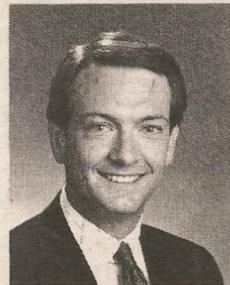


Crouch elected president at Georgetown College

by Marv Knox, Editor

Georgetown College trustees have elected William H. Crouch Jr. as the Kentucky Baptist school's 23rd president.

Crouch, vice president for development at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., will begin his tenure at Georgetown Aug. 1. He was elected unanimously during a trustee meeting at the college in Georgetown last week.



Crouch

Trustees chose Crouch, 39, from a large field of candidates, said trustee Chair Robert G. Baker, pastor of Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville.

"We had active files on 117 candidates," Baker said. "We actually had more names and resumes than that—140 to 150."

"The vision that Dr. Crouch has for a Baptist institution impressed our committee immensely. He is a person of vision and energy, and he will challenge us concerning

what our college can become."

Crouch brings several strong attributes to Georgetown, Baker added: "One of the things that impressed us the most was his development background. He put in place a \$50 million campaign at Carson-Newman. There were record gifts given under his leadership—over \$5 million in each of the past two years."

"We also were looking for someone who would represent Georgetown College well. Dr. Crouch is a marvelous public speaker, and we are excited about that."

"Not only does he have the expertise in development, but he brings a well-rounded profile to the office of president—a strong academic background and solid relation to Baptist institutions. He knows Southern Baptists, and that was a key for us at this point as well."

Crouch focused on relationships as he talked about Georgetown College last week.

"I have a vision for the institution which is very personal," he said. "It has to do with energy and quality and the way we relate to people, more than a campus strategic plan."

"One of the things that attracted the trustees to me and me to Georgetown is that I am a people person. I love to meet people

and develop lasting relationships. I have a variety of experiences, as a pastor and a third-generation Baptist minister. I know the Baptist denomination well, ... and many of my best friends are in the business world, and I understand how the business world operates. It gives me an opportunity to relate well to both groups, which are vital to a private college. But not only do we need to build relationships outside; I want to build relationships on campus."

Crouch noted trustees had recognized his ability to raise money for Baptist causes. "Fund-raising is nothing more than developing relationships with people," he added. "I plan to do that with the Baptists of Kentucky and the pastors of Kentucky, as well as the donors. The No. 1 donor to Georgetown is the Kentucky Baptist Convention."

Crouch and his family will be active in church and in their community, he said, expressing a desire also to speak and preach in as many churches and associational meetings as possible.

The new president wants to build on the school's strength, he added: "Georgetown has a very strong academic reputation. I want to make sure that reputation remains

and even enhances in the future. We want to be focused on the liberal arts. We want to focus on the fact we're a Christian school with a strong Baptist relationship."

"One of the real strengths of this school is the faculty-student ratio, about 14-to-1. If we decide we need or want to grow, we must maintain the faculty-student ratio. ...

"We will want to maintain the quality of the education. I want Georgetown to be viewed as an asset and a resource to the Kentucky Baptist Convention."

Crouch has been vice president for development at Carson-Newman since June 1988. He has been responsible for planning and coordinating the total development program of the Tennessee Baptist school.

Before joining Carson-Newman, he was director of development for the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, associate development director and director of corporation and foundation solicitation at Gardner-Webb College, and pastor and associate pastor in North Carolina.

Crouch earned doctor of ministry and master of divinity degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and also is a graduate of Wake Forest University and *continued on page 2, "Georgetown elects ..."*

Convention witnessing efforts yield 402 new Christians

by Sarah Zimmerman

An array of activity preceding the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta resulted in 402 professions of faith in Christ and 144 requests for information about churches.

The events were part of Crossover Atlanta, a multi-faceted attempt to share the gospel in the convention's host city.

The majority of the professions of faith, 183, were recorded as volunteers went door-to-door in Atlanta and its suburbs. The Saturday event involved 940 individuals who conducted a religious opinion survey that led to an opportunity to share the gospel. They contacted 9,658 homes and presented the gospel 1,112 times.

Eighty-three volunteers participated in street witnessing projects that focused on busy intersections of Atlanta's rapid rail system as well as public parks and malls. They recorded 156 professions of faith. A new downtown congregation, Heart of Atlanta Baptist Church, is making follow-up visits on the decisions.



START YOUR ENGINES—A booth at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta this month touted plans for Crossover Indianapolis, an outreach project intended to precede the SBC annual meeting there in 1992. (Photo by Paul Obregon)

Volunteers from Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and North Carolina set up mobile feeding operations at five sites. In two days, they served 15,177 meals and recorded 39 professions of faith.

Five youth rallies were held throughout the metro area and resulted in 24 professions of faith.

In addition, a phone bank was set up to invite people to a church being established near Atlanta. Thirteen volunteers spent 24 hours making 520 calls. Their efforts netted 144 households requesting information about the new congregation.

Already plans are being made for similar activities to precede next year's SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis. Howard Ramsey, director of personal evangelism for the SBC Home Mission Board, said volunteers can sign up next year's one-day soul winning effort on Saturday, June 6, before the annual meeting.

To register or gather additional information, contact the HMB personal evangelism department, 1350 Spring Street NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30367-5601. (BP)

King James still reigns as Baptists' favorite

by Linda Lawson

Despite the proliferation of contemporary translations and paraphrases of the Bible, Southern Baptist adults still prefer the King James Version.

Sixty-two percent of respondents in the 1990 Southern Baptist Constituency Study said they prefer the King James Version of the Bible for personal use. The Living Bible trailed in a distant second place, with 13 percent, followed by New International Version, 9 percent; New American Standard Bible, 6 percent; and Revised Standard Version, 5 percent.

Five percent did not respond to the question in the national study conducted by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in conjunction with HTI Custom Research in Chicago.

At the same time, sales figures indicate people are buying contemporary versions at a record pace.

While the King James Version remained the No. 1 seller for Holman Bibles pro-

duced by the board, with 38.9 percent for 1989-90, the New International Version was a close second, with 32.2 percent. Spanish Bibles sold 13.7 percent; New American Standard, 13 percent; and the Revised Standard and New Revised Standard versions, 2.1 percent.

A number of popular translations of the Bible, such as the New King James Version, are not available to Holman.

Sales of the New International Version outpaced the King James Version 33 percent to 23 percent for Bibles sold July-December 1990 to retailers by Spring Arbor Distributors, which distributes 3,700 Bibles, testaments and Scripture portions.

Even though Southern Baptist adults are among those buying contemporary translations, their continued preference for the King James Version does not surprise Johnnie Godwin, vice president for general publishing at the Sunday School Board.

"The King James Version has more than 350 years of history," said Godwin.

He cited a 1988 question on the South-

ern Baptist annual statistical survey, asking which Bible version churches preferred for use in worship.

The King James Version was selected by 27,555 churches; New American Standard, 2,696; New International Version, 2,146; and Revised Standard Version, 754.

While Godwin sings the praises of contemporary translations which help Bible students understand and apply the Scriptures, he bemoans the difficulties posed in public worship by congregations made up of people reading from varied translations.

"If I were a pastor today, I'd state the translation I plan to preach from. I would have matching pew Bibles so we could all read together from the same version," said Godwin.

The introduction of the Revised Standard Version in 1952 stirred angry protests from many Christians, Godwin noted. However, two generations and numerous contemporary translations later, there is "openness and acceptance" to other Bible translations and paraphrases. (BP)

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Combined giving barely above last year's pace

by Marv Knox, Editor

Kentucky Baptists' contributions to their state and national unified budget, the Cooperative Program, are running slightly behind last year's pace.

However, designated gifts to the Kentucky Baptist Convention have pushed contributions to state causes slightly above receipts for the first nine months of last year's budget.

Through May, the Kentucky Cooperative Program received \$12,473,327. That amount represents a 1.4 percent decrease from the amount received from September through May of the 1989-90 budget.

Kentucky's in-state portion of that shortfall is \$109,686, said Barry Allen, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's business division.

That deficit has been offset by an increase of \$176,449 in designated receipts.

Consequently, the state convention's budget has received an increase of \$66,763—or 0.9 percent—over receipts for the same period last year.

The change in the way money has been received has reflected changes in the way some churches are contributing to the convention's causes.

Some moderate churches have said they feel shut out by the political structure within the Southern Baptist Convention. Some of them have avoided supporting the conservative-controlled SBC Executive Committee by designating their contributions or using alternate giving mechanisms. In Kentucky, contributions must be completely undesignated to be considered part of the Cooperative Program.

"We now have had sufficient time with churches that are designating to look at the combinations of giving," Allen said. "When you do that, we're running just about where

we were last year.

"You can't just say the Cooperative Program is down by the amount these (designated) gifts are up, but the net effect is about the same."

The most disappointing aspect of the budget picture is that receipts are below budget, Allen said. "That's the big picture. We won't come close to this year's KBC budget (\$17,894,462), which puts pressure on next year's budget.

"We'll need a tremendous influx of dollars just to reach the no-growth budget we've set for next year."

May receipts for the total Cooperative Program in Kentucky totaled \$1,487,322, an 8.7 percent decline from the total for May 1990.

Nationally, receipts for May totaled \$12,415,289, for an increase of 6.08 percent. National designated gifts increased 40.91 percent in May, from \$13.9 million

last year to \$19.6 million this year.

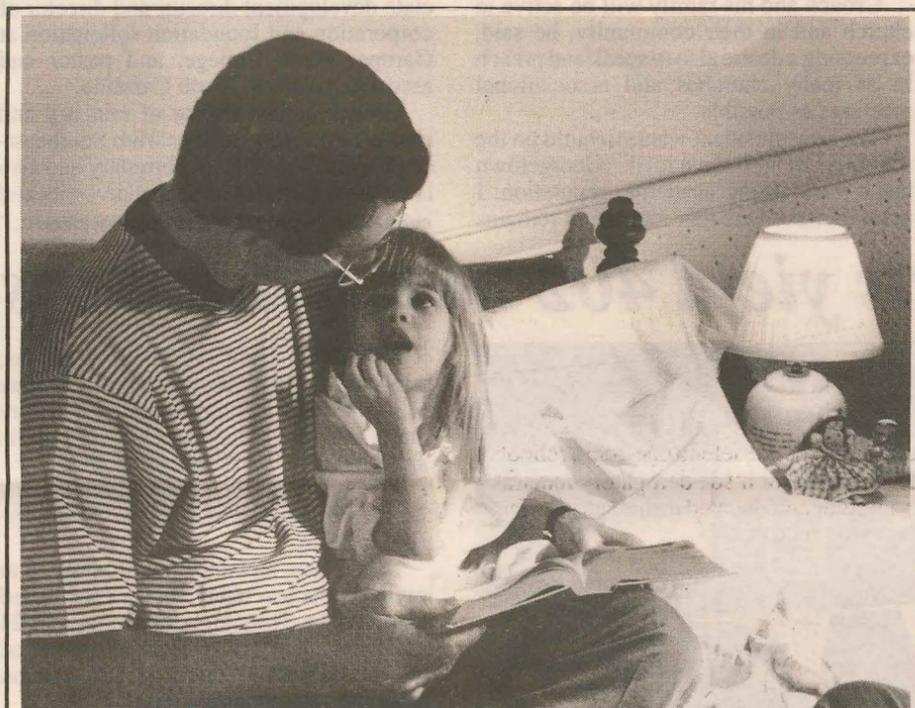
However, the SBC Foreign Mission Board announced that its annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering registered a decline for the first time in 53 years.

