

SBC president, agency leaders urge CP support

by Jim Newton

Southern Baptist Convention president Morris Chapman and the top executives of five SBC agencies issued a statement supporting the denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget system and opposing "any deviation from this proven practice of cooperation."

Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Tex., and the others were attending the Baptist World Alliance meeting in Seoul, Korea.

Signers included Harold C. Bennett, president of the SBC Executive Committee; Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board; Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board; James Smith, president of the Brotherhood Commission; Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union; and Chapman.

Their statement came just one week before an informal group of Moderate Southern Baptists were scheduled to meet in Atlanta to discuss alternate mechanisms for SBC churches to channel their missions giving cooperatively.

The statement made no reference to the Atlanta meeting, but urged increased support of the Cooperative Program. The statement reads:

"During these days of worship and fellowship with Baptists from nations around the world, we have been given cause again to reflect on the urgency to spread the gospel throughout every land.

"While we recognize the autonomy of the local church, we fully affirm the Cooperative Program as the principal means by which Southern Baptists successfully support missions, evangelism, Christian education and other ministries within our convention.

"Deviation from this proven practice of cooperation will most assuredly create confusion among our Southern Baptist family, complicate the receipt and distribution of funds and weaken our witness for our Lord Jesus Christ.

"We ask all Southern Baptist churches to maintain their commitment to world missions through the Cooperative Program and when possible, to increase Cooperative Program giving." (BP)

SBC's Laughridges exit Liberia

by Donald D. Martin

Southern Baptist missionaries Ed and Fran Laughridge confirmed Aug. 15 that they had evacuated Liberia two days before, after new safety concerns arose from a possible move into their area by a west African peace-keeping force.

The Laughridges and their son Edward, 20, left their mission station in Mano River early Aug. 13 and crossed the Liberian border by Jeep into Sierra Leone.

The family was prepared to walk into Sierra Leone if roads proved impassable, or if rebel soldiers confiscated their vehicle, Mrs. Laughridge told a missionary in Ivory Coast via radio Aug. 12.

Once in Sierra Leone, the Laughridges drove about 300 miles to the capital, Freetown, where they contacted mission officials in Ivory Coast by radio Aug. 15.

The Laughridges did not say how long they plan to stay in Freetown, but they do not expect to return to Liberia until they talk further with mission officials, Mrs. Laughridge said.

The Laughridges had wanted to stay on in Mano River, even after rebel troops detained the family for six days. Rebels of the National Patriotic Front had refused to let the Laughridges leave the area or, for several days, to communicate by radio with missionaries in Ivory Coast. A rebel commander later told the Laughridges that the

detainment had been a mistake and they were free to come and go as they pleased.

However, Mano River — 80 miles northwest of the Liberian capital of Monrovia — is now believed to be situated in one of the areas where west African peace-keeping troops may enter Liberia, said Bill Bullington, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area director for west Africa.

Rebel leader Charles Taylor has threatened to attack the five-nation west African force. However, he agreed Aug. 13 to talk with Gambian President Dawda Jawara about a cease-fire. The talks, to be held in Banjul, the capital of Gambia, may delay the deployment of the peace-keeping force, according to press reports.

Taylor announced he would join cease-fire talks after his troops failed to deliver a final blow to President Samuel Doe Aug. 12. Doe's remaining forces, numbering about 500 troops of the Krahn tribe, control about one square mile in Monrovia.

Taylor had hoped to oust Doe before the west African force entered Liberia to impose peace. But after the failed assault, he issued a statement Aug. 13 saying he believes "a meaningful solution can be worked out."

Taylor's National Patriotic Front has sought to overthrow Doe in a civil war that has killed more than 5000 people, mostly civilians. Taylor accuses Doe and his government of corruption, nepotism and human rights abuses.

With the Laughridges' evacuation, Earl Williams is the only Southern Baptist missionary remaining in Liberia. Williams has returned for a short stay at his mission station in Yekepa, where fighting forced him and his family to flee in late March.

Williams first returned to Yekepa in June, while his wife, Jane, and son Kenneth, 9, stayed in Ivory Coast. Since then Williams has moved between Ivory Coast and Liberia several times carrying supplies of medicine and food. (BP)



Missionary David Brown in Ivory Coast explains a Christian tract's message to a Liberian refugee as workers unload sacks of needed rice which Southern Baptists helped provide through world hunger relief contributions. Only a few miles from the Liberian border, the refugee population in the area has swelled from 75,000 to more than 120,000 in the last month as Liberians have fled the civil war in their country. (BP photo by Patricia Brown)

Conservatives view trend, KBC nominees

by Marv Knox, Editor

Concern for the future of their state and national Baptist conventions attracted about 30 Conservative Kentucky Baptists to a summer meeting at Corinth Baptist Church in London.

Discussion focused on the need to continue the conservative trend in the denomination and the possible nomination of four pastors to top Kentucky Baptist Convention posts when the KBC meets in Paducah in November, participants said.

"A group of folks met," said Don R. Mathis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin. "There are a lot of Conservatives in the state. This was not an exclusive group. It was not a group of 'leaders' of anything,

but for the most part pastors.

"We talked about supporting the convention. I'm on the soapbox that our folks ought to get on with the work, to support the Cooperative Program" unified budget of the Kentucky and Southern Baptist conventions.

"Across our convention, we need to get back to the basics of evangelism, church growth and mission support," Mathis added. "That's not to say we've not done it in the past; I just believe we could do it better."

The purpose of the meeting, and subsequent meetings that might be held, was "just to help us know who is across the state who identify with the position that Southern Baptists are headed in the right direction," said Anthony Carson, pastor of First

Southern Baptist Church in Louisville.

"When you get outside the state, you hear, 'There are just not any Conservatives in Kentucky.' That's just not right. Kentuckians believe the (Bible) is without error.

"I want to make it clear that we feel it's time to identify ourselves in Kentucky for what we are, and the world knows that....Don't hear me say that if somebody doesn't agree with me that I don't think he believes the Bible. But my concern is that we believe the Bible is without error."

Both Mathis and Carson said the Conservatives represented at the meeting do not want to "take over" the convention.

"Conservatives are sometimes misperceived," said Carson. *continued on page 2*

Moderates seek greater autonomy for KBC

by Marv Knox, Editor

An ad hoc committee of Moderate Kentucky Baptists has decided to ask the state convention to become more autonomous in relation to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Twenty-two members of the committee—comprised of people affiliated with two Moderate groups, Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention and Friends of SBC Missions—met at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown last Saturday.

They agreed to present three proposals

to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's committee on constitution and bylaws:

- Autonomy of the KBC. This proposal asks for "changes where needed to ensure Kentucky Baptists' freedom to respond to our common calling," particularly regarding financial relationships.

As an example, a participant cited joint financial commitments with the SBC Home Mission Board that limit the ministries which the board will help fund.

- Cooperative Missions Funding. This two-part proposal seeks "a cooperative missions funding program through which the (KBC) would decide which programs

will be included in a unified budget...(and) a mechanism whereby any affiliated church of the KBC could provide direct or additional support to any national or international Baptist convention or agency included or not included in the (KBC) unified cooperative missions budget."

Committee chairperson Don Mantoath, pastor of First Baptist Church of Morehead, noted the KBC has the most stringent membership requirement of any of the 38 state or regional Baptist conventions. The KBC is the only one whose regulations require churches to send unrestricted gifts *continued on page 2*

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

August 21, 1990

Are you moving?
Please give us three weeks' advance notice. Clip this portion with your old address label, supply new address above, and send to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

Sunday School Board won't publish its history

by Marv Knox, Editor

The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has decided not to publish a book written to commemorate its 100th anniversary.

The board stopped the publication process on "Celebrating Heritage and Hope," written by H. Leon McBeth, during its summer trustee meeting Aug. 13-15 in Nashville. The board will be 100 years old next May.

The decision was made because "this board has not wanted to fan the flames of controversy" within the Southern Baptist Convention, said Donald Moore, chair of the board's general publishing committee. "The book was unbalanced."

"I stand by the book," responded McBeth, chair of the church history department at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Tex. "It is a balanced interpretive history of the first 100 years of the Baptist Sunday School Board."

Trustee officers and board administrators declined to cite specific problems with the manuscript. McBeth said letters and comments he received gave him an indication of why publication was stopped. "I had

the understanding the fundamentalist trustees wanted a harsh treatment of Lloyd Elder in this book," he noted.

Elder has been president of the board since 1984 and periodically has been criticized by Conservative trustees. In August 1989, trustees debated a motion to fire him for almost one hour before the motion was withdrawn.

SSB chairman Bill Anderson said the reason for stopping publication was broader than a single person or issue.

"It's not so much the book that is a problem," said Anderson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater, Fla. "It is that it's a history of a period which is in some tumult.

"Any history of the convention or its agencies and institutions is going to offend people on either side" of the Southern Baptist controversy, Anderson added. "We don't think that's wise.

"It's a good book, well written, by a fine author. But why risk offending?"

The components of the board that have reviewed the book have not said which side of the convention controversy they believe the book favors, Anderson said. "The

committees have not stated which, in their view, of the two sides might not like the book. Conservatives might not; Moderates might not."

The book was commissioned about two years ago, and the primary draft was completed last fall. It proceeded through the board's editing channels but had not received final administrative approval when at least a dozen trustees asked to see the manuscript, said Johnnie Godwin, SSB vice president for general publishing.

Trustees' questions about the book led Moore, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Evansville, Ind., to convene a workgroup to study it. That workgroup, comprised of the officers of Moore's committee and Anderson, unanimously voted to "counsel the administration not to proceed with the publishing of the book."

The general publishing committee ratified the recommendation Aug. 14, and the full board of trustees unanimously concurred Aug. 15.

Asked if the board's administration would abide by the recommendation, Godwin told trustees, "I will not publish this manuscript."

That will prove to be a bad decision, McBeth predicted: "I acknowledge that the trustees have the prerogative to do this, but it's a mistake. It's their loss.

"What the trustees did will hurt the board more than me. I feel a deep sense of disappointment. But I feel for the board if the people feel there is no freedom to express views except one set of views."

Rejection of a book manuscript is not precedent-setting, Anderson said, noting, "Every year, the board turns down hundreds of books."

Publication of a different history book or a major revision of McBeth's book is not planned, Anderson said:

"No decision has been made. We envision no such move." A subsequent decision would be up to a later board of trustees, he added.

The manuscript belongs to the board, since it was commissioned by the board, Godwin said. McBeth has been paid \$12,000 of his \$18,000 contract for services and expenses, and the final \$6,000 payment is in process.

McBeth, who has taught at Southwestern for 30 years and spent about a year on the book, said: "The story of the Sunday School Board for 100 years is a story worth telling. As far as me telling it, ... we have not discussed it."

McBeth added that he will not hold anger toward the board. "I am sorely disappointed, but I am not going to be bitter," he said.

