year, \$175,000 of its \$732,969 budget will be allocated to mailing the weekly publication to its subscribers.

Costs will be \$6.50 per subscription for

papers sold through the church plan, and \$8, plus tax, for individual subscriptions. That compares to an average of \$16 per year for subscriptions to other weekly newspapers in the state, Hayes said.

As a cost-saving measure, churches ought to consider using the back page of the paper for their newsletters, he added, noting, "We can mail your newsletter on the Western Recorder to your members for less than the cost of sending each of them a postcard."

Cost for using the church page will be \$6.50 per member-family, plus \$10 per week for publication charges. Advertising rates also will be increased, from \$18 to \$20 per column inch, Hayes said.

Three Forks Association: 100% plus 2 participate in 'Here's Hope' revivals

HERE'S HOPE
the story continues

by Beth Wyatt, State Correspondent

Despite separation caused by valleys, mountains and a land mass of 917,760 acres or 1434 square miles, Three Forks Baptist Association had "100%, plus two" participating in the "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You" simultaneous revivals.

The two congregations extra were Colson Mission, sponsored by First Baptist Church of Whitesburg, and First Baptist Church of Town Mountain, affiliated with General Association of Baptists but cooperative with Three Forks Association.

When all reports were in, 120 people made professions of faith in Christ, and 113 already had been baptized; 14 people joined the association's churches from other congregations; and 368 people made other

decisions.

According to director of missions Philip Rosenbaum, work on the revival campaign began Jan. 1, 1989, as soon as it was announced by the Southern and Kentucky Baptist conventions. "We wanted to get through our missions conference before we dug into this, but as soon as the World Mission Conference was over, we went into high gear," he said.

Rosenbaum follows the Book and the book: The Bible first, then plans from the SBC. "It was a good revival preparation plan, and worth following to the letter. We had positive leadership from the convention's evangelism office," he noted.

Churches encouraged their members to use the equipping module, "Training Sunday Workers in Evangelism." They attended steering committee orientation in June. In August, more than 75% of the churches met at Petrey Memorial Baptist Church in Hazard to learn from Eugene I. Enlow, state Here's Hope coordinator. A lay evan-

gelism conference also was held.

The key to the churches' success was people involvement, Rosenbaum said. Twenty-five of the 35 churches were represented in a January training session. A large number of pastors attended the state evangelism conference in Louisville, and 350 met for a simultaneous revival rally March 5.

During the revivals Rosenbaum sponsored a pastors' fellowship on three dates, and each was well attended by pastors and evangelists, he said.

Three Forks Baptists also utilized the media. Rosenbaum used the monthly newsletter and gave up-to-date reports after the meetings began. Advertisements were placed in the 25,000 circulation Weekly Shopper. Pastors used their radio and television programs to promote the event.

Ben Baird, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hazard and associational Here's Hope chairperson, observed more participation at grassroots level than any associational

meetings he had experienced. He baptized a husband, 83, his wife, 75, and two of their granddaughters who are in their 30s. In addition, he baptized a 75-year-old man and a middle-aged couple.

Pastor James Hamlin reported that Airport Gardens Baptist Church in Hazard had two revival efforts. Plans for a revival with a former pastor had been set for two years. But members wanted to cooperate with Here's Hope, so they had two revivals. "We had equal attendance in both; we had more decisions in the second endeavor, and I baptized two sets of twins," Hamlin reported.

Decisions continue to be reported across the association. Christians are continuing to witness, and more non-Christians are attending services.

Pastors affirmed that the personal involvement of the director of missions made the difference, and Rosenbaum said it would never have been possible without the participation of all the people.

Support the Religious Freedom Restoration Act

Editorial

Marv Knox

Do you know that the government can pass laws that ultimately might limit your religious freedom—without even proving that it has an important “compelling interest” for restricting that precious liberty?

The U.S. Supreme Court made that decision earlier this year. The case was called *Employment Division v. Smith*. Justices voted that the state of Oregon could deny unemployment compensation payments to two drug rehabilitation counselors who were fired because they used peyote in their Native American religious ceremonies. More importantly, the court’s majority decision declared that the state was not required to show that it had a compelling interest for regulating religious freedom.

Unfortunately, specific details of the case have clouded the issue. Very few Americans advocate the use of mind-altering drugs. Most would not deny that the state has a compelling interest in protecting its citizens from the dangerous effects of powerful hallucinogens. But Justice Antonin Scalia’s majority opinion did not utilize compelling interest as a reason for restricting religious rights. In fact, he described the compelling interest test as a “luxury” Americans no longer can afford.

Put aside your distaste for the idea of using hallucinogenic drugs in church. Think about this: Is your religious liberty a “luxury”? Should the state of Kentucky have the right to limit your religious liberty, especially without proving that your fellow citizens have a compelling interest in restricting that freedom of worship?

Constitutional law experts have said the Smith

decision inflicted major damage on the First Amendment’s protection of religious freedom. William Bentley Ball, a noted conservative expert, said the Smith decision moved religious liberty “to the back of the constitutional bus—maybe off the bus.”

Fortunately, a bipartisan group of lawmakers is working to secure our religious freedom. Group members have sponsored the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1990, which would restore the compelling interest test to court cases involving free exercise of religion.

Support for the act is diverse. Its chief sponsors in the House are Reps. Stephen Solarz, D-N.Y.; Paul Henry, R-Mich.; Don Edwards, D-Calif.; and James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis. Senate sponsors are expected to be Sens. Joseph Biden, D-Del., and Strom Thurmond, R-S.C.

“In a radical break with established First Amendment jurisprudence, the court abandoned this careful balancing act between religious freedom and laws ...,” Solarz said. “This decision sent shockwaves throughout the civil rights, religious and legal communities.”

The proposed act “will restore the protections for the free exercise of religion to the traditional standard that existed prior to the Smith decision,” he said. “The bill will not ensure that Native Americans can use peyote, nor will it single out any other religious practice for special protection.

“Rather, the act simply will require the government to demonstrate that any law restricting the free exercise of religion (1) is essential to furthering a compelling governmental interest and (2) is the least-restrictive means of furthering that interest.”

The act also has attracted diverse support from the religious community. More than 25 religious and civil rights organizations—from the National Association of Evangelicals to the National Council of Churches,

from the American Civil Liberties Union and People for the American Way to the Rutherford Institute and the Christian Legal Society—have endorsed the act.

“Coalitions come and go, but mostly—in the volatile field of church-state relations—they go,” said Oliver S. Thomas, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which also supports the act. “That’s why this motley gathering of unlikely cohorts is historic.

“These groups are joining voices to say to the U.S. Supreme Court that religious liberty is not a ‘luxury’ to be gratuitously bestowed by a beneficent majority. Rather, the nation’s first liberty is a fundamental right entitled to the highest level of legal protections.”

Southern Baptists and other people of faith can make a difference in restoring the compelling interest test as a rampart of religious liberty, said J. Brent Walker, the Baptist Joint Committee’s associate general counsel.

“Contact your senators and congressperson to let them know of your support of this bill,” he urged. “It would be good if you could make a personal contact while they are home during the August recess. If not, have a letter waiting for them when they get back.”

The address for Sens. Mitch McConnell and Wendell Ford is U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. The address for representatives is U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. The telephone number for members of both houses is (202) 224-3121. Check your telephone directory for local numbers.

The only Kentuckian on the important House Judiciary Committee is Romano Mazzoli of Louisville. His local number is 582-5129.

Religious liberty is an asset Baptists pray for and even brag about. Now is the time to take up your pen and preserve it.

baptist forum

Armed guards?

I read with interest the editorial by Marv Knox in the July 24 edition of the Western Recorder. I agree with the editor that it is a sad day when Baptists have closed meetings and security officers are called to control the situation. Reporting on this event is fine; we need to know.

However, the emphasis of the editorial was on the “armed guards” that were used. From reading the article I could picture in my mind uniformed officers standing shoulder to shoulder with guns in hand. Six times these security officers were referred to as “armed guards.” Come on now, who are we trying to fool. Everyone knows these officers were called as security officers and were not hired as “armed guards.” Anytime police officers are employed in this way they carry their weapons.

I am not writing in defense of what took place in Nashville or to take sides with either group. I do not agree with the tactics, name-calling and actions of the Moderates or the Conservatives.