The offering received \$79.3 million, compared to last year's \$80 million total and this year's \$86 million goal.

If the Lottie Moon Offering had reached its goal, it was to have provided 47.06 percent of the board's \$182.7 million budget, with the Cooperative Program providing 37.95 percent.

Capital needs are expected to suffer the most due to the shortfall, board leaders said. Of \$8.3 million earmarked for construction, equipment and missionaries' vehicles, only \$1.6 million will be available.

Expansion of ministries in Eastern Europe, parts of the Middle East and the Soviet Union is expected to continue, board officials said. (WR, BP)



LOOKING AHEAD—"Love Always Protects" is the theme for Annuity Board Sunday, June 23, in the Southern Baptist Convention. The SBC Annuity Board, in cooperation with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, provides programs to help churches provide health and old-age security for their staff members.

Kentucky's volunteer trio won't feed Kurds in Iran

by Marv Knox, Editor

Three Kentuckians who have been waiting to travel to Iran to feed Kurdish refugees will not get to make the trip, according to a Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission spokesperson.

"Word has been received ... that the Iranian feeding operation has been officially canceled by the Iranian government," said Bob Saul, a staff member with the Brotherhood Commission who has worked closely with the project.

Kentuckians Harold Moore of Ashland, Robert Y. Simpkins of Louisville and Marvin "Pete" Toole of Carrollton originally were to leave for Iran early this month.

The Kentuckians and other Southern Baptist volunteers had been placed on standby for the feeding project, pending travel approval by the Iranian government.

"The mission has been canceled because this type of operation is no longer needed," Saul said.

"There is a possibility that the Iranian

government will request medical teams at a later date, but as far as we know, they will not be requesting feeding teams."

Twelve Baptist volunteers left Iran in May after feeding up to 13,500 Kurds per day for about two weeks.

"All reports from the Iranian embassy and the (Southern Baptist) Foreign Mission Board are that this has been a most successful mission and highly praised in the field itself," Saul said.

"This would not have been possible without all the volunteers and the constant prayer support. ...

"We are very grateful to the Iranian government for the initial opportunity and for what was accomplished.

"Continue to pray for the Kurdish people."

Simpkins, who was to be team leader for the Kentuckians and is director of the Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood department, was participating in a Kentucky Baptist Builders project late last week and could not be reached for comment.

Elder to teach, minister at Belmont College

by Linda Lawson & Herb Hollinger

Citing his need to seek "God's will for my life during this part of the journey," Lloyd Elder said teaching and counseling college students, with flexibility for an "at-large ministry" drew him to accept a faculty position at Belmont College in Nashville.

Belmont President William Troutt announced that trustees of the Tennessee Baptist school had affirmed his recommendation that Elder, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, assume the H. Franklin Paschall Chair of Biblical Studies and Preaching by Jan. 31, 1992.

Early this year, Elder reached an agreement with Sunday School Board trustees to retire from his present position on Jan. 31, 1992, or 30 days after a successor is appointed, whichever date comes earlier. He then will continue as a consultant/advisor to the new president until April 1, 1993, according to the agreement, taking early retirement from the board at age 60. The agreement came following a dispute with trustees regarding Elder's leadership.

In a prepared statement and in a letter to trustees of the board, Elder said he will begin his new faculty role after his retirement as president. His retirement agreement allows him to pursue other activities

while he is a consultant.

"When Dr. Troutt approached me about this position, I came to see that the goals of Belmont College and the Paschall Chair are mutually consistent with my own sense of calling," said Elder. "As a Christian, I always want to be seeking and finding the will of God. One thing the Lord wants us to do is stay in his service. So, we walk by faith and tilt toward the future."

Troutt said Elder's appointment to the Paschall chair will "help us move forward

as a leader in ministerial education."

The faculty position, endowed by First Baptist Church of Nashville in honor of Pastor Emeritus H. Franklin Paschall, "affords opportunity for me to pursue a sense of calling in Christian education," said Elder. The position includes "classroom instruction, teaching/lecturing, conference assignments, student consultation and faculty participation." The position is not salaried, he added, but the college will provide an office and support staff. (BP)

Georgetown elects Crouch

continued from page 1

Wingate College. He studied higher education administration at the University of South Carolina.

He also is a member of professional, civic and denominational organizations. He is president-elect of the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce; a member of the economic development committee of the Chamber of Commerce in Knoxville, Tenn.; a member of the Smoky Mountain Chapter of the National Association of Fund-Raising Executives; deacon chair at First Baptist Church of Jefferson City; and a member of the Jefferson City Rotary Club board of

directors.

Crouch is married to the former Janice Banister of Anderson, S.C. They have five children: Allison, Rebecca, Erin, Graham and Jourdan.

His grandfather, Perry Crouch, was longtime pastor of First Baptist Church of Asheville, N.C., and executive director of the North Carolina Baptist convention. His father, Henry Crouch, is pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C.

Georgetown College had 1,595 students during the 1990-91 academic year.

Crouch will succeed W. Morgan Patter-son, who retired Jan. 31.

Graham awarded, leaves FMB post

Maurice and Laurie Graham are resigning as Southern Baptist representatives to Kuwait and moving to Richmond, Va., where he will be associate pastor of Bon Air Baptist Church.

The Grahams were among hundreds of Americans stranded in Kuwait last August after the invasion by Iraq. Mrs. Graham and the couple's two sons were permitted to leave in September. Graham was among the last Americans to leave Kuwait in December.

Graham said the decision to accept the invitation of the Richmond church stemmed largely from a lack of opportunity to quickly return to Kuwait and lack of immediately available Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board positions in English-language work. "Laurie and I are not closed to God's will whenever God opens the door for us to go anywhere," he said.

The Grahams' resignations will not halt Southern Baptist work in Kuwait, added Gerry Volkart, FMB associate director for the Middle East and North Africa.

Graham was among 18 private citizens and 12 diplomatic officials given Meritorious Honor Awards by the U.S. State Department June 7 for their work at the embassies in Kuwait and Baghdad. (BP)

Prayer preceded integration, Kentuckian recalls

by Beth Wyatt
State Correspondent

"Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world, red and yellow, black and white," Marie Blevins sang on the first day of school, 1955.

That was the day she became the first public schoolteacher to preside over an integrated classroom.

The Supreme Court's 1954 ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* made integration mandatory, and it reached rural Wayne County.

Just prior to the opening of the next school year, Blevins received a visit from her principal and superintendent, asking her to consider Griffin Elementary school, about 20 miles away.

A black family with six children lived in the Griffin community. The Stonewell parents were college-educated and had taught the children at home. But this year, they wanted the children to attend the Griffin school.

A teacher previously assigned to the school refused to keep her assignment. "At first I told them no," Blevins commented, "but they came back, and I knew nothing else to do.

"I was scared, but I wanted more than anything to teach the children to get along with each other. I prayed a lot and slept a little the night before the first day of school.

"In those days, we were allowed to read the Bible, pray, say the pledge to the flag and sing a song before beginning classes. 'Jesus Loves the Little Children' came and stayed with me, so that is the first thing I did.

"It was beautiful to see the children's eyes light up.

"After opening formalities, I assigned them seats alphabetically and by grades. Two of the Stonewell children had tested eighth-grade level, and one was beginning first grade. The remaining ones were scattered throughout the room, and to my knowledge we never had any trouble."

As was customary in that era, the pastor of nearby Mt. Carmel Baptist Church came to the school and invited the teacher and children to fall revival services. "I took them, all of them," she remembered. "It was the first time any of the black children had been in a church building."

The oldest, Abraham, died in 1981, and his body was returned to Mt. Carmel for burial. The entire community attended his funeral in that same church, she said, "and there were many more white people than black at that service."

In 1955, the school building was in terrible need of repair. It had no electricity, holes in the walls and worn-out furniture.

The school's unusual term—from July to February—caused it to be the first integrated school in the nation. *Life*, *Look*, *Stars* and *Strips* and other national publications carried the story. As people learned about the school's poor conditions, they began to send contributions. Blevins asked the men in the neighborhood to donate labor, and they completely renovated the building.

Today, Blevins is not content just to live with her memories. She serves as a substitute teacher anywhere, anytime she is asked.

"I'll supply for the kindergarten teacher or the football coach, and anywhere in between," she insisted.

"I love the children, and I believe in quality education."

She was guidance counselor for Wayne



BAPTIST PIONEER—Marie Blevins (back row, right) was America's first public schoolteacher to preside over an integrated classroom, in Wayne County in 1955.

County High School the last 16 years before she retired. There, she went beyond the call of duty to make sure students were prepared for college.

The Blevins family includes three sons, each with an earned doctor's degree.

One day during a class at Harvard, her son Parker rose to defend one-room schools after a professor made derogatory remarks about students educated in that setting. That defense earned the young man respect dur-

ing his graduate school experience.

Blevins has found time to work with her children and is a doting grandmother of nine, including a set of quadruplets that made Lexington history five years ago when they were born.

Her pastor, Alan Son of First Baptist Church of Monticello, sees Blevins as a top-of-the-mark person. She is faithful to her church and a genuine lover of people, he reported.

MasterLife workshop explores meaning of discipleship

by Denise Day Spencer
State Correspondent

What does making Christ the "master" of one's life mean?

Thirty-seven Baptists met in Kentucky to answer that question not long ago.

They participated in a MasterLife training workshop at Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville.

MasterLife is a six-month group discipleship course. It is part of LIFE—Lay Institute for Equipping. LIFE is a system of study courses published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship

"It's a challenge to examine what it means to be a disciple. ... It's difficult. But it's worth it."

training department.

All who completed the training workshop now are qualified to lead MasterLife groups in their churches.

Jean Morris of Calvary Baptist Church in Seymour, Ind., expressed her enthusiasm for MasterLife: "I'd like to see all our church members go through it. It's really

good discipling."

She first became interested when an acquaintance took a MasterLife course in another church. Morris and friends at Calvary "saw a tremendous change in him," she said.

Kentucky Baptist Discipleship Training Director Doug Strader was pleased with

this year's workshop attendance at Farmdale.

"It was up five or six people over the past couple of years," he said.

"MasterLife is doing well in Kentucky. People are learning these groups are making a difference in people's lives and in churches."

Dan Kelly, minister of youth and education at First Baptist Church of Whitesburg, found the conference stimulating.

"It's a challenge to examine what it really means to be a disciple," he said. "It's a lifelong commitment. It's hard. It's difficult. But it's worth it."

Colesburg Church packs original building for 100th anniversary

by Suzanne Darland
State Correspondent

About 200 people—including a couple of famous special guests—filled all the pews and extra folding chairs, then gathered in the kitchen, foyer and on the front steps to celebrate Colesburg Baptist Church's 100th anniversary May 26.

Still meeting in its original white-frame structure, the church had dwindled to a "pretty gruesome" six or eight in attendance before Severns Valley Baptist Church adopted it as a mission in 1975, said longtime member Edward Morgan. Now the church in the once-bustling railroad community north of Elizabethtown averages 45 in attendance.