"I am a Southern Baptist. I would never intentionally hurt Southern Baptists and bring embarrassment upon the Sunday School Board and its trustees."

"There's no anger" for McBeth on the part of the trustees, Anderson said. "Most of us had him in seminary. The big problem is not that we have a problem with Dr. McBeth. It is that we have a tumult out there and don't feel it's wise to be interpreting history as it happens."

Moderates distance selves from politics

continued from page 1

to the SBC Cooperative Program budget in order to send messengers to the state convention, he said.

• Relationship to other Baptist conventions. The final proposal asks for a study of "what changes, if any, are needed" in relationship to the SBC Executive Committee. It also seeks clarification of how churches can be affiliated with other Baptist groups and still be affiliated with the KBC.

If the constitution and bylaws committee should recommend any changes, it would bring them to the KBC annual meeting in Paducah Nov. 13-14 for first reading. Then they would be considered by messengers to the 1991 KBC annual meeting in Lexington.

In other matters, the ad hoc committee postponed any decision on developing a statewide organization until after the national meeting of Moderates in Atlanta Thursday through Saturday of this week.

Mantooth, who is on the steering committee for the national meeting, said the Atlanta gathering is expected to attract 3000-3500 participants. That compares to an original estimate of 300.

The Atlanta meeting is to focus on an alternate Southern Baptist cooperative missions budget, he said. This would allow Moderates to maintain the philosophy and tradition of SBC cooperative missions without channeling their money through the SBC Executive Committee, he added.

The meeting also will focus on formation of a national Moderate fellowship, he

said.

The ad hoc committee members discussed and distanced themselves from organizing a political apparatus to elect KBC officers.

"We need to embrace our whole state and be supportive of traditional Baptists, whoever they are," said Richard W. Bridges, pastor of First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. "It would be a mistake for us to endorse a candidate and develop a political machine to elect candidates....Kentucky Baptists are saying they don't want that."

Committee members expressed concern

that SBC-style politics might damage the KBC.

"I oppose any fundamentalist president of the KBC," said Harold S. Mauney, pastor of First Baptist Church of Williamsburg. "We can't let the fundamentalists take over the convention as they have the SBC."

Warned Robert DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg (Ky.) Baptist Church: "The national agenda is now the Kentucky agenda. We've been told they're coming."

Committee members noted they represented themselves alone, and not their churches.

4 Conservatives cited as possible nominees

continued from page 1

tured by folk as wanting to take over, and I don't think that's what it's all about," Mathis said. "As far as 'being a Conservative' is concerned, it is getting back to where we were when I became a Baptist in the '50s, and do so in a spirit of love, cooperation and compassion."

"The up-front agenda is to present men to the convention who say we're Southern Baptists who believe the (Bible) is without error and the Cooperative Program is the best plan developed to support missions," Carson added.

The four pastors are not necessarily a slate of candidates, participants in the London meeting said. Carson noted he told the group: "You may be nominated; your best friend may be nominated....Come

November, I'll go down and vote for these men."

They are:

• C. Wyman Copass, pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville, for KBC president. "I said I would make it a matter of prayer," he said of his possible nomination.

"I've had just about every job in the state and feel good about it. I'm still available to be useful. I don't want to be a stumbling block, but to be used however the Lord might see fit.

"I have friends on both sides" of the convention controversy, he added. "I don't want to do anything that will hinder, but to help. We'll just put it in the Lord's hands to see how he leads."

• James K. Pierce Jr., pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, for president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference.

"I was asked to be willing to allow my name to be placed in nomination, and I agreed to do that," he said. "I did not initiate the action. I did not ask for it."

The Pastors' Conference should be uplifting and non-political, Pierce stressed: "I certainly would want to provide a good

program for our state....I do not feel the Pastors' Conference per se bears on the controversy that exists in our convention. I would hate for that to be injected. That certainly would not be my intent....

"I really don't think my nomination should be viewed in light of the controversy. Although, in this day, that seems inevitable."

• C.C. Brasher Jr., pastor of Briensburg Baptist Church in Benton, for KBC first vice president.

Brasher was away on vacation and could not be reached for comment. Fred E. Richardson, associate pastor at Briensburg, said Brasher had not been contacted about the nomination when the two of them talked about the subject.

• Charles E. Stewart, pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland, for KBC second vice president.

"Some pastors in the state had asked me for permission to place my name in nomination, and I was happy to give my permission," Stewart said. "I was surprised to be asked. I'm not very well known; I've been a bivocational pastor most of my ministry.

"I'm honored to be asked and will be willing to serve any way I can."

Haworth: focus on caregiving

"Family Ties that Bind: Caregiving to Individuals and Systems" is the focus of this year's Haworth Conference Oct. 1-2 at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly near Bagdad.

Conferences for pastors, church staff and lay leaders will address principles of relationships in families and congregations. Speakers include James Hyde, director of the program of ethics and pastoral counseling at the University of Louisville; Larry Matthews, pastor of Vienna Baptist Church in Vienna, Va.; and Richard D. Underwood, pastoral counselor at the Center for Health Promotion and Rehabilitation, Humana Hospital Suburban in Louisville.

Costs range from \$23 to \$36.50, depend-

ing on accommodations, including an advance deposit of \$15. For more information, contact John Lepper at the Family Ministry Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40253, phone (502) 245-4101.

Leadership Days to examine discipleship training manual

The new discipleship training manual will be taught at this fall's Discipleship Training Leadership Days, according to Kentucky Baptist Convention's discipleship training director, Douglas T. Strader.

Participants may choose from five locations and dates: Liberty Baptist Church,

Madisonville, Sept. 8; Parkway Baptist Church, Lexington, and Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, Sept. 22; First Baptist Church, Murray, and Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Sept. 29. Strader will teach the doctrine of creation; other leaders will offer conferences for

general officers and all age divisions.

Registration begins at 8:45 a.m. at all locations, and lunch will be provided. For more information, contact the Discipleship Training Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40253, phone (502) 245-4101.

God provides love, happiness, youth says Days visit 'Little Hell'

God, not money, is the source of love and happiness, said Sharon Epley, winner of the Kentucky youth speakers' tournament during the Discipleship Training Leadership Conference at Glorieta, (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center.

"God is the source of love, yet we seem to think we can buy love and happiness," said Epley, a member of Liberty Baptist Church in Auburn.

Just as love and happiness can't be bought by money, God's love can't be purchased through good works, said Epley, one of 13 state winners who presented their speeches during the conference.

"Good works can't earn God's love. But fortunately, we don't have to earn God's love," she said. "God loves us regardless of our failures."

Epley described the sins and failures of four biblical characters whom she said God continued to love despite their worldly wrongdoings.

She included herself among Christians who commit sins but are forgiven by God.

"I'm going to spend eternity in heaven because God's love never fails," she continued. "God demonstrated his never failing love by becoming one of us and dying for us."

The Kentucky speakers tournament is sponsored by the youth section of the Baptist

ist Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training Department and the Kentucky

Baptist Convention's Discipleship Training Department.



KENTUCKY 'DRILLER'—Tonya Bush (l), a member of Wollonia Baptist Church in Cadiz, and winner of the Kentucky youth Bible drill contest, participated in a drill demonstration during Discipleship Training Leadership Conference at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center. Other participants included, from left, Jan Halim, First Chinese Baptist Church of Fountain Valley, Calif., and Charee Hansen, First Baptist Church of Santa Fe, N. M. (photo by Terri Lackey)

2 Iuka Church laymen canvass Livingston County

by Pauline Stegall
State Correspondent

Markie Mitchell and L. E. McDonald plan to lead Livingston County to Christ—one house at a time.

Mitchell, Sunday school superintendent at Iuka (Ky.) Baptist Church, had been burdened for Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust global evangelism campaign since it began more than a decade ago. The Sunday school lessons made him more conscious of the great need to reach all people for Christ by the year 2000.

"God called me to do my part and take the gospel to people in my community and country," said Mitchell, retired grocery owner-operator of 38 years.

He asked his church for volunteer helpers. McDonald, who had moved back to Iuka after retiring from the Tennessee Valley Authority, accepted the challenge.

Mitchell and McDonald agreed that any evangelistic program should be sponsored by their church and asked to be commissioned. Then the pair decided to knock on every door in the Ohio River county.

Armed with a leaflet prepared by their pastor, Max Anderson, and Sunday school

books, Mitchell and McDonald started the project at Smithland, the county seat. They are going door-to-door offering friendship, a Christian testimony, prayer and literature. When no one answers, they leave the booklet with a phone number.

They have knocked on 2500 doors. With 900 to go, they hope to finish before cold weather. The disciples work about three days a week, covering 40 to 50 homes per day. Many times they make follow-up visits.

"The first time people just look at you," Mitchell analyzed. "Next time they listen. By the third time, they are usually ready to hear."

"One fellow started waving his arms when he saw us coming," McDonald said. "He had a gun. Then he slammed the door and locked it...."

"Every family seems to have an average of three dogs." Despite good dog rapport, both men have been nipped by overly enthusiastic canines.

However, they have had rewarding experiences and positive response.

Tiline Baptist Church, located in a neighboring river village, was down to 10-12 in attendance. Mitchell and McDonald got a

list of members and called on each one. The congregation has grown to 35 or 36 in less than a year.

Several people have become Christians as a result of their ministry. One man was 83. Another made a decision at 68.

The witnesses always encourage church membership, but not necessarily in Iuka Church.

"I have never had such dedicated members as these men," pastor Anderson marveled.

But Mitchell and McDonald are modest. "The ones who pray and give tithes are just as important as missionaries," Mitchell insisted.

The project is sparking local interest. A score of counselors have been trained this year in the tiny church, which has had 11 additions.

After every home has been contacted, what then?

"We hope to canvass Marion (in an adjoining county). Then, all of Crittenden County," Mitchell said.

He believes if two or more people would work in every association, Bold Mission Thrust goals would materialize by A.D. 2000.

Middleton Church brings hope through innovative jail ministry

HERE'S HOPE
the story continues

by Betty Anderson
State Correspondent

Ken Graham offers the hope of survival at the Simpson County jail.

Graham, pastor of Middleton Baptist Church in Franklin, teaches *Survival Kit for New Christians* as part of the church's jail ministry.

He and the church became involved in jail ministry in the usual way—taking a turn each month leading worship services. But

as he planned the Thursday night sessions, Graham thought, "What are we doing to help people grow?"

Some inmates, Graham realized, remain at the facility for two or three years. Many of the 25 or more men and women attending worship services had made professions of faith in Christ.

So Graham, following established Southern Baptist programs in his own rural church, secured permission from jailer James Mooneyham, himself a Baptist, to begin a Bible study group on Wednesdays.

Middleton church provided extra Bibles, but inmates paid for the *Survival Kits* from concession funds.