What I ask for is honest, unbiased and fair reporting from our Western Recorder

on all Baptist affairs. Our church places the Western Recorder in each home so our people will be informed Baptists. However, we want our people to read the truth about all issues and not the slanted reporting that is so evident in this article and others.

*Norman F. Workman, pastor
Turner Ridge Baptist Church
Falmouth*

Why armed guards?

I do not really understand the necessity of “armed guards” to protect the members of the Executive Committee. We have been informed that the guards were “hired,” based upon a decision made by top officers and legal counsel. Every Southern Baptist church that contributes to the Cooperative Program has the right to know how much these “armed guards” were paid for their services. We also have the right to know if Cooperative Program funds were used to pay for such nonsense!

If this is an example of “getting back to our roots” that we have been led to believe, then I must have been absent the day that lesson was covered in Baptist history! If this is a part of the “bright new day” we are being promised, we have many frightening

things to look forward to.

I want to say that I agree completely with Dr. C. R. Daley’s article, “Vast difference separates old and new Southern Baptist Conventions.” His insights are profound, disturbing, yet very true!

*Ernest L. Martin, pastor
Calvary Baptist Church
Danville*

Laypeople, wake up

The “Challenged church apparently cooperated with the SBC” story by Ferrell Foster, WR July 31, where Roland (the chairman of the Committee on Nominations) Lopez’s church was in “friendly cooperation” but still didn’t give a dime or a hoot to the Cooperative Program cleared up the process for us stupid Moderates.

As we understand now, as Baptists, all that is necessary is to be friendly and all will be well.

The Moderate churches have out-given the Fundamentalists almost three to one, yet are asked by our president, Morris Chapman, for total support of a program his church gave literally squat to.

As a layperson, I cannot speak for anyone in my church but myself, but I have a feeling I am not the only member of a

church who is tired to being duped by the Fundamentalist pastors who now direct the Cooperative Program money then tell those of us who still believe in the priesthood of the believer, “Get lost, because we have the only direct access to God, and only we know what he wants done with his money.”

I hope I get to vote that my church becomes one of those “friendly cooperatives” instead of one who gives hundreds of thousands of dollars, as we are now.

Laypeople in Fundamentalist churches, you are being hoodwinked by your own pastors. Wake up while you can still call yourselves Baptist (or even Christian).

*Louie Stotz
Lexington*

Satan Rejoices

My, my, my! Isn’t Satan rejoicing! Some years ago, Southern Baptists came up with an idea and the plan for preaching the gospel to the entire world by the year 2000. They gave it the title, “Bold Mission Thrust.”

Beside himself with anger and frustration, Satan immediately began seeking his plan to counteract Southern Baptists’ work. He decided on one that seemed great, and it is working beautifully. Just set the people to fighting among themselves, struggling for

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 (502-245-4101). Institutional columns on an inside page are paid space.

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Leaders cite positions on funding issue

guest editorials

Save the Cooperative Program

by Herschel H. Hobbs

The New Testament says nothing about church membership. The word is "fellowship," having all things in common or sharing. This applies to any segment of our denomination (local church, association, conventions). The Southern Baptist Convention is a fellowship, not a membership of churches.

This does not mean that everyone must dot every "i" and cross every "t" alike. So long as we accept the Bible as the divinely inspired, authoritative Word of God (and practically all Southern Baptists do), we allow for differences in interpretation.

Both before and after New Orleans many called it a "watershed convention." If the past 12 years have proved anything, it is that our problems cannot be solved by conflict. If you want to label me call me an "old-time Southern Baptist." Such have their differences, but they stay together in fellowship.

As in all differences, there are three sides: yours, mine and the right one. The right one is God's side. We must find it as we speak the truth in love. Having served on the SBC Peace Committee subcommittee in our conviction is based on rumors unsupported by documented facts. Neither side has all the truth; both sides have blame for which they must answer to God.

All of us need to fall on our knees, confess our sins, pray for God's forgiveness and then walk together in Christian love as brothers and sisters in Christ. "Brother" comes from "adelphos" which comes from "adelphus"—which means "out of the same womb." We have the same source of salvation, life in God through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. Let us act like it!

There are no winners or losers for us in this ongoing struggle. Only Satan is the winner; only God is the loser as his greatest force for evangelism/missions in our time dissipates its energy and loses sight of its God-given destiny.

Which leads us to the Cooperative Program. It is a fellowship through which more than 37,000 churches cooperate in pursuing our task. Committee members who proposed this program were wise men, but not wise enough to have created the greatest program ever seen for raising money for the Lord's work. In my soul I believe that it was

revealed to them by God. It has spent over 65 years in reaching its present potential. We could destroy it in a day!

We need no new agency through which to channel our missionary giving. We need to use the one we have and which has served kingdom causes so well. And this resolve faces every Southern Baptist church and each individual in them. No pastor is happy if his people designate their giving if the church votes contrarily to their wishes. If it is wrong for individuals to do this, it is wrong for churches to do it! Such is contrary to fellowship.

I have Richard Jackson's permission to pass on what he told me last February. For three years in a row, North Phoenix Baptist Church did not pledge a percentage but \$1 million each year through the Cooperative Program. In 1989, each month when receipts did not provide enough for this pledge, the church borrowed from a bank enough to enable them to meet that month's pledge—for the year a total of \$85,000!

I have heard of churches borrowing money for new buildings and equipment and for renovation. But in over 62 years in the ministry, never before have I known of a church borrowing money to give to missions. That is fellowship! Go thou, and do likewise!

Hobbs is a former Southern Baptist Convention president and pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City.

Remember the cooperative program

by A. R. Fagan

As budget planning for next year takes place, be sure and remember the Cooperative Program unified budget. For the past several years, Cooperative Program receipts have not only declined, but also have not kept up with inflation.

Most of the time, all that is necessary to remedy this situation is for some church member to make a motion at business meeting to increase the church's Cooperative Program gifts by a small percent. Some churches have even adopted a growth pattern for several years.

If an enough of our churches were to take such an action, a small increase on the part of each church would make enough difference to put us back on track in funding the Bold Mission Thrust global missions campaign.

With the political changes in Eastern Europe, God has set before us an open door; may we follow him boldly through that door!

Fagan is president of the SBC Stewardship Commission in Nashville.

Dream it again

by Duke K. McCall

Baptists united under the banner of the Great Commission to reach a lost world for Christ—that was the dream in Augusta, Ga., in 1845 which brought Southern Baptists together. Together we have done far more for Christ our Lord than our churches could have done alone.

The world is still lost. God still wants a chorus, not just solos from his people. Jesus prayed his Father "that they all may be one...that the world may believe that you sent me" (John 17:20-23).

Atlanta, Aug. 23-25, 1990, is not too far from Augusta in 1845 for us to dream the Southern Baptist dream again—not a new convention, but new ways for our diversity to flow together as the Holy Spirit leads.

No church needs to leave the Southern Baptist Convention! I know all the complaints. I belong to the 40 percent minority, too. But I still want to work with Southern Baptists and minister through my state Baptist convention.

So I have dreamed of a way for Moderate Southern Baptists to keep on working together—supporting the missionaries and professors we all appointed—and following as God guides us. The instrument is the Baptist Cooperative Missions Program Inc., in Atlanta, which will use our cooperative gifts forwarded from each state Baptist convention the way we vote in our churches.

Our Cooperative Program gifts beyond the Atlanta instead of Nashville, will go through Baptist convention agencies like the Foreign Mission Board and other causes such as the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs will be supported by the cooperating Moderates. Whether our vote is important or not, we can use our Christian influence—wrapped in our stewardship.

I do not belong to Baptist Committed nor the Southern Baptist Alliance, but I urge all Moderates to join Daniel Vestal in the open Moderates he has called in Atlanta. Register to be there in person or in prayer. My proposal is one option. You may have a better one.

Let us Moderates stay together in our Christian witness, in the Southern Baptist Convention if conscience permits—and the majority allows. We ask only for space, not to fight against, but to bear witness to our convictions. Now it is time to dream that uniting dream again—in partial fulfillment of Jesus' prayer. God help us!

McCall, of Louisville, is former executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee and past president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

power, and they won't have a great deal of time for missions.

Kentucky's motto, "United we stand, divided we fall," is also true for Southern Baptists. In Mark 3:25, Christ said, "If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand."

I greatly fear for the future of the Southern Baptist Convention.