So spirits were soaring by the time two huge touring buses rolled in shortly after the morning worship service had begun.

On board? Country singers Naomi and Wynona Judd, sister and niece of now-pastor Mark Judd, whose visit had to be

kept secret to avoid too much publicity.

"I had to flat-out lie," confessed Judd, pastor of the now-self-supporting mission for more than seven years.

"Mark is the unsung hero in our family," gushed Naomi Judd in an interview. While country music's top duo didn't sing, Naomi Judd spoke at the afternoon service. She and her touring crew were back from their last tour before her retirement. Daughter Wynona was scheduled to record her first solo album in Nashville early this month.

"Mark has a special ministry to people in this area with special needs," Naomi Judd said. "I'm extremely proud of him."

At the centennial festivities, members and former members who hadn't seen each other in decades were hugging and remembering old times. At a large display of Colesburg community photos from the early 1900s, they pointed themselves out and marveled at forgotten friends. Minutes were read from the organizational meeting in 1891, when 31 charter members vowed to

present a Baptist witness in the community. Back then, they agreed to pay a pastor \$125 a year.

In its heyday, the valley community was a shipping point for livestock, lumber, hay and grain. And although the town was and still is a largely Catholic community, the church flourished and reached others for Christ. But as the railroad declined, so did the town and many moved away.

Morgan, who has attended since 1959, remembers a struggling congregation where a succession of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary student pastors came for \$25 a week, "sometimes for \$35, if it was a good week." The church had no running water, and "not even an outside john."

Then in 1975, Severns Valley Church infused life into Colesburg Church by supplying Sunday school teachers and some funding. Many praised the rebirth as a turning point for the congregation.

In the morning service, Judd urged members to "give thanks to God for instill-

ing his spirit in those who had a dream of a Baptist church in this place."

But the focus wasn't entirely on the past. A crazy quilt stitched as a fund-raiser in 1913 was displayed on one wall. But a new quilt of the handsome building, crafted by Frances Thompson, whose husband was pastor after the rebirth, was on the other wall.

"Congratulations on your continued ministry," said Delores Baugh, co-director of missions for Severns Valley Baptist Association. "Look for your reason for being in 1991."

Before the afternoon service, Scott Spillman pulled ropes to ring the heavy bell in the church's steeple. For a few moments, its clear call echoed over the valley, reminding hearers of the church's call over the years.

"We celebrate with Colesburg," Severns Valley Church Pastor Howard Cobble said quietly.

"But there are others here who need to be reached."

Idolatry of civil religion threatens convention

editorial

Marv Knox

You don't need a golden calf or a bronze Buddha to be an idol worshiper.

People worship idols when they place ultimate faith in things, not God. That's what's so troublesome about the Southern Baptist Convention's cozy relationship with the federal government. Our church seems to be asking the state to fix our nation's spiritual ills.

We must admit that God and Uncle Sam are two of the most powerful/pervasive forces in our lives.

At one level, we love God and thank God for blessing us so richly; one of God's best gifts is the opportunity to live freely in a bountiful nation. We properly thank God for our abundance and liberty. But if we're not careful, we begin to assume that God has blessed America because we are good, God loves us in return for our loyalty and we deserve to be the most-blessed nation on earth. We come to believe that we initiate the blessing, and God must oblige.

At another level, we lean on both God and government. Most of us believe God is present at our conception and remains with us through our earthly lives; if we love God and place our faith in Jesus, we continue to abide with God through eternity. The state can't pursue us into heaven (although an IRS agent might try, and we might prefer that he go a different direction), but it's present with us from womb to tomb. We seek spiritual sustenance from God; we receive social, political, economic nourishment from the state.

At still another level, we depend upon both God and government for daily security. The Psalmist said it for us; God is our "ever-present help." But on a more immediate level, we find assurance in knowing we can dial 911 when the house catches fire or a burglar breaks in; we sleep better at night knowing Patriots can knock Scuds out of the sky. We sit at the table expecting food because we know the highways are paved, the rail lines are clear, the economy provides.

When we look at the big picture, we realize God and government provide us with most of our big blessings. Small wonder, then, that we get confused about who delivers. "God bless America." Who blesses us, God or America?

We call the confusion that results "civil religion." It develops when people wrap their flag around the cross and fail to distinguish between government and vice. It assigns God's virtues to government, and vice versa. This is easy to do, especially in a bountiful land where thankful people appreciate their blessings.

The evil of civil religion is that it perverts the gospel. The Bible tells us Jesus came as a suffering servant. Jesus proclaims, "The first shall be last,

and the last shall be first." Jesus defeated Satan because he first died, then conquered the grave. Jesus said, "Except as you become as one of these little ones (innocent, trusting, vulnerable children), you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven." The state, on the other hand, says, "Might makes right." Majority rules; power prevails. America is great again because it smashed a wicked Third World tyrant. America is better than we thought because our debt ratio is smaller than the economists had predicted. Law-and-order politicians are popular if they can control the mean masses. Power has saved us.

Well-meaning Christians can fall prey to civil religion and never realize they missed the gospel. We love God and country. We appreciate the Lord's blessings and the nation that delivered them. Before long, we can't distinguish between the National Anthem and "Amazing Grace"; both are lovesongs.

Don't misunderstand: This is not criticism of tender-hearted Christians who weep when they pray and get goosebumps when they

say the pledge of allegiance. Appropriate love for God and country is to be expected, even admired. But religious zealotry and nationalistic pride that cannot tell the difference between faith and patriotism are neither faithful nor patriotic.

Several events surrounding the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta this month provide reason for concern about civil religion:

- A 60- by 40-foot American flag provided the backdrop for speakers at the Pastors' Conference.

- Oliver North, currently appealing his conviction in the Iran-contra scandal on a technicality, spoke to the Pastors' Conference. He professes faith in Christ, but he has neither repented nor apologized for lying to Congress and the American people.

- A messenger proposed that "this SBC instruct the proper committee to include, at least once, the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America into the program of this convention and every subsequent annual SBC convention."

- Another messenger moved "that former President Jimmy Carter be invited to speak at a future annual SBC."

- The convention voted to stop providing money to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs,

which has advocated strict separation between church and state.

- Messengers approved a statement of unquestioning support for Operation Desert Storm. It praised God for "his blessing on our nation." It did not, however, mention compassion for the tragic suffering of the war's innocent victims, much less acknowledge God's love for Iraqi citizens.

- Messengers also approved statements on education that read almost like documents developed by the Republican National Committee. Another resolution, "On Endangerment of Our Religious Liberties," cited concern with a recent Supreme Court decision regarding the state's interest in protecting religious liberty, but it also dealt pointedly with the abortion theme.

- President George Bush addressed more than 20,000 Southern Baptists in the final session of the annual meeting. He stressed his solidarity with the convention's abortion and educational voucher positions, and he also promoted a school-prayer amendment, another issue dear to most of the messengers. The president's 15-minute speech stretched well beyond

that time, as messengers repeatedly interrupted him with sustained ovations.

The convention did take stands critical of two administration agencies, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Centers for Disease Control. But the scope of the criticism of the NEA and the CDC paled in comparison to the endorsement of the president's political platforms regarding abortion and educational vouchers.

Some Baptists will write off criticism of civil religion at this year's SBC annual meeting. They will claim it is a case of partisan president-bashing, but they will miss the point. Carter or Bush, Democrat or Republican, Ted Kennedy or Ollie North; they're all the same when people bow down to civil religion. Ultimate and on the right.

Baptists, who claim to be a people of the Bible, should look again at the lessons of the Old Testament. The Israelites failed time after time because they bowed down to the political idol of civil religion, we will experience the spiritual impotence and exile that marred their history.



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Partnership missions: 'It's worth it'

guest
editorial

by Tony Gray

Every good administrator must determine if being involved in any given project or endeavor, be it secular or spiritual in nature, is cost-productive. Do the ends justify the means? These same questions, and many others, must be asked when considering being involved in a partnership missions project.

Is it "worth it" to have American volunteers leave their homes and workplaces, many times taking their vacations; spend their money to pay for passage, room and board for over a week; and be involved in various types of projects that require an interpreter and much flexibility? Is it worth it to have missionaries on the field spend time and energy being involved in partnership projects? Is it worth it?

I realize that the question is a bit subjective, but I believe the answer lies with the ones who have already been involved in these projects—the volunteers, the mis-

sionaries and the nationals who have been the recipients of their ministry.

Through my participation in the Kentucky—Espirito Santo, Brazil, Baptist partnership as the field coordinator, I have seen the results of partnership projects on the part of both the American volunteers and the nationals.

So, as a missionary who is involved in partnership missions, perhaps I can share my opinion as to the answer to the question, "Is it worth it?"

- I have had the privilege of seeing scores of volunteers come to Brazil to minister to people and at the close of their project with tear-filled eyes share how the Lord has blessed and changed their lives because of the missions experience.

- I have seen hundreds of nationals come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

- I have seen churches transformed as a result of church members recommitting their lives to the cause of Christ.

- I have had many national pastors and church leaders express their heartfelt appreciation and gratefulness for God having sent volunteers their way.

- My family and I, as well as our missionary colleagues, have received tremendous blessings from our partnership missions project.

Involvement in missions means changed lives for all who participate.

The effect of partnership missions is long-term. It's an investment. Results of partnership missions can and will be seen for years to come. Seeds planted by volunteers will be watered by someone else, and then harvested by yet another. That's the way it is in God's work.

Oh, but one could say, "Couldn't that seed be planted by someone already on the field rather than have an American volunteer go all the way there to do the sowing?" My response would be, "Only in eternity will we know."

However, if we wait for the answer there, we run the risk of missing a unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share with people the good news of Jesus Christ. I'm not willing to run that risk. Are You?

So, what is my answer to the question, "Is it worth it?" Yes, my brother and sister in Christ, it is worth it! Get involved in partnership missions, and then you will be able to answer that question for yourself. And I'm sure your answer will be the same as mine!

Tony Gray, a Southern Baptist missionary in Vitoria, Espirito Santo, Brazil, is the on-site coordinator for the Brazil-Kentucky Baptist partnership project.



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

on mission together

Old friend and intruder

Can you remember your "old" telephone numbers? How about 329 and 420? In Frankfort back in the '40s, 329 would get you "Marshall's grocery" and 420 would ring our house, situated next door to Roger's Funeral Home.

Picking up the bell-shaped receiver, we'd wait for the operator to say "number please." One operator knew my voice and would sometimes ask, "How are you, Billy?" I can still get an operator, but it might be in Chicago, and, for sure, they won't know my name or care how I am.

On my dad's rural mail route, there were lots of folks without phones. And if they had one, usually it was a "party line" with three or four users who could listen in if they wanted to ... and I suspect they did.

Except on vacations or retreats, hardly anyone today wants to be without a telephone. On my way to work these days, I observe a number of drivers who are carrying on a conversation over a "cellular" phone. Pretty impressive! I've considered taking a couple of non-functional phones in the car and, at stop lights, put one to each ear. I may do it yet, though I'll likely wear sunglasses.

Occasionally I consider a "cellular" for my car since travel may consume a good bit of a working week. But then I wonder when I would be able to listen to PBS, or some of my good tapes, or have any "think-time" which I now enjoy behind the wheel. Can I give up the only place where I can't be reached?