Each week, participants in a church setting discuss a week's daily assignments. But in the jail, Graham found, with the limited training of the inmates, he could review only one or two days' assignments.

Graham and a coworker, Nell Powell, a member of Cedar Grove Baptist Church in Franklin, alternate leading the *Survival Kit* study. Powell also ministers one-on-one with women inmates.

How successful has the study been?

Inmates are so enthusiastic they plan to buy the second *Survival Kit*, again with their own funds.

They have found hope in Christ because of innovative Christian ministry.

Days visit 'Little Hell'

Bill and Lonnie Day thought they were going to spend nine days working with Billy Graham. Instead, they wound up in "Little Hell."

The Days volunteered to preach and minister in the state of Espirito Santo as part of the Kentucky/Brazil Baptist partnership.

"You can imagine the anticipation we shared when we were told that we would be working nine days with Billy Graham during our Brazilian partnership," said Day, pastor of DeHaven Memorial Baptist Church in LaGrange. "The thrill of crusade crowds and the accompanying impact made upon a local geographical area was exhilarating."

"You can also envision the thud of reality when we discovered that Billy Graham was a young Brazilian pastor named in honor of the well known evangelist.... Our fractured fantasies departed with the continued alterations of our planned itinerary."

"Instead of staying in the beautiful hotel in Vitoria, we were to live in the apartment in the Igreja Baptista Em Barra do Riacho. With no preparation for this kind of mission experience, off we went to Barra Do Riacho, a fishing village some 55 miles north of Vitoria.... It was known as 'Little Hell' in recognition of the drug traffic and high crime rate."

The Days wondered if anything good could come out of Little Hell. God's answer was a resounding "yes."

"From the moment we arrived until the morning we left, the people of this remote community showered us with love and respect as they responded to our limited leadership," Day said.

"The Igreja (church) was directly across the street from a disco/whiskey store three times the size of the church property. Each evening, buses from nearby cities brought hundreds of people to Adam's Whiskey Store to dance, drink and do drugs—the perfect place for an evangelistic mission."

"The noise of the music was deafening until we began our services, and then out of reverence for what we were trying to accomplish, there was silence in the disco until our meetings were finished at 11 p.m."

God worked in mysterious ways, the Days reported.

For example, one young man who earlier had wanted to bomb the church building made a public commitment to Christ in the meeting. "He said he stood in the church with the love of the Lord so real and powerful in his heart that he wanted to win all those people across the street in the disco to the Christ who had saved him," Day recalled. "The young man's name is Steven, and in the next three days, he had 93 of those drug people in our crusade services."

People responded to the gospel in such numbers that the final night's service had to be held outside, and hundreds of people came. He said: "People were in a nearby plaza, some were looking down from the second floor of the disco across the street and every available space was filled when we finally shared the hope that God had provided for all mankind in Jesus Christ."

"People crossed the street from Adam's Whiskey Store and staggered down the makeshift aisles to the platform.... When all of the people were taken to the counseling rooms and the prayer of confession prayed, those men and women who had struggled to walk down the aisles were sobered and alert. They openly and freely discovered their decisions and commitments to Christ."

Looking back, the Days said they learned an important lesson in Brazil: "God has the creative capacity to make heavenly things happen, even when you're in a 'Little Hell.'"

May those who come behind find us faithful

editorial

Marv Knox

President Lloyd Elder presented a timely and timeless challenge to Southern Baptist Sunday School Board trustees last week.

Elder noted he still sees himself as a preacher. True to that tradition, he presented his challenge in three points. He urged the trustees to be faithful in their leadership responsibilities, financial resources and publishing opportunity.

Today's turbulent environment in the Southern Baptist Convention requires stable leadership, Elder said. He told trustees: "You are at the helm. You have given me the stewardship to stand in your behalf, to say to Southern Baptists: 'You can count on us. We do know what our business is. We have our convictions. We have enthusiasm. We want the largest possible number of Southern Baptist churches and others on their behalf to do business with the Baptist Sunday School Board.'"

Despite the turbulence and hard economic times of the past decade, Elder noted, Southern Baptists have been generous. He cited enough facts and

figures to make an accountant's pencil hop, but four suffice: In the past decade, U.S. prices have climbed 48.8 percent. Meanwhile, Southern Baptists' gains have outpaced inflation. Revenue provided from the board's sales and services grew 78.8 percent. Church contributions to their states' Cooperative Program unified budgets have increased 71.1 percent. And states' proceeds to the national Cooperative Program went up 91.4 percent.

"While the financial indicators...are vital to the stability of the board, the true measure of our success is in our relationship to Southern Baptist people and churches," Elder continued. More than 96 percent of Southern Baptist Sunday school members depend on the board for their literature, he noted. And he called for support for 1991's major publishing ventures—the new "Baptist Hymnal," release of the first volume of "The New American Commentary" and the first quarter of improved "breakthrough" Sunday school curriculum—as well as church computer software and other products.

Elder's presentation to the trustees was well taken, as it should be. He has proven himself to be a forward-thinking leader, committed to the excel-

lence of the board's products and services. Hundreds of faithful Southern Baptist brothers and sisters have committed their lives to advancing Christ's kingdom through their service at the board. Thanks to the Sunday School Board, Southern Baptists may choose from a vast array of resources that help them "do church" in the '90s.

The application of Elder's sermon should not stop with his trustees. All of us—churches and individuals—would do well to adopt his exhortation. We daily demonstrate our faith as we exert Christian leadership in our homes, churches and communities. We express our faith through the steadfastness of our stewardship, even when our pocket-books are lean. And we develop our faith through deliberate and steady use of materials designed to help us grow.

The logical conclusion of Elder's challenge is that the faithfulness of our stewardship will shape the faith of those who follow us. Lines from a John Mohr song illustrate the point:

"Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful.
May the fire of our devotion light their way;
May the footprints we leave lead them to believe;
And the lives we live inspire them to obey."

baptist forum

To all who would write to Baptist Forum: We welcome for consideration your letters on any subject, provided they do not make personal attacks on anyone. We ask, however, that you accommodate a longstanding policy of a 300-word maximum limit for published letters. Thank you for adhering to this, and welcome to the pages of Western Recorder. Marv Knox, *Editor*

My God and I

Due to adverse publicity Southern Baptists have received lately, I want to express my gratitude for the wonderful church where I first came to know Jesus Christ as my Savior and eventually ultimate Lord. To me, nothing can compare to sitting in a Southern Baptist church where the spirit of the living Lord is present. The disagreement doesn't stop me from knowing Christ has done a dramatic thing in my life. The simple song "Learning to Lean" really expresses it all—so many joys, sorrows, heartaches, illness. Jesus Christ has always been there. I praise him through it all.

I have my own beliefs, and in America, I am able to hold fast to these, because of lives sacrificed for my freedom to believe.

Our flag, for instance, I would never think of even letting it touch the ground, because at Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941, my cousin, Verlin Dunn, an energetic young 17-year-old, gave his life to preserve the dignity of that beloved piece of material. Others of our family have served courageously in each war.

I believe the Bible to be God's only redemptive book (without mistakes) for sinful man, to bring them to salvation and eternal life, through Jesus Christ God's Son. The Bible is to be respected and not to

touch ground or floor without something underneath to protect it. My children were taught this. The hymnbook also is to be respected in the same way—hymns, feelings and experiences felt by people such as myself.

I believe every human being from conception can be directed by the Holy Spirit to convict or bless, being used of the Holy Spirit, whatever the age, educated or uneducated, pastor or layman.

I believe there is a reason and purpose for every life. In Psalm 139, the Bible says God knew us before we were even conceived. If a tiny cell isn't alive, how does it grow?

I want desperately for my pastor to be strong and stand firm against sin, even if I would disagree. The guidelines would be stated. I don't want him to be political, just preaching an evangelistic message, remembering 36 years ago at Walnut Street, when one was preached for me which changed my life. Whatever happens, denominationally, as the song says, "My God and I will go unending."

Phyllis Barnes
Louisville

Take the challenge

In a time when we are hearing about some

churches who are contemplating reducing or withholding their mission gifts, I am thankful that I can sound a more positive note. I have been the pastor at Hickory Baptist Church since March 1989. In that time, the mission spirit of this church has blossomed forth, to the glory of God.

We are a conservative congregation, believing in the verbally inspired, inerrant word of God. We have always believed in the cooperation of churches as the best means of getting the gospel to the world. We have always rejected the idea of withholding mission gifts, even though we have sometimes strongly disagreed with others in their doctrinal views. We have sought to express our positions by the proper means provided by the constitution and bylaws of our SBC. That way is by vote. For many years, we found ourselves in the minority of many such votes. These days, we rejoice over many decisions that have been voted on the floor of our convention. Even though we did not agree with actions taken in years past, we never tried to cut nor threaten to withhold our mission gifts. That is why we now find it so strange that those who now have lost votes at the SBC now threaten to "pick up their marbles and go home."

But I said I wanted to share a positive note. I praise the Lord for what Hickory Baptist Church is doing in the area of missions. Her giving is ever on the increase, no threats, no holding back. This year alone, with 10 months of our church year completed, the church has had receipts of \$95,500 and has given \$30,300 of that to the cause of missions. Over \$19,500 of that amount has been given to all SBC causes, and the rest to local mission opportunities.

While some churches may threaten with-

holding their mission support if they don't get their way, we, the Hickory Baptist Church, issue a challenge to greater mission support. The Lord shall return. Let him find us about the task.

J. Duane Holland, pastor
Hickory Baptist Church
Hickory

Turn around

I concur wholeheartedly with Mrs. Allen Graves in her letter in the Aug. 7 edition. It is strange that the president of the Southern Baptist Convention has to have a parliamentarian with him at all times—and a Church of Christ minister yet. Does his salary come from the Cooperative Program? I am opposed to that, just as I am opposed to the \$300,000 spent for the so-called Peace Committee and the estimated \$50,000 for the called meeting of the SBC Executive Committee.

My husband, John H. Wittmer, was a director of missions for 25 years. I was deeply involved in all phases of the work. It pains me greatly about all of the controversy in our convention. How did we let it get to this sorry mess?

I am all for the independent Baptists serving the Lord, but I am not for them coming in and taking over the SBC as we have known it through the years. Of course, if we in any way disagree with the so-called fundamentalists, they call us heretics, but I'll have them know that we as individuals have direct access to God, and they cannot deny us that privilege.

The Cooperative Program is one of the greatest things that has been implemented

continued next page

western recorder

(ISSN 0043-4132)

MARV KNOX, *Editor*
JAMES H. COX, *Associate Editor*
RAY L. HAYES, *Business Manager*
C. R. DALEY, *Editor Emeritus*

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.