*Helen C. Langford
Lancaster*

Brave EC member, step forward

The attribute most endemic to dictatorships is paranoia, specifically of a sort compelling the use of armed guards in even the most peaceful circumstances. The second most endemic attribute is the quashing of objective journalism. The third most en-

democratic characteristic is mind control of the masses, accomplished through fear, propaganda and induced study of party-line manuals. In fourth place is the stifling of individual thought and the removal of those—such as teachers—who foster the practice of thinking.

The recent firing fiasco by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee of Alvin Shackelford and Dan Martin point to the first two attributes mentioned above. The third characteristic mentioned to evolve as the Sunday School Board and other SBC agencies, along with their administrators and workers, undergo the hamhandedness of the current SBC hierarchy. The fourth attribute is easily recognized in the various "seminary purges" in progress, such as that seen in the recent threats by the majority of trustees to the

Southern Seminary faculty. Dogma is in—

theology is out. Conformance is the test. The well-meaning but naive Southern Baptists who have swallowed the inerrancy gambit of the so-called fundamentalists, instead of recognizing their actual intent to properly indoctrinate and politicize the convention, both internally and externally, should now re-think their position. How much did it cost to transport the Executive Committee members from all over the nation to Nashville (and then hire armed, off-duty policemen to protect whom?) in order to do just one thing—fire two highly respected Baptist Press officers in a secret session? Shameful!

One hopes that a courageous committee member will come forward with the truth.

*James L. Clark
Danville*



on mission together

William W. (Bill) Marshall
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Box 43433
Middletown, KY 40253

SBC 1989

Where to from here?

Of the 37,785 Southern Baptist Convention churches, the following selected statistics and highlights of 1989 were compiled from the Uniform Church Letter.

- 20 state conventions experienced increases in baptisms compared with 25 last year. The highest percent increases were New York, 84.2 percent; Wyoming, 29.5 percent; New England, 27.6 percent; and Nevada, 20.1 percent. The largest numerical increases were Georgia, 1981; Texas, 1046; Missouri, 921; and Alabama, 852. (Kentucky's baptisms increases again for the second year in a row.)

- 272 churches (52 more than last year) reported 100 or more baptisms. Sixty-five of these churches were in Texas; 33 were in Florida. Five churches reported more than 500 baptisms.

- The number of churches increased by 218, compared with gains of 170 in 1987 and 281 in 1988. The net change resulted from 443 new or reorganized churches and 225 churches dropped.

- The percentage of churches with membership under 300 was 60.2.

- A total of 15,316 churches were located in a city (2500 or more population), down 109 churches from last year. The 14,667 open country churches represented an increase of 320 from last year.

- The 1989 church membership figure of 14,913,538 represented an increase of 95,042 members over the 1988 total. This increase is the second smallest since 1936.

- Sunday school average attendance continued its decline as a percentage of enrollment. The 1989 figure is 47.9 percent compared with 51.0 percent in 1980.

- A total of 6451 churches increased their Cooperative Program giving by at least one percent of undesignated gifts. However, almost the same number (6469) decreased one percent or more.

- The number of members received from non-Baptist churches exceeded those lost to non-Baptist churches by a total of 14,053 (59,221 vs. 45,168).

- 32,558 have full-time preaching a.m. and p.m. every Sunday (up 66).

- 27,134 have a budget adopted by the church (up 331).

- 8703 reported Bold Mission Thrust prayer activities (down 829).

- 13,407 reported weekly evangelistic visitation.

- 1601 have a Christian Life Committee.

Some say that by 1995 we will begin to show actual decline in membership. Others say we are on the brink of revival and rapid growth.

In either case, we're on the brink of something of historical significance.

Romanian officials endorse religious liberty principles

by Art Toalston

Less than a week after some 10,000 club-wielding coal miners crushed anti-government protests this summer, two key Romanian officials were assuring a delegation of churchmen that human rights will be protected.

The delegation, encompassing several Baptist leaders, received specific assurances that the Romanian government will guarantee freedom of religion under a new constitution being drafted, reported James E. Wood Jr., an American church-state expert who was part of the delegation.

The assurances were voiced by Romania's minister of justice, Teofil Pop, and minister of religious affairs, Nicolae Stoicescu, said Wood.

Wood is professor of church-state studies

at Baylor University in Waco, Tex., and director of a church-state studies institute there. He was executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a religious liberty organization in Washington, from 1972-80. He also was chosen to represent American churches in the im-

plementation of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, a human rights accord signed by 35 nations.

In separate meetings with the delegation of churchmen, the minister of justice and minister of religious affairs affirmed the principles of religious liberty, said Wood,

who gave a presentation on the subject during each session.

Wood quoted Pop, the minister of justice, as saying, "All of us have suffered so much under the old regime that we've got to guarantee religious freedom in our new constitution." (BP)

Baptist colleges exchange books with USSR

by Tim Fields

Twelve Southern Baptist colleges and universities are among 33 U.S. educational institutions which will exchange reference books, including the Bible, with college libraries in the Soviet Union.

The unprecedented book exchange between the U.S. and Russian colleges is

being arranged by First Foundations, Inc., of Memphis, Tenn., a non-profit, non-sectarian institution, and Inform-Systema of Moscow.

"Under terms of the agreement, First Foundations will send sets of four reference books reflecting United States culture to Inform-Systema which will distribute the books to university libraries in all Soviet republics," said Dick Jensen, president of First Foundations. "In return, Inform-Systema will send sets of four reference books about Soviet culture to be distributed to U.S. colleges which choose to participate in the plan."

The four reference books on United States culture include The Russian Synodal Edition of the Bible, Webster's New World Dictionary, The Beginning of the Republic by Clarence B. Carson and The Story of the Constitution by Sol Bloom.

The reference books destined for American college libraries include the Soviet Encyclopedic Dictionary (Moscow), The World of History by B.A. Rybakov, Human Beings and Noosphere by N.N. Moiseev and Another Chance Won't Be Given (Moscow).

"Operation Knigi ('knigi' means books in Russian) is the first time books have been swapped between our two countries in such large quantities and with the approval of the U.S.S.R. State Committee for Public Education," Jensen pointed out.

According to Jensen, the Bible was included in the American reference books because it has had such a major impact on American history and culture and because it was requested by students and professors of Russian colleges who recognize its importance. The Russian Synodal Edition of the Bible was chosen because it is recognized and accepted by the Russian Orthodox Church.

Jensen said the four Soviet reference books are all "glasnost era" publications.

"The conditions of the exchange require that all enrolled students of participating colleges in the U.S. and the Soviet Union will have free access to the exchanged volumes," Jensen emphasized.

Any private college in America can become a partner in Operation Knigi by making a \$40 contribution to cover the cost of the four reference books being sent to Soviet libraries. (BP)

SEBTS students make Czech history

A group of students from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., was the first group since before World War II to hold an open air evangelistic meeting in the town of Pisek, Czechoslovakia.

The seven students and one professor shared testimonies, preached, performed pantomimes and sang for the crowd of about 120 people gathered in the Pisek city park.

After the meeting on the street the group distributed tracts to and mingled with the Czech people who had gathered. They were able to share the gospel and invite them to further evangelistic services held nightly in

a local Baptist church.

"We saw evangelistic results at every meeting held in the churches. People were converted every time. I consider this a tremendous success," said Phil Roberts, associate professor of evangelism and church growth.

"Czechoslovakia is one of the hardest countries in Eastern Europe for evangelism because of the strong atheistic and anti-religious residue left after communism," he said, adding: "At the same time the people of Czechoslovakia are looking for an authentic and real Christian faith, which I believe they experienced while we were with them." (BP)



NEW DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING MANUAL TO BE TAUGHT!

LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAYS

Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., at all locations

Sept. 8	Madisonville	Liberty Baptist Church
Sept. 22	Lexington	Parkway Baptist Church
	Elizabethtown	Severns Valley Baptist Church
Sept. 29	Murray	First Baptist Church
	Pineville	Clear Creek Baptist Bible College

Training for General Officers and all Age-Group Leaders (Adult, Youth, Children, Preschool) will be provided. If church sends Discipleship Training Director and at least one leader for each age group, all will be given a complimentary copy of the new manual. Lunch will be provided to participants. Pre-registration is required.

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RECOGNITION OF KENTUCKY BAPTIST LEADERS

The KBC Obituaries Committee wishes to include in its 1990 report information on deceased persons who have served our Lord and Kentucky Baptists in a noteworthy manner. We are including persons who died during the convention year, September 1, 1989, through August 31, 1990.

