

KBC's largest convention avoids extremes

by Marv Knox, *Editor*

Kentucky Baptists steered clear of political extremes during their 1990 convention in Paducah last week.

A record 2,262 messengers packed First Baptist Church and spilled over into Immanuel Baptist Church for the 153rd annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Nov. 13-14.

They elected a self-proclaimed non-partisan as president and split decisions on a pair of controversial proposals.

J. Robert White, pastor of First Baptist Church of Paducah, won the presidency over C. Wyman Copass, pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville, 1,274 to 796.

White described himself as "a conservative preacher of the gospel who is non-political." Conservatives had placed Copass at the head of a slate of candidates, a first in Kentucky Baptist history.

Conservatives claimed White was the moderate candidate—part of an "un-slate" of candidates who would be supported against the conservatives' pre-announced slate. A number of moderates did indeed endorse White, although he was not mentioned in an ad decrying slate politics that moderates purchased in the *Western Recorder*.

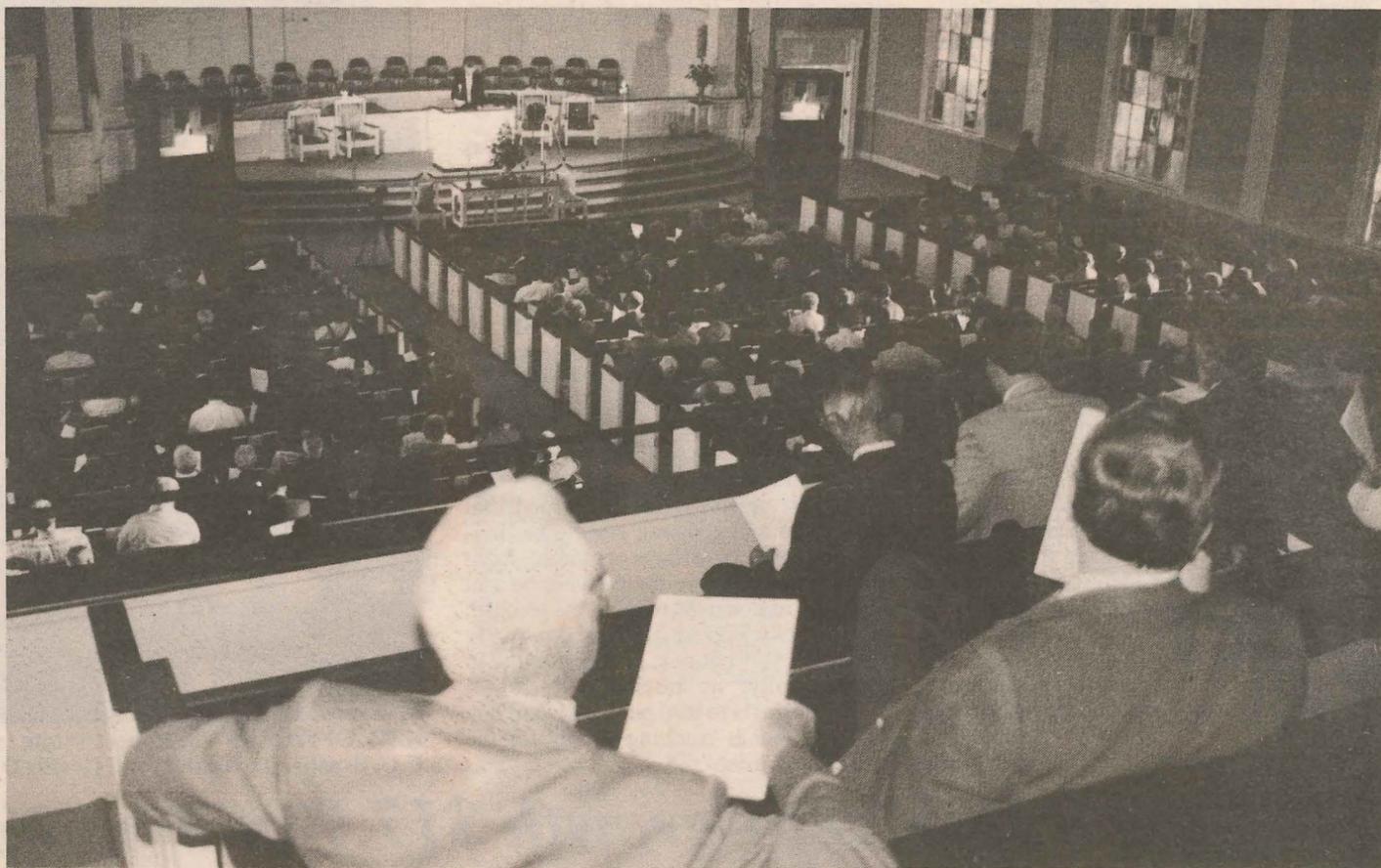
White, however, maintained his neutrality. After his election, he told reporters: "I want to be known as my own person. I belong to no one but the Lord Jesus. ... My desire is to lead people toward one goal, and that is reaching people for the Lord Jesus Christ."

Only one of the four candidates on the conservatives' slate was elected to office. C.C. Brasher Jr., pastor of Briensburg Baptist Church in Benton, was chosen first vice president by acclamation.

In the other contested elections, Orville D. Hickey, pastor of Grays Baptist Church in Gray, was elected second vice president, gaining 620 votes, to 572 for Charles E. Stewart, pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland; and Harold F. Skaggs, pastor of Cadiz Baptist Church in Cadiz, was elected president of the KBC Pastor's Conference in a race with James K. Pierce Jr., pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

Messengers in Paducah offered several explanations for the results:

- Some said politics played a large part. Either Kentucky Baptists repudiated slate



ELECTRONIC CONVENTION—A record 2,262 messengers who attended the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 1990 annual meeting in Paducah last week overwhelmed host First Baptist Church. But their numbers did not deter Kentucky Baptists from participating. Several hundred of them joined in the proceedings from Immanuel Baptist Church, where a two-

way television link allowed them to observe and respond to events at First Church. KBC First Vice President Don Short (at podium) led at Immanuel and communicated with Second Vice President Earl Bell (on screens) at First. See related story on page 6.

(Photo by Denise Hawkins Withers)

politics, or the moderates' tactics proved to be more successful than the conservatives'.

- Others theorized geography played its part. White, Skaggs and Brasher all are from west Kentucky, where the convention was held. And Stewart, who lost to Hickey, is from Ashland, home of incumbent President Bill Messer, in northeast Kentucky.

- Still others speculated that a rural-urban mindset had a hand in the outcome. Each of the winners of the three contested races hails from a smaller town than the person he defeated.

- And some said genuine diversity prevailed. Young, old, moderate, conservative, east, west—all won something, they maintained.

Diversity also was evident in debate and balloting on the two controversial proposals.

They had been offered by President Messer to provide "a place for all Kentucky

Baptists" to stand on potentially divisive issues. Along the way, they generated their own share of debate.

The first proposal recommended creation of a special committee to study how the convention "receives and qualifies Cooperative Program gifts from the churches."

The Cooperative Program is Kentucky and Southern Baptists' unified giving plan. It has become a part of the Southern Baptist Convention's ongoing controversy. Some moderates claim the conservatives, who control the SBC apparatus, are expecting them to help fund the convention but not giving moderates a voice in how its agencies and institutions are run.

The issue is more complicated in Kentucky, because KBC policies dictate that churches' representation at the Kentucky annual meeting is based on undesignated gifts to the national Cooperative Program. So, churches that might continue to support

KBC causes but drop SBC causes could lose their rights to participate in Kentucky decision-making.

Opposition to the proposed study committee was voiced by J. Chester Badgett, retired pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church in Campbellsville. He said creation of the committee would be acknowledgment that the program needs to be changed when it actually does not.

Support for the committee was expressed by Rob Nash, pastor of Buechel Park Baptist Church in Louisville, who said the concerns of moderate churches such as his need to be heard.

The proposal passed, 904 to 885, and Messer named 15 people to the committee.

The second proposal recommended creation of an endowment in the Kentucky Baptist Foundation on behalf of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, estab-

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Paducah's White wins KBC presidency

by James H. Cox, *Associate Editor*

J. Robert White, pastor of the 3,159-member First Baptist Church of Paducah, was elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention last week.

White received 1,274 votes, or 61.5 percent of the total, to 796 votes cast for C. Wyman Copass, pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville.

Brad Johnson, pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, nominated White, calling the Paducah congregation White has led for nine years "a flagship church."

First Church of Paducah, which was host of the Kentucky Baptist annual meeting, gave 20 percent of its budget to the Kentucky and Southern Baptist Coopera-

tive Program unified budget last year, ranking second in the state in CP dollar giving, Johnson said. White is a "servant leader" and was not identified as part of "a group of Kentucky Baptists, but of all Kentucky Baptists," he added.

Copass was among a conservative slate of nominees previously announced by Kentucky Baptist conservatives. He was nominated for the KBC presidency by Don Mathis, pastor of Central Baptist Church of Corbin.

C.C. Brasher Jr., pastor of Briensburg Baptist Church in Benton and another of the group's pre-announced nominees, was elected first vice president by acclamation.

Orville D. Hickey, pastor of Grays Baptist Church at Gray, was elected second vice president. Charles E. Stewart, pastor of

Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland and another candidate supported by the conservative group, also was nominated.

Re-elected KBC officers were Doris B. Yeiser, secretary, and G. Allen West Jr., assistant secretary, both of Louisville.

Earlier, the slate's only announced nominee for a KBC Pastor's Conference office—the presidency—was defeated.

Harold F. Skaggs, pastor of Cadiz Baptist Church in Cadiz, won over James K. Pierce Jr., pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

Other Pastor's Conference officers are Ron Mitchell of Bellview Baptist Church in Paducah, vice president; and Bill Forte of Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green, secretary. Both were unopposed.

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White wants to build bridges; promises balance

by Marv Knox, Editor

J. Robert White favors bridge-building and balance in the Kentucky Baptist Convention, he told reporters moments after he was elected KBC president.

"I want to be involved in bridge-building," said White, 44, pastor of First Baptist Church of Paducah, where the KBC held its annual meeting last week. "I'll be doing a lot of driving and speaking in churches. I want to set a spiritual climate for our people to focus on evangelistic priorities rather than a political agenda."

That involves balanced appointments and proposals, he said. It means inclusion of conservatives, who ran C. Wyman Copass, pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville, against him for the presidency.

"I would be interested in sitting down and talking to conservatives," White said. "I would consider their names. I think there needs to be balance."

And although those conservatives accused White of secretly being the moderates' candidate for president, he disavowed any personal political connections.

"I consider myself a conservative preacher of the gospel who is non-political," he said. "I've not been involved in pre-convention meetings and influencing people to vote."

"I will say unequivocally: I was involved

in absolutely no politics. ... I want to be known as my own person. I belong to no one but the Lord Jesus."

Asked how he would convince conservatives that he is non-partisan and his motives are pure, White responded, "Perhaps the only way they will be convinced is to see my performance."