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

Increase cooperative missions support

guest editorial

by William L. Hancock
and R. Keith Parks

The trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board indicated strong affirmation of a recommendation from the chairman's council, composed of all committee chairmen, that an open letter to Southern Baptists be sent by the chairman and president. The intention of the council was to share some of the exciting things happening in the Foreign Mission Board effort and call for continuing support of foreign missions through the Cooperative Program unified budget and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The exciting things happening and the unlimited opportunities certainly should challenge Southern Baptists to increase their financial support.

The Kenyan Crusade involved approximately 540 volunteers from all across the United States. Over 56,000 professions of faith were registered and 84 new congregations were formed. Pray for the urgent and demanding follow-up effort.

In two weeks of revival meetings in Byelorussia (a province of USSR) in July, there were 2800 professions of faith registered. There continues to be great response in many parts of the world.

As of Aug. 1, 1990, there are 3820 missionaries assigned to 120 countries. Seven more countries are approved. As soon as personnel is assigned to five of the seven, Southern Baptists will have reached their second Bold Mission Thrust goal—

assigning missionaries to 125 countries.

The first Bold Mission Thrust goal fulfilled was moving beyond 10,000 foreign mission volunteers in 1988. This was maintained in 1989, and appears to be on target in 1990.

The crumbling of the Berlin Wall and other less visible walls in Eastern Europe has opened many new opportunities. Already \$3.25 million has been appropriated since December by the Foreign Mission Board for Eastern Europe. Missionaries have been assigned to USSR, Poland, Hungary and Yugoslavia. There are requests for 88 missionaries and/or two-year volunteers. Many volunteer projects are being planned.

Our new approach to global strategy has resulted in many new programs under the umbrella of Cooperative Services International. We are moving into restricted areas in ways traditional missionaries could not go. There are 21 nonresidential missionary family units assigned to evangelize 21 people groups encompassing over 150 million people. A new emphasis on tent-makers is resulting in committed witnesses sharing the gospel where missionaries cannot live and witness. Itinerant missionaries are witnessing, preaching and discipling from nation to nation where short-term visits are the only option.

There is an upturn in numbers of missionaries being appointed this year. Missionary appointments are still below the desired level, but if the projection of approximately 380 is met this year, we will move closer to the 480 needed annually to reach Bold Mission Thrust goals of 5000 on the field by A.D. 2000. Pray the Lord of the harvest to thrust out laborers.

Due to the generosity of Southern Baptists and their commitment to foreign missions, the budget has more than doubled in the last decade. It moved from almost \$77 million in 1980 to nearly \$175 million in 1990. The two largest sources continue to be the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

With all of these exciting and challenging opportunities, we would call for a genuine inclusiveness of all authentic Southern Baptists in denominational life that would encourage the highest level of giving from the full spectrum of Southern Baptists in support of Bold Mission Thrust. In the meeting of the Foreign Mission Board at Glorieta in July, the board made a commitment to strengthen the financial support of our missionaries. The trustees desire Southern Baptists to know that this is based on their confidence of sustained financial support by Southern Baptists.

The Cooperative Program continues to be the envy of all other missionary-sending denominations. It is the simplest and easiest way to support all of the agreed-upon causes to which all Southern Baptists are committed. Coupled with the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, this provides a balanced support for our missionaries that has sustained our growth through the years. It is our prayer that every church will generously support our cooperative mission effort by making a significant increase in the percentage of total gifts through our cooperative approach to missions.

William L. Hancock, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, is chairman of the Foreign Mission Board. R. Keith Parks, of Richmond, Va., is FMB president.



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

on mission together

Back to the future

In April of 1776, William Hickman preached in Danville, marking the beginning of Baptist preaching in Kentucky. Three months later, July 4, 1776, our national independence was declared.

Two hundred years later, to mark this Baptist bicentennial, Kentucky Baptists commissioned the late Leo T. Crismon to edit a volume entitled "Baptists in Kentucky, 1776-1976."

Dr. Wayne E. Ward, professor of theology at Southern Baptist Seminary, wrote a chapter in this volume entitled "Early Revivals and Evangelism Today." (Chapter VI, pp. 118-146.) Probably no other seminary professor in our generation has preached more revivals in Kentucky and spoken in more of our churches.

His observations at the conclusion of his chapter may be of considerable interest to those who find useful the comparison of the past with the present.

- **Unscheduled Revivals.** Early Baptists did not plan or schedule revivals. They were mainly hyper-Calvinists and would have considered it blasphemous to announce or schedule an event which they knew to be in the sovereign power of almighty God.

Today we schedule meetings, call them revivals and terminate them at an appointed time. If God is going to work with Baptists today, he has to fit into the time allotted on the program and within the structures we provide.

- **Theological Controversy Destroyed Revival.** The heart of the 19th century (1820-80) was given over to serious and sometimes bitter controversy among Kentucky Baptists.

The issues were important to them, including the question of foreign and home missions; baptismal regeneration and other doctrines of Alexander Campbell; and the most bitter of all, slavery.

During these years they found little time to think and pray about revival.

Dr. Ward elaborates three other "lessons" learned from early revivals.

- **Early Revivals Began in Small Prayer and Bible Study Groups.**
- **They Put Spiritual Needs before Physical Needs.**
- **The Revivals Were Centered in Local Churches.**

While most Kentucky Baptists would not want to return to some of our hyper-Calvinistic past, and few would willingly give up today's comforts for yesterday's hardships, there are lessons to be learned from our past.

However, one wonders if each succeeding generation really learns any of the lessons of the past.

baptist forum

in the SBC. I have never before designated where my tithes and offerings should go until now. When a new strategy is developed where our money can go for the right causes I am ready to give joyfully again.

My prayer is that soon our convention will make a turnaround and we will be

going forward instead of regressing as we have the past 11 and one-half years.

*Loretta Wittmer
Owensboro*

'Funny' you should ask

To my knowledge, there has been a complete absence of humor in the Conserva-

tive/Moderate contention. Perhaps there is none there since it is such a serious matter.

However, I try to detect a little laughter in every aspect of life nearly. Hence I came up with the following humorous question:

Is there any possibility that the "church moderator" will eventually be known as the "church conservator?"

*Oscar Davidson
Somerset*



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

One of the boys

Scan the index of authors and composers of any Southern Baptist hymnal published in the last three decades. William J. Reynolds' name is prominent. In fact, in the most recent edition (1975) of our most widely used song book, "Baptist Hymnal," 14 of Reynolds' works are

exceeded only by 16 each of B. B. McKinney and of Isaac Watts. Reynolds contributed even more texts or melodies than the well known Fanny J. Crosby and Charles Wesley.

The former secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Music Department and now professor of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, Reynolds is unquestionably the most widely published Southern Baptist tunesmith now living.

Observers at annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention remember him as the convention's music director for 17 years, through 1986. He often has led music at Ridgecrest, Glorieta and other assemblies that draw hosts of Baptists.

Reynolds' distinctive style of conducting—sort of pointing at his audience with a chubby forefinger—invariably holds my attention. I am mesmerized as his hand moves orderly from side to side.

He can masterfully intertwine scripture and illustration into his song leading, turning the portion of services he leads into mighty mini-worship experiences. I feel the presence of the Father as Reynolds conducts congregational singing.

For many years we were in the same church. Though he generously shared his expertise with churches across the convention, he was faithful at home. I will remember our Sunday night services when—once a month—the men's choir sang. You could be sure Bill Reynolds would be up there among them, simply as "one of the boys," not as a professional.

As we mark Church Music Emphasis Week on the denominational calendar Aug. 19-26, I gladly recognize Reynolds as one of Southern Baptists' prolific composers. While as down to earth as the next guy, he contributes so much to our corporate worship as a denomination. His latest text, "Songs of Glory," released by Zondervan this year, includes a wealth of information on 300 hymns and gospel favorites. I commend it to you.

Perhaps, because you know him better, you'll enjoy singing "Share His Love," "One World, One Lord, One Witness," "New Life for You," "Praise Him, O Praise Him" and "People to People," and his arrangements of "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," "It's So Wonderful" and his other arrangements and compositions even more.

Southern prof Bob Hughes brings fantasy to reality

by Pat Cole

As the thoughts of Robert Don Hughes start filling up a blank computer screen he begins a process that will acquaint fantasy with the real world.

Hughes, associate professor of communication and mass media at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, has had four fantasy novels published by Del Rey Books in New York which have sold more than 280,000 copies in the United States. They also have been marketed in Great Britain and have been translated into German. A fifth novel, the second book of his second trilogy, is completed and is awaiting publication.

Hughes' writing has a distinctly moral tone, and he believes fantasy is a writing form that persons with Christian convictions can easily embrace. "The basic theme of fantasy is that there are powers or there is a power beyond us who cares," he said.

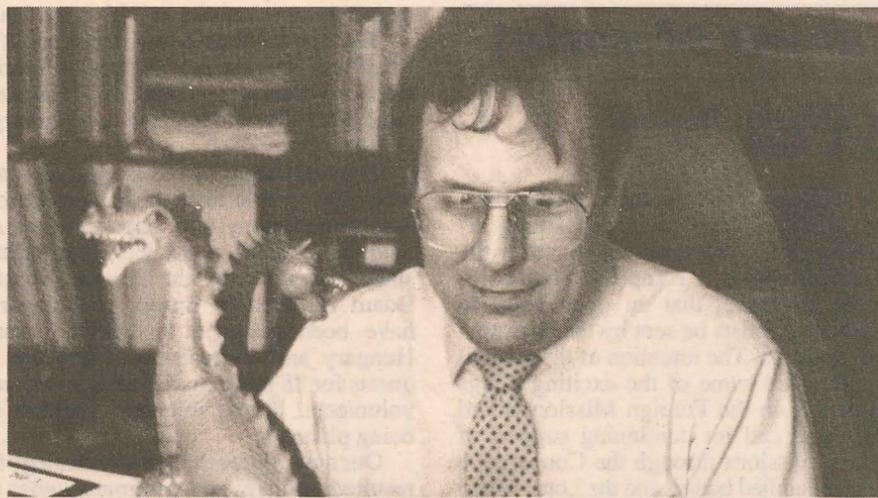
Hughes has been inspired by Christian writers C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien who "gave expression to their world view in their writings." Hughes' fantasy books are "The Prophet of Lamath" (1979), "The Wizard in Waiting" (1981), "The Power and the Prophet" (1985), "The Forging of the Dragon" (1989) and "The Faithful Traitor" (in press).

In the make believe world that Hughes has created, characters struggle with forces of good and evil. In Hughes' books, the evil force is from elsewhere, but is expressed mostly in people.

A prominent figure is the man-made dragon Vicia Heinox. All the leading characters have encountered the dragon's violent tendencies. "Without being conscious of it, the dragon is symbolic of the possibility of world domination by evil and things like nuclear proliferation." The dragon represents "the ability to create something that would be totally destructive."