I was in a small hardware store the other day, rather in a hurry, waiting to pay for an item. The phone rang about the time I stepped up to the counter and the salesperson spent at least five minutes on the phone. And before he could take care of me, the phone rang again. Two or three more minutes! When he got to me, he didn't have enough dollar bills for change so he called for someone. By the time the lady came with some bills, the phone had rung again and he was back on the phone.

By then he could see the fire in my eyes. He apologized as he finally gave me change, and said: "I'm sorry. This phone rings all the time."

Unable to resist the opportunity, I said, "When customers are here, why don't you just let it ring?" To which he replied, "But they would probably get mad at us!"

I bit my lip. Before I could get out of the store, the phone rang again. There were at least two other people in line.

baptist forum

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

Thanks for kindness

The purpose of this letter is to express my profound appreciation, and certainly that of my wife, Dinah, for the prayers, warmth and sensitivity extended to us during the time of the loss of our only child, Jim, through a tragic automobile accident.

The thoughts, prayers, phone calls, telegrams and other acts of kindness shown to us by Kentucky Baptists and others will not be soon forgotten, but long remembered and appreciated.

We also appreciate the article about our son's passing which appeared in such an appropriate and timely manner in the Western Recorder. We have been sustained by all of these acts of kindness.

*Jim Taylor, president
Cumberland College
Williamsburg*

Listen for the trumpet

While the world might march to the beat of different drummers, Christians listen for the call of a distant trumpet. We do not follow the world's path. Ours is a straight and a narrow way. It is a less-traveled way.

Some are saying that the church is not relevant or that it has lost touch with the "real world." If by that they mean that we do not follow the changing values of society, then they are right. The purpose of the church lies not in following society, but in shaping it. We attempt to change the world's headlong rush toward destruction.

We are under attack on every front because we refuse to conform. Our stands on morality and the sanctity of life seem old-fashioned to the world. But those stands find firm foundation in God's word. Should we conform by yielding to the forces that cry for changing our morals, then we will

lose our very reason for existence.

Our calling is to be as different from the world as a lighthouse is from the rocks and cliffs upon which it sits. The lighthouse warns of danger, directs to safe passage and breaks the surrounding darkness. In the same way, the church warns of the dangers of sin, points the way to the safety of the Cross of Christ, and breaks the surrounding darkness of the world with the light of life.

Keep the faith, children of God, for to compromise is to face ruin and to cause many a shipwreck. So keep an ear to God's word, listen for the call of the trumpet and join in the march to glory.

*Frank Queen, pastor
Bandana Baptist Church
Bandana*

History repeats

When the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, meeting in Atlanta, May 9-11, set up a method of mission support without going through the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, it was not a new thing among Baptists.

A similar thing occurred 146 years ago before there was an SBC and probably was one contributing factor to its formation. The channel for mission support for the early Baptist churches was through the board of the Triennial Convention.

When some of the brethren in the North feared the appointment of a slave-holding Southerner as a missionary, and whose conscience became active over receiving "tainted" money from Southern churches for missions, they decided to do something about it. They formed a separate free mission society through which they could give to missions. This was in opposition to the boards receiving money from the Southern churches.

Churches in the South felt their rights had been denied. Many ceased to send funds through the general board. Two of the most generous Southern states refused to send any more money northward. Receipts fell off.

Southern leaders concluded that withdrawal from the convention was a necessity. They issued a call for Southern churches to send messengers to Augusta May 8, 1845, for the purpose of forming a new convention.

The motive in forming a separate mission society was not to withdraw from the convention or to form a new one, but this action by churches in the North helped those in the South make up their minds to withdraw and form a convention of their own. Perhaps we can learn from history.

*Harold Wainscott
Covington*

Votes counted accurately

I was privileged to serve on the tellers committee of our great Southern Baptist Convention, which met in Atlanta June 4-6. I am writing this letter to say to those who are always complaining about the cheating that goes on in our convention during any voting that their fears are very much unfounded.

The tellers committee of our convention took excessive care to assure that every vote was counted accurately. No votes were ignored, and even those who had cast their vote on the wrong ballot could be assured that care was taken to make sure that even though their vote didn't count, the ballot was accounted for in the total number of messengers voting.

The machines that counted the ballots were watched over by the operators and by every one of the tellers present in the room.

Dr. Lee Porter is to be commended for his behavior during the vote taken on the recording secretary. He never came near the tellers room during the counting of the ballots. I just wanted to share this with you as one who once wondered about the integrity of our voting procedures within our convention.

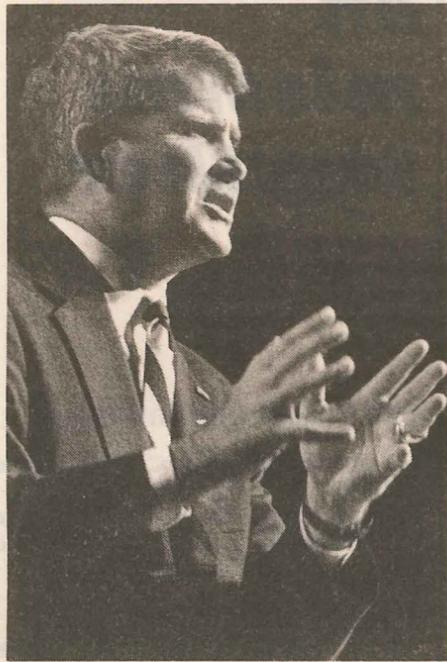
*Stan Cole, pastor
Kento-Boo Baptist Church
Florence*

'Get involved in government,' North tells Baptists

by Marv Knox, Editor

Christians need to be involved in government, Oliver North told 18,000 Southern Baptists on the eve of their annual meeting in Atlanta this month.

"It is a tragedy that so many Christians have withdrawn from the political process," North said during the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference. "The First Amendment is designed to protect godly people from the government, not government from



Oliver North

godly people."

Participants waved American flags and sang patriotic hymns before North spoke. The former Marine officer is appealing his convictions for Iran-contra deals.

Conference President Richard Lee of Tucker, Ga., said North's appearance was controversial, "but to the vast majority of us, he's an American patriot."

North did not receive an honorarium for his speech, Lee said. North typically receives \$20,000 to \$25,000 per engagement, according to his representatives.

Two other Pastors' Conference speakers also urged Christian involvement in government: Christians will lose their freedoms unless they fight to preserve them, said Tim LaHaye, an author and speaker from Washington. "Christians are to be involved in the social agenda and political agenda, but they are to be done from a biblicentric frame of reference," added Tony Evans, a pastor from Dallas.

Five former Southern Baptist Convention presidents—W.A. Criswell, Adrian Rogers, Jimmy Draper, Bailey Smith and Jerry Vines—spoke to the conference.

The program also featured a non-sched-

uled appearance by Jerry Falwell, pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., and founder of Moral Majority.

Falwell cited a litany of social problems that have developed in America during the past 40 years: drug abuse, abortion, pornography and New Age religion.

If Christians stand firm and do not flinch, the gospel can be preached to the world, and many of the nation's social problems can be overcome by the turn of the century, Falwell predicted.

Numerous other groups held meetings in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting:

Forum

The Southern Baptist Forum voted to dissolve and heard a missions testimony during its last meeting.

The Forum first met in 1984 and incorporated in 1987. It has been a meeting place for moderates attending the SBC annual meeting, somewhat as an alternative to the conservative-dominated Pastors' Conference.

Only about 200 people attended the 1991 Forum, down from thousands in previous meetings. "We are not chagrined about the size of our attendance," Forum Chairperson John Hewett said. "It says a lot about the participation of our kind of people in the convention this week."

Hewett, a pastor from Asheville, N.C., last month was elected moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. About 6,000 people attended the Fellowship meeting, also in Atlanta.

Forum participants voted to dissolve the organization, pay its outstanding debts and give the balance of its assets to the Fellowship. The Forum now has about \$6,000 to \$8,000, Hewett said.

The Forum also voted to ask the Fellowship to "provide a vehicle for fellowship and discussion in conjunction with the annual meeting" of the SBC.

The missions testimony came from Dan Martin, pastor of Ledger Baptist Church in Bakersville, N.C., and former news editor of Baptist Press. He was discharged without stated cause by the SBC Executive Committee last summer, along with Al Shackelford, vice president for public relations.

"I am a Baptist by choice, not by birth," said Martin. "I am a product of Baptist missions."

He described his life of drunkenness and failure before he found Christ in a Southern Baptist mission church in Brighton, Colo., 29 years ago. He then told about his joy in working for Baptists for most of the past two decades.

The Executive Committee did not know about his past, his beliefs or his journalistic philosophy because they didn't ask, he said.

SBTS: 'Between Chicken Little & Pollyanna'

by Pat Cole

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt characterized the school's situation as "on a spectrum between Chicken Little on the one side and Pollyanna on the other" during a banquet in Atlanta.

The correct assessment of the seminary lies somewhere between despairing pessimism and unbridled optimism, Honeycutt told more than 800 people at the school's annual alumni and friends luncheon.

Alumni should "dispel and put to death" extreme evaluations of the school's circumstance, he added.

Some professors' recent decisions to leave the faculty to accept positions else-

where are regrettable, Honeycutt said. However, he noted, only two of the school's 75 tenured faculty members have resigned this spring. He urged the alumni to remember that many competent professors still are teaching at the seminary.

The covenant document approved by the school's faculty and trustees is important for this year and for years ahead, Honeycutt said, noting that the covenant was approved by 87 percent of each group. In the covenant, faculty and trustees agreed to fill future faculty openings with conservative evangelical scholars.

Honeycutt expressed optimism the seminary will be able to attract "outstanding persons who will make significant contributions to this institution and will not

Directors of missions

The gospel message speaks to people through a variety of media, Russell Bennett of Louisville told members of the SBC Conference of Associational Directors of Missions.

Jesus Christ—"God's missionary"—heads the list, said Bennett, director of missions for Kentucky's Long Run Baptist Association. Other means of revelation include the Bible, the Spirit of God, the heavens and the church, he added.

God uses ordinary people to spread the gospel, he reported, noting that a 13-year-old classmate was used by God to call him to the ministry.

Roy L. Honeycutt of Louisville urged the missions directors to find unity in Christ.

"Let's stay faithful to the truth," said Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "We are sadly mistaken if we think we can win the world with the leftover pieces of our lives. ...

"Unity in our work does not depend on every part coming together. Perhaps we can be fellow workers if we can see unity in the person of Jesus Christ."

Milton Ferguson of Kansas City, Mo., urged that Southern Baptists deal with the pain inflicted by years of controversy.

"We will not be healed, we will not come through this family tragedy if we deny the pain," said Ferguson, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. "It would be foolish to deny that good people are being hurt. Let's ask God to give us the strength and grace to look reality in the eye—to suffer the pain, acknowledge it and walk through it."

The organization voted to change its name from the Southern Baptist Associational Directors of Missions Conference to the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions.

Woman's Missionary Union

More than 3,500 members of the Woman's Missionary Union elected a new president and heard challenges for Southern Baptists to be true to their call to missions.