These persons may be Kentucky Baptist ministers, missionaries, educators, laypersons, institutional leaders and staff and others whose Christian service has had an impact beyond the local church.

We need your help to gather the following information:

1. Full name of deceased
2. Date of death
3. Active or retired status in last position held in city, state where located
4. Name of church were member, association, state
5. Service or ministry worthy of recognition (briefly stated)

Please forward this information as quickly as possible to:

Calvin Perry, Chairperson
Committee on Obituaries
308 West Main St.
Alexandria, KY 41001

These obituary entries will be reported to the 1990 KBC annual meeting in Paducah. You are an important part of our network to gather information on those servants who deserve to be remembered among Kentucky Baptists.

We are grateful to you.

Calvin Perry, Chairman, 1989-90 Committee on Obituaries

Growing churches meet needs, Stacker tells pastors

by Jim Lowry

The erosion of the effectiveness of church growth among of Southern Baptists calls for increased attention from churches, according to Joe Stacker, director of the Church Administration Department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Stacker, addressing pastors in the Growing the Church of the 1990s conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center July 14-20, said churches need to mix old and new evangelism methods to successfully reach people.

Stacker echoed church growth specialist Lyle Schaller's recently expressed sentiment that most churches, including Southern Baptist churches, are stuck in a time warp 40 years behind the trends.

As an example, Stacker cited the ratio of baptisms to church membership in the 50-year period from 1939-89. With 269,155 baptisms in 1939 and 351,107 in 1989, the ratio was one baptism for every 18.4 in 1939 and one for every 42.5 in 1989.

This comes at a time when the number of staff members in local churches is higher than ever before, and the average attendance in Sunday school, for instance, in 1989 was 3.8 million every week, compared to 1.69 million in 1939, said Stacker.

A trend in American life which churches must face, Stacker said, is the obsession people have with speed based on an achievement mentality. "Most people respond best to church initiatives which can be done in the shortest time period."

The concept of flexibility also must be

considered by churches as people become accustomed to 24-hour services allowing them to achieve more every day at times convenient to their personal schedules.

Trends in aging, population changes, media impact, pluralism, resistance to change, leisure, globalization and competition all must be met head-on by churches, Stacker said, if Southern Baptists are to realize the potential of the denomination.

In the area of population changes, Stacker said a recent study by the Baptist General Convention of Texas estimated that 95 million people, or 37 percent of the population in the United States, live in multi-family housing. Only three to five percent of that number attend any church.

Population increases will occur in sun-

belt areas such as Florida, Texas and California, Stacker said. Southern Baptist work traditionally has been strong in most of these areas, which points to the need for new work in old areas, Stacker said.

"Growing churches meet the needs of the people," Stacker said. "Flexibility must be evident in willingness to change to two worship services, two Sunday schools, flip-flop services or change the time for Sunday school and worship."

"Southern Baptist Convention churches have depended too much on transfer members and not on conversion of unchurched people for growth. For churches to grow, they need visionary leadership, adequate space and parking, evangelistic outreach, celebrative worship, organized Sunday

school, ministry to the community and a mission spirit," Stacker said.

Factors which inhibit growth also must be addressed, Stacker said in another session with the pastors. These include spiritual, mental and physical barriers to growth in the lives of church members and leaders.

"In church life, regrettably, older ministers do not have tendencies to 'mentor' younger ministers very well," Stacker said. "There is a fear mentality. 'If I help him, he may outgrow me.'"

Other barriers or stressors related to church growth include change and morale.

"The future is always coming at us," Stacker warned the pastors. "It is important that we not lose opportunities to reach future members." (BP)

HMB leader suggests linking pastors for baptisms

by Mark Wingfield

The problem of baptismless churches could be solved by linking pastors of those churches with pastors of growing churches in the same association, a Home Mission Board leader suggested.

Baptismless churches are those that record no baptisms during the course of a year. In 1989 there were 7269 such churches in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Bob Campbell of the HMB's associational evangelism department addressed the topic during the annual meeting of state evangelism directors at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

He offered what he labeled "the simplest strategy anyone at the Home Mission Board has ever given."

Campbell's strategy is for pastors of growing churches to develop relationships with pastors of baptismless churches in order to encourage them.

State and associational evangelism directors could foster the link-ups by hosting dinner meetings to explain the strategy and call for voluntary commitments, Campbell suggested.

In addition to dialogue between the pastors, the two churches could trade pastors for one Sunday and cooperate in a one-day soul winning workshop or lay evangel-

ism weekend, he said.

Campbell noted there might be some isolated areas where an evangelistic church could justifiably go 12 months without a baptism. Other reasons for a lack of baptisms could be church splits or the lack of a pastor, he said.

In 1988, the 6210 churches which reported no baptisms ranged in membership from less than 50 to more than 1500. However, the majority of baptismless churches (92 percent) had less than 300 members. Nearly 73 percent were in open country or villages of less than 500 population. Another 14 percent were in cities of more than 10,000 people. (BP)

FALL EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

at the

Briensburg Baptist Church, Benton, Ky.

Friday, September 14, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 15, 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

THEME: "Reaching the Lost"

Preaching by



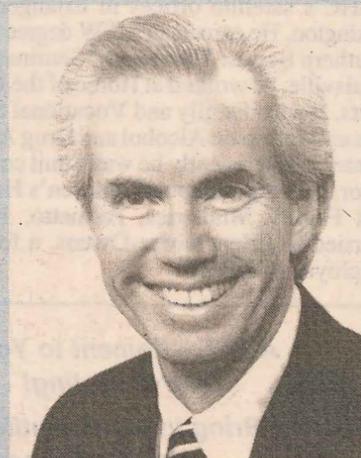
Walter K. Ayers
Vocational Evangelist, TX

Music by



Lois Jane Huddleston
Vocational Evangelism
Musician, TN

Preaching by



Wayne Bristow
Director of Evangelism, OK

Preaching by



Richard Harris
Mass Evangelism
Director, HMB, GA

Sponsored by The Office for Evangelism
Kentucky Baptist Convention
Bill Jagers, Director
Billy Compton, Associate



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

clear creek chronicle

Books

Work continues which will double the library square-footage and provide room for approximately 38,000 volumes, periodicals and video materials. The Correll Building redesign includes listening labs, study desks and adequate work room. The first phase of the library plan costs \$87,000; we have expended about one-third of that amount. 1989 graduate Charles Hanking supervises construction; four students work on the project. Hanking is bivocational pastor of Jenson Church in Bell County.

Donated books have helped increase our volumes. Pastor emeritus W.B. Casey from Boones Creek Church recently decided to give some of his library to Clear Creek. "I just feel it is wrong to keep them when someone else might profit from having them," Casey wrote. Mrs. R.B. Hooks Sr., Bowling Green, sent seven boxes of books that belonged to her late husband, former Warren Association director of missions. Owensboro First pastor David Nelson indicated his plans to give a major portion of his library to Clear Creek when he retires.

When we receive donated books our librarian determines if the volumes are needed on our shelves. If we already have the volume, it is made available in the campus used bookstore for purchase by our students at a modest price. They are able to build a good library with this help. Proceeds from used books go to the Agape fund for student emergencies.

Some WMU groups and others have sent gift certificates from the Baptist Book Store and we purchase books with our discount and tax advantage. We cannot use outdated high school and college texts. We are happy to get classic literature, biographies, reference works, children's books, theology, Bible study and current works in sociology, history and psychology. If you desire to send a list of available books, our librarian will be glad to review it and let you know which ones we can use. These places are book depositories for us: Murray, First; Owensboro, First; Bowling Green, First; Severns Valley; Somerset, First; Lexington, Gardenside; Burlington; Ashland, First; Pike Association office.

West Paducah's Mt. Zion tops 1989 Kentucky baptisms

by Lawanda Smith, Staff Writer

Mt. Zion Baptist Church near Paducah has something to be proud of—especially for a country congregation.

It reported 145 baptisms in 1989, more than any other church in Kentucky. Fifty-five were youth baptisms, the second-largest total in the state.

What's the secret?

No gimmicks, just laypeople telling about their Christian faith, pastor Larry Davidson says: "Everywhere our people go, they talk about Christ."