However, more prominent in his books is the activity of God in the world, he said: "There is a strong emphasis in all the books on the empowerment of God and allowing God to control rather than expressing your own control." Hughes' first book "began as a story for my wife," while he was pursuing doctoral studies at Southern Seminary. He would write a portion of the book and let his wife, Gail, read it. She would critique his work, and, depending on her opinion, he would either keep the section or throw it away. When he finished the story, he was able to get the manuscript accepted by the second publishing house that reviewed it. His editor, Lester Del Rey, has been a driving force in encouraging Hughes to continue writing.

Hughes has become more methodical and intentional about writing since his first



Southern Seminary professor Robert Don Hughes writes of a fantasy world that includes characters like the dragon Vicia Heinox. (Photo by Tony Aja)

book. Rather than writing casually in the evening on a spiral bound notebook, Hughes is now at the computer at 6 a.m. each morning to write for a couple of hours before beginning his daily activities at the seminary.

Readers and other authors often react

with amazement when they find out Hughes is a Baptist minister who teaches at a seminary. He enjoys addressing the broad spectrum of people his books reach. His books, he said, "provide a way of communicating to people who would never otherwise pay a bit of attention to what I have to say."

Glen Dale resident wins Honey Queen title

by Beth W. Prassel

When Stacey Martin first came to live at Glen Dale Children's Home in Glendale,

she was afraid of bees. "I wouldn't even go near them," she says. Since then, she not only has overcome her fears, but now represents the Kentucky Beekeepers Association

as the 1990 Kentucky State Honey Queen. Northern Kentucky Beekeepers Association and director of the Honey Queen program, describes the Honey Queen as a "goodwill ambassador." The queen will "represent our club at the Kentucky State Fair, promote good will...and inspire more people to use honey."

As Honey Queen, Martin will participate in the state fair honey auctions. She will travel to various Kentucky schools giving presentations on beekeeping and honey. She says she looks forward to sharing her knowledge with others and hopes to participate in the national Honey Queen contest later in the year.

According to David Babb, Glen Dale's associate director and director of the bee projects, Martin's success in the contest shows other youth "that you can be what you want to be. In her role [as Honey Queen], she also will be able to get youngsters more involved with beekeeping."

Babb says Martin works with and studies bees as part of the 4-H program at Glen Dale. She entered bee and honey projects in several county fairs and plans to enter her honey in the 1990 state fair.

Martin says she became interested in bees when she visited the hives and started watching them. "They were fascinating...I thought it was neat so I joined the project."

Since then, she has overcome her fear of bees and cares for them with confidence. "When the hives are not going well, we feed them sugar water," she explains. "We start new frames for them to make honey on. We smoke the bees out and get the honey. We make sure everything's going okay and that there's a queen in the hive."

At Glen Dale, Martin participates in other 4-H projects, including Angus cattle and dairy goats. She also performs with the Homeland Singers, the home's traveling youth choir. She is a member of Glendale's Gilead Baptist Church, where she participates in the youth program, drama group and the Acteens missions organization.

Originally from Bardstown, Martin attends Central Hardin High School, where she will be a junior this fall. She runs track and is actively involved in Future Farmers of America and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

After high school she hopes to attend college, with a possible major in agriculture.

Spring Meadows' director addresses changes

by Beth W. Prassel

Claiming he was somewhat part of the heritage of Spring Meadows Children's Home, new Spring Meadows director Mike Dixon addressed those attending Child Care Day and homecoming at the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children facility.

"When I came on board in the late '70s, things had already changed," Dixon said. "I moved away, came back, and things had changed again."

He explained that in the midst of a changing society, "we had to make changes, too. We have to accommodate ourselves to what's going on."

Dixon has seen changes first-hand since 1978, when he began work at the home as a houseparent. In the following years, he held

other positions at Spring Meadows, including overnight worker in the home's temporary care shelter and Christian education director.

With his knowledge and past experience, Dixon said, he hopes "to be able to see where some of the gaps, weaknesses and strengths are. We're going to take that information and try to learn from others...to try to see a way we can adapt a particular model of child care that fits our situation."

Dixon noted the difference between Spring Meadows and Glen Dale Children's Home which has a rural setting near Elizabethtown. "We have resources and opportunities here that Glen Dale doesn't have," he said. "Glen Dale has resources that we don't have. We're different and that's OK. We've got to maximize our resources to maximize who we are in this location. We

do need to try to adapt."

KBHC president Curtis Mooney also reminded guests of changing times for the home. In 1950 when "Kentucky Baptists decided they wanted to move out of the city into the country," the home (first named Louisville Baptist Orphan's Home) moved from downtown Louisville to the Middletown campus. However, "we're no longer in the country," said Mooney. "We're part of the big city."

Dixon, director of the home since May of this year, highlighted Spring Meadows' urban environment. "We have a bus line that comes right up to our door now. You can be downtown in half an hour. That's significant; that's not a farm community."

—classified ads—

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

LEGAL SERVICE: 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

WANTED: Church secretary: typing, 60 wpm, accounting procedures, computer skills, filing and good interpersonal relations, confidentiality. Resumes: 515 Monticello Blvd., Lexington, 40503. 8-21-3T

FOR SALE: 1979 28-passenger Chevrolet church bus. Has 1983 motor, approximately 50,000 miles, newly repainted, cleaned, refurbished, A/C and passes Kentucky state inspection. Can be seen in Elkton, Ky. Taking bids. Phone 502-265-2239 or 265-2334. 8-21-2T

FOR SALE: Mimeograph and electronic scanner. Ridgewood Baptist Church, Louisville, 502-935-1952. 8-21-1T

For the economy
conscientious church...

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> STEEPLAS | <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CUPOLAS | <input type="checkbox"/> BAPTISTRIES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COLUMNS | <input type="checkbox"/> LOUVERS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CORNICES | <input type="checkbox"/> SHUTTERS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CROSSES | <input type="checkbox"/> RAILINGS |

Aluminum fabrication—
our specialty
WRITE OR CALL
502-932-7091

ALUMINUM FABRICATORS
P. O. BOX 267 GREENSBURG, KY 42743

JOBS AVAILABLE

Human Resources
Professionals
Placement, Training, Employee
Relations. Business Degree
with a minimum of 5 years
professional human resources
experience required

Send resumé:

Personnel Department
Baptist Sunday School Board
127 Ninth Ave. North
Nashville, TN 37234



EEO
Employer

Steeple & Baptistries

From the world's
largest manufacturer of
fiberglass church products

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| • Steeples | • Krinkglas® |
| • Baptistries | • Windows |
| • Lighted Wall
Croses | • Baptistry Heaters |



Call or write for
our free catalog
1-800-527-1459
In Texas 1-800-443-8582
P.O. Box 1340
Henderson, TX 75653-1340

FIBERGLASS
SPECIALTIES
INCORPORATED

HMB trustees affirm Cooperative Program

by Mark Wingfield

Trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board affirmed the Cooperative Program and warned against alternate giving plans after hearing financial projections for the agency through 1993.

During their Aug. 8 meeting, HMB trustees adopted a resolution presented by Anthony Carson of Louisville. The resolution affirms the Cooperative Program and states the group's opposition to "negative designation or any attempt to circumvent the Cooperative Program."

The Cooperative Program is the denomination's unified budget that funds home and foreign missions, theological education and other national causes.

A second resolution, offered by Jon Meek of Aberdeen, N. J., expanded upon Carson's resolution by calling on trustees to encourage their churches to increase support of the Cooperative Program. Meek also requested that HMB administration distribute the text of a devotional message given earlier in the meeting by George Harris of San Antonio, Tex.

In the devotion, Harris urged trustees, "Don't quit now" in supporting the Cooperative Program. "The world is not interested in whether we escrow or don't escrow our funds, whether we're moderate or conservative, but whether we know Jesus," he said. "This is not the time for Southern Baptists or the Home Mission Board to quit."

Concern about negative designation and alternate funding plans has increased since the denomination's annual meeting in June. Churches and state conventions which consider themselves cut off by current leadership have announced plans to alter their giving as a form of protest.

In his address to the board, HMB president Larry Lewis also spoke about threats to the Cooperative Program. Missionaries, not convention leadership, will be hurt by churches withholding money, he said.

"Who are the ones who suffer?" Lewis asked. "Not Paul Pressler. Not Paige Patterson. Not Larry Lewis or Morris Chapman. Not the SBC Executive Committee or even you, the members of the Home Mission board of directors."

"No! It is the missionaries who suffer most. It is the cause of world missions that pays the price."

"Present leaders of the convention will make a definite and deliberate effort to broaden the leadership base to include a larger spectrum of Southern Baptists lives."

—Larry Lewis

"Read my lips," Lewis declared. "We must not hold our missionaries hostage while we fight our political battles in the SBC."

Lewis predicted an "impossible" situation if Southern Baptists destroy the Cooperative Program and return to a societal method of funding missions. "If this becomes the prevailing approach, budgets will be slashed, programs will be eliminated, services will be reduced. In all likelihood, staff members and missionaries will lose their jobs."

He encouraged trustees to "stand up and be counted for the Cooperative Program."

Despite his concerns about the threat to

the Cooperative Program and what Lewis called "the untimely dismissal of two respected journalists," Lewis said he felt positive about the future of Southern Baptists. (Lewis was referring to the action of the SBC Executive Committee dismissing Al Shackelford and Dan Martin as director and news editor of the Baptist Press.)

Lewis said he believes the present leaders of the convention "will make a definite and deliberate effort to broaden the leadership base to include a larger spectrum of Southern Baptist lives. I believe this is imperative if we achieve healing and reconciliation within our beloved denomination," he said.

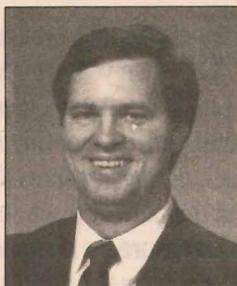
Lewis concluded with an appeal for Baptists to demonstrate unconditional love. "A harsh, condemnatory, judgmental spirit is unbecoming any community of Christians." He urged Baptists to unite in the task of missions and evangelism and "in our desire to see our nation and our world brought to Jesus." (BP)



NEW BOARD MEMBER—Erma Day of Kentucky visits with Home Mission Board president Larry Lewis during an orientation meeting for new members of the agency's board of directors. Day, a registered nurse and member of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, was one of 12 people elected to a four-year term on the board during the SBC annual meeting in June. (HMB photo by Mark Sandlin)

WOW

WIN OUR WORLD



DEAN FINLEY
NATIONAL COORDINATOR

The WOW workshop is for ministers of youth and youth Sunday School outreach leaders. This workshop will certify participants as equippers to use both the WOW Event and WOW Advance Training materials. Participants must attend all training sessions to be certified. WOW Advance materials can be ordered only by a certified equipper.