The WMU tapped Carolyn Miller of Huntsville, Ala., as president, replacing Marjorie McCullough, of Alexandria, La. They chose Martha Wennerberg of DeFuniak Springs, Fla., to replace Pattie Dent of Holly Springs, Miss., as recording secretary. McCullough and Dent served the maximum five consecutive one-year terms.

Addressing the theme "Called to Missions," Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks said the call to missions "is a call to give ourselves, our substance and our prayers."

WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien urged WMU members: "Pray as you have never prayed before for the heart

of the SBC. Beg for (God's) forgiveness, for his guidance and for his wisdom."

Southern Baptists also need to renew their call to sacrifice, said Maurice Graham, an SBC representative to Kuwait who was among a group of Americans held hostage in the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait City last year.

"Our theology in today's churches does not understand suffering as a part of a commitment to missions," he said. "Some of our churches may have to suffer a building program not being completed just now so that others may hear the good news of Jesus Christ. Being faithful to the call may require some WMU leaders going to their pastor and saying, 'We need to make missions the No. 1 priority in our church.' When we have that commitment, we will be true to our calling to share Christ with those who are waiting to hear."

WMU members approved a \$13.4 million budget for the 1991-92 fiscal year, a 6.6 percent increase over the current budget.

Religious educators

Southern Baptists' biggest challenge for the rest of the century is how to get the gospel to a rapidly changing world that defies traditional church outreach methods, speakers warned religious educators.

"Lost and unchurched people could care less about inerrancy" of scripture, Ron Lewis, a Nashville church growth consultant, told the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association.

While Americans are more open to the gospel than in the past, most prospective members are age 22 to 44 and won't commit to traditional church patterns, he said. Churches must be sensitive to the needs of their communities and flexible enough to meet those needs, he added.

Members of that young generation are searching for love, family, stability and rootedness, said James Fitch, manager of the SBC Sunday School Board's pastor/staff section.

But "tried and true approaches do not have to be discarded with each new generation," he added. "Pastors and ministers of education who believe in



FOOD & FRIENDSHIP—Members of the Southern Baptist Church gathered over the weekend prior to the SBC annual meeting in project that included street witnessing and door-to-door

their structures and approaches will find ways to use them and reach and mobilize this generation."

In other business, the ministers of education applauded the leadership of Lloyd Elder, who earlier this year agreed to retire as president of the Sunday School Board by Jan. 31, 1992, or 30 days after a successor is elected.

They also named a task force to study the possibility of holding their annual meeting at a different time than the SBC annual meeting.

A Kentuckian—William R. Cromer Jr., professor of religious education at Southern Seminary in Louisville—was chosen president-elect of the organization.

Church musicians

Church musicians heard a challenge to "dream the impossible dream" of spreading the gospel in an increasingly urban and complex world.

Milburn Price, dean of the School of Church Music at Southern Seminary, spoke to the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference on challenges that members will face in the 21st century.

Church musicians need to take on seemingly impossible tasks of spreading the gospel and ask God to "send forth your word through us."

Price also said he is concerned with how musicians deal with technology. He challenged church musicians to use synthesizers, but not at the expense of the gifts of church instrumentalists. He urged them to explore the use of computers, especially for music instruction for preschoolers and children.

Other points of concern related to future music ministry, Price said, are worship, music education, the diminishing supply of keyboard instrumentalists and the impact of popular culture on music and worship.

Musicians heard the conference's 1991 commissioned anthem and hymn. The anthem, "Come and Reign," was written by Don Schlosser, minister of music at Central Baptist Church in Winchester. The hymn, "Gracious God, Receive Our Prayer," was written by Paul Duke, pastor of Kirkwood Baptist Church in St. Louis and former pastor of Highland Baptist Church in Louisville.

The conference highlighted a variety of musical performances and worship experiences. Included was a hymn sing featuring selections from

the 1991 edition of "The Baptist Hymnal."

Women in Ministry

Six Kentuckians became leaders of Southern Baptist Women in Ministry during the group's annual meeting.

Officers, elected prior to the meeting by the SBWIM executive board, include Carolyn Hale of Georgetown, Reba Cobb of Louisville and Nancy Howard of Louisville. New steering committee members include Suzanne Coyle of Lawrenceburg, Bill J. Leonard of Louisville and Cherie L. Smith of Louisville.

About 45 SBWIM members heard an exhortation to "be strong and courageous" during their worship service.

"As a denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention has progressively enslaved itself with codes, demands and restrictions," said Paula Buford of Decatur, Ga. "Our leaders want to tell us what our promised land looks like and the form that our doing courage must take. We must be willing to go against the official interpretation of our 'supposed spiritual leaders in the SBC' if being obedient negates our doing courage."

The women ministers voted to delete all references to holding their annual meeting "in June, to coincide with the week of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Campus ministers

The Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers focused on reconciliation with integrity.

Slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. followed three landmarks on the road to reconciliation, said Noel Leo Erskine, associate professor of theology and ethics at Emory University in Atlanta.

Those truths are: belief in a "moral order in the universe," a belief in the participation of God in history and the worth of the universe, he said.

Walker Knight, publisher of SBC Today newspaper, described his challenge to be a "change agent" within the



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY—Former President Paul Stephens and current President Jack Johnson participated in the SBC Radio and Television Commission's 50th anniversary celebration for "The Baptist Hour" worship program in Atlanta. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

SBC, especially in the area of race relations. He said the search for integrity involves discerning types of truths held by people opposed to each other.

Ministers' wives

Ministers' wives should not try to live up to others' impossible ideals of how they can be perfect, humorist Charles Petty told participants at the annual Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Luncheon.

Instead, he urged them to be encouraging, accept the "givens" of life, be honest with their husbands and "be human."

"I hope you will be the heart of your home," said Petty, of Raleigh, N.C. "The fact is, you are the glue that holds your home together. If not for you, your husband couldn't do ministry."

The women elected June Honeycutt of Louisville to be president for the 1993 luncheon. Her husband is Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern Seminary.

Hispanic ministers

Hispanic Christians must minister in English to reach all Hispanic Americans with the gospel, Rudy Hernandez told the SBC Hispanic Ministers' Conference.

"One-half the population of Hispanic origin will have to be reached and won in English," said Hernandez, an evangelist from San Antonio, Texas. "You have to win people for Christ in English, or they will go to hell."

David D'Amico of Louisville urged the pastors to preach from their personalities and experiences.

"We preach about what we live, but we have to adapt to the audience and translate to the culture," said D'Amico, professor of evangelism at Southern Seminary. Sermons should balance biblical truths and experience in order to communicate to people in the pews, he said.

Church starters

Southern Baptists will try to start 15,000 new churches, pastors and missionaries learned at a new-work banquet sponsored by the SBC Home Mission Board.

"The greatest work in the world is starting new churches," said HMB President Larry Lewis. He introduced the 15,000 Campaign to start 1,500 new churches per year for the next 10 years. "We're already starting around 1,200 a year," he said, "but we need to accelerate that. Our strategies will not change. We will do what we have been doing, but with more intensity."

The strategy calls on larger churches to commit to start five new churches per year.

Evangelists

The Christian's "bottom line" is leading other people to faith in Christ, Rick Gage told the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists.

"My friend, anything short of rescuing souls from hell—you need to have your priorities examined," said Gage, a vocational evangelist. "I believe with all my heart the greatest opportunity for Southern Baptists to reach this world for Jesus is right now. And we're finding everywhere we go that people today—they're easier to reach for Christ than ever before."

In another sermon, W.A. Criswell longed for the days of "old-time religion."

"I haven't heard someone shout in a church in years," said Criswell, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas. "How we need a great outpouring of the Spirit of God. I've never seen anything wrong with raising your hands, praising God, praising the Lord."

Brotherhood

Southern Baptists need to raise \$250,000 for emergency mission action projects, the retiring president of the SBC Brotherhood Commission urged.

The fund would support efforts similar to one now being undertaken by volunteers to feed Kurdish refugees in Iran and Turkey, said James H. Smith, who will retire in three months.

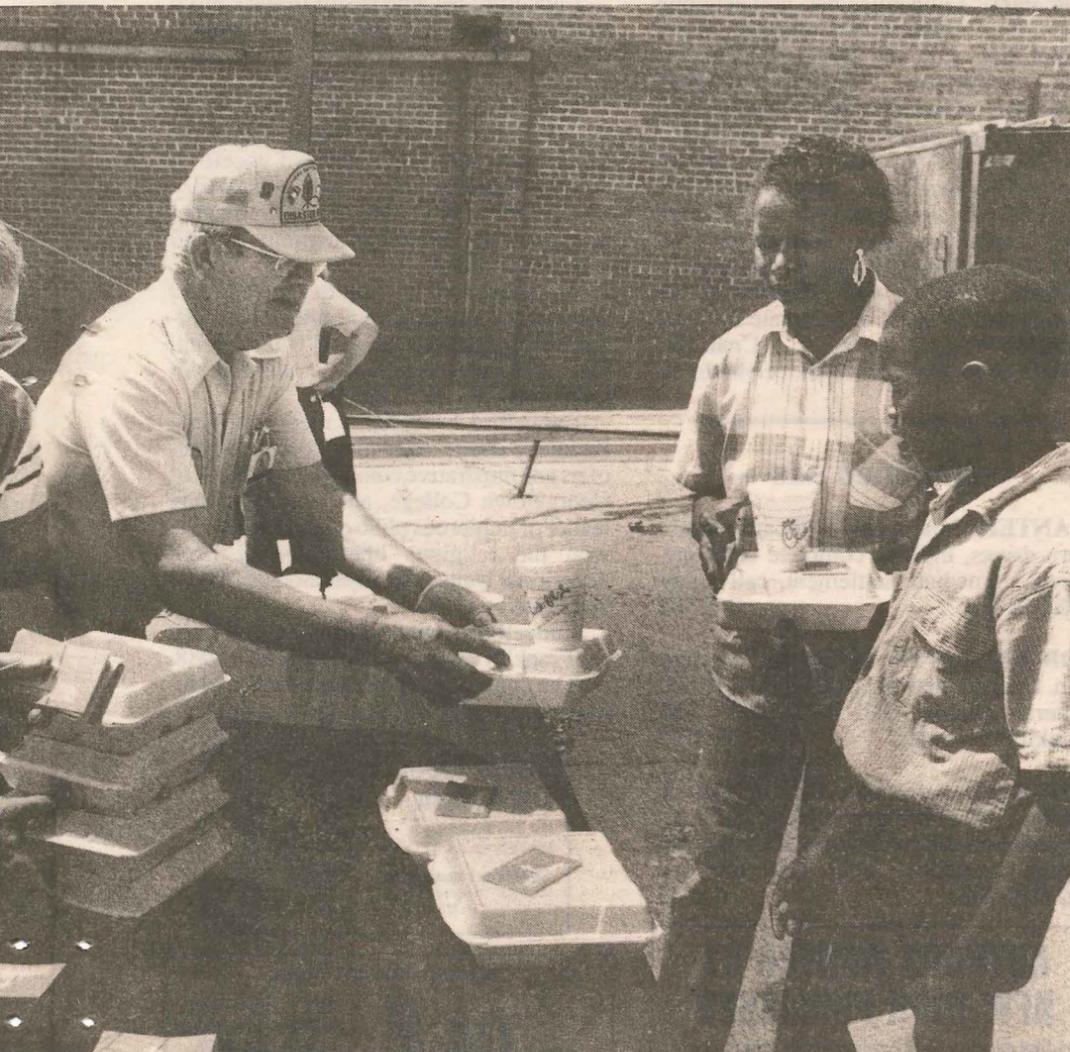
"We are already reaching forth to a world that we have to approach in a different manner," he said during the annual Brotherhood breakfast. "It is imperative that we start immediately to develop an emergency fund of at least \$250,000 to provide for situations like the Persian Gulf relief effort."

