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81-185

Kentucky's Franklin Owen
Sets Retirement In 1982

MIDDLETOWN, Ky. (BP)--Franklin P. Owen, 68, announced that he will retire as executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, effective Dec. 31, 1982.

Owen's announcement at the December meeting of the KBC executive board surprised most of the 170 board members, who accepted the announcement "with regret."

In making his announcement, Owen suggested that his successor be named in time to begin working alongside him not later than Sept. 1, 1982, and that the person be named executive secretary, beginning then.

A search committee will be named by board chairman William D. Jagers of Cynthiana, Ky.

Owen, a Missouri native, has been Kentucky executive since 1972, moving to the post from the pastorate at Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky., where he served 1954-72.

He was ordained as a minister in 1935, and has served churches in Missouri, Alabama, Georgia and Kentucky. He was a chaplain in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and was awarded an honorary doctorate by Georgetown College in 1956.

In denominational life, Owen has been president of the Kentucky convention, chairman of its executive board and a member of the boards of the Western Recorder (journal of the KBC), Bethel College, Georgetown College and Boyce Bible School. He also has been a trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board and Southern Seminary, as well as president of the Southern Seminary Alumni Association. He has been a member of the SBC committee on committees and order of business committee.

Owen is married to the former Sue Burch of Cape Girardeau, Mo., and they have three grown sons.

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Southern Churches Conduct
Canadian Renewal