Registration is \$28, postmarked 30 days before the workshop, and \$38, up to 14 days before the workshop. Full refund of registration up to the 14-day deadline. No registrations or refunds will be made after the 14-day deadline. Registration fee includes all materials. It does not include travel, food or lodging. Workshops with less than 20 participants will be rescheduled. To register, send registration form and check payable to Home Mission Board. Mail to Home Mission Board SBC • Personal Evangelism Department • WOW Registration • 1350 Spring Street, NW • Atlanta, GA 30367-5601.

(tear off)

Please call 404-898-7707 for other dates and places.

Registration Form:

October 1-3, 1990
Gardenside Baptist Church
Lexington, Ky.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Telephone Number (____) _____

Workshop Date _____

Workshop Location _____

HMB

HOME
MISSION
BOARD, SBC

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

christian education



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

clear creek chronicle

Alumni loyalty

Alumni support and confidence dramatically increased during their Aug. 6-7 annual conference. Three hundred and eight filled the chapel for business and inspiration. Pastors came expecting to hear some of the best preaching available in the SBC through Dr. Joel Gregory, Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Ft. Worth. They were not disappointed. His first message, "Distraction or devotion," focused on Mary and Martha and Jesus' correction of Martha for "work without worship and serving him without seeking him." A message on Abraham, "A Concrete Faith," reaffirmed my calling to Clear Creek and the need for all God's people to walk by faith.

Eleazar Benenhaley, '61, did two sessions on Acts. He recalled his first trip to Clear Creek, "325 miles took 13 hours! coming up the old road I finally saw a sign, 'Keep coming; you're not lost.' Clear Creek gave me a chance when it seemed all other doors were closed. I thank God this 10th-grade dropout had the opportunity to get a solid foundation for ministry."

Four testimonies encouraged mission involvement. Bob Blevins, '73, told of victories in Africa and Jamaica. Pat Garland, '83, related God's work establishing new churches in West Virginia. Jim Ditty, '81, on medical leave from Korea, described the harvest in South Korea. Distinguished alumnus David Mitchell, '79, Puerto Rico, pleaded for workers among the deaf.

Graduates voted to raise \$96,000 for materials and student labor to remodel 31 cottages. Most were built about 1950 and need plumbing, electrical and carpentry improvements.

Bob and Oakie Blevins accepted my challenge for 300 friends to help complete our Miracle in the Mountains campaign and presented a check for \$1500. Two hundred ninety-three others will soon be found. Ohioan graduate Howard Posey, '70, decided to bring us some beef when his cattle go to market.

Five alumni requested a transcript review to determine requirements for an accredited degree. Worshipful music led by Ohioan Jim Williams and a record offering to pay the bills concluded a successful meeting.

georgetown college

Four members of the Georgetown (Ky.) College faculty contributed to the *Merger Dictionary of the Bible*. Vice president for academic affairs Joe Lewis and Religion Department professors Joe Lunceford, Vernon Mallow and Paul Redditt contributed 28 articles for the publication, written by members of the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion.

Marcus C. Whitt, director of public relations at Georgetown College, has been invited by the Kentucky section of the

Council for the Advancement and Support of Education to serve on a panel of state college and university spokespersons at the CASE-K fall conference in Lexington. Georgetown earned a CASE District III (Southeast United States) award this year for its public information program.

southern seminary

Two Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professors have assumed administrative responsibilities at the Louisville school. Gerald L. Keown, associate professor of Old Testament interpretation, has

been named associate dean of the School of Theology, and Robert Don Hughes, associate professor of communication and mass media, has been named seminary director of professional studies.

campbellsville college

Campbellsville (Ky.) College's first fall art show will feature a display by Greensburg artist Mildred Colvin. The one-person show will run Aug. 27-Sept. 14 in the Gosser Fine Arts Center Gallery. A reception will be held from 7-9 p.m. opening night. The public is invited.



SET YOUR GUESTS UP WITH A STAR.



Entertaining groups is a breeze when you cruise on the Star of Louisville. It's the ideal setting for group parties, monthly meetings, lunch outings or special occasions. And the perfect place to mix business and pleasure for company meetings. Put a star by the important dates on your calendar, and call for reservations.

For reservations or
information call- 589-7827
Groups of 25
or more call- 581-0287

Cruising Year Round
Major Credit Cards Accepted



STAR OF LOUISVILLE

The Craft Of Fine Dining & Entertainment.



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR AUG. 26, 1990

Life and work series

Love one another

I John 3:16-18 We must, as we have opportunity and ability, seek to minister to the needs of others. To see the need of a Christian and refuse to assist him or her would prove a lack of Christian love. The test of love is not in saying, but in doing. If one truly loves, that person will extend compassion toward those in need. Love will express itself in a practical manner.

Our love for one another is simply

God's love flowing through us to others. Christians are to express their love for Christ and for others not only in kind words but also in good deeds. They are to love others not simply because they deserve to be loved, but because it is Christlike to love. Our Lord calls upon his followers to express their love for others through a sympathetic heart, encouraging words and helpful deeds.

I John 4:7-12 How can we express our love for Christ who did so much for us? We reveal our love for Christ by thinking about him—his will, his work and his way for us. We express our love for him by speaking frequently about his character, sinlessness, teaching, death, resurrection, joy of his fellowship and hope of his return. The best evidence of genuine love for him is obedience to his commandments. God's love should flow through us to others. God wants us to live in the devout contemplation of his infinite, inexpressible immeasurable and inexhaustible love, which is unfailing. Christ expressed his love for us by dying in our stead, in order that we might have life through him.

I John 4:19-21 If Christ is preeminent in our thinking, we shall become more like him in his victory over temptation to sin, in his desire to do the Father's will and in his passion for the souls of humanity. We express our love for God by speaking frequently about his Son and our savior. Obedience to God's commands is the greatest contribution we can make to the progress of the kingdom of God. Those who truly love God express their love for him by thinking about him, speaking about him, obeying him and living for him. Those who have the love of God in their hearts will in turn demonstrate their love for others.

International series

Hearing and doing

James 1:22-27 James emphasized the importance of obedience to the revealed will of our Lord. It is easy to give mental assent to the things set forth in God's word, but obedience is different. It is good to hear with swift apprehension, but it is far better to put into practice the things taught in God's word. Pure religion is expressed through purity of life, Christlike conduct and deeds of kindness to the unfortunate and distressed. True Christianity is expressed in demonstration of mercy towards the suffering, active love for the needy and by keeping oneself untarnished by the pollution of the world.

James 2:1-8 To favor one Christian above another because of mere external differences displeases God. Faith in Christ and class distinctions do not belong together. Instead of glorying in people because of their professions, possessions or accomplishments, Christians should love the rich and the poor alike. Since the Lord is not a respecter of persons, his followers ought not to be. Christians should refrain from selfish partiality. Rich and poor should meet for Christian worship on one common ground. Our love must express itself, as we have the opportunity and ability, by alleviating distress and need. Love is not expressed by pious good wishes but in the demonstration of helpfulness. God's children are under obligation to be impartial, merciful and just. Any who are unmerciful have no right to expect the Lord to deal with them mercifully. Genuine Christian faith is to be demonstrated through dedicated service to others.



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

homes for children

Blaming themselves

A youngster is distraught over the divorce of his parents. He contemplates taking his own life, for he cannot handle the pain he is feeling and he secretly blames himself for the breakup of the marriage.

For young children especially, the pain of watching their family fall apart can be devastating. So often they blame themselves for the breakup. They are unaware of the real world problems of their parents and often feel unrealistically that if they were better boys or girls the family would still be together.

Most often the actions of a child have little or nothing to do with the parents' problems, and the parents are unaware of how the child feels.

The parents themselves are often feeling so much hurt they can offer little comfort to the child, for they need comfort themselves in such a stressful time.

Children may blame themselves at other traumatic times as well. In trying to understand the death of a parent, a sibling or a playmate, they may feel that they were responsible. Perhaps they had a fight or secretly wished someone would die. In their young minds they accept responsibility for something with which they had nothing to do.

It is important for parents to realize that when the trauma of the breakup of the home occurs or when there has been a death of someone close to a child, he or she may be unable to express his or her own feelings, and left unexpressed, those feelings may lead to greater problems.

Parents should try to talk with the child about their feelings and deal with the real facts of the situation. At times it is important to have the child visit with a counselor who is trained to help them share their fears and feelings and understand the real situation.

Children can get lost in real world adult problems. Many times they cannot express the hurt they are feeling.



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

A father wants to help

Our chimes were ringing out "Amazing Grace" this morning as I walked to work. As I stooped to pick up a tree limb, blown down during the rain of the night, I listened to "When They Ring Those Golden Bells." As I arrived at the office the chimes were reminding me that "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." What a way to begin the day!

Then I had the pleasure and inspiration reading letters like the following: "As you know I am a street performer living mostly hand to mouth. Luckily the hand was a little fuller than usual so I am

sending you a small donation." Enclosed from Batavia, Ill. was \$150.

"My niece went from hating Oneida to wanting to return and be an honor roll student in a very short time. She realizes that you folks really care."

One of our recent graduates, with us three years, and now 10 days into Navy basic training: "Things here could definitely be better. I'm not crazy about it at all. It's nothing like I expected. When I get really down I think of OBI. I miss it a lot and can't wait to get back there with my family. Some people stand out more than others, people who had the most impact on my life at Oneida. I think about what I learned and who taught it to me. I thank God every day for the wonderful opportunity to go to a special place like OBI. I feel good knowing I'm always welcome there."

From Louisville with a gift: "I enjoy your newsletter. I look forward to getting it. It brings back fond memories."

A young man was with us from seventh through the ninth grade. From a wonderful Christian family he recently visited Oneida with his parents and made arrangements to return for his senior year. They had not seen Oneida in two years. They write: "Thanks for sharing the afternoon with us. We are so proud of all of Oneida's improvements. Everything looks so neat."

From Campbellsville: "Please remember me in prayer as the doctor suspects I have colon cancer. My faith is strong. Pray that I don't weaken. God has been so good to me. He blesses me daily.

Thanks for all the blessings that I receive knowing of the wonderful work going on there. There must be much rejoicing in heaven, for God sees his work being done

through all of you."

From Stanford: "You have done so much for our son who has been there since October. The school is home to him now. The school has been an answer to prayer. Use the enclosed money to pay for construction materials or wherever needed."

From Lexington: "Enclosed is payment for Johnathan's entrance fee and his first month's room and board. We appreciate Oneida and thank you for helping make his summer school a positive and learning experience. He is looking forward to returning this fall."

From Boston: "I want to take this moment to say your school is fantastic. Mike really liked it and his grades are good. His attitude is much better. We really appreciate your care and the structure your school provides. I feel better about Mike than ever before."

From Maysville: "Larry will be returning for school. Thank you very much for all you have done for him so far. He needs what Oneida has to offer and we're so thankful you have allowed him to be a part of your school."