Executive Committee

The SBC Executive Committee elected Louisiana pastor David Hankins as chairperson during its organizational meeting in Atlanta.

Hankins is pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles and was unopposed for the one-year term.

Other officers are Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., vice chair, and Eldridge Miller, pastor of First Baptist Church of Sallisaw, Okla., recording secretary.



Southern Baptist Convention's Baptist Men organization served hot meals in four Atlanta locations meeting in Atlanta early this month. The feeding stations were part of Crossover Atlanta, an SBC door-to-door visitation. Volunteers from across the nation participated. (Photo by Mark Sandlin)

christian education



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

clear creek chronicle

Epistle from Colombia

Tim Searcy, 1980 graduate, and his wife Brenda are Southern Baptist missionaries in Colombia. A recent newsletter included encouragements to pray:

We arrived in Cali, Colombia, on February 12 after receiving our visas much faster than we had expected. We got initiated into Cali quickly too. Two and one-half weeks after arriving we were involved in a car accident. We praise God that we were not hurt (just a few bumps and bruises) and that it was not our fault. We were stopped at a traffic light and a bus ran into the back of us. We certainly can see God's hand of protection in this incident and thank you again for your prayers. We really appreciate our missionary family and their help and support during all of this.

Both of the boys are doing great and seem to be adjusting well. They enjoy being around the other MKs and playing outside. Nathan spoke quite a bit of Spanish while we were in Costa Rica, but since his short stay in the states, he is not wanting to speak Spanish again. He understands but responds in English. We're sure that will change with time. Philip seems to remember his Spanish pretty well and is speaking more and more as he plays with the children on the seminary campus. As for us—well, we are having to adapt to "listening" to Spanish again as the accent is a little different and there is quite a bit of difference in vocabulary, but we are doing okay with it.

We love Cali. It is a large city, two million people but it is clean and beautiful with lots of flowers, coconut trees, banana trees, etc. The driving is pretty wild though. We did have to adjust to the heat and altitude (3000 feet) when we first got here. It gets into the 90s during the day, but each evening around 5 p.m. a nice breeze comes in and it is pleasant at night. We live in a valley and have mountains around us.

Dr. Giles, the president of the seminary, retires this year and they will be leaving in July. Dr. Brasington, our area director, retires and leaves this year, and within the next year and a half, two other missionary families will be retiring so our mission is diminishing quickly as two singles and one family left this past January. At this time, there is no one else lined up to come to Colombia so we ask that you remember this in your prayers as there is a lot of work to do.

We thank you for your continuing prayers and support.

As you pray, let them know of your support. Their address is: A.A.6613, Cali, Colombia.

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE—Lynne Robinson Huff was named director of student activities and coordinator of group visitation. ... Debbie Harp was appointed director of counseling and career development. ... Anna Beth Brooks became psychology instructor.

GEORGETOWN COLLEGE—Georgetown was placed on the U.S. Department of Transportation's 70 percent-plus honor roll for attaining a seatbelt-use rate of 71.1 percent. ... A garage sale will be held in Alumni Gym Thursday and Friday, June 27-28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday, June 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Proceeds will go to the college's operating budget. ... George J. McGee, associate professor of communication arts, was selected as a Kentucky chautauqua presenter. He will tour the state with a presentation about Elijah Craig, a Virginia Baptist minister credited with founding the city of Georgetown.

CAMPBELLSVILLE COLLEGE—Educational programs for people 60 years of age or older, called Elderhostels, will be held July 14-19 and July 29-Aug. 2. The first session will offer the classes, "Abra-

ham Lincoln's Connections," "Health and Fitness" and "Early Religions in Kentucky." The second session repeats the Lincoln and health classes and adds "Literature by Kentuckians About Kentucky." Cost is \$75 per person for each session. To enroll, contact the student development office at (502) 789-5005, or call toll free (800) 264-6014. ... Linda Cundiff, assistant professor of art, is teaching classes at the Kentucky Institute for Arts in Education in Louisville, June 10-21.

MID-CONTINENT BIBLE COLLEGE—Groups from Oklahoma, Georgia and Louisiana helped reroof and paint the four campus buildings in June. The work was coordinated through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and directed by John Samsil of Paducah, a member of Rosebower Baptist Church.

CLEAR CREEK BIBLE COLLEGE—Kentucky students with a 3.30 or higher grade point average for the spring 1991 semester were added to the dean's list: Brent Allen of Liberty, Curtis G. Brock of Crab Orchard, Lonnie W. Brooks of Middlesboro, Marcia K. Brooks of Neon,

Carolyn Dixon of White Plains, Charles Dixon of White Plains, David M. Evans of Corbin, Daniel R. Gutenson of Waynesburg, Harold A. Harris of Somerset, John E. Laws Jr. of Woobine, Kenny McCain of Dry Ridge, Daryl Mullins of Florence, Terry Settles of Mackville, Eula Faye Simmons of Corbin, Robert E. Simmons of Corbin, Wayne Whaley of Florence, Mark A. Whicker of Beechmont and Keith Withrow of Owensboro.

SOUTHERN SEMINARY—The May 1991 social work graduates established an award in honor of C. Anne Davis, dean of the School of Social Work. The annual award is given to social work students exhibiting academic excellence, care and concern for classmates and commitment to church social work. This year's award goes posthumously to Robin Axmann, a December graduate who died of cancer in March.

CORRECTION—In the June 4 issue, Phillip Majors, a Southern Seminary doctor of ministry graduate and pastor of First Baptist Church of Stearns, was incorrectly identified as Phillip Morris.

mountains to the mississippi

PERSONNEL: Pastors—Richard C. Prassel to First, Junction City. ... Robert Couric to Blandville, Blandville, as interim. ... Bob Wood to Providence, Kevil, from Tennessee. ... Elmer Crouch retired from Trinity, Paducah. ... David Aker, director of mission for Pulaski Association, to Lakeside, Nancy, as interim. ... Gene Helton to Macedonia, Mt. Sterling. ... Carl Jones to Green Street, Louisville, from Baptist Fellowship Center, Louisville.

Others—Don Hart resigned Immanuel, Frankfort as minister of music. ... Michael Patterson to Immanuel Temple, Henderson, as minister of youth and education. ... Eddie McDonald to Franklin Crossroads, Cecilia, from Chestnut Ridge, Elyria, Ohio, as associate pastor and minister of youth. ... Duane Berry to First, Eddyville, as minister of music and youth. ... John Wood resigned as music director, of Harmony, West Paducah. ... Dan Granstaff to Olivet, Paducah, from Spring Bayou, Kevil, as minister of outreach and activities. ... Dale Campbell to Greenview, Florence, as minister of youth and music. ... Michael Oliver to Walnut Street, Owensboro, as interim music director. ... Kathy Ramsey to Corinth, Corinth, as minister to youth.

ORDINATIONS: Ministry—John Pat Loyd by Fellowship, Ledbetter. Deacons—Steve Crider and Kent Fletcher by Marion, Marion. ... Howard Rogers by Friendship, Irvine.

CONGREGATIONS: Central, Corbin, broke ground for a new sanctuary. ... Midlane Park, Louisville, has homecoming June 23. ... South Side, Covington, has a gospel sing with the Bishops Thursday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m. ... Melbourne Heights, Louisville, will conduct an installation service for its new pastor, William E. Shoulta, June 30, at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. ... First, Central City, will hold a memorial service July 14, 2 p.m., for Dewey Mercer. Mercer, from Central City, was a foreign missionary to Japan. He died April 17 in Japan. ... Stithton, Radcliff, will celebrate homecoming and 30 years of pastorate by Gene Bronston Waggoner, Aug. 4. ... Crab Orchard, Crab Orchard, will celebrate its

200th birthday Aug. 24-25. Events include picnic with gospel singing, Aug. 24, 6 p.m. at William Whitley House; guest speaker, Russell Bennett, Aug. 25, 11 a.m.; lunch at Crab Orchard school cafeteria Aug. 25, 12 noon; former pastors will speak 2-4 p.m. Aug. 25.

Immanuel marks Lunceford's 25th

Immanuel Baptist Church in Frankfort celebrated the 25th anniversary of its pastor, Malcolm Lunceford, June 2.

Lunceford became pastor of the church June 5, 1966. It has grown from a membership of 237 to 830 and from an operating budget of \$32,000 to \$377,000.

Festivities included a mini-concert by the Lunceford children: Kathy Hutchins, Mona Carpenter and Gordon Lunceford; special music by the church's Sanctuary Choir; and comments from Immanuel members, the Frankfort community and state government.

The mayors of his original and adopted hometowns also honored Lunceford, making him honorary mayor of Union Point, Ga., and declaring June 2 as Malcolm Lunceford Day in Frankfort.

Lunceford has been a member of the Kentucky Baptist Executive Board and chair of its administrative committee, a trustee of Georgetown College, and a member and leader of numerous civic organizations. He won the religious liberty award from Americans United for Separation of Church and State in 1988.

Lunceford's wife, Martha, retired from the Franklin County school system in 1988.

The church gave the Luncefords a videotape of the day's events and a cash gift.

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sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR JUNE 23, 1991

Life and Work Series

Build a Christian home

Eph. 5:21-31—Justice in the conjugal relationship. Much unhappiness would be avoided and many divorces would be averted if these practical admonitions were followed. If a home truly is to be Christian, and the members of the family are to enjoy the blessings of the Lord, each member must recognize the importance of correct relationships and practice unselfish devotion toward one another. Marriage is a mutual affair. Husband and wife are to esteem the other spouse above

all other human beings and demonstrate an affection that is undivided, a purity that is untarnished and a trust that is unwavering. A husband who loves his wife respects her as a person, has genuine concern for her comfort and happiness and shares the daily tasks within the family.

Eph. 6:1-9—Parental-filial relationships. Children bring their parents immeasurable joy, tremendous responsibilities and numerous problems. The most happy parents are those who live close to God and rear their children in his nurture.

Submission to the Lord is to be manifested in both the parental and filial relationships. From the beginning, the submission of children to their parents has been the Lord's way. It forms the great foundation upon which the happiness of the home rests. When obedience to parents is in evidence, the problems of home life are decreased greatly.

Christian parents are required to use all diligence in training their children in the ways of the Lord. If parents perform their God-given duties in this realm, they will be able to lead their children in a saving knowledge of Christ during the tender years of their childhood.

International Series

Ezra comes to Jerusalem

God prepared Ezra to awaken conviction in others' hearts in an hour of crisis. Ezra was an expert scribe, an honorable profession. His training started when he was 13 years of age, but he did not enter his official duties until he was 30. He was informed concerning God's purpose when God called him to lead his backslidden people to Jerusalem and to urge

them to repent of their sins. Ezra trusted God fully for guidance and strength. Knowing he had to obtain permission to take any people out of the country, Ezra sought direction and guidance from God for a tactful approach to Artaxerxes. Even though thousands were involved, the king readily granted it.