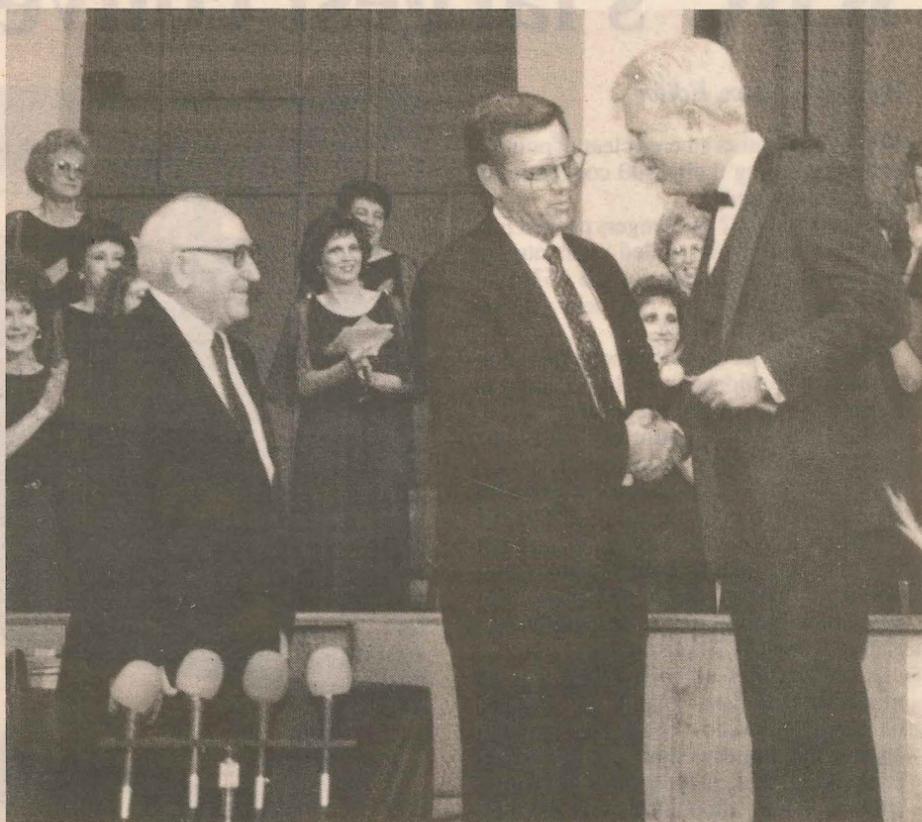
His election proved Kentucky Baptists do not want political schemes, he said: "The convention was saying, 'We do not want a political agenda. We want someone who is not aligning with any political party.'"

Political parties are not needed, because Kentucky Baptists are more homogeneous than they often give themselves credit for being, White added. "When I look at Kentucky Baptists, I see a convention of conservatives," he explained. "I see committees filled with conservatives—people who are conservative theologically but who do not have a political agenda."

The new president plans to respect that equilibrium and does not plan to be divisive, he said. "I will be cautious about bringing items before the convention that could split us down the middle," he pledged.

"Kentucky Baptist life has been pretty free from overt politics. ... I would like to see more unity," he stressed.

"My desire is to lead people toward one goal, and that is reaching people for the Lord Jesus Christ."



NEW OFFICERS—J. Robert White (right) is KBC president, with vice presidents C.C. Brasher Jr. (center) and Orville D. Hickey. (Photo by Denise Hawkins Withers)

Messengers OK zero-growth \$17.9 million operating budget

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lished by the KBC executive board through deposit of \$25,000 from 1989-90 year-end funds. It also would have provided a one-time allocation of \$17,358 from year-end funds to the Washington-based religious liberty organization "to cover the KBC's portion of this year's reduced Cooperative Program funding."

The Baptist Joint Committee, comprised of nine Baptist denominations, has been embroiled in controversy for most of the past decade. Conservatives say it's too liberal, and moderates counter that it's done a proper job of championing religious liberty and church-state separation.

The BJC endorsement proposal came about after the SBC voted last summer to cut its share of the BJC budget by about 80 percent. Some moderates began designing funds for the BJC, and some threatened to push for it to have a line item in the KBC budget. Some conservatives condemned the

designations, and many of them vowed to fight a line-item proposal.

Messer backed his proposal when it came before the messengers. He called it a compromise between BJC opponents, who want no Kentucky Baptist money to go to the organization, and BJC supporters, who want the line item. His plan would help Kentuckians get past the issue, he added, noting, "It hurts for one year, and afterwards we move on."

Phil Majors, pastor of First Baptist Church of Stearns, countered, "This recommendation, while it does provide an avenue for those who support the Baptist Joint Committee, it does not give an avenue for those who oppose." Supporters already can designate funds to support the BJC, he said, and the proposal "will hurt the Cooperative Program by endorsing designations."

Dick Allison, pastor of Georgetown Baptist Church of Georgetown, claimed opponents' charge that the proposal vio-

lated the integrity of their 1989-90 Cooperative Program gifts was false, saying the budget for the year in which they gave the funds called for full funding of the BJC.

However, Danny R. Zickefoose, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hickman, said the proposal would require retroactive support of the BJC from his church. "I ask you to vote against this motion, not because of the Baptist Joint Committee, but because of the autonomy of the local church," he urged.

The proposal failed, 834 to 921.

Electronic wizardry allowed all the messengers to participate in the debates and votes. Since the crowd overflowed the auditorium at First Church, messengers participated via TV monitors at Immanuel and in two other rooms at First. In fact, part of the discussion was conducted from Immanuel, and messengers' comments there were broadcast back to a TV monitor at First.

The record 2,262 messengers eclipsed the previous mark—1,969 in Elizabethtown in 1958—by 293. It beat the most recent high—1,626 in Louisville in 1987—by 636. Total attendance in Paducah, including non-messenger guests, was 2,526, also a record.

Theme for the annual meeting was "Celebrate Christ: Our Help and Our Hope."

In other business, messengers:

- Approved a 1991-92 Kentucky Cooperative Program operating budget of \$17,894,462, the same as the current budget. Of that amount, 61.237 percent will be earmarked to support KBC causes, and 38.763 percent will go to SBC causes, a change from the current 61.25/38.75 split. However, the SBC will get 40 percent of the total if Kentuckians reach a \$1.3 million challenge goal.

- Elected 28 people to fill vacancies on KBC committees; 108 to fill vacancies on KBC boards; four to give special reports to the 1991 annual meeting, with four alternates; and Steven R. Hussung, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church in Oak Grove, to preach the 1991 annual sermon, with Ted Sisk, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, as alternate.

- Passed resolutions urging churches to increase their gifts to the Lottie Moon

Christmas Offering for foreign missions by 15 percent; challenging them to "give strong support to and work diligently with the Temperance League of Kentucky and ... engage in educational programs that oppose the evils of legalized gambling"; and deploring the taking of hostages as a violation of human rights while promising to pray for hostages, their families and world leaders working for the release of hostages in the Middle East.

- Heard four keynote addresses.

Brasher, who was elected the KBC's first vice president, urged Kentucky Baptists to use their resources to expand God's kingdom.

In the convention sermon, Brasher said Kentucky Baptists have the men, means, mission and message needed to "change this world in time and eternity. God has chosen us out of the world to be a witness to the world. God has called us to preach his word, not question it."

President Messer called on Kentucky Baptists to go "back to the future" by becoming servant-leaders.

Such a role is vital because "spiritual victories are won in the servant role. ... We serve Jesus when we serve others" and "when we learn how to minister to each other, we can minister to the unbelieving community," he said.

R. Keith Parks, president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, challenged Kentuckians to go through an "open door" of ministry to the world.

Christians are responsible for their use of the opportunities God gives them, he said, adding, "Unless we are faithful stewards of the opportunity God has given us, God will remove that opportunity and give it to someone else he can trust."

Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, called on Kentucky Baptists to "stay faithful" to the truth that is found in Christ.

Doing so will bring peace into the life of Christians, and that peace will bind Baptists so they can stay together, despite their difficulties, he said.

The 1991 KBC annual meeting will be held at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, Nov. 12-13.



HEALTH TEST—Medical staff of Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah provided a health screening clinic for Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers last week. Isaac B. McDonald of Hodgenville got his blood tested during the annual meeting in Paducah. The medical tests proved to be the most popular feature of the KBC exhibit area, held in the family life center of host First Baptist Church. The tests included cholesterol and blood glucose screenings, heart rhythm strips and blood pressure checks. Normally priced at \$65, the medical tests were offered free to KBC messengers. (Photo by Denise Hawkins Withers)

Pastors elect Harold Skaggs, hear 8 sermons

by Mary Royals Driskill

Kentucky Baptist pastors must find "joy in the fire" and "quit looking at each other," they were told at their annual Pastor's Conference Nov. 12 at First Baptist Church of Paducah.

Harold F. Skaggs, pastor of Cadiz Baptist Church in Cadiz and newly elected president of the Pastor's Conference, introduced the theme, "Divinely Called, Joyfully Serving," to a packed house.

Skaggs noted two things are needed for pastors to serve with joy: a glorious vision of God and recognition of the sinfulness of themselves and the world. "God did not call us to success. God calls us to be joyful in our service," he said.

In addition to personal testimonies and eight sermons, the pastors elected officers for the 1991 Pastor's Conference in Lexington.

Skaggs was elected over James K. Pierce of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington. Ron Mitchell of Bellview Baptist Church in Paducah was the only nominee for vice president. Bill Forte of Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green, was the only nominee for secretary.

Willis Henson, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah, began his sermon by saying, "I could have been president of the United States, but I'd have missed the greatest job in the world." He argued that most unhappy pastors are looking at their jobs through "distorted glasses," believing that "success means approval of others and accomplishment." Henson reminded the pastors that the Bible requires one thing, faithfulness.

Paul Powell, president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, preached on "Striving for Excellence."

He listed three characteristics of striving: focus, forgetting and fortitude. Using the illustration of "par" in golf, Powell encouraged pastors to compete against the standard of Christ and not each other.

"It's not a sin to admit you're human. It's a sin to pretend you're more than that," said W. Robert DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, in his sermon, "Finding a Better Way."

"Moses had not come to grips with his own limitations," DeFoor said of the Old Testament leader. "Even a God-called ser-

vant has limitations." He continued with a warning he had received from a country doctor, "You can't ignore the Sabbath principle and get away with it."

Admonishing Kentucky Baptists that God could raise up another group to accomplish his work and "put us on the shelf," Roy Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, delivered a sermon titled, "Calling All Preachers."

Preachers risk danger of being shelved and sidetracked when they compete against each other instead of cooperating with each other, Fish said. "Label becomes libel" when they are jealous of each other, he warned.

"Competition can cause the death of a church or a denomination." Referring to the Southern Baptist Convention theological/political controversy, Fish said, "I don't care how right we feel we might be, we need repentance as a denomination."

He also warned that partial obedience to God and stifling creativity with old traditions can shelve Christians. "Traditionalism is the one-word summation of our problems," he insisted.

He applauded Southern Baptists for their optimism, noting that they would "charge hell with water pistols" but cautioned, "We've got to be realistic about today to be optimistic about tomorrow."