Davidson leads the evangelism effort and emphasizes one-on-one training. He and 20 or 30 laypeople participate in visiting door-to-door with new Christians.

Many laypeople visit all day on Saturdays, but some visit every day. One 76-year-old man, Barton Record, has led over 200 people to Christ since January, Davidson reports. Record works closely with a couple who lays the groundwork. Every day, they drive around the community, talking to anyone they see about Christ. Later, when Record makes a follow-up visit, he often leads that person to make a profession of faith. The three of them may lead as many as 35 people a week to the Lord, Davidson says.

Mt. Zion has about 650 members, Davidson estimates, adding that he has baptized 177 so far this year. Usually he baptizes three or four people each Sunday, but Wednesday night baptisms are not

uncommon, he notes: "We baptize almost any time we get together."

The congregation focuses on evangelism at every church activity. Often people make professions of faith in Sunday school, Davidson says. Five people accepted Christ at a fish fry this summer. Three laypeople work with youth, but Davidson says the teenagers themselves witness, bringing non-Christians to youth functions. Most follow-up work is done through the Sunday school, he adds.

Davidson and William Jagers, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Evangelism Office, praise the congregation's efforts, but Jagers notes Davidson as a key. "The pastor has to be oriented to reaching out to people," he says.

mountains to the mississippi

personnel

Maria Stotz, student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, is new minister of music and youth at East Frankfort (Ky.) Baptist Church.

Salem Baptist Church, Southville, called **Claude "Skip" Alexander Jr.** as pastor. He is a 1989 graduate of Georgetown (Ky.) College and is presently enrolled at Southern Seminary. His wife, Leigh Ann, is employed by Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown.

Marilyn Williams is new director of preschool and children's ministries at First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

Elizabeth Jones retired July 20 as financial secretary of Grace Baptist Church, Lexington, after 22 years. The church honored her with a reception following the evening service July 15.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children appointed **Larry W. Owens** as central/northern region coordinator. He follows Michael C. Dixon, who became director of Spring Meadows Children's Home earlier this year. Owens began duties Aug. 6, directing KBHC's satellite offices in Erlanger and Lexington. He earned an MSW degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. In Louisville, he worked at Home of the Innocents, Jewish Family and Vocational Services and Jefferson Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center. Most recently he was a unit coordinator at Georgia Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, Palmetto. He is married to Erlene Grise-Owens, a former employee of KBHC.

New Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Elkton, called **Calvin Bond** as pastor.

Walter Mantooth is new pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, Auburn.

Grant Minton resigned as pastor of New Friendship Baptist Church, Auburn.

First Baptist Church, Bellevue, called **Roger Allen** as minister of youth and education.

Deana Black is director of children's ministries at Florence (Ky.) Baptist Church.

Mark Hopper is new pastor of First Baptist Church, Frankfort.

Scottie Stamper resigned as minister of youth at Immanuel Baptist Church, Frankfort.

James E. Wring, member of Pinckneyville Baptist Church, Salem, is available for supply preaching. Call (502) 988-2308.

Fern Creek Baptist Church, Louisville, called **Linda Barnes** as interim pastor.

congregations

Twenty-four youth and seven adults from **First Baptist Church, Clinton**, spent July 21-26 on a choir/mission trip in Lexington; Urbana, Ill.; and Warren, Mich. The choir presented a youth musical, "Higher Ground." B. J. Bennett is pastor. Greg and Marla Pruitt directed the choir.

Youth from **Palestine Baptist Church**, Campbellsville, conducted their first mission trip this summer. Seven people spent a week in western New York among Spanish-speaking people, leading vacation Bible schools in Buffalo and Dunkirk. The group also held an open air revival in a farmers' market. Pastor Landon Hadley led the youth group.

—classified ads—

WANTED: Junk boats, outboard motors, stern drives, trailers, complete units preferred, immediate settlement, call today 502-969-7617. 7-17-50T

AVAILABLE: For any kind of legal service in Kentucky or Indiana, call Greg Holmes, attorney, 502-893-6314 or 812-283-1212, days, evenings, weekends. 7-31-4T

The **Southern Baptist midwest regional softball tournament** will be held Aug. 24-25 in Evansville, Ind. For information, contact **Oakhill Baptist Church**, Evansville, at (812) 476-3450 or call (812) 422-1535 or (812) 473-2478.

ordinations

Terry Bright, pastor of Saloma Baptist Church, Campbellsville, was ordained to the ministry July 15 at Elkhorn Baptist Church, Campbellsville.

Keysburg Baptist Church, Olmstead, ordained **Toby Nichols**, **Dorris Blick** and **David Sharp** as deacons.

associations

The **Bracken Association** director of missions search committee is interested in receiving resumes of qualified persons for the director of missions position. Resumes and inquires should be sent to Don Mantooth, chairman, DOM search committee, First Baptist Church, 123 Main Street, Morehead, KY 40351.

revivals

Parrish Avenue Baptist Church, Owensboro, saw 30 professions of faith, seven additions by letter and over 20 rededications in Here's Hope revival. Evangelist was Jim Powell, pastor of Crescent Springs Baptist Church, Covington. Gary Daugherty is pastor of Parrish Avenue.

missions

Karl and Susan Babb, missionaries to the Philippines, are in the states. Address: 4267 Cedar Rd., Orange Park, FL. 32065. He is a native of Princeton.

Alvin and Debbie Elmore, missionaries to Kenya, are in the states. Address: 511 S. Western Parkway, Louisville, KY 40211. He is a native of Louisville.

Paul and Pamela Langston, missionaries to Italy, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service. Address: Via Monte Bianco 91, 00141 Rome, Italy. She is the former Pamela Poston of Ft. Knox.

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sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR AUG. 19, 1990

Life and work series

Live as God's Children

I John 2:15-17 God exhorts believers to "love not the world" or the material things which are separated from God, whether they are people, things, influences or desires to acquire position, prestige, possessions and power. John told his readers that "the world passeth away." If a person lives for the world,

that person does not love and live for God. Outside the circle of God's will are danger, disaster and death, but inside are salvation, safety and security.

I John 2:28-29 Those who have received Christ as savior, acknowledged him as Lord, been anointed by the Holy Spirit and continue to abide in him have the assurance of eternal life. They are to be consistent and steadfast because of what Christ has done and has promised to do for them.

I John 3:1-3 The hope of the believer in Christ is the hope of seeing Christ when he comes again and being like him. This hope is based on the love of God. The glory of our future condition has not been revealed to us. There is about it the fascination of something one glimpses but cannot view fully.

This hope has some revealed features; one is that we will be like Christ. We cannot find a more assuring word than this: "We know that when it shall be manifested, we shall be like him."

Another revealed feature is that we shall see Christ. Nothing will be as satisfying as seeing Christ in his resurrected and glorified body, in all its majesty, excellence, loveliness and splendor. The hope of being with and like Christ compels one to purity of life here and now.

I John 3:9-10 The person who is born of God does not have the desire to habitually sin. One who abides in the Lord will practice righteousness instead of living in sin.

When one is born of God, the divine nature is imparted to that person, and he or she must not permit a sinful nature to get him or her down.

International series

Who is wise?

James 1:1-8 James writes to dispersed Christians, "brethren" by nature and by grace. It was their brotherhood in Christ to which he referred primarily. James charged his readers not to try to shun their trials, but to meet them joyfully for they would be beneficial.

Trials discipline a child of God and aid in the development of Christian character. Misfortunes and adversities test the reality and strength of a Christian's faith. Doing the will of God requires patience, and this virtue is developed most effectively through trials. Nobody is born with patience; neither is it bestowed when a person becomes a Christian, but it is gradually wrought by experience.

Christians who desire wisdom may obtain it from God by asking for it in faith; God has an unlimited supply and desires to impart it to his children when they ask.

James 3:13-18 There are two sources of wisdom: wisdom from beneath (vs. 13-16) and wisdom from above (vs. 17-18). Wisdom is the ability to use knowledge the right way and to the best advantage. Absence of wisdom is demonstrated by those who either ignore God or refuse to give him his proper place in their lives.

It is a joy to turn our attention from the so-called wisdom from beneath and to center our thoughts on the true wisdom from God. True wisdom is always linked with faith in God. Wisdom from above has eight attributes: purity, peaceableness, gentleness, approachability, mercifulness, fruitfulness, impartiality and straightforwardness.