Ezra 7:11-16. Artaxerxes wrote a proclamation saying that all who desired to return to Jerusalem might take their gifts and go with Ezra. To the offerings of the people the king added his gifts. The treasures which Ezra and his company carried had value between 4 and 5 million dollars. The king offered a military escort, but Ezra preferred to depend on God alone. God led them through difficulties and after four months they arrived in Jerusalem.

Ezra sought to discover the will of God in order to communicate it to others so all could do that will. His noble purpose is worthy of our imitation.

Ezra 7:25-28. The king gave Ezra the authority to appoint civil rulers and judges because of the wisdom of God upon him. These rulers and judges were to judge the people in their province according to the law of God and the law of the king. Anyone who did not observe these laws was to be punished.

Ezra thanked the Lord for his kindness and for the favor he had given him with the king. He gathered the men whom he had chosen and they were all ready to go with him.

The king's favors to God's people indicated their genuine trust in God who was working out his purpose for them. We, too, can trust this same God to care for us and to supply our needs as we tread the pathway of Christian obedience.



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

homes for children

Accepting life

An often quoted prayer commonly known as the Serenity Prayer goes something like the following:

Lord, give me the courage to change the things I can change, give me patience to accept the things I cannot change, and wisdom to know the difference.

I have always been an agent of change. My professional training is in helping to change life situations for the better both for people and organizations. I thrive on analyzing situations and figuring out ways improvements can be made. As such, I have always had a better understanding of the first part of the above prayer. As I have shared in this column previously, I have a need for more patience in working with those things that I cannot change.

Lately I have come to grips with some unchangeable things. I have had to accept the fact that no matter how much I want it to be different, I really can do nothing to change the situation. Maybe it is a part of growing older and accepting the realities of life and perhaps gaining some of the wisdom which is the third request in the above prayer.

I realize that I am not alone in having to accept things that cannot be changed. I think of parents of adult children who continually agonize over their children's lives. I think of individuals facing a terminal illness and of persons caught in jobs in which they are unhappy, but from which there is no prospect of change.

What is the best way to cope with things we cannot change? I have found that the first thing to do is to pray for patience and wisdom from God. Impatient people such as myself tend to want it right now so a part of coping with things you cannot change is just accepting the fact that there really is nothing you can do.

I believe the only way we can accept unchangeable things is to try to put them out of our minds. Move on to another project. Get involved in efforts where you can have an impact. I have found that as you refocus your energies, you can still be concerned about the problem area, but it no longer dominates your thinking.

There are literally hundreds of ways we can redirect our lives. Pray for guidance and begin to work as you feel God is leading you. Our life here is too short and the work is too great to worry about something which we can literally do nothing about.



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Largest summer session

We have 215 girls and boys here for our summer program. More are coming later. We also have 40 men and women working directly with them in their academic work. Then there are many support people: the cooks, houseparents, maintenance and office workers.

This is a larger number of students than Oneida had during the regular school year for 73 years. just the teaching staff alone this summer is twice larger than the entire staff of OBI our first 73 years, including the support staff.

Our first summer school session was held in 1974 and we had about 40 students that first summer as I recall.

About 80 of our young people this summer are here for the first time. So they are going through their homesick stage now. It is good to get that over in

the summer time. When the regular year of school begins the last week of August theses can hit the ground running. There are no pills or shots one can give for homesickness. Only time provides the cure. But it is a very critical time.

Some students are always lost during this period because of "wishy-washy" parents or guardians who do not stand firm, but rather cave in to tears, pleas and promises. Homesickness, like mumps or measles, is bad anytime. But is something all human beings must go through at some point. Delay only makes the sickness more difficult, not less.

Who comes to summer school? There are two broad groups. Many are here because they have failed regular school year. They are here to take that particular course over and, hopefully, pass the second time around. But the larger number of students simply want to get ahead. They don't want to waste nearly three months watching TV or just trying to otherwise pass the time. Many of those who attend summer school graduate from high school in three calendar years, or graduate having done more course work and receive Oneida's advanced diploma.

A student can only get a total of one credit in six weeks of summer school classes, five hours a day. The summer session is divided into four academic quarters just as is the regular school year. The students receive one-fourth credit per quarter. So a student can take an entire year in a single subject, or one fourth of a year in four subjects. Those who are making up failed work are normally in several differing subjects over the course of the summer.

An advantage of summer school is that the student can concentrate on one subject at a time and can work with the same teacher all day long. Of course, we cannot offer every subject at the high school level in the summer. We do not

have a summer session for middle school. The high school subjects this summer are: all four levels of high school English, five differing math courses including freshman math, business math, pre-algebra, algebra I and geometry. Also, we have Bible, biology, health, U.S. history and political science.

Forty-eight of our students this summer are in our intensive tutoring program that concentrate especially on improving reading and math skills. These are mostly students who have been socially promoted over the years and are in middle school classes, but read at less than sixth grade level. Many read only at first or second grade level. In this program we have about a one to two teacher-student ratio.

Many staff working this summer are volunteers here only for the summer. This is especially true for our "special help" remedial reading program. That is how we are able to have such a teacher-student ratio. This allows us to give each child very personal attention.

A new teacher back to serve full-time starting this summer is a 30-year-old man who came to us as a student seven years ago, having been a dropout seven years. He was then age 23, 6 feet and five inches tall, 190 pounds. He was very frustrated, rather unhappy and belligerent.

But because of the individualized instruction of our special help program, he soon found that he could learn, that he was as smart as anyone. That was a revelation to him. Once he realized it, he worked very hard, nearly exhausting his instructors. He made rapid progress and graduated from Oneida having met every state and OBI requirement for graduation.

Now after four years of college he is back to teach in the same program that was his physical salvation. He also found the Lord while a student at Oneida and he wants others to know him also.

baptist forum

Outrageously appalling

I'm outrageously appalled. I've just opened up the paper and discovered a convicted criminal ... holding up the Bible and receiving an ovation as standard-bearer and spokesman for my Southern Baptist Convention. I'm speaking of Oliver North.

Surely these delegates to the convention are aware that if Oliver North walks free, it is because of a technicality, not because of his innocence. Everyone knows he's guilty of bypassing Congress and undermining the Constitution. He's said so himself.

Do these delegates think they would get by with the tricks North has said he pulled? Maybe they should try driving over the speed limit or dialing 911 when there's no emergency and see how far they get. These are certainly minor offenses compared to destroying evidence, lying to Congress and selling arms to Iran under the circumstances

at the time.

The only worse outrage is to thus honor the higher-ups who gave North his marching orders. Who was vice president at the time? George Bush is scheduled to speak to the convention on Thursday.

Southern Baptists, stay out of politics. You can't hold your own with politicians such as the Reagan-Bush crowd who count among their most prominent members those same people who lead the Nixon fiasco of duplicity and dishonesty. These people will stop at nothing to get and hold on to power, and you are being used for their political purposes.

Mary Ann Kincer
Erlanger

Cry out for justice

Can't the convention do better? I was aghast at the Southern Baptist Convention leader-

Kentucky sends 1,100 to SBC

Kentucky Baptists sent 1,100 messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta early this month.

Georgia provided the most messengers, sending 4,400 people from its churches, reported SBC Registration Secretary Lee Porter of Nashville.

The final messenger tally for the meeting reached 23,564, making the Atlanta convention the sixth-largest in SBC history, Porter announced. The largest was in Dallas in 1985, when 45,519 registered.

This year, Kentucky tied with Mississippi in providing the eighth-highest number of messengers.

Following Georgia, the registration leaders were: North Carolina, 2,200; Alabama and South Carolina, 2,100; Tennessee, 1,800; Texas, 1,750; Florida, 1,400; Kentucky and Mississippi, 1,100; and Virginia, 1,000.

An audited report on the SBC registration will be available in about six weeks, Porter said.

ship bringing in Lt. Col. Oliver North and President George Bush to speak to our convention, or related meeting. It is, for me, completely unacceptable to bring in a key figure in the Iran-contra scandal. North was the quarterback in the covert activity which assaulted the Constitution through dealing arms for hostages and then diverting the funds to the forbidden aid to the Nicaraguan rebels. Then he proceeded to shred incriminating documents and lied to Congress. Yet this man was asked to speak to Southern Baptists.

I resent the fact that President Bush was asked to close out the convention though not a Baptist, but question why we asked the president and did not have President Carter, who was an active Baptist lay-speaker. What qualifies President Bush, who was allegedly involved in the Iran-contra affair, lately accused of engaging in a deal while campaigning for the vice presidency to delay the release of hostages before the election for fear of losing, and whose vocabulary is so salty that prior to the debate with Geraldine Ferraro used vulgarity in describing what he was going to kick?

I resent these two men speaking to the convention because they do not represent the moral values we supposedly believe in, but represent a political philosophy.

The convention pulpit must not become a political forum, but be the voice for God. Let's refrain from placing our stamp of approval on civil religion in which we have married the state, but always remain, as history asserts, a voice crying out for righteousness and justice.

John Dunaway, pastor
First Baptist Church
Corbin

People need God

A letter in the April 9 issue of the Western Recorder ("What are you saying?") denigrated the Recorder and area churches for offering thanks to God for the recent victory of the Allied forces over Hussein's army.

Would this writer denigrate the children of Israel for glorifying God after they crossed the Red Sea? Would he call God into question for commanding the Israelites to slay certain Canaanite peoples—men, women and children? God is a God of love, and he is likewise a God of judgment. Sometimes God judges people. If you don't believe this, just read your Bible, Old Testament and New (God is the same, yesterday, today and forever).

I thank God for his granting a decisive victory over a man (Hussein) and his army who have proven to the world that they are on the side of absolute evil.

Unbelievably, the letter went on to indict the concepts of "missions" and "conversions" in relation to Third World countries.

May I vociferously announce that people are still in need of Christ's mission today! Lost people are bound for hell, and are still in absolute need of conversion to Jesus Christ!

You must, if you are in submission to Christ, see this truth. It doesn't matter if it is in Africa, the U.S.S.R., or here in the United States. People need God everywhere.

As Baptists continue to do missions and seek conversions in the U.S.A. and elsewhere, let us do our part to support them, not to tear down the holy concept.

John Carson
Cynthiana

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RECOGNITION OF KENTUCKY BAPTIST LEADERS

The KBC Obituaries Committee wishes to include in its 1991 report information on deceased persons who have served our Lord and Kentucky Baptists in a noteworthy manner. We are including persons who died during the convention year, September 1, 1990, through August 31, 1991.

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

We need your help to gather the following information:

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

Please forward this information as quickly as possible to:

E. Dudley Moseley, Committee Chairperson
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church
Rt. 2
Hodgenville, KY 42748

These obituary entries will be reported to the 1991 KBC annual meeting in Lexington. You are an important part of our network to gather information on those servants who deserve to be remembered among Kentucky Baptists.

We are grateful to you.

E. Dudley Moseley, Chairman, 1990-91 Committee on Obituaries

Mother, author first wrote stories for her children

by Chip Alford

Colleen Snyder cannot imagine life without books.