A policeman writes from Erlanger: "Lauri will be leaving Oneida this Friday to go to college. My appreciation to everyone at Oneida will never be forgotten. I am enclosing some help to be used for materials or whatever. Since Lauri has been at Oneida, she has grown to understand God and what is going on about her. For that I thank everyone. I want to help out at OBI for years to come. When funds are not available, I will offer my other talents that God has provided. I have a week of vacation left. Please allow me to return something to everyone at OBI."



75 years of caring

mountains to the mississippi

ordinations

Larry F. Conrad, David Alan Poer and Gary Louie Jump were ordained deacons at Williamstown (Ky.) Baptist Church.

Rick Ringley was ordained a deacon at First Baptist Church, Ashland.

personnel

Sandy Trail is new Christian life Center director at Immanuel Baptist Church, Paducah.

Powells's Valley Baptist Church, Clay City, called Stacy Hicks as youth minister.

Springfield (Ky.) Baptist Church named Prue Kelly pastor emeritus. He pastored the church from 1950-56 and returned as interim pastor from September 1989-March 1990.

Gene Quinn is interim minister of music at West Broadway Baptist Church, Jefferson-town. He is retired director of the Church Music Department at the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

David Smith resigned as minister of music and education at Seven Hills Baptist Church, Owensboro. He goes to First Baptist Church, Brandenburg, as minister of music and youth.

Ray T. Vinson resigned as pastor of Hyland Baptist Church, Henderson. He goes

to Bethel Baptist Church, Morristown, Tenn.

associations

Ohio County Baptist Association held its annual meeting Aug. 2 at Providence Baptist Church. The association reported 267 baptisms, the most in 10 years. Mission projects included a youth work camp in the Hurricane Hugo area, a youth resort ministry in North Carolina and gathering food and hay for the Kentucky Baptist Children's Home. One volunteer participated in the Kentucky/Brazil partnership.

The Long Run Baptist Association ministries committee is sponsoring the first annual Wayne Oates award banquet at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 6 at the Galt House West's Court/Dell Quay room. The event will honor Oates, senior professor of pastoral care at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. William Rogers, retired minister/church support director at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will receive the award. Cost is \$20. For more information, call Tony Hough at the Long Run Association office, (502) 587-6735.

Blood River Baptist Association honored H. C. Chiles, professor at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville, for 30 years of service as associational clerk.

missions

Gary and Sandy Light, missionaries to Peru, are on furlough as missionaries in

residence at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Address: 2700 Grinstead Dr., Louisville, KY 40206.

congregations

Glenville Baptist Church, Utica, celebrated its 125th anniversary July 29. Six former pastors were present.

Howard's Mill Baptist Church, Mt. Sterling, will celebrate its centennial homecoming Sept. 28-30. Plans include an "all day meeting" Sunday, Sept. 30. Edwin Helton, oldest living former pastor, will bring the morning message. Singing and an afternoon message from Richard Vaughn, youngest former pastor, will follow dinner on the grounds. W. B. Casey is present interim pastor. All former pastors, members and friends are invited.

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Anchorage, will observe its 185th anniversary and homecoming Labor Day weekend. Activities include a fish fry Saturday, Sept. 1. Former pastor Don Campbell will bring the Sunday morning message and a music program will follow dinner on the grounds. Former members and friends are invited.

deaths

Joe Preston has invested \$50,000 for Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington, in memory of his mother, Addie Neff Preston, who died at age 92. She had been a member of Porter Memorial since 1921. Other survivors include two daughters, Josephine and Catherine Bastin, both of Lexington. Interest from the investment will be added yearly to the church's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

Fall Festivals of Marriage slated for 1990

"Marriage on the Run" is the theme of the 1990 Fall Festival of Marriage conferences, according to Susan Lanford, consultant in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Family Ministry Department, which sponsors the events.

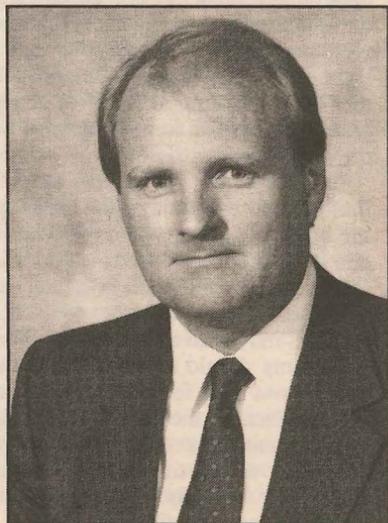
Area locations, dates and keynote speakers are Louisville, Sept. 21-23, Bill Blevins, professor at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.; and three weekends at Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist Conference

Center: Oct. 12-14, Jim Henry, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.; Oct. 19-21, Ken Hemphill, pastor, First Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va.; Oct. 26-28, John Lee Taylor, pastor, First Baptist Church, Gainesville, Ga.

For more information, write or call the Baptist Sunday School Board, Family Ministry Department, MSN 140, 127 Ninth Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37234 (615) 251-2277.

Conference on Cults

September 18 & 20, 1990

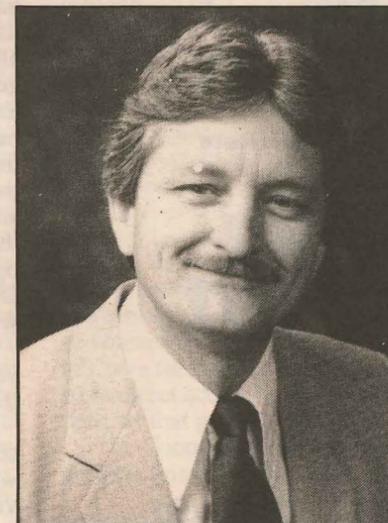


Jehovah's Witnesses

Paul Blizard
Pastor of First Baptist Church
Fairdale, Kentucky
and former Jehovah's Witness

Mormons

Allen Harrod
Pastor of First Baptist Church
Bellevue, Kentucky
and Home Mission Board
Trained Teacher of Mormonism



Tuesday, September 18, 1990, 7:00 p.m. (ET)
Calvary Baptist Church
Somerset, Kentucky

Thursday, September 20, 1990, 7:00 p.m. (ET)
Campton Baptist Church
Campton, Kentucky

Sponsored by Office for Evangelism, KBC

Bill Jagers, Director

Kentucky native Estep guided students to Baptist roots

by Chip Alford

When Kentucky native William Estep retired from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Tex., this summer, his 36 years at the school were more than history.

For thousands of students, Estep's tenure at Southwestern itself is historical. The church historian has been helping those students develop their self-identity as Baptists.

"It is so important for students to have a knowledge of church history to help them understand who they are, religiously speaking," Estep said.

"If students don't know who they are as Baptists, through the historical development of the Baptist faith, they're not going to be able to help anybody with their faith. They will be confused themselves, and a confused person is never able to help anyone."

Religious liberty has always been at the heart of Baptist beliefs, said Estep, adding his latest book, "Revolution Within the Revolution," may be his most important work.

"I think it is important because it deals with the institutional separation of church and state in this country," he explained. "Southern Baptists appear to be wavering somewhat on this point and I feel betrayed. I feel that this is an attempt to sabotage religious liberty itself."

Estep's own self-identity as a Baptist began forming before his birth in Williamsburg, when his mother dedicated his life "to preach the gospel." Her positive, Christian influence continued throughout his childhood and was especially helpful during his hospitalization at age 5 because of congenital problems.

"I almost died," Estep remembered, "but I still remember my mother at my bedside telling me about the love of God. She was a woman of prayer and great faith."

Those early seeds planted by his mother came to fruition when Estep accepted Christ as a 10-year-old at Fifth Avenue Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn. Only two years later, though, tragedy struck. After moving to Louisville, where his father had found employment with an insurance company, Estep's mother became ill and died during a flu epidemic.

"My father couldn't handle the situation," said Estep, who was 12 at the time. "He began to drink rather heavily and one morning he suggested it would be best for all of us if he put us in an orphan's home."

Instead, Estep and his two brothers were sent back to Williamsburg to live with relatives. Estep lived on a farm with two great aunts so he could help with chores.

"I don't recall that I had any particular trauma," Estep said. "I felt very much loved. I believe it was providential, because I began to learn lessons I probably would not have learned as early if my mother had lived."

Estep experienced a call to ministry as a 16-year-old attending a revival at First Baptist Church of Williamsburg.

To help prepare for the task he earned a bachelor's degree from Berea College in Berea, a master's in theology from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and a doctorate in theology from Southwestern. He has also studied at several other schools, including University of Basel and University of Zurich, Switzerland; and Oxford University, England.

He was pastor of churches in Kentucky, Oklahoma and Texas before accepting a teaching post at Southwestern.

"I not only wanted to teach church history," he explained, "but to invest my life in students."

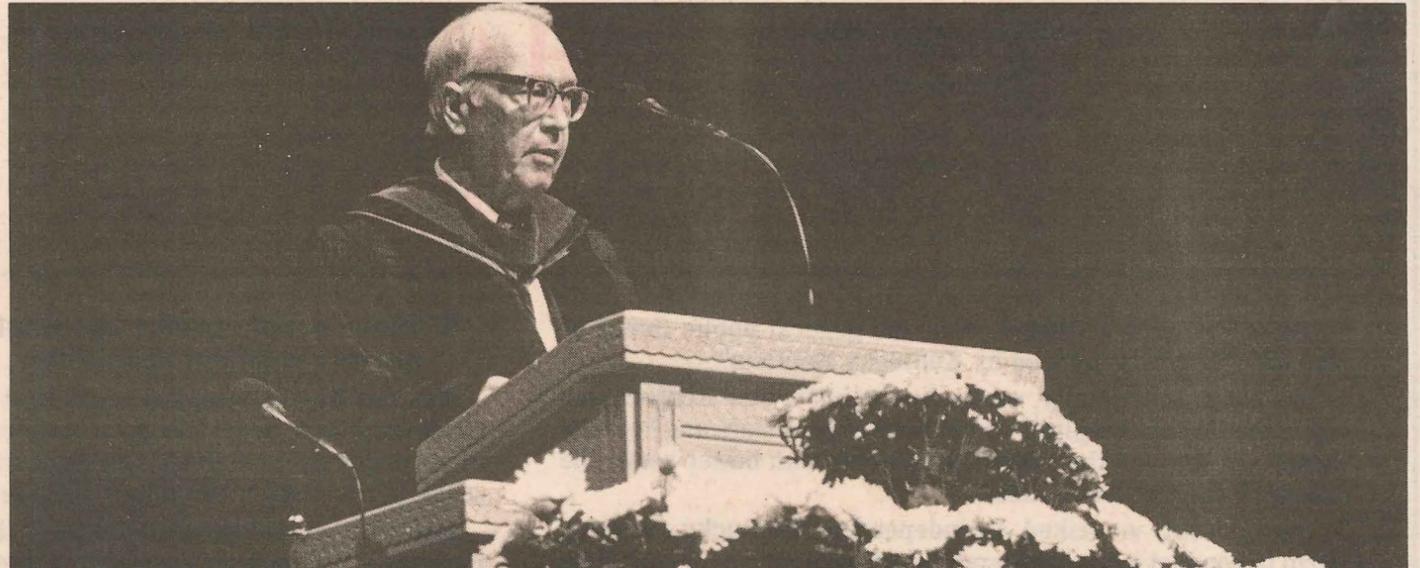
"The seminary has undergirded my work

as a church historian and has extended the influence of Southern Baptists in circles in which we virtually had no influence before."