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

homes for children

Back to school

It is hard to believe, but summer vacation is almost over. Teachers and school officials are getting their plans made for a new year and with the new education reforms, there will be many changes in their roles this coming year.

Parents are taking youth to the store for the annual back-to-school shopping. I remember the feel of brand new blue jeans and the new shirts my mom bought each year. We often had to roll up the cuffs in anticipation that they would shrink and that I would get bigger. Today those jeans come pre-shrunk and no one would be seen in jeans that looked brand new.

Parents are also having to arrange before and after school care. With so many moms working today, that can be a major challenge.

For the youth and children going to school, emotions range from fright to excitement. In the Mooney household, Andrea will be entering grade two and Jason starts kindergarten. I think he is ready, but I am not sure his mother is.

For the children at Glen Dale, this will be a new experience for all, for with consolidation everyone will be going to a new school. Even the old timers will have a little concern about the start of school.

For those youth coming into care for the first time, going to a new school is another major change in their lives. For the Spring Meadows youth who come from smaller communities, attending Eastern High School with its large enrollment can be an especially frightening time.

For our college students—and we will have 21 in some form of higher education this fall—there are a myriad of feelings. Some are excited to return to see friends; others are worried about being on their own for the first time.

For all this is a busy and an expensive time. For us, as well as many families, getting 150-plus children ready to start school is a real strain on the budget.



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Reflected joy

Beautiful cattle grazing on the mountain overlooking our farm bottomland caught my eye this morning as I crossed the campus. It is a beautiful sight. I was reminded that several of our men and a crew of boys finished installing new fencing some weeks ago. That being accomplished, we once again have a large grazing area available and our beef herd is growing. We specialize in Beefmaster. Our farm manager, Jack Tillman, had over 700 head of this breed on his own farm before coming to serve at OBI five summers ago.

Birds singing on a cool morning reflected the song in my heart. Not only are

the cattle beautiful in the distance, but two new roofs on two of our dorms are beautiful. After weeks of great effort in very hot weather, eight men have fully replaced the leaking flat roofs with sloping "hipped" ones. It took a very large crane days to lift the trusses up one by one.

I made it a goal five years ago to eliminate every flat roof on our campus. At that time, we put a sloping roof on our largest building, Burns Hall, our girls' dorm. That building houses 184 girls, four adult staff, our school kitchen, two large dining rooms, our campus grill, dish washing area and dietitian's office. We haven't had a leak in five years; before, we had a constant battle.

Over the years since, we have built other sloping roofs. Now with the beautiful new roofs on our two older boys' dorms, we have no more flat, leaking roofs! Carnahan Hall houses 84 boys, a staff apartment and our campus store. Marvin-Wheeler Hall is the home of 130 boys. It also includes a laundry area, TV area, weight-lifting room and a staff apartment.

Different volunteers and some of our own schoolboys have installed new shelving in the back of each of the closets in our girls' dorm as well as in the two older boys' dorms. A lot of previously unused space is now put to great use for storage of books, shoes, folded clothes, whatever.

Our girls have done a lot of painting this summer as have some of our boys. In fact, every dorm room will have been repainted by the time fall classes begin Aug. 27.

One of the greatest improvements of the summer has been the replacement of the 30-year-old light fixtures in each of the dorm rooms in our girls' dorm.

Volunteers and several of our boys did all the work. The new fluorescent lighting is much brighter than we had previously, puts off less heat and uses less electricity.

Volunteers from Highland Baptist in Shelbyville, Ballardsville Baptist and Turner Ridge in Pendleton County built and roofed a 2800 square-foot storage building for farm equipment. This building is opposite the two new silos built last summer, now filled with over 500 tons of silage.

Also, while Turner Ridge's men were busy installing closet shelving, Ballardsville volunteers framed an 1800 square-foot storage building near where four regulation tennis courts will be built this fall. This newest storage building will be used for maintenance and grounds-type storage.

Various women volunteers have come and gone this summer to work in the craft house, to tutor in our special help program or to paint.

Volunteers have come from Bardstown Baptist; Elizabethtown's Severns Valley; Scottsville's Liberty Baptist; Downtown Baptist, Orlando, Fla.; Alton Baptist, Lawrenceburg; Kuttawa First Baptist; West Broadway Baptist, Louisville; Mt. Washington Baptist, Southside, Gadsden, Ala.

We have totally renovated one newly purchased stone house near our campus for use of a staff family. We still are working on a new house from basement up that volunteers will live in while operating a farm donated us.

In the meantime, we have the largest number of acres being cultivated in the history of our school. We have had just enough rain for a great crop. Some new potatoes were dug and eaten this week. We have about 100 acres of field corn to feed our hogs and beef.



Pink cash teaches value of cooperative giving

by Sarah Zimmerman

Southern Baptist missionaries resorted to gimmicks and quick moves to raise money during a make-believe demonstration of life without the Cooperative Program.

Ten fake \$10 bills were given to each person registering for "Jericho: A Missions Festival" at Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist Conference Center. Participants were told to give the pink paper money to missionaries that impressed them during an afternoon missions fair.

The random distribution of funds resulted in one missionary couple having to carry their wad of money in a plastic bag. Another missionary gathered only \$30 because she was caring for her children and doing laundry the afternoon of the missions fair.

The project illustrated the inequity of requiring missionaries to raise their own support, said Bill O'Brien, executive director of public affairs for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified budget, is "the genius of cooperative missions that every other major missions effort would like to have," O'Brien said.

During the missions fair, Betty Walker said a Christian theme park was being built on the island of Dominica where she and her husband Fred serve as foreign missionaries. With a large gift, she jested, a water slide would be named for the donor. In reality, an amusement park is in stark contrast to the Walkers' evangelistic ministry

among the poor and often malnourished islanders.

Raul Vazquez, language missionary in Miami, wasn't as bold. "I have a hard time asking for money," he said. "If this were real, I'd be one of the poor missionaries."

Bob Freeman, a home missionary in Buffalo, N. Y., gained sympathy by describing the cold, harsh winters in western New York. He also gathered money by picking pockets as people listened to his

tales.

At the beginning of the missions fair, Joe and Elaine Armstrong contributed to the first missionaries they saw. But the members of Bardstown (Ky.) Baptist Church were determined to "figure out a system" to distribute their money more evenly.

Iris Thomas, member of Brewer Lake Baptist Church in Day, Fla., also tried to be fair with her contributions. However, she said, "I almost gave it all to one lady; she

was doing such a good job asking for it."

The Pettyjohn family, including parents Andy and Susan and sons John Mark and David, gave their money away on a first-come, first-served basis. Consequently, foreign missionaries dressed in attire from the countries they serve received most of the family's money. The Pettyjohns are members of Immanuel Baptist Church in Independence, Mo.

Garland and Martha Middleton, members of Southside Baptist Church in Blakely, Ga., gave all the money they had to a foreign missions couple "because they said they needed it."

It didn't take long for Mary Jo Thompson to see the purpose of the project. "I'm uncomfortable with this," said the member of First Baptist Church of Corpus Christi, Tex. "I love the Cooperative Program."

Ada Fernandez, missionary to Hispanics in Georgia, said the afternoon reminded her of the need for missions education. At breakfast Monday she met a Florida pastor and his wife. She described her work, and they continued the dialogue at lunch. During the missions fair, the couple sought Fernandez to give her their money.

"When people know about missions, they give," Fernandez concluded.