J. Robert White, the host pastor, opened his sermon, "Feet Worth Seeing" by calling for a "foot check."

White challenged pastors to see if they were "adorning their feet with shoes" because the bare-foot content was lacking. "I'm afraid too many of us are spending too much time in political activities," he stressed. "We don't have time to do that as long as there's one lost person in our community."

White urged pastors to "preach messages with meat" to give people something in which to believe. He concluded with the observation, "Even feet become beautiful when they bear the Christian message."

Wayne Dehoney, retired pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, offered suggestions for "Making the Best of a Bad Situation."

Dehoney said he had intended to preach from Titus, reminding pastors that bad folks, uncultured people and other problems plague every church. He then related recent

events which changed his topic.

"Things are happening in the world you and I need to be aware of. Walls are coming down," he said.

He told of his recent trip to the Soviet Union and Romania, where the gospel now is preached without fear of punishment. "God is at work in this world," he said.

Dehoney admonished the pastors: "Quit looking at each other and see the world through God's eyes. The world doesn't care about (our theories) about the first Adam. The world is waiting for someone to talk about the second Adam. Which one of these Adams concerns you the most? The good

news is not whether or not an axe head floated; it's that Jesus was resurrected from the grave. That's where it is, folks. Jesus."

John Wood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Waco, Texas, reminded the group that God leads Christians through, not from, the fire of trouble and turmoil.

"The hotter the fire, the greater the value of the product," he insisted, noting the object of the faith of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the book of Daniel was God himself, not just what God could do for them. Four men stayed in the fire, Wood added, "and that's the joy, experiencing the presence of the fourth man—Jesus."



PRESIDENTIAL PICTURE—Kentucky Baptist Convention President Bill Messer (left) received a painting of Kentucky squirrels from Kentucky Baptists as a gift of appreciation for his year of service to the convention. KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer William W. Marshall made the presentation. (Photo by Greg Hancock)

Religious educators expand governing panel

A constitutional article change that will broaden representation in Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association topped a business agenda Nov. 12 in Paducah.

KBREA members voted to include the presidents of Kentucky Baptist youth, recreation and children's associations as part of the larger group's executive committee.

They also elected KBREA officers: Rich McClure, associate pastor for education and youth at Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville, president-elect; and Jo Garnett, minister of education at Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville, secretary-treasurer. The new president is Ed Pavey, minister of education and youth at Edgewood Baptist Church in Nicholasville.

Keynote speaker Larry McSwain, dean of the School of Theology at Southern Baptist Theological in Louisville, said change is inherent in the lives of Christians.

Social change is forceful, and the church is struggling to keep up with consequences of change, McSwain said.

From a photographer's viewpoint, he listed three visual pictures describing the changing faces of ministry.

• The wide-angle view pictures the individual against altered landscapes. Educators must do ministry in the context of

monumental change, including urbanization, persistence of religious values without church commitment, decline of denominational loyalties and pluralization of world religious choices, McSwain suggested.

• The telephoto lens focuses on the individual in changing frameworks in which life stages are understood. "Today's teen-

agers can say to their parents, 'There are things you don't know because you were never young at this time in history,'" he noted.

• Close-up shots bring religious educators face-to-face with all types of individuals themselves, he said.

—Lawanda Smith

Musicians to honor life members

The Kentucky Baptist Music Association approved a new constitution that changes the organization's name from association to conference. Bylaws were adopted for the first time, and membership requirements were expanded to include honorary life membership.

Steve O'Neal of Henderson Memorial Baptist Church in Hopkinsville was elected president. Other new officers include Jerry Wright of First Baptist Church in London, president-elect; David Stone of Grace Baptist Church in Lexington, secretary-treasurer; Linda Barnes of Fern Creek Baptist Church in Louisville, council member-at-large; and Clark Sorrells of First Baptist Church in Shelbyville, choral committee member.

Leonard Van Camp, director of choral music at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, gave the musicians a slide overview of the history of American choral music.

Van Camp urged music ministers to involve more men in choir. He also challenged them not to turn youth choir leadership over to others.

Outgoing President Bill Williams of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington admonished fellow ministers not to put the church before their families.

Using scripture, Williams reminded the group to love God first and their neighbor second. "The closest neighbor you're ever going to have is your household," he said.

—Janice Hughes



PAPER WORK—Tellers, such as Harold S. Mauney of Williamsburg, provided a vital link between KBC officers and messengers. They counted votes and passed out information. (Photo by Greg Hancock)

Jesus for president. Why not king?

editorial

Marv Knox

Jesus Christ got nominated for Kentucky Baptist Convention president last week.

Incumbent President Bill Messer declared the floor open for nominations, and up walked D.M. Aldridge, the venerable retired president of Kentucky's Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

By that time, almost everyone in the house knew who the two candidates were to be—C. Wyman Copass of Louisville and J. Robert White of Paducah.

The crowd murmured as Aldridge approached the microphone: "Who's Dr. Aldridge going to nominate?" "Is he really going to choose sides?" "What's he up to?"

"In 47 years, I have not nominated someone for president," he acknowledged. "In recent years, I have noticed that divisive issues" have hurt Kentucky Baptist fellowship, missions support and mission action. "I have been encouraged to take a stand."

He paused. Then he placed in nomination "one with the world at heart, the perfect leader for all times, ... who can bring healing to the Kentucky Baptist Convention—my Lord, Jesus Christ."

Messer responded that nominees must verify their willingness to serve if elected, and that he did not have specific verification from the Lord. But he did not rebuff Aldridge. Instead, he asked the longtime Kentucky Baptist leader to pray. And Aldridge poured out his heart, asking God to pour out his blessing on Baptists in the state.

Moments later, messengers elected White to succeed Messer. The question remains: What did we do with Jesus?

We'll know more about that answer as time unfolds. The spirit that pervades the KBC will tell us volumes about where we have placed Jesus. The strength of our missions and the effectiveness of our ministries will indicate the level to which we have exalted the Christ.

In the meantime, we reflect on the meeting in Paducah last week and wonder about its significance.

To begin with, almost everybody won some, lost some.

People who consistently voted with the more conservative side saw one of their number, C.C. Brasher Jr. of Benton, elected KBC first vice president. They also succeeded in keeping the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs from getting additional Kentucky Cooperative Program money for its current budget and a special endowment fund.

On the other side of the aisle, folks who consistently voted the moderate agenda won some votes. They helped create a committee to study how the KBC receives and qualifies Cooperative Program funds. They also won several elections: They supported White, even though he shied away from politics and did not ask for their votes. Harold Skaggs of Cadiz, a moderate who has a church member on the moderates' national steering committee, won the Pastor's Conference presidency. And Orville Hickey, the new KBC second vice president, received votes from moderates who did not know him, simply because he was running against the nominee from the conservatives' pre-announced slate.

Looking at the tally sheet, the moderates appear to have won the most, if only because the conservatives risked the most. Conservatives announced their slate of four candidates for statewide office, but they only elected one, even in west Kentucky, where they figured to be strongest. Moderates ran a lower-key campaign—supporting the avowed non-partisan, White; backing away from a challenge to Brasher; and winning with Skaggs and Hickey, who got votes on their own merits and because people voted against their opponents.

Moderates claim the election results mean Kentucky Baptists repudiated slate politics. Baptist people here don't like the kind of single-issue power-grabbing tactics that have propelled conservatives to prominence in the Southern Baptist Convention, they say. Conservatives repulsed Kentucky Baptists by being so bold in their quest for control, they insist.

Conservatives, on the other hand, charge moderates with hypocrisy. Moderates held statewide strategy meetings, they point out. Moderates ran an "un-slate," teaching supporters to vote against the pre-announced conservative candidates, they note. Moderates also fired the last political shot, running a partisan advertisement in the Western Recorder the week before the annual meeting, they add.

Truth is, hypocrisy jaywalks across a two-way street. Two examples: Moderates did indeed run a political campaign; it was just more low key than the conservatives'. And the conservatives have nothing to gripe about when they discuss political ads; they bought a spread in the Recorder just prior to the SBC annual meeting.

When the invectives stop flying, Kentucky Baptists may see that the only real losers were the extremists. Hard-line moderates and conservatives who felt they must win every vote surely were disappointed. They're likely to be the only ones who paint our latest portrait in absolute blacks and whites, with no shades of gray—all good or evil.

More reasonable observers will realize a variety of factors shaped the Paducah meeting: the west Kentucky/east Kentucky equilibrium, rural vs. urban sentiments, a balance of youth and age, big church and small church, and politics. They also will rejoice that neither side overpowered the other. A complete victory for conservatives or moderates would have escalated the conflict, inflicting wounds that might never heal. Instead, Kentucky Baptists' diversity won out. Paducah provided something for everyone, and gave each messenger at least something to go home and be glad about. Short of verifiable consensus, an even distribution of wins and losses is best.

Now, perhaps, a new middle—where consensus can be achieved—will emerge. Some leaders of both camps are beginning to talk to each other. All of us will win if these people can recognize that the differences between us are small compared to the common ground of Christian heritage, blessing and responsibility we share.

Such a consensus could provide the foundation upon which Kentucky Baptists can build a temple of unity, large enough to accommodate all of us in worship and witness, mission and ministry.

And from that beautiful place of common service and praise, we could far exceed D.M. Aldridge's proposal.

Rather than elect Jesus president, we would crown him king.

'Gator Pie provides parable for Baptists

down home

Alice and Arnie Alligator find a pie on a picnic table in "Gator Pie," a superb children's book by Louise Mathews.

They both wonder what flavor it is. Alice wonders how they should divide it, and Arnie says they each get one-half.

But up walks a really sleazy-looking big alligator. You know the type, sort of everybody's worst nightmare of a con-man turned traveling salesman-alligator. Alice quivers (the book is a bit sexist), and Arnie says they each get one-third.

Before the knife touches the meringue, up from the swamp slide five gangster-looking alligators. They've got pie on their maka-you-an-offer-you-no-canna-refuse minds. Alice is in a dither, and Einstein Arnie says, "One-eighth."

No problem. Except that a whole army of conquistador-looking alligators march right up and inquire about the pie. Alice starts counting tails. A not-so-grand total of 100 alligators. Everybody ought to get one-one hundredth.

Pie cutting is tricky business. Pity poor Alice, trying to slice the object of desire for 100 gluttonous, sharp-fanged mouths into 100 pieces, all the exact same size.

All done, Alice and Arnie realize each piece is almost infinitesimal. Alice worries about the reactions of angry alligators.

Arnie says not to worry; he has an idea. So Alice announces that the pie is sliced. The sleazy con-man alligator volunteers to take the first piece. But just as he moves to the table, Arnie announces that he and Alice aren't sure all the pieces are the same size. The fattest gangster tells sleazebag to hold on.

At the twitch of a tail, 98 alligators go brawling. Greedy 'gators grapple all over the ground, every one intent on getting the biggest piece. Amidst the furor, they don't even notice when Alice and Arnie pick up the pie and depart. In another part of the swamp, they peacefully pig out on one-half a pie apiece.