In addition to his work at Southwestern,

Estep has taught at Baptist seminaries in California, Kentucky, Columbia, Switzerland, Spain and Peru. He also has lectured at numerous institutions in Latin America, Europe, England, Asia and the United States.

Estep lives in Ft. Worth with his wife, Edna Alice. They have four children. He plans to continue teaching as an adjunct professor at Southwestern and give lectures across the United States.



Kentuckian William Estep retired after more than 35 years of teaching history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Tex. Estep, distinguished professor of church history, is recognized around the world as one of the leading experts in Baptist and Anabaptist history. (Photo by Teresa Sullivan)

Southern Seminary grad leaves scholarship legacy

by Chip Alford

To many religion scholars, John Newport is known as a "constructive evangelical."

Those academicians view Newport as constructive because of his willingness to dialog honestly with theologians of other beliefs and evangelical because of his unwavering stand for Jesus Christ.

One of his former students, Russell Dilday, describes Newport from a similar view. "He has helped his students put together the diverse strands of knowledge from various intellectual disciplines into a consistent worldview," said the president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Tex.

For more than 35 years, John Newport has expanded the religious worldview of students at Southwestern.

"I've had a wonderful experience here at Southwestern," said Newport, who retired this summer, leaving a 35-year legacy of scholarship and leadership. "I found here a remarkable balance between scholarship and evangelism, between the theoretical and practical," he said.

Newport first joined the Southwestern faculty in 1952, teaching in the areas of philosophy of religion and Christian apologetics. He left in 1976 to become professor of religious studies at Rice University in

Houston. He returned only three years later to work alongside Dilday as vice president for academic affairs and provost.

Dilday, who makes no secret of his respect and admiration for his mentor, has described him as a practical philosopher-theologian.

Especially significant, Dilday said, is Newport's contribution to Southern Baptist apologetics, which "is already measurable in the lives of hundreds of students who are now serving around the world as ministers and missionaries."

Newport's impact can also be seen in the lives of the doctoral students who studied philosophy of religion at Southwestern under his supervision and guidance. Those students now teach or serve in all six Southern Baptist seminaries, 12 different colleges and universities, several convention agencies and churches throughout the SBC.

The excitement of the Christian faith has been part of Newport's life since his childhood days in Buffalo, Mo., where he lived only three blocks from the Baptist church and next door to the pastor. He was saved at a revival meeting at age 11 and baptized in a nearby river.

Valedictorian of his high school class, Newport received a scholarship to William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo. There he became active in the touring debate team

and developed an interest in politics. During his senior year he was offered a three-year scholarship to Harvard Law School and had already paid his fees before making what would turn out to be a life-altering decision.

"God had been dealing with me and telling me that he wanted me for Christian service," Newport recalled. "So, finally, in a very traumatic experience in my home with my parents at the very last minute, I decided I would go to Southern (Baptist Theological) Seminary instead of law school."

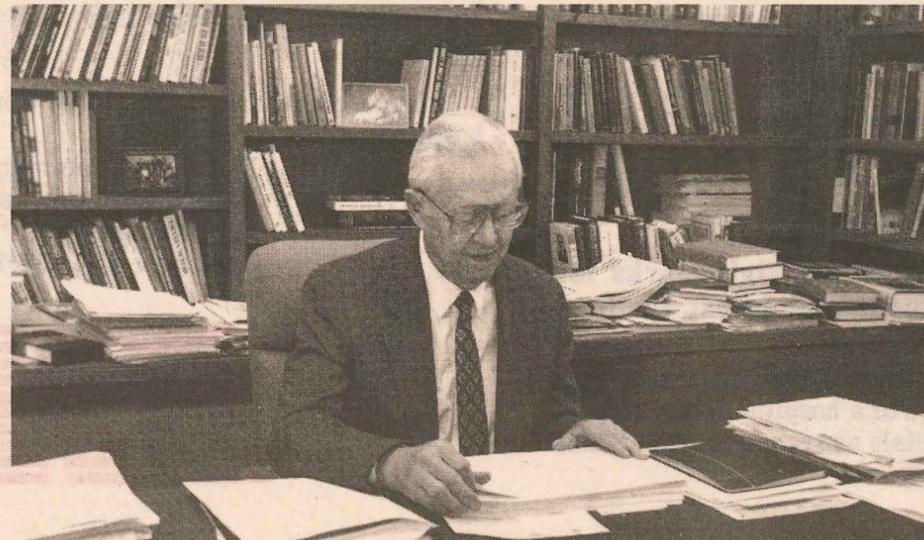
In addition to master's and doctorate degrees in theology from Southern, Newport has earned a master's degree from Texas Christian University and a doctorate from the University of Edinburgh. He also has studied at eight other schools including Harvard University, Columbia University and University of Zurich.

His academic background has allowed him to dialog with some of the world's most renowned theologians, including Paul Tillich. "While I was in New York working with my PhD thesis and while I was at Harvard, I encountered Dr. Tillich and studied with him," Newport recalled. "While I did not agree with him theologically, he is one of the great intellects I have known. We walked together and he arranged for me to be on various discussion group panels where I was listed as a constructive evangelical."

Newport later wrote the book *Paul Tillich* as part of Word Publishing Company's Makers of the Modern Theological Mind series. He has written nine other books, including *The Lion and the Lamb*, *Theology and Contemporary Art Forms* and his latest, *Life's Ultimate Questions: A Contemporary Philosophy of Religion*. He also has written numerous articles for Southern Baptist publications, professional journals and other periodicals.

In addition to his academic work, Newport has stayed in touch with the local church, serving as interim pastor for more than 50 congregations in Oklahoma, Kentucky, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

Newport still lives in Ft. Worth with his wife, Eddie Belle. He has agreed to serve as special consultant to the president for academic research and will continue to conduct doctoral seminars in philosophy of religion.



John Newport, vice president for academic affairs and provost, and distinguished professor of philosophy of religion, retired from Southwestern Baptist Theological seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., this summer. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

What Kentuckians Say About Healthcare and the Baptist Hospitals

Have you ever wondered what the general public thinks of the four hospitals founded by Kentucky Baptists?

We have. Specifically, we wanted to know how Kentuckians view the Baptist hospitals as healthcare providers and how the hospitals, through their healing ministry, can better serve the needs of their communities.

To find out, we asked an independent Kentucky research firm to conduct a random sample telephone survey. From June 4 through June 24, 1990, the firm polled a total of 1,600 adult Kentuckians—approximately 400 in each of the four regions served by the Baptist hospitals (the metropolitan areas of Louisville, Lexington, Paducah and Corbin and surrounding counties). Survey respondents included former patients as well as those who have never been hospitalized in a Baptist facility. At no time was Baptist identified as the research firm's client.

Kentuckians spoke loud and clear on the subject of healthcare and hospitals. In summary, here's what they told us:

■ Healthcare consumers have strong, specific expectations of hospitals.

Across the Commonwealth, people said they go to a particular hospital expecting: 1). to have access to the latest in medical technology and treatment; 2). to receive professional and competent nursing care; 3). to have convenience and a feeling of nearness to home, and; 4). to be attended by their personal physician.

■ The Baptist hospitals are the #1 hospital of choice in each region.

Without any prompting from interviewers, more people said they would select a Baptist hospital over all other hospitals in their region for both inpatient and outpatient care. For inpatient care, the margin of preference between a Baptist hospital and the second-choice hospital ranged from 5% to highs of 13% and 14%. Previous experience, closeness to home and a good reputation were reasons most often cited for choosing a Baptist hospital.

■ The Baptist hospitals are regarded as providing the best quality of care among all hospitals in their respective regions.

People were asked to define "quality of care." They gave many different answers, ranging from "good care, competent nurses and physicians" and "how well they treat you," to "being cured" and "best all-around service." Whatever their definition, respondents named the Baptist hospital in their region as the provider of the best quality of care. In fact, our hospitals were a clear-cut choice by a considerable margin.

■ The Baptist hospitals received high marks for having the best equipment and latest medical technology.

Again, the hospitals scored well in an area mentioned as a major reason for patient selection of a hospital. Many respondents perceived the Baptist hospitals as second-to-none in this regard.

■ More people prefer the Baptist hospitals for certain medical specialties.

Western Baptist Hospital ranks first in patient selection for cardiology and heart surgery; maternity and women's services; oncology; pediatrics; general surgery; neurosurgery; eye surgery; and major and minor emergency treatment.

Baptist Regional Medical Center is the hospital of choice for maternity and women's services; orthopedics; pediatrics; psychiatry; general surgery; outpatient surgery; cardiology; eye surgery; and emergency treatment.

Central Baptist Hospital is preferred for maternity and women's services, general surgery and outpatient surgery. Central Kentuckians also cited the hospital as where they would go for minor emergencies.

Baptist Hospital East leads its market in patient choice for general surgery; outpatient surgery; and minor emergency treatment. The hospital ranked high in the number of mentions as a preferred provider of maternity and women's services.

The overall good showing of the Baptist organizations pleased Baptist hospital management but came as no surprise. John Vines, acting president of Baptist Hospitals, Inc., said the positive opinions and perceptions can be explained easily.

"Through the years, our Baptist hospitals have been abundantly blessed with dedicated employees, outstanding medical staffs and active auxiliaries. Their combined efforts—along with the continued support of Kentucky Baptists across the Commonwealth—have built the reputations the hospitals enjoy today. Credit is indeed due to many. And we are certainly mindful of the role of Divine Providence during the past 65 years, guiding the hospitals in the right directions and providing them needed leadership and resources at critical points throughout their history," he said.

The president was quick to point out that the Baptist hospitals cannot rest on their laurels. "I'm not saying there aren't things we can't improve or change to be of even better service to Kentuckians. We work constantly to find ways to do so, and the survey has proven helpful in this process.

"I do think Kentucky Baptists and all those who are and have been associated with our healthcare system can take great pride in evidence that the Baptist hospitals are held in such high esteem by the people they were meant to serve," Vines said.

For more information about the work of the Baptist hospitals, write:

Director of Communications
Baptist Hospitals, Inc.
4007 Kresge Way
Louisville, Ky. 40207