Jericho is a week-long missions festival sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission and Sunday School Board. The annual sessions at both Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers were begun last year. (BP)



Don and Ina Frazier, Southern Baptist missionaries to Nigeria, greet Alan, Joanne and Phillip Moore during a missions fair at Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist Conference Center. The Moores, members of Calvary Baptist Church in Milton, Fla., were among more than 2000 people attending "Jericho: A Missions Festival." One of the activities at Jericho allowed participants to experience what life would be like without the Cooperative Program. (BP photo by Mark Wingfield)

Association	Evangelism Director	Churches Participating	1990 Simultaneous Revival Emphasis					Full-Time Service	New Missions Started
			Professions of Faith	Baptisms	Letter, Statement	Rededication			
Allen	Phil Rogers	7	5	5	6	-	-	-	
Anderson	Terry Wilder	12	12	10	9	24	-	-	
Bell	Joe Cody	35	75	72	11	239	1	1	
Bethel	Carl Freudenthal	21	48	48	23	277	-	-	
Blackford	Mason Beville	12	15	15	1	46	-	-	
Blood River	Van Russell	31	99	88	36	203	4	-	
Boone's Creek	Ross Figart	27	51	44	2	102	-	-	
Booneville	Mike Taylor	17	37	-	1	123	-	-	
Bracken	Lynn Bertram	21	22	22	3	12	-	-	
Breckenridge	Darryl Crenshaw	17	30	26	12	81	-	-	
Caldwell-Lyon	Mark Bond	25	44	44	21	150	-	-	
Casey	Jerry Browning	11	16	16	6	21	-	-	
Central	Rudy Herrington	16	48	43	8	100	-	-	
Christian Co.	Doug Anderson	38	78	68	20	408	3	-	
Crittenden	Charles Beighle	24	83	79	25	92	1	-	
Daviess-McLean	Richard Dendler	48	148	136	38	328	-	-	
East Lynn	Leo Curry	8	28	28	2	16	-	-	
East Union	Vic Edwards	5	-	-	-	6	-	-	
Elkhorn	James E. Heard	44	131	127	51	369	8	-	
Enterprise	Don Yeager	20	43	43	9	40	-	-	
Franklin	William Carter	15	18	18	11	76	-	-	
Freedom	Jerry Stockton	9	30	29	2	4	-	-	
Gasper River	Wm. L. Cook	17	31	-	-	-	-	-	
Goshen	J. H. Manion	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Graves	Ray Provov	31	156	120	20	300	2	-	
Grayson	Wayman Hayes	6	16	16	3	8	-	-	
Green Valley	Rodney Groff	22	89	84	20	195	-	-	
Greenup	Charles Stewart	35	116	-	33	291	2	-	
Henry Co.	Brian Law	11	26	25	16	36	-	-	
Irvine	Noel Dodson	11	8	-	-	31	-	-	
Jackson	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Laurel River	Ted Morgan	26	35	36	15	25	1	-	
Liberty	Ray Woodie	20	95	55	47	-	1	-	
Lincoln Co.	Danny Gutenson	25	58	55	18	232	2	-	
Little Bethel	Doyle Eddings	25	67	67	23	38	-	-	
Little River	Harold Skaggs	15	76	76	43	-	1	-	
Logan	Grant Minton	17	58	58	11	221	-	-	
Long Run	Hal Poe	105	378	225	114	692	14	-	
Lynn	Richard Lloyd	17	30	14	7	62	1	-	
Lynn Camp	Damon Helton	9	26	21	16	110	-	-	
McCreary Co.	Brad Porter	3	-	15	6	4	-	-	
Mercer	Robert DeFoor	17	75	71	18	146	5	-	
Middle Fork	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Monroe	Bill Small	8	6	6	4	12	-	-	
Mount Zion	Don R. Mathis	21	42	-	10	55	-	-	
Muhlenberg	Thomas Webb	29	51	58	18	312	3	-	
Nelson	Mark Ross	31	60	60	22	162	-	-	
North Concord	Terry Rhye	12	9	9	11	50	1	-	
No. Kentucky	J. K. Pierce III	56	149	125	47	311	4	-	
Ohio Co.	Denzil Probus	30	107	82	21	396	1	-	
Ohio River	Fred Lowrance	34	70	70	12	90	2	-	
Ohio Valley	Harley Wilson	14	70	65	28	116	-	-	
Owen Co.	John Klaassen	20	54	47	9	62	-	-	
Pine Mountain	Wm. Timothy Adams	5	18	13	-	12	-	-	
Pike	Sam Sowder	18	27	26	3	36	-	-	
Pulaski	C. E. Jacobs	27	56	51	24	120	-	-	
Red River	Earl Brooks	5	22	22	-	-	-	-	
Rockcastle	Lester Caldwell	20	50	47	15	140	2	-	
Russell Co.	Stan Milby	12	6	6	2	32	-	-	
Russell Creek	Ty Clenney	13	27	27	7	22	-	-	
Salem	James Gammon	13	35	35	14	125	-	-	
Severns Valley	William Ray	40	99	98	50	417	-	-	
Shelby	Bob Vassar	18	49	49	18	42	-	-	
Simpson	Doug Lawson	10	49	40	15	91	2	-	
So. District	Ernest Martin	24	110	110	49	503	3	1	
So. Union	J. R. Bullock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sulphur Fork	Chip Pendleton	15	47	47	23	165	2	-	
Tates Creek	Richard Easterling	30	69	72	32	120	1	-	
Taylor Co.	Larry Parrish	17	22	20	5	87	-	-	
Ten Mile	Gene Hill	14	33	33	3	-	-	-	
Three Forks	Ben Baird	35	120	113	14	368	-	-	
Union	Bob Butler	7	26	26	2	75	-	-	
Upper Cumberland	Roy Carlton	12	15	15	1	-	-	-	
Warren	Frank Dorris	29	66	57	32	271	2	-	
Wayne	Joe Morrow	11	22	22	9	21	-	-	
West Ky.	B. J. Bennett	22	30	39	18	-	2	-	
West Union	D. Frank Queen	35	132	118	40	356	1	-	
Whites Run	Stan Prewett	8	25	25	5	12	1	1	
TOTALS		1581	4174	3532	1270	9689	73	3	

Home Bible studies offer opportunity for outreach

by Sarah Zimmerman

A Virginia church planter offers only one word of caution about starting a mission at home: Don't assume people have any biblical knowledge.

Meeting in a home, whether it is a ranch house or apartment, is non-threatening to a person who is not familiar with a church setting, said Carol O'Dillon. People who attend may not know the books of the Bible or popular Bible characters.

A home Bible study could lay the foundation for a new church, channel people to existing churches or continue as a neighborhood Bible study, O'Dillon said during a conference at Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist Conference Center.

"The ultimate goal is for people to have eternal life as described in John 17:3—that they may know God," O'Dillon said. The goal is not to learn "just facts about the Bible but to know God and let him be their life-changing force."

During the conference O'Dillon, formerly a church planter in the Atlanta area, listed several "do's" of home Bible studies:

- Invite people from all denominations.
- Call on people to read the Bible or pray only if they have previously agreed.
- Love participants and pray for them.
- Be a positive model.
- Visit and call participants persistently.
- Ask opinion questions rather than questions about Bible knowledge.

• Set ground rules such as disagree without being disagreeable, avoid denominational discussions and promise to keep confidentiality.

Prospects for home Bible studies can be found through door-to-door surveys, activities for children such as backyard Bible clubs and block parties. However, O'Dillon said the most effective enlistment tool is a personal invitation to unchurched friends.

O'Dillon recommended outreach Bible study material from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board as the initial curricu-

lum. The eight-week course is designed for people without a church background. Equipping center modules from the Sunday School Board are also good resources she said.

Providing for children is another essen-

tial element in home Bible studies. O'Dillon said Bible study should be available for children, so parents cannot use their children as an excuse to not attend.

The conference was part of "Jericho: A

Missions Festival" sponsored by the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union and Sunday School Board. (BP)



LEARNING TO READ—Home missionary Carolyn McClendon teaches Larry Hudson to read at Friendship Center in New Orleans. Friendship Center is one of several home missions ministries Southern Baptists sponsor in New Orleans. "I'm gonna fight for an education," the 35-year-old student says. "When I met Miss Carolyn, I knew I had a chance." (BP photo by Mark Sandlin)

Biblical church growth means more than numbers

by Ken Camp

The pastor of a smaller membership church must understand the mission and personality of his congregation and the needs of his community if he wants his church to experience balanced growth, according to a Southern Baptist pastoral leadership consultant.

"Biblical Growth" was the topic of a seminar led by D. G. McCoury, pastoral leadership consultant with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

The seminar was one of several offered at a conference for bivocational ministers and wives and for church staff and spouses in smaller membership congregations, July 20-22, at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton, Tex.

About 100 attended the meeting, sponsored by the Church Ministries Department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Biblical church growth is multi-dimensional and depends on a balanced emphasis on evangelism, discipleship, missions and administration, McCoury said.

"I make no apology for talking about numerical growth, but biblical church growth is more than just numerical growth," McCoury said.

Balanced growth happens when a church understands its purpose, establishes priorities and sets goals to meet specific needs, he said.

McCoury stressed that the pastor is not

"hired to do" the church's mission but is "called to equip" God's people to do the mission of the church.

"If you are not placing the priority in your ministry on preparing God's people to do the mission of the church, are you not perverting God's call?" he asked.