"Gator Pie" came to mind last week in Paducah. Several speakers reminded Kentucky and Southern Baptists of God's blessings—how he has used us to build up the largest evangelical missionary force in the history of Christianity; how the doors of empty hearts are open worldwide, waiting for the gospel; how the Spirit is moving in Eastern Europe, Africa and Korea; and how God can build up a new mission force to replace us if we don't turn our attention from the warts and wrinkles of each others' faith and focus on the Christ who beckons us to work and witness to a waiting world.

Will we fret over our share of God's spiritual pie, fighting for the pre-eminent piece? Or will we recognize that our plates already have been filled and concentrate our efforts on dishing up delicious grace to a hungry world?

—Marv Knox

western recorder

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Agencies, institutions, components report

by Lawanda Smith

Thirty-two reports from their executive board divisions and departments, agencies and institutions summarized a years' work for Kentucky Baptists during last week's convention in Paducah.

Highlights of the presentations include:

- Speaking for minister and church support division Director C. Vernon Cole, recovering at home from illness, Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Secretary-Treasurer William W. Marshall noted that stewardship responsibilities were transferred to the division when it was reconfigured in May.

- Annuity department Director Don Spencer reported that Kentucky now has more than 800 annuitants—retired church and denominational employees and their widowed spouses in the Southern Baptist pension program—currently receiving benefits.

- John Lepper, director of the family ministry and church administration department, encouraged congregations to develop ministries for a variety of diverse configurations that can be classified as families.

- Focusing on ministers and families in crisis, Guy C. Futral Jr., consultant for the minister-church support department, said help is available through a counseling network, plus conferences and financial assistance for those involuntarily terminated.

- C. Benton Williams, director of the missions, evangelism and church services division, presided during an 80-minute overview—the largest block of reports—including seven executive board programs of work.

- Ilton Pereira of Vitoria, Espirito Santo, Brazil, on-site coordinator of the KBC partnership with Baptists in Espirito Santo, pleaded for Kentucky volunteers to preach and minister to Brazilians "whose hearts are open to the gospel." Pereira's remarks came during the direct missions department report of Robert C. Jones, director.

- More than 1,500 churches participated in "Here's Hope" simultaneous revivals last spring, resulting in more than 4,000 professions of faith in Christ and 10,000 rededications to him, observed William D. Jagers, director of the office for evangelism. Lincoln Bingham Jr., KBC coopera-

tive ministries consultant in the office for evangelism, noted that joint efforts with the predominantly black General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, have resulted in reaching significant numbers of African-Americans for Christ.

- Robert Y. Simpkins, director of the Brotherhood and human needs department, read responses from tornado, flood and hurricane victims who had been ministered to by Kentucky Baptist disaster relief teams.

- Explaining the context of an old hymn, Jim Cordell, director of the church music department, said the goal of church musicians is to "keep the lower lights burning."

- Don Blaylock, director of the student department, noted that at 45 Kentucky colleges and universities with Baptist Student Union campus ministry programs, students gave \$85,000 to missions causes in the last academic year.

- "Helping people do quality work" is the bottom line of the Sunday school department's efforts, said Director Chip Miller. He emphasized a Southern Baptist Sunday School Board theme for 1990-95 of "Breakthrough," which seeks to enlist previously unreached groups for Bible study.

- Douglas T. Strader, director of the discipleship training department, observed that more than 600 children in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades participated in state Bible drills the department offered last spring.

- Barry G. Allen, director of the business division, highlighted the report of that division's four departments and two assemblies, including: accounting services department, Cathi Roy-Sanders, director; administrative services department, B. J. Watts Jr., director; computer services department, Douglas D. Hays, director; support services department, John Pate, director; Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Harold W. Barnes, manager; and Jonathan Creek Baptist Assmby, Deward Hurst, manager.

- Communications Division Director Gregory L. Hancock referred participants to the division's printed statement in the Book of Reports, including the Media Department summary of Paul W. Lee, director.

- Western Recorder Editor Marv Knox said the newspaper's staff uses the Bible as a communications model, striving to tell

the truth, mirror the good news and share the light of Jesus Christ.

- Caught in the middle of a denomination in crisis, Dee Gilliland, executive director-treasurer of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, said WMU would continue to emphasize missions, for "God has placed before us an open door."

- Edgar D. Vaughn, introduced as new president of Baptist Hospitals Inc., reported an "overwhelmingly positive public perception" of centers operated by the statewide health care system in Corbin, Lexington, Louisville and Paducah.

- In the Historical Commission report, by Chairman Ronnie Forrest, churches experiencing 50th, 100th, 150th or 200th anniversaries in 1990 were recognized.

- The Kentucky Baptist Foundation received almost \$1 million in new money in 1990, with a total gross income of about \$1.6 million, said Richard Carnes, executive secretary-treasurer.

- Glen Dale Children's Home observed its 75th anniversary, a cause for a year-long celebration, Curtis C. Mooney, president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, reported.

- Campbellsville College President Kenneth W. Winters claimed that a key reason why Campbellsville and its sister senior liberal arts institutions—Cumberland and Georgetown—have attracted a combined enrollment exceeding 5,000 students is their Christian environment.

- Retiring Georgetown College President W. Morgan Patterson asserted that the school is committed to making and teaching disciples.

- "The premium Baptists pay for their schools is small compared to the benefits they receive," said James H. Taylor, Cumberland College president.

- Speaking in the absence of Barkley Moore, president of Oneida Baptist Institute, A.B. Colvin, an assistant to the president, noted that students observe prayer daily for students, faculty and Baptists who support the preparatory school.

- Bill D. Whittaker, president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, recognized "typical" students Chuck and Linda McMann, who acknowledged: "We resigned our jobs, packed up our five kids and went to Clear Creek on faith."



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

on
mission
together

One thing you can't force

Sue Monk Kidd is an editor and author of several books including "God's Joyful Surprise."

She also contributes to *Weavings*, a bi-monthly Journal of the Christian Life. The following are portions of her November-December 1990 article titled "Birthing Compassion."

In his book, "The Power of the Powerless," the author tells a simple story:

One spring afternoon my 5-year-old son, David, and I were planting raspberry bushes along the side of the garage. A neighbor joined us for a few moments. David pointed to the ground. "Look, Daddy! What's that?" I stopped talking with my neighbor and looked down.

"A beetle," I said. David was impressed and pleased with the discovery of this fancy, colorful creature. My neighbor lifted his foot and stepped on the insect, giving his shoe an extra twist in the dirt. "That ought to do it," he laughed.

David looked up at me, waiting for an explanation, a reason. That night, before I turned off the light in his bedroom, David whispered, "I liked the beetle, Daddy." "I did too," I whispered back.

Compassion often eludes me. I remember the time I wept before a television image of a homeless man lying in an American gutter. Three weeks later, I stepped over a homeless man on a sidewalk in New York without looking back. As I strode away, I had the odd feeling that somewhere Someone was looking at me, waiting for an explanation, a reason.

"Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate" (Luke 6:36). Sometimes I wonder how seriously we have taken these words of Jesus. I only know there is too much suffering in the world. Too many homeless, hungry, abused, rejected, poor, lonely, sick, grieving, fragmented, defeated, lost and oppressed. Compassion is not an option. It is a matter of survival.

Remember the line in "The Little Prince," "It is only with heart that one can see clearly." What renders the heart, even the Christian heart, so full of blind spots? Why is compassion so elusive?

One summer when I was 12, I went with a youth group to a nursing home. I did not want to be there. Smarting from this inequity, I stood before this ancient looking woman holding a bouquet of crepe paper flowers. Everything about her saddened me—the worn down face, the lopsided grin, the tendrils of gray hair protruding from a crocheted lavender cap. I thrust the bouquet at her. She looked at me a look that pierced me to the marrow of my 12-year-old bones. Then she spoke the words I haven't forgotten. "You didn't want to come, did you, child?"

The words stunned me. They were too painful, too powerful, too naked in their honesty. "Oh yes, I wanted to come," I pretended.

A smile lifted one side of her mouth. "It's OK," she said. "You can't force the heart."



MUSICAL INTERLUDE—Musicians, such as violinists from First Baptist Church of Paducah, played a prominent role in the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting last week. They helped messengers worship God through song, beginning with the Pastor's Conference Monday and ending with the final hymn of the convention Wednesday night. Fourteen

musical presenters—ranging from individuals to large choirs and two orchestras—provided the lead in worship. Messengers to the Paducah meetings also joined in, participating in singing at least 20 hymns of praise and commitment during worship services throughout the week. (Photo by Greg Hancock)

2,262 messengers, plus visitors, set KBC record

by Janice Hughes

A record crowd of messengers began arriving at First Baptist Church in Paducah as early as 7:15 a.m. Nov. 13, for opening day of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Fear of losing a parking place and a seat in the church's sanctuary caused people to remain near their places throughout the day. Many brought lunch or snacks from home.

By mid-afternoon, the record 2,262 messengers and 264 guests had spilled into

the church's chapel and seminar room and down the street to Immanuel Baptist Church where nearly 500 of them were seated in the sanctuary. Business proceedings were transmitted on closed circuit TV.

An informal survey of participants at all of the locations indicated that messengers were about equally divided on meeting in a large convention center in the future or continuing to meet in a church. Many praised the host churches and convention officials for this year's arrangements. Most weren't disturbed by the inconvenience.

James A. Hawkins, the KBC executive associate and staff coordinator of arrangements, reported: "Arrangements have gone extremely well, given the conditions. If there were many complaints, I haven't heard them."

"Immanuel was very helpful in turning their sanctuary into a TV studio, and the people of First have been exceptional in meeting people's needs. The real story is the behind-the-scenes work of the church people. They make the convention possible."

First Church enlisted more than 300 volunteers to register and greet messengers, drive shuttle buses, staff the first aid room and work in the convention office. It hired a private security agency to assist in parking. It also used First Church buses to shuttle people between First and Immanuel churches and the parking lots of nearby West End Baptist Church and Broadway Church of Christ.

Bobby Bragg, minister of education at First Church who coordinated the church's arrangements, reported only a few minor problems.

"It was our desire that everything be done in a decent and orderly manner. In the end, we wanted even the smallest detail about the convention to bring glory to the Lord," he said.

Fifty exhibits housed in First Church's Christian Outreach Center gave messengers a diversion from business sessions. Exhibitors distributed everything from homegrown popcorn and homemade peanut brittle to information about state-of-the-art TV and computer equipment.

John Lott, associate director of KBC brotherhood department, said interest in disaster relief information was unusually high due to a projected December earthquake along the nearby New Madrid fault.

The most popular service was a free health screening offered by Western Baptist Hospital of Paducah. Many of more than 600 messengers who took advantage of the first-time event expressed hope it will become a permanent part of the convention's exhibits.

Danny R. Zickefoose, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hickman, said: "I've never had an EKG and probably never would have, had it not been free and convenient. Stress is a leading problem in the ministry, and ministers don't take good care of themselves. Very possibly, this service could save someone's life."