"My earliest childhood memories are of my mother reading 'Winnie the Pooh' to us kids," said the 36-year-old Columbus, Ohio, bookkeeper and budding author. "She would sit there with this stuffed bear on her lap and act out all the characters. It was wonderful."

Snyder continues the tradition with her own children, Katie, 10, and 7-year-old Mark Jr., better known as "Bear." But she was determined to share a more eternal message with her kids than could be conveyed through humorous bedtime stories.

After becoming a Christian as a young adult, Snyder developed a voracious appetite for books with religious themes.

"Somebody introduced me to the C.S. Lewis 'Chronicles of Narnia' books and I loved them," Snyder said, referring to a series of fiction fantasy novels by the British scholar/theologian. "When Katie got old enough I began reading them to her, and we read through them twice and she still wanted to hear them again."

But rather than read through the series a third time, Snyder decided to take a stab at writing her own children's book.

"I had been writing a lot for years, not for publication, just for my own enjoyment," said Snyder. "But I thought I might be able to write a story that could get across to Katie and Bear some biblical principles, so that they could come to faith in Jesus as children instead of having to wait until they are grown up like I did."

"I saw that C.S. Lewis incorporated fantasy into his writing and that you can marry fantasy and Christianity without losing the message of Christ. Seeing how well he did it made me at least want to try."

Initially, Snyder wrote her "book" as a story to read only to her children. She wrote each chapter in longhand while her daughter was away at kindergarten. The story revolved around two children, Katie and Mark, who were on a mystical journey to "Chayah," the Hebrew word for "life" or "heaven."

"I wrote a chapter a day so we could read



MOTHER SHARES HER STORIES—Colleen Snyder reads to her two children, Katie and Mark Jr. (Bear), from the original handwritten manuscript of her first book, "Journey to Amanah: The Beginning." The Christian fiction book is scheduled to be released in July by Broadman Press. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

something new each night," Snyder remembered. "And Katie was a very strict editor because if I ever didn't come through she would say, 'But Mommy, you promised me a new chapter.'"

The handwritten manuscript was finished in less than three weeks, and Snyder typed the first copy with then two-year-old Bear lying across her shoulder. She eventually shared the story with a "writing buddy" from California who encouraged her to revise the story and submit it for publication.

"I had to make some changes," Snyder explained. "There were some theological kinks that had to be worked out, and then I decided to turn the whole story into an allegory that would demonstrate the jour-

ney to faith in Christ."

Snyder made several revisions before submitting the manuscript to publishers for consideration. The story title was changed from "Journey to Chayah" to "Journey to Amanah." "Amanah" is the Hebrew word for "faith." Most of the characters were given Hebrew names with meanings relative to their role in the story, and their ages were changed to make them appeal to teenagers and young adults, as well as children.

As most writers do, Snyder had to face rejections before Broadman Press agreed to publish "Journey to Amanah: The Beginning." The book, which is being billed as a Christian fiction novel, is scheduled for a July release.

In its published form, "Journey to

Amanah" follows the adventures of Rachael and Jonathan Adamson. On their mystical journey, the two learn about "Haben Jah" (the Son of God), and must decide whether to trust him or "Adam Chata," (man of sin) the evil governor of "Tebel-Ayr" (city of confusion).

Tempted at every turn, the young travelers are led astray by false guides who take them to dangerous locations like "The City of Delights" and the "Pit of Despair." They are given helpful guides as well, but in the end it is their own faith that determines whether they arrive at their destination.

"My hope for this book is that someone would read it and come to faith in Christ," she said. "If only one person does that, then it will have all been worth it." (BP)

Hand-me-down hymnals make treasured gifts for Hispanics

by Charles Willis

While memories of childhood in hand-me-down clothes may linger for many adult Southern Baptists, the experience of hand-me-down hymnals is a far less frequent event.

In fact, the last time a massive Southern Baptist "hymnal swap" occurred was 16 years ago when "Baptist Hymnal," 1975 edition, was published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. It was then many congregations passed along their 1956 "Baptist Hymnals" to churches that had been using the 1940 "Broadman Hymnal."

Prior to B.B. McKinney's beloved "Broadman," Southern Baptists had no hymnal of their own, save the "Modern Hymnal," published in 1926 and later pur-

chased from Robert H. Coleman of Dallas, by the Sunday School Board.

So when the Sunday School Board published "The Baptist Hymnal" in March of this year, a time-honored tradition once again surfaced. The 1991 version of hand-me-downs, however, is more fashionably called "recycling," and the stigma of a previous owner has been exchanged for badges of pride, both for the recipient and the giver.

One of the first beneficiaries of the revived hymnal exchange is Primera Iglesia Bautista del Sur of San Francisco.

The bilingual congregation of 400 members is 96 percent Hispanic, with some who claim Spanish as a first language and others who view it as a second language.

According to James Page, pastor of the

40-year-old congregation, younger members choose membership there because they are Hispanic, not because of a language need. Many of them have grown up on hymns sung in English and enjoy singing in English.

David Medina, volunteer pianist and music leader, explained the English language service on Sunday mornings is attended "mostly by young people." And while a Spanish language service also is offered Sunday mornings, the Sunday evening service is bilingual.

Morning services were not so much a problem, he reflected. While one group used the "Baptist Hymnal," 1956 edition, the other used "Himnario Bautista" published in 1978 by the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Texas. The diffi-

culty came when the two hymnbooks were used in bilingual services. Many of the hymns the people wanted to sing are not included in both hymnbooks.

The solution would have been to purchase the '75 English hymnal, which closely parallels the Spanish hymnbook.

"We just couldn't afford to put that kind of money out," Page declared.

Providentially, First Southern Baptist Church of Reedley, Calif., was looking for a recipient for a gift of their '75 hymnals, boxed and stored when the new hymnals were delivered this spring. While John McGuckin, state music director for the California Southern Baptist Convention, was preparing to advertise the free hymnals through the California Southern Baptist, the convention's newsjournal, Page arrived in Fresno for a Hispanic fellowship meeting.

Soon 125 copies of "Baptist Hymnal," 1975 edition, were in the hands of members at Primera Iglesia Bautista del Sur, and both Page and Medina say the gift has made a meaningful difference in worship.

"We have noticed an increase in the enthusiasm of congregational singing in the English service and in our bilingual service," Page said.

And Medina added the younger members are "excited that many of their favorite songs in Spanish are available in English." (BP)

Adoption takes Romanian girl out of poverty

by Tim McKeown

For months pictures of deprived and malnourished children in Romania have filled the newspapers and televisions of America.

And while one child out of a 100,000 in Romanian orphanages may not seem like a lot, 4-year-old Andrea is more than enough for Hal and Carla Ostrander. She is an answer to prayer.

Although Hal is still a student at South-

western Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and with two children of their own already, the Ostrandersons knew God wanted them to adopt a child likely destined for a life of poverty.

Andrea has lived most of her life in the orphanage and does not speak English. But it was her overwhelming, contagious affection that sealed the decision for Hal. "She was the first one through the door, and she had a shyness that appealed to me."

Since their return, Andrea has been a joy to her family. "It was so funny to watch her eat ice cream for the first time," Carla said. "She took a little tiny bit on her tongue at first, then tasted it, then took another bite. She was amazed with escalators and loves to try anything new."

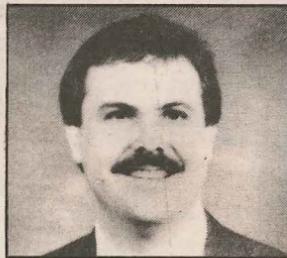
"She's a big hit at church," Carla said, "We are committed in bringing her up in the discipline of the Lord. After all, she's an answer to prayer." (BP)

CONVENTION FEATURE: Discipleship Training

Leadership, agenda set for Discipleship Training Leadership Days



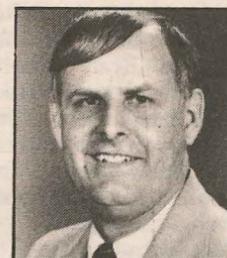
Luell Smith



Todd Toole



Lucy Stewart



Jim Clontz



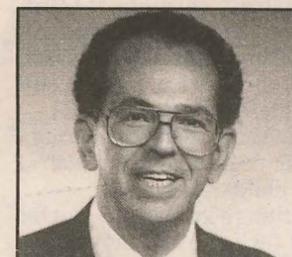
Jerry Chapman



Margaret McArthur



Robert Sanders



Steve Williams

Discipleship Training Leadership Days are scheduled in five Kentucky locations this September. The first event is at Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly September 7; simultaneous conferences occur at Gardenside Baptist Church, Lexington and Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville September 14; First Church, Florence is host on September 21 and Second Baptist Church, Hopkinsville concludes the emphasis training September 28. Each event is 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

Some of the Leadership Days faculty include: Luell Smith, senior growth consultant, Discipleship Training department, Baptist Sunday School Board, general officers leader at Jonathan Creek; Todd Toole, pastor, Great Crossing Baptist Church, Georgetown, youth worker leader at Gardenside Baptist Church, Lexington; Lucy Stewart,

KBC special worker, pre-school workers leader at Hurstbourne Baptist Church; Jim Clontz, associate director of the Discipleship Training department for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, general officers leader at Hurstbourne Baptist Church and First Church, Florence; Jerry Chapman, adult specialist, Discipleship Training department, Baptist Sunday School Board, adult instructor at First Church, Florence; Margaret McArthur, consultant, Discipleship Training department, Baptist Sunday School Board, preschool workers leader at Second Baptist Church, Hopkinsville; Robert Sanders, consultant, Discipleship Training department, Baptist Sunday School Board, children's leader instructor at Second Church; and Steve Williams, growth consultant, Discipleship Training department, Baptist Sunday School Board, general officers

leader at Second Church.

DiscipleALL: a Discipleship Training Manual, compiled by Roy T. Edgemon, director of the Discipleship Training department at the Baptist Sunday School Board, is the featured curriculum. Attendees are encouraged to purchase the manual (\$4.30) from Baptist Book Store and bring it to their respective conference.

DiscipleALL instructs participants specifically: (1) How to discover and determine training needs; (2) How to select training approaches and resources; (3) How to enlist and train leaders; (4) How to involve persons in training; (5) How to plan and lead weekly sessions and (6) How to keep records. The manual also covers discipleship training for all age groups, church leaders and new members as well as how to implement planning and organizational skills.

Kentucky experiences Discipleship Training growth

Discipleship Training membership in Kentucky last year increased by more than 10,000. Jim Clontz, associate director of Kentucky Baptist Convention's Discipleship Training department, reports that 90,811 members were involved in church discipleship programs in 1990, an increase of 10,418 from the previous year.

Want a growing Sunday school? Want an evangelistic church? Want a tithing church? Recent studies also indicate churches with discipleship training programs excel in three major areas: *Sunday school enrollment, baptisms and Cooperative Program giving.*

Beneficial Tasks of Discipleship Training

1. REACH persons for discipleship training.
2. ORIENT new church members for responsible church membership.
3. EQUIP church members for discipleship and personal ministry.
4. TEACH Christian theology, Baptist doctrine, Christian ethics, Christian history, church polity and organization.
5. TRAIN church leaders for ministry.
6. INTERPRET and undergird the work of the church and denomination.