Too many churches are ruled by cultural expectations and worldly models for success rather than by biblical principles, he noted.

"A lot of churches build themselves

like corporations, and pastors think of themselves as CEOs. That is not the biblical model," he said.

While holding up an "ideal" of balanced church growth, McCoury encouraged the smaller membership church ministers not to lose hope if their churches are not excelling in every area.

"Wherever your church is, God has it there for a purpose," McCoury said, pointing to the vital place of smaller membership churches in Southern Baptist life.

He noted that 80 percent of all Southern Baptist ministers of music are bivocational, and 76 percent of all Southern Baptist pastors are in single-staff churches.

The median Sunday school attendance across the Southern Baptist Convention is 64.

"Don't ever get the idea that the Southern Baptist Convention is a denomination of large churches. You are part of the very backbone of Southern Baptist life," McCoury said. (BP)

Mother of 5 preschoolers leads 24 people to Christ

by Sarah Zimmerman

Vickie Flockhart has five good reasons not to witness.

The 26-year-old mother could say her five preschoolers, ranging in age from five to four-month-old twins, keep her too busy to witness. Instead, they are part of what motivates her to share her faith, she says.

Last year Flockhart set a goal of leading 12 people to profess faith in Jesus Christ. By the end of the year, she had led 24 people to Christ.

Flockhart says she wants her four sons and one daughter to know that she cares about them, but just as importantly, that she cares about a lost world.

Flockhart made a public profession of faith when she was 16, largely to please her boyfriend. She did not make a private,

personal profession until she was 24.

She is challenged to share her faith by her husband, Steve, who "witnesses to everything that breathes," Flockhart said. He is minister of evangelism at First Baptist Church in Woodstock, Ga.

On the other hand, Flockhart describes herself as "basically a very shy, bashful person. I don't like to witness. It scares me to go up to a strange door," she confides. Yet she finds that God blesses her efforts when she witnesses out of obedience.

Flockhart finds her best opportunity to share her faith during the church's weekly visitation program because child care is provided.

Another opportunity to share her testimony comes each Sunday as Flockhart counsels people who make decisions during the church service. She finds many

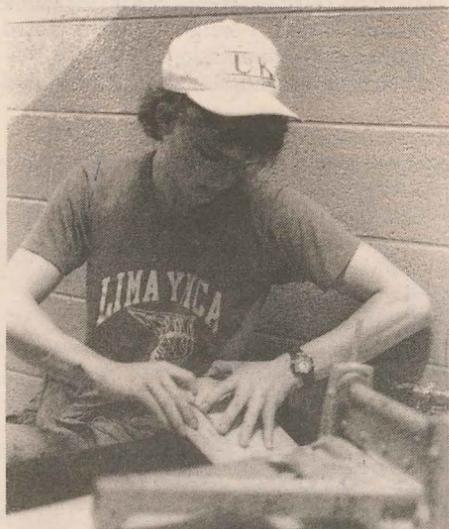
people who come for rededication actually need to make professions of faith in Christ, just as she did two years ago. She says she had "outwardly conformed to the image of a Christian" so that no one asked about her salvation.

When someone makes a commitment to Christ, Flockhart keeps up with the person to see him or her through the Christian "birthing process." She disdains what she calls the "hit and run approach" to witnessing.

Each Tuesday and Thursday morning a fellow church member takes care of the children to give Flockhart some free time. This summer she is using that time to disciple a teenage girl in her church.

"I don't know when I'll go to the bank or the grocery store, but God will work that out," she says. (BP)

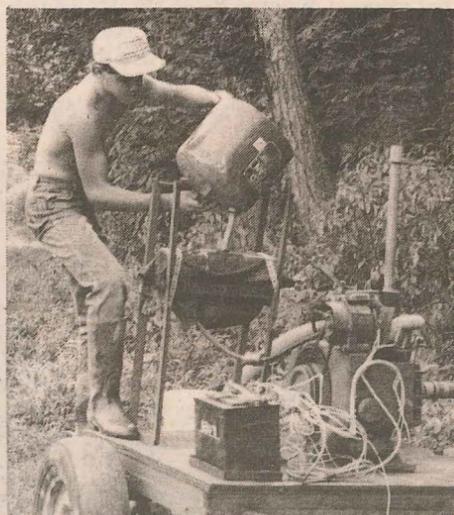
Oneida Teaches Many Valuable Lessons During Summer Projects!



Freshman Dan Nichols has learned to lay floor tile as a part of his daily work program at Oneida. Here he is seen using the tile cutter.

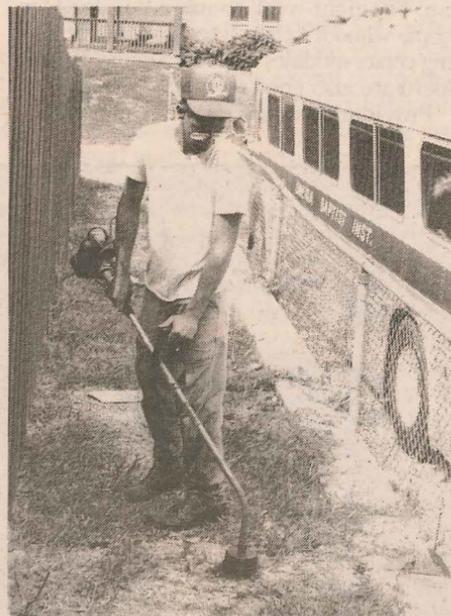
His father has pastored in Ohio since shortly after Dan's birth, having previously served at Hazard's Airport Garden Baptist Church.

Dan has found himself in Oneida's work program, excelling in many things he has learned to do since enrolling. Also he has made Christ his Lord, and accepted Him as Savior, since coming to Oneida. He followed in believer's baptism a few months ago.



Tim Andriot pours gasoline into an irrigation pump. He and others irrigated one of Oneida's gardens including watermelon, cantaloupe, tomatoes, squash, cucumbers and peppers.

Tim came to Oneida as a freshman and is now entering his junior year. He is from Highland Heights in northern Kentucky. While at Oneida, he has learned welding and participated in wrestling. He will also be on the soccer team this year. He has accepted Christ while at Oneida.



Robbie Daugherty, Hawesville, "weedeats" between Oneida's sewage treatment plant and the compound for the school's diesel buses. During the past year, Oneida's choir traveled over 6,000 miles on the two diesel buses for 36 major concerts and the band also traveled hundreds of miles for varying performances. Each year, the buses are used for the annual senior trip to Washington, Colonial Williamsburg and Jamestown, as well as long athletic trips.

Robbie, starting his junior year, has two years to dream about his senior trip. Having been out of school for several years trying to make a living without a high school diploma, Robbie appreciates the opportunity Oneida has given him to once again be a schoolboy.



Denise Lucas, New Castle, and Mariea Kellogg, Manchester, repaint the wall on a stair landing in their 184-bed dorm. They, and scores of other Oneida students and visiting volunteers have, collectively, painted for hundreds of hours this summer.

Denise's pastor brought her to be an Oneida student some months after she became a Christian in her home church over a year ago. She is preparing to begin her junior year. She loves basketball and track. Her younger brother, Sam, is also an Oneida student.

Freshman Mariea came to Oneida at the start of her 7th grade year. She is active in Oneida's flag corps and also has a sister at Oneida.



Sophomore Louie Lagunsad from Tucson, AZ stands on ladder, as junior Gary Gray from Big Rock, TN works from the ground. The boys can be seen hard at work staining the wooden building sheltering Oneida's largest walk-in freezer containing 2,600 cubic ft. Many pounds of homegrown vegetables and thousands of pounds of Oneida raised pork and beef are stored in this and other school freezers.

Louie's stepfather graduated from Oneida in 1955, and Louie came at the start of his 6th grade year. His older brother, Carlos, graduated from OBI and will be a junior in a Colorado university this fall. Louie is very athletic and participates in wrestling, basketball, cross country, and pole vaulting each year.

Gary came to us during the past year from Tennessee. His father is a director of missions. Both Gary and Louie have received Christ and followed Him in baptism since enrolling at Oneida.



September Wooten, a junior, assembles applications in Oneida's busy admissions office. She came to OBI two years ago from Prestonsburg to begin her freshman year. She has become an active Christian, while at Oneida, and is an outstanding athlete in volleyball, basketball and softball.