About 150 people ended the convention's opening 13-hour day at a reception in honor of Morgan W. Patterson, retiring president of Georgetown College.

Bowling Green man, Joe Causey, named bivocational pastor of the year

Joseph W. Causey, pastor of Providence Knob Baptist Church of Bowling Green, was recognized as the 1990 Kentucky Baptist Convention bivocational minister of the year at the fourth KBC bivocational ministers' banquet last week in Paducah.

William W. Marshall, KBC executive secretary-treasurer, who presented a plaque to Causey, said the selection was made by a representative of the KBC office of resource development and three directors of missions. Criteria in making the selection included church development, uniqueness in ministry and community image. To qualify, a minister must have served in one association at least five years.

Causey led his church in outstanding enrollment and financial growth programs while working full time as a buyer for Cole Industries, Marshall noted. He was cited for performing unique community services and devotion to his family.

Banquet speaker Gary Farley, associate director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's town and country missions department, said more small churches are moving to bivocational pastors, due to a lack of funds. He advised the pastors to sharpen their role in preparation, shepherding, seeking God's will and territorial utilization in making contacts.

—Pauline Stegall



ALL TOGETHER—Kentucky Baptists gathered in record numbers for the 1990 Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Paducah Nov. 13-14. Final registration was 2,262 messengers, 229 members of Kentucky Baptist churches who were not registered messengers and 35 other guests, for a total of 2,526 participants. They filled First Baptist Church (where they even packed the choir loft Tuesday afternoon and spilled

into two other areas of the building) and crowded into Immanuel Baptist Church, six blocks away. No matter where they found a seat, messengers participated in the events; closed-circuit television connected the four meeting sites. In fact, events at the secondary site, the sanctuary at Immanuel Church, were broadcast back to participants at the primary site, the sanctuary at First Church. (Photo by Denise Hawkins Withers)

Satellite TV link thrusts KBC into new age

Television linked Immanuel and First Baptist churches in Paducah last week for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's first satellite-TV annual meeting.

A two-way communication system linked the churches' auditoriums. At the morning session Nov. 13, the 200 people seated before two TV screens in Immanuel's auditorium viewed proceedings at First Church and voted on issues. At the afternoon session, messengers packed Immanuel's sanctuary, where they were able to present motions and be seen and heard at First Baptist.

Technical difficulties were negligible. Most comments on the set-up were positive. Paul Lee, director of the KBC media department, noted: "The microwave link between the two churches was technically difficult. We were assisted by WPSD-TV. Everything worked adequately."

Greg Hooper, minister of education/administration at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green added: "It was effective. It gave me an opportunity to sit with my group and feel that I was a part of the sessions although I was not in the actual facility."

Laura Burnette, retired activities director for Baptist Convalescent Center in Dayton, noted, "Although I missed the convention atmosphere, it was a blessing."

Charles W. Russell a retired layperson from Calvert City, said, "It feels better to be

in the presence of the speaker, but this is next best."

Eugene Cole, retired layperson from Louisville, commented, "I had much rather be here than in the overflow. It is less crowded."

Dottie Lane, retired missionary to Japan now living in Hopkinsville, said: "It's not

the best but it's better than nothing. I miss not being a part of the main crowd."

And Millie Ragan, retired librarian from Fort Thomas, expressed: "Isn't it great we have so many messengers we need such a facility. It puts us in a new age of communication. We may have to go to this."

—Pauline Stegall

Annuitants cited as peacekeepers

Kentucky Baptists' longstanding success in peace and harmony is due to Christians who have worked at the cause across the years, William W. Marshall told a luncheon for retired ministers.

Addressing the annuitants' luncheon during last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention in Paducah, Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said, "It's people like you who have helped us achieve an enviable record of tranquility as controversy swirls all about us."

He told the retired church and denominational workers that Kentucky Baptists' "loving relationship" exists because "you've stayed faithful to the word of God, and lived it in your spirit."

Marshall awarded pins to 68 people who have retired in the last year.

Don Spencer, director of the KBC

annuity department, led a brief service of praise in recognition of the contributions of 32 annuitants who died in the last year.

Bob Kersey of Paducah presided at the annual luncheon, hosted by Spencer's department. Francis R. Tallant of Bowling Green led the group in singing favorite hymns.

Next year's planning committee, named at the luncheon, consists of Chairman Jim Lewis of Louisville, Dorothy Hartselle of Louisville, John Wallace of Lexington and Eldred M. Taylor of Louisville.

Spencer announced the fourth annual spring fellowship for Kentucky Baptist annuitants, set for April 16 at Sevens Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. Southern Baptist Annuity Board President Paul Powell of Dallas will speak.

—James H. Cox

KBC sets CP policy study, defeats BJC proposal

by Mary Royals Driskill
& Lawanda Smith

Kentucky Baptists created a committee to study policies regarding their Cooperative Program unified budget but defeated a "compromise" proposal for funding the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs last week in Paducah.

In another vote involving money, messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting ratified a zero-growth 1991-92 Cooperative Program operating budget. The goal for that budget, \$17,894,462, is the same as the goal for the current fiscal year.

The proposals to create the Cooperative Program study committee and to initiate funding for a Baptist Joint Committee endowment were recommended by vote of the KBC executive board. They had been offered by KBC President Bill Messer to provide "a place for all Kentucky Baptists" to stand together on potentially divisive issues.

He proposed the special committee to "study the present policies and guidelines which govern the way the Kentucky Baptist Convention receives and qualifies Cooperative Program gifts from churches."

The proposal for funding the Baptist Joint Committee would have created a BJC endowment in the Kentucky Baptist Foundation by depositing \$25,000 from 1989-90 year-end funds. It also would have provided a one-time allocation of \$17,358 to the BJC from year-end funds "to cover the KBC's portion of this year's reduced ... funding" by Southern Baptists.

J. Chester Badgett, retired pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church in Campbellsville, spoke against the Cooperative Program study committee, saying messengers voted down the issue in 1989 by 90 percent. A vote to study the issue is tantamount to voting to change the funding program, which does not need to be "fixed," he charged.

Rick White, pastor of Midlane Park Baptist Church in Louisville, offered an amendment, suggesting the committee be composed of laity, past and current presidents of the KBC and Woman's Missionary Union, and clergy from the eight regions of Kentucky, noting the configuration would

"strengthen this motion and committee." The amendment failed, 723-814.

Rob Nash, pastor of Buechel Park Baptist Church in Louisville, spoke for the recommendation. Several churches in Kentucky feel they cannot in good conscience support some of the agencies supported by Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program funds, he said, and urged that the committee be created so Kentucky Baptists can hear those churches' concerns. The recommendation passed, 904 to 885.

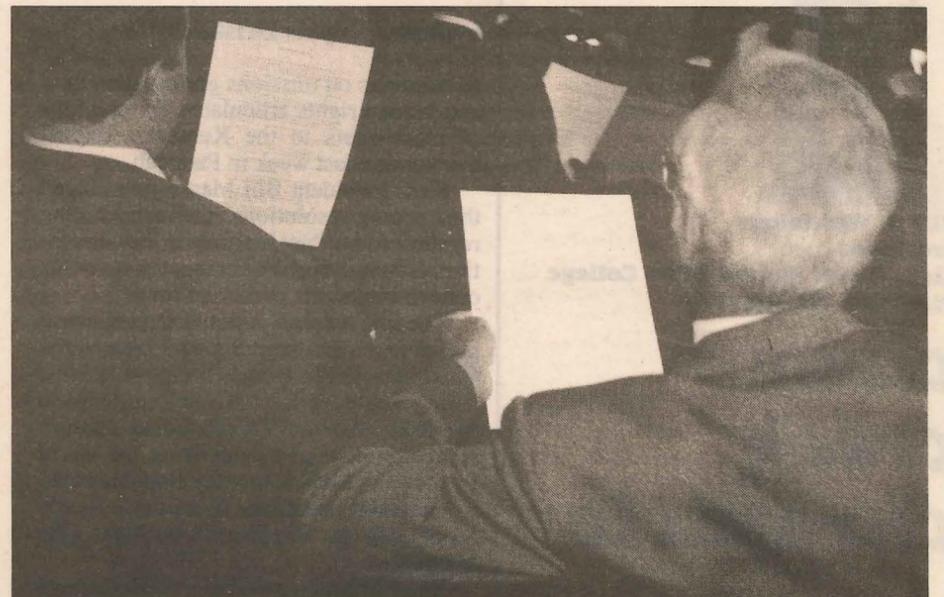
Messer named 15 Kentucky Baptists to the committee. Members are Clark Brown, pastor of Grapevine Baptist Church in Madisonville; George (Buddy) Crabtree, pastor of Walnut Grove Baptist Church in Russellville; J.B. Crawley, layperson from Campbellsville Baptist Church in Campbellsville; Evelyn Crooke, layperson from Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville; Greg Earwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Murray; Gilmer Fauber Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church in Fort Thomas.

Also Don Mantooth, pastor of First Baptist Church of Morehead; Don Mathis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin; Stephen Shoemaker, pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville; Tommy Tucker, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church in Paducah; Richard Dendler, pastor of Hall Street Baptist Church in Owensboro; Don Coleman, pastor of South Jefferson Baptist Church in Louisville; Dolores Spears, a layperson from West End Baptist Church in Paducah and president of Kentucky Baptist Woman's Missionary Union; Gene Siler, a judge and member of First Baptist Church in Williamsburg; and Messer.

The recommendation to establish an endowment for the Baptist Joint Committee was advocated by Messer.

"Last year, the messengers voted that they recommended continued support for the Cooperative Program. Part of that (recommendation) asked the SBC not to take away any more funds from the BJC," he said. In essence, action taken at the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans this summer to remove about 80 percent of the convention's contribution to the BJC amended Kentucky Baptists' own budget, he added.

Phil Majors, pastor of First Baptist



SERIOUS READING—KBC messengers poured over proposals on the Cooperative Program and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. (Photo by Greg Hancock)

Church of Stearns, said he "shared the president's concern for supporting what Kentucky Baptists want to do." But he noted that "allocating funds already given" did not allow Kentucky Baptists to decide how their Cooperative Program funds should be distributed. "It sets a reactionary precedent" and will "endorse designated gifts," said Majors.

Dick Allison, pastor of Georgetown Baptist Church in Georgetown, pleaded, "We're trying to do something to allow us to put this (controversy) behind us," noting that he actually favored making the BJC a line item in the budget.

But Danny R. Zickefoose, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hickman, countered that while he would not subvert local church autonomy by telling other congregations they could not support the BJC, he could not endorse taking money churches had already given for other purposes and allocating it to the committee. "This (recommendation) says my church will be required to support the Baptist Joint Committee by taking money we already have given to the Cooperative Program and giving it to the committee," he said.

The recommendation failed, 834 to 921.

The 1991-92 KBC Cooperative Program operating budget total of almost \$17.9 million will channel 61.237 percent of the total to KBC causes and 38.763 percent to SBC causes. It also includes a \$1.3 million challenge goal. If met, Kentucky Baptists would send 40 percent of all receipts to the SBC.

WMU hosts missionaries on furlough

Officers of the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union sponsored a dinner in Paducah last week to honor 14 retired and furloughing missionaries.

State WMU President Delores Spears of Paducah invited missionaries to share information about their work and to offer prayer requests. They expressed concern for world peace and for the needs of missionaries who are serving in fragile places around the world.

Eddie Fields, missionary to Cypress, said: "The fellowship was wonderful. It just didn't last long enough."

—Janice Hughes



COUNTING VOTES—Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers who could not find a seat in the sanctuary at First Baptist Church of Paducah last week still got to participate—via closed-circuit television. One group followed the proceed-

ings from First Church's family life center during a business session Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 13. Other messengers watched from the chapel at First Church and the sanctuary of Immanuel Baptist Church. (Photo by Denise Hawkins Withers)

White names leaders

J. Robert White, newly-elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church, Paducah, confirmed the following appointments to chair KBC standing committees for 1990-91:

Robert F. Browning, pastor of First Baptist Church in Somerset, committee on committees; Phillip D. Basinger, pastor of Hawesville Church in Hawesville, committee on order of business; Philip B. Bradshaw, pastor of Williamstown Church in Williamstown, committee on credentials; Colburn E. Hooten, pastor of Hickory Grove Church in Independence, committee on arrangements; David A. Nelson, pastor of First Church in Owensboro, committee on resolutions; Joe M. Thomas, pastor of Dawson Church in Owensboro, committee on public affairs; H. Dudley Moseley, pastor of Pleasant Grove Church in Hodgenville, committee on obituaries; Wendell A. Romans, pastor First Church in Mt. Vernon, committee on nominations; and Ray E. Cummins, pastor of First Church in Franklin, committee on constitution and by-laws.



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

clear creek chronicle

Walk with God in the dark

Mrs. Kendall Brainard's homegoing on Nov. 8 ended her 30-month battle with cancer. Her confident faith and quiet determination blessed all who knew her. Unable to die at home, her family surrounded her with love and encouragement to the end of the way. Romans 8:28 found fulfillment in the experiences of hospitalization, suffering and family needs. "Kathy wanted God to get the glory from it and always showed a Christ-like attitude," her husband remarked. She believed God would restore her yet honestly faced the realities if he chose to do so in heaven. She talked of death and worked through decisions about the future of her family.

The faith which brought victory to the Brainards first became a certainty two years after their 1970 marriage. The birth of their daughter, Debbie, deepened the need for the church. Kendall and Kathy were saved and baptized together at Wurtland Baptist, near Ashland. David was born in 1973. The Lord called Brainard to preach in 1976, "but I ran from it," he stated. Ten years later the decision was made; he left his machinist job and moved to Clear Creek. "Kathy was behind me 100 percent." Eighteen months ago Jack's Creek church, 20 miles from Prestonsburg, called Brainard as pastor. Attendance has grown from 20 to 68. Another high point was his ordination. Brainard's week-end home has been the pastor's study, but the church is making plans to get a mobile home.

On Oct. 23 a medicine mix-up brought Kathy's "death." All vital signs ceased for three-four minutes. She later testified, "Kendall, I died and it was total peace and joy-serenity."

Philippians 4:4-7 is well marked in Mrs. Brainard's Bible. "Our needs have been supplied; in two- and one-half years we never missed a payment." Brainard noted his only regret, "was that more people did not approach Kathy. They were afraid and did not know what to say. They missed a blessing."

The day of Kathy's homegoing I heard seminary professor William Hendricks say, "We need to convert the question, 'Why did this happen?' to 'What now is my relationship to you, O God?' It is better to walk alone in the light." The Brainards experienced light in the dark days.

Resolutions cite offering, gambling, rights

by Mary Royals Driskill

Resolutions on missions giving, gambling and human rights articulated the opinions of messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention last week in Paducah.

KBC President Bill Messer introduced the opening resolutions session by noting resolutions are "not binding on the convention, as they ... speak of the sentiment of the convention at this particular time."

The first resolution supported increased giving to the Southern Baptist Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. Citing Southern Baptist's commitment to the Bold Mission Thrust global mission campaign goal of evangelizing the world by the year 2000, Kentucky Baptists voted to challenge churches to increase Lottie Moon gifts by 15 percent over their gifts last year.

The resolution against gambling stated that the activity is immoral. It asked churches to work in cooperation with the Temperance League of Kentucky and engage in educational programs that "oppose the evils of legalized gambling."

The resolution concerning human rights cited strong support of United States hostages being held in the Middle East. Specifically named were Maurice Graham, Southern Baptist missionary to Kuwait, being held in Kuwait; and Terry Anderson, Associated Press Mid-East bureau chief, who has been held in Lebanon more than five years. Anderson's sister, Peggy Say, is a member of Cadiz Baptist Church in Cadiz.

The resolution further called for intercessory prayer for the hostages, their families and the world leaders involved.

Kentucky Baptists also resolved appreciation for host First Baptist Church of Paducah and Pastor J. Robert White, as well as Immanuel Baptist Church and Pastor

William C. Cubine for accommodating overflow crowds. Officers for the 1990 KBC also were noted in the resolution of appreciation.

Two other resolutions submitted to the resolutions committee were not reported back. They concerned support for Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in Mayfield and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; and for encouragement and support of Lee Porter, demoted editor of adult Sunday school materials at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and Southern Baptist Convention registration secretary. Porter was demoted because of comments he made during the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans this summer.



VOTING TIME—Tellers collected ballots during a vote at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting last week. (Photo by Denise Hawkins Withers)

Women celebrate gospel, vision of freedom

"The Gospel and the Vision of Freedom" was celebrated at the Kentucky Baptist Women in Ministry luncheon Nov. 13 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah.

"Jesus healed a woman who had been stooped over for 18 years," Karen E. Smith, assistant professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, told about 100 people in attendance. "The woman suffered. Then one day she met Jesus, and he said, 'Woman, you are free.' Those are gospel words, life-giving words."

"Still, some people were angry. Jesus healed the woman on the Sabbath day, and the synagogue leaders would have preferred

to see her remain captive than to have their interpretation of the law challenged."

Smith explained: "Their entire view of truth was skewed. Jesus was talking about a ministry of love. He was not bound by their limited understanding of truth. He set at liberty the oppressed."

"Somewhere in me I hear Jesus say today: 'You are free. Go and proclaim the gospel.' We must tell others about a love that could not be bound even by a cross. Let us quietly resolve that we will hold high this vision of freedom."

The group's steering committee members for the coming year are Nenette Measels, minister of education at First

Baptist Church in Middlesboro, chairperson; Nancy Byers, children's minister at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; Jean Carter, Western Baptist Hospital chaplain; Barbara Haun, interpreter for the deaf in the Cincinnati Public School District; Jo Garnett, minister of education at Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville; and Pat Brunner, campus minister at Berea College in Berea.

—Lawanda Smith

Ministers' Wives focus on 'Friends,' name Jane Howell

"Forever Friends" was the focus of attention for about 75 ministers' wives and their guests at a dinner in Paducah last week. Susan Lanford, consultant in the family ministry department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, interpreted the theme.

Special music at the annual Kentucky Baptist Minister's Wives Fellowship dinner Nov. 13 at Paducah's Olivet Baptist Church featured Penny Akers of Paducah.

New officers named by the group for 1990-91 are Jane Taylor Howell of Central Baptist Church in Lexington, president; Judy Robbe of Immanuel Church in Lexington, vice president; Peggy Woolums of First Church in Lexington, program chair; Jo Ann Toole of Edgewood Church in Nicholasville, secretary-treasurer; and Sherry Browne of Rosemont Church in Lexington, publicity chair.

—Virginia Flanagan



FAREWELL, FRIEND—Messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting, such as Doris Yeiser (right) of Louisville, said farewell to Ernestine and Morgan Patterson in Paducah last week. He is about to retire as president of Georgetown College in Georgetown. (Photo by Greg Hancock)



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR NOV. 25, 1990

Life and Work Series

Believing in the son

John 3:25-26 This scripture lesson contains the record of an interesting conversation between a prominent person and Jesus. The interview took place at night while Jesus was still at Jerusalem, where he had come to attend the Passover.

This man of culture, refinement and zeal for the law, whose name was Nicodemus, was one of the most religious

men of his day. He was honest in his convictions, sincere in his desire to do right and was a member of the Sanhedrin. This position demanded an irreproachable life, a good education and vast responsibilities. Even though he had position, power, prestige and prosperity, there was a void in his heart. He knew that he had not learned the real secret of life, but he was convinced that Jesus knew that secret. He sought a personal interview with Jesus.

God made a wonderful provision for our great needs. His love is the source from which this gracious provision has come. Salvation is of God. It finds its worth in his life. It was wrought out by his son. It has been manifested so that all who will believe may have eternal life. God loved all humans enough to give his son to die to save them. This love has rescued multitudes from despair, brought hope into their hearts, influenced them to put their trust in Christ and depend on him alone for salvation.

Jesus told Nicodemus that "unless one is born anew" he can never receive the benefits of the kingdom of God. New birth is not synonymous with natural birth; in fact, it is impossible for one to be born of the Spirit by any natural birth. The new birth is not optional, but is imperative. There is no substitute for it. Nowhere in scripture is the message of grace and love more beautifully revealed than in Jesus' remark to Nicodemus.

International Series

Compassionate leaders

Ezekiel 34:1-12 God called Ezekiel and commanded him to speak to those who occupied positions of oversight and

rulership, whose conduct was displeasing to God. God had appointed these civil and religious leaders of the nation, but they had been unfaithful in their performance. These selfish and greedy leaders had betrayed the trust that had been given to them by taking advantage of the people they were expected to protect. Caring nothing for the welfare of the people, these unworthy leaders exploited the people without any sense of shame. Their own personal and selfish welfare was of paramount interest to them. God charged them with feeding themselves instead of feeding the sheep. Instead of being concerned about the needs of the sheep, they were interested in their own comfort. They abused their power by failing to meet human needs and by making life profitable for themselves. Average citizens got what was left over after the leaders took what they wanted.

God complained about the specific sins of these leaders and about the way in which they misused their opportunity and took advantage of those who were less fortunate than themselves. Because they ruthlessly exploited the common people and confiscated their resources for their own personal use, God let it be known that he was not going to tolerate their evil conduct any longer. He held them responsible for the mistreatment of those who had been committed to their care.

God announced that in contrast with these unworthy shepherds, he would assume the role of a shepherd. God assured his people that, as a true shepherd, he would take care of them in an exceptional manner. God promised his scattered people that he would search for them, locate them, deliver them out of the hands of the false shepherds who had betrayed them.



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

homes for children

A special thank you

I continue to be amazed at the love, concern and generosity of Kentucky Baptists for children. Each day we receive small and large gifts from individuals and churches from across the state. Though the Thanksgiving offering is the largest total, many other gifts to help at Christmas, back to school, summer recreation and memorials are received. We respond to every gift with a receipt and a letter, but one gift came in recently that I could not respond to in that way, so I am writing an open letter to that giver.

November 19, 1990

Dear Anonymous Friend:

On Oct. 15 we received your cashier's check for \$15,000. It was a day, like so many in the fall before the Thanksgiving offering begins to come in, when the cash flow was tight. In fact, Brenda Darnell, who pays the bills in our organization, was holding \$15,000 in checks that we did not have the cash on hand to cover. With your gift she was able to mail those checks, so you helped us at a critical moment.

Your gift also did something else for us. For the staff it was a tremendous vote of confidence. Here was an individual who cared about children and our work so much that you wanted to make a major investment in what we do.

I cannot tell you how much that confidence means to our organization. We care for children with problems and each day we stretch our resources to meet those needs. We are a faith ministry for though we have a board approved budget, there is no guarantee that the money will come to us. Each day thousands of dollars must be raised to meet the payroll, pay utilities, buy clothes, food and other essentials of life.

You have chosen to remain anonymous to us and we respect that. I would like to be able to thank you in person. Maybe someday I will learn who you are. But in the meantime, from the bottom of my heart and from all of us I want to thank you for the generous gift to our ministry. You truly are a friend of children.

Sincerely,
Curtis C. Mooney
President



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

His name is Jack

His name is Jack. He sat down beside me last night in our new gym during "free time"—the one and one-half hour period each evening when hundreds of our girls and boys play. Jack is a tiny sixth grader. He came in several weeks ago, but I was away that Sunday. So I did not get to meet him then, did not get to interview him. My first 10 years as president, no boy or girl entered the Oneida school that I did not personally tour the campus with, interview and otherwise process. That would normally take at least three hours. By then, the volume became so great that it became physically impossible for me to do that alone. For the past nine years I have had a full time assistant to help with

admissions. However, I still help with many new students.

So this was my first animated conversation with Jack. I learned many things in a few minutes. He told me his mother attended Oneida. I asked her name. "Geraldine Allen" he said.

I remember touring, interviewing and accepting Geraldine 17 years ago. I have many students now whose parents I worked with at that time, or 28 years ago when I came to work at Oneida the first time. I also still have children coming of my own schoolmates at Oneida 40 years ago.

Geraldine came to us from Cincinnati. Her mother was a friend of Hattie who lived in the dorm when I was in middle school. About that time, Hattie brought her daughter, Dorene, to me. A few months ago, it was my privilege to meet Dorene's husband and children, and give them an update tour of OBI. Several of her children will be old enough to come to us soon.

Thinking of Hattie, I remember the time she became unconscious while I was a student. It was frightening. Subsequent medical tests revealed she was a diabetic. That was my first knowledge of that disease.

The thought of Hattie brought to my mind the memory of Hattie's brother, Bart. He was a classmate of mine in the old 5th-6th grade room in Marvin Hall. "Miss Ica," our teacher, asked Bart, "Who was George Washington?" Bart reared back and in a loud and confident voice replied, "She was a wahman!"—Bart's pronunciation of "woman."

The class giggled. Some of us laughed out loud. "Miss Ica" turned about three different colors as she got very angry. She had spent quite some time telling us about the father of our country. Bart had

been deceived because of Gilbert Stuart's prim picture of George that had hung in thousands of American classrooms for 150 years. George's wig is what had fooled Bart—he looked at the picture every day and George looked like a woman with that long hair. We weren't accustomed to long-haired men (boys) in those days.

Today, many boys arrive at Oneida with long hair, but one of the first things we do is have a haircut—top of the collar. It is a little old-fashioned, but that is the way we are. We also still have daily chapel, pray, sing and hear God's word. We still teach girls and boys how to work.

So many memories flood in of other schoolmates. Bart died as a very young man, but "Miss Ica" is still living. She and 10 of her classmates of 1930 celebrated their 60th class reunion here in April. She is very alert and active. She taught nearly 50 years and was our dean of girls during World War II. She was a great teacher. I learned to read and write while she taught the youngest students. I was fortunate to have her again in the 5th and 6th grades. My love for history developed under her devoted efforts.

Though we called her "Miss Ica," she has had a husband for nearly 50 years. Asher was a maintenance man on campus after graduation, then became a social worker during the latter part of the depression, fought in World War II and operated a grocery store in our village for 40 years. He keeps busy today with a tremendous garden, taking care of his ducks, etc. Their son, Jennings, is a public school teacher. He also was one of our students when I worked here in the 60s.

I enjoyed my talk with Jack. It brought to my mind so many memories.

Use resources well, Brasher urges Kentucky Baptists

by Mary Royals Driskill

Kentucky Baptists must use their "resources" wisely for God's glory, C.C. Brasher Jr. told messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting last week.

Brasher, who was elected first vice president of the KBC and is pastor of Briensburg Baptist Church at Benton, delivered the convention sermon, "How Much Do We Have" from a text in Luke 16.

"God has entrusted you and me with certain resources. ... They (the disciples) had five loaves and two fishes, now how much do we have?" Brasher asserted it would "take volumes" to tell Christ how much Kentucky Baptists have.

"First, we have the men," he said. "What would we do without these dedicated ... men and women? In every generation God has had his people to do his work in the world, and today we can boast of a multitude who are serving God lovingly and faithfully."

Second, Kentucky Baptists have the means. Five loaves and two fishes is not much, "but in the right hands, it will be sufficient," Brasher said. He reminded Kentucky Baptists of their wealth. "Baptist people have money, ... it's just hard to get it off of some of them."

"Third, we have the mission. ... We are never to hesitate about what God has commanded us to do," he added, recounting some of his experiences in partnership missions. "Our partnerships and link-ups with other countries and states have been one of the greatest things that has happened to help us realize our mission."

"My fellow Baptists, we have the message that can change this world in time and eternity. ... I believe God has chosen us out of the world to be a witness to the world. God has called us to preach his word and not question it. We are news men, not editors."

Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, spoke to messengers on the topic,



CONVENTION ADDRESSES—Sermons from Bill Messer of Louisville and R. Keith Parks of Richmond, Va., punctuated Ashland, C.C. Brasher Jr. of Benton, Roy L. Honeycutt of KBC proceedings. (Photo by Denise Hawkins Withers)

"The Challenge Before Us."

Preaching from 3 John, Honeycutt urged Kentucky and Southern Baptists to "stay together." Noting that the word "truth" was used six times in 12 verses, he stressed its importance. "Christ is that truth," he asserted.

Following Christ brings peace in the life of the believer, he added, noting that peace in the Bible means wholeness. "It (peace) means we (Kentucky Baptists) are bound together in Jesus Christ," he said.

Citing the passage in Luke 13 where Christ weeps over Jerusalem and laments over the people's unwillingness to be drawn to him, he urged, "Let this not be our epitaph."

R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., placed "an open door" before KBC participants.

Preaching from Revelation 3:8, Parks explained: "The open door placed before a church (or churches) is a gift from God ... and we are as responsible for that as for any blessings God gives us."

"Man does not determine the time or place of the open door. Our only responsibility is to take advantage of the open door. We determine if we pass through it or not. Unless we are faithful stewards, God will give it to someone he can trust."

Parks applauded Kentucky Baptists for their partnership efforts in Kenya and Brazil, claiming that the 56,000 professions of faith in Christ this July in Africa were direct results from the Kenya partnership.

BSU, assembly actions pass

The Kentucky Baptist Convention executive board approved several matters without discussion during a pre-convention meeting last week in Paducah.

The board authorized the KBC executive secretary, in consultation with the chairs of the board and its finance committee, to negotiate and complete the sale of property in Bowling Green, upon completion of a new Baptist student center for Western Kentucky University.

That trio also was authorized to negotiate and complete the purchase of a four-acre tract opposite the entrance to Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly in Marshall

County.

The board also named three facilities at Jonathan Creek. The chapel-administration complex was named Shoemaker Building, for Earl and Vivian Shoemaker, benefactors of the assembly. The adult-youth lodging facility was named Gray Motel, for George and Estelle Gray. Gray was assembly manager from 1972 to 1989. The conference center was designated Lassiter Conference Building, for Harold and Martha Lassiter. Lassiter was the first full-time Jonathan Creek manager, from 1966 to 1972.

—James H. Cox



BAPTIST WELCOME—Host pastor and new KBC President J. Robert White (center) welcomed U.S. Rep. Carroll Hubbard and his mother, Beth Hubbard, to the convention at First Baptist Church of Paducah last week. (Photo by Greg Hancock)

DOMs fete Pulaski's David Aker

David D. Aker of Somerset, director of missions for Pulaski Baptist Association, was named Kentucky Baptists' director of missions of the year last week by the group's fellowship.

Speaking on the subject "That's the way it was," Francis R. Tallant of Bowling Green, retired director of missions in Warren Association, entertained more than 100 DOMs and their guests at an annual fellowship dinner sponsored by Georgetown College.

Fellowship President Billie C. Wright of London, director of missions in Laurel River Association, conducted a business session during the gathering.

Elected new officers were Frank Dorris, Warren Association, president; Harold Greenfield, Caldwell-Lyon Association, vice president; Tom Shelton, Ohio County Association, editor of Vita Link; Randall Jones, Northern Kentucky Association, secretary-treasurer.

—Virginia Flanagan

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FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED

Professor, coach, pastor works on new commentary

by Jim Lowry

Depending on the situation or even the time of day, Robert Sloan is a New Testament scholar, father of seven children, Little League baseball coach, school board member and/or interim pastor. In all things, however, Sloan claims, "I am Baptist with my head and my heart."

Sloan, 41, is professor of New Testament in Baylor University's department of religion, where he holds the George W. Truett Chair in Evangelism.

He also is a consulting editor for The New American Commentary, a publishing project of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, and will be the author of the volume on Romans for the project.

The New American Commentary will be a 40-volume set released between 1991 and 1997. A primary goal of the project is to present a scholarly, conservative view of scripture which affirms the divine inspiration, total truthfulness and complete authority of the Bible, according to David Dockery, general editor.

Academic respect for Baptist scholarship and a dedication to share the message of the gospel are two driving forces for Sloan in his writing and teaching.

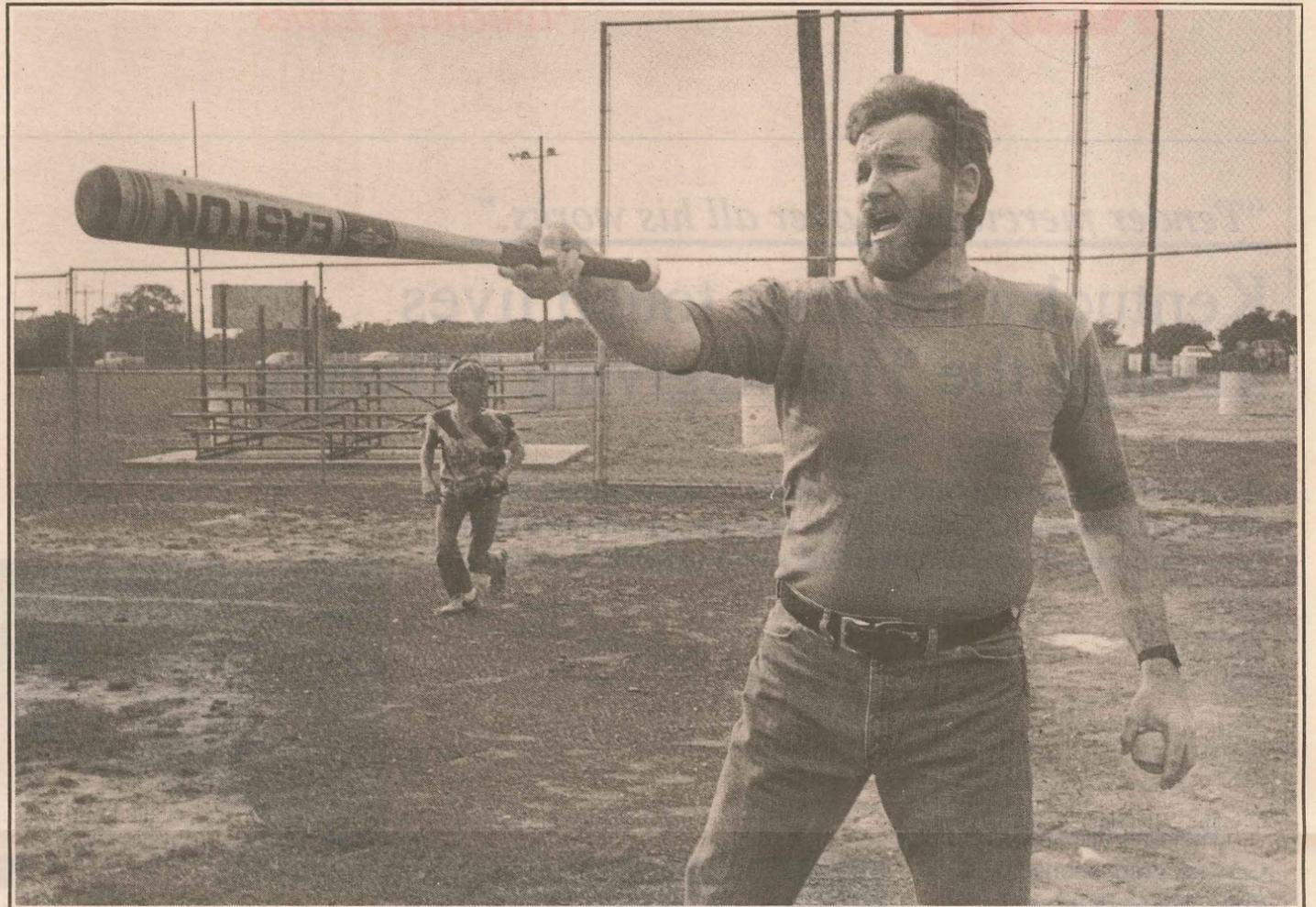
"Baptist scholarship has been thought of as something of an oxymoron," Sloan said. "I don't think that is true. Our Baptist theological traditions are credible in terms of historical scholarship, and I want our traditions of Bible and theology to be subjected to honest scrutiny. I think our Southern Baptist confessional tradition can be both scholarly and devotional. The challenge is to produce a commentary that is faithful both to the insights of biblical scholarship and to the Bible as the word of God."

Sloan, 41, is a graduate of Baylor University and received the M.Div. degree, magna cum laude, from Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, N.J. He did

post-baccalaureate research in church history at the University of Bristol in England. In 1978 he was graduated insigni cum laude with the Doktor der Theologie from the University of Basel in Switzerland.

As Sloan reads manuscripts in his role as a consulting editor of The New American Commentary, special attention will be given to theological content, historical and exegetical accuracy and readability.

Over the course of the 7-year project he will read all of the New Testament manuscripts with additional consideration given to application and potential usefulness for pastors, students and church leaders. (BP)



"The theology of hustle" captures the attention of Baylor University Professor Robert Sloan here. The New Testament scholar is a professor of religion and consulting editor of "The New American Commentary." (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Davis father-son team writes about Levites to assist pastors

by Jim Lowry

Not many father-son discussions revolve around inquiries "about the Levites."

For the writing team of George Davis Sr. and George Davis Jr., however, Leviticus is a frequent topic of discussion as they prepare to write on the third book of the Bible for The New American Commentary.

George Davis Sr., vice president for academic affairs and professor of pastoral theology at Criswell College in Dallas, said he suspects he may be the only preacher in the Southern Baptist Convention who has preached all the way through Leviticus (which means, "about the Levites").

There is not a lot of preaching attention given to the third book of the Bible, Davis

speculates, and pastors are missing contemporary, relevant principles for living.

"We will deal with the theological concept of holiness to build a bridge from Leviticus to the New Testament and from Leviticus to contemporary life," Davis said. "Our goal is to come up with material from Leviticus that would enable preachers and Sunday school teachers not to dread having to teach the book."

In a house that is literally awash with books on theology and religion, father and son will seek to combine the 10 years of research and study of Leviticus by the senior Davis and the enthusiasm and theological training of his son into a practical volume to encourage attention to the message of the book.

"We don't want to produce a piece to add to the academic arena," explained Davis Jr. "Instead, we will develop major themes, summarize as we go and not get bogged down in technicalities, because many pastors don't have the time to read."

"I hope we can deepen understanding of scripture as a whole, further the understanding of biblical concepts and make doctrine graphic," he added.

The elder Davis said he is basically a pastor at heart, and his interest in Leviticus is from a pastor's perspective. "How do you preach this?" he asks.

"I'm not interested in Leviticus just academically," he continued. "Our objective is to show how to preach and make Leviticus relevant, interesting and helpful to the people" who are hearing the sermons.

Davis Sr., who has been at Criswell College since 1973, was the pastor of churches in Alabama and Mississippi for

13 years before moving to Dallas and the staff of the college. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and received the B.D. and Th.D. degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

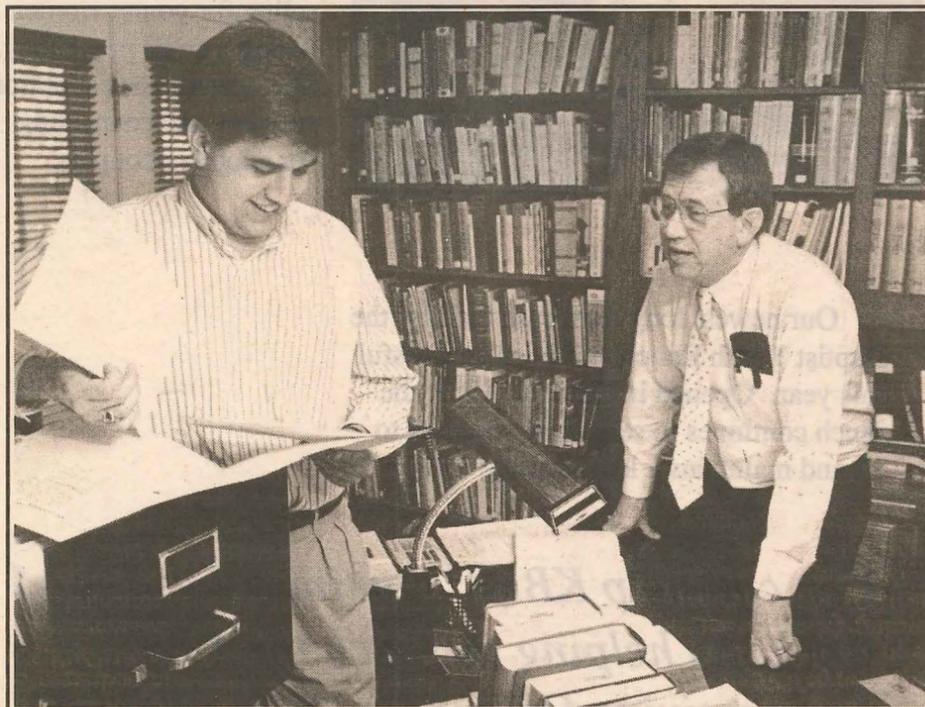
Since he has been in Dallas, Davis Sr. has been interim pastor in 11 churches. Davis Jr. recently completed his first interim pastorate at Woodlake Baptist Church in Carrollton, Texas.

The younger Davis is a graduate of Criswell College and earned an M.A. degree in New Testament studies from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill. He is now a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., working toward an M.Div. degree.

The first volume of The New American Commentary, which will be published in June 1991, will be Philippians, Colossians and Philemon, written by Richard E. Mellick Jr., professor at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn. The volume with Leviticus and Numbers is scheduled to be released in 1993.

David Dockery, general editor of the commentary, said the primary goal of the project is to present a scholarly, conservative view of scripture which affirms the divine inspiration, total truthfulness and complete authority of the Bible.

The commentary will be written and edited according to the doctrinal guidelines of the Baptist Faith and Message statement, and the Chicago Statement on Inerrancy will serve as the operating definition of biblical inerrancy. The New International Version of the Bible will be the standard translation for The New American Commentary. (BP)



George Davis Jr. looks into some of the resources in his father's study while the two discuss their assignment to write a commentary on Leviticus. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)



*Kentucky Baptist Homes
for Children
Touching Lives*



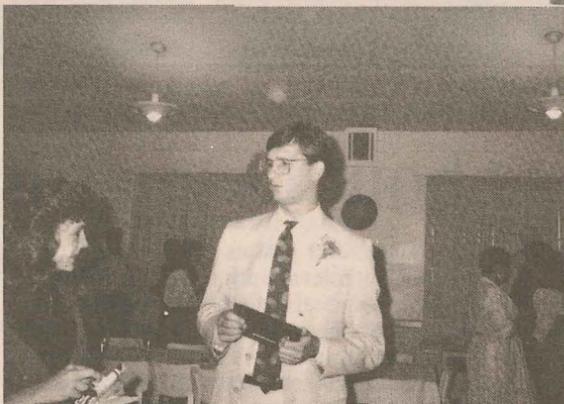
"Tender mercies are over all his works."

Kentucky Baptists touch lives through the Thanksgiving Offering

The annual Thanksgiving Offering is a major source of income for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. This past year, contributions from Kentucky Baptists helped to further God's work at KBHC in many ways.

This spring, our Continuing Care program sponsored the first College Banquet. Former University of Kentucky basketball star, Jim Master, spoke to youth.

The Continuing Care program provides supervision for youth who have graduated from high school. It helps high school seniors make a smooth transition to college, vocational school or a job.



Money from the annual Thanksgiving Offering supports three temporary care shelters. KBHC opened a new shelter this year on the Spring Meadows campus. It serves youth in the Louisville and central Kentucky areas.



KBHC's maternity and adoption program has been expanded to full time service. Sherra Still, Maternity/Adoption Coordinator, offers counseling for young women facing a crisis pregnancy. She also handles adoption services and counseling for adoptive couples.



Our newest long term care facility, the Baptist Youth Ranch, has been successful this year. Opened in October, 1989, the ranch continues to serve boys ages 14 to 17 and maintains a long waiting list.

You can help KBHC continue these good works by helping us reach the 1990 Thanksgiving Offering goal of \$800,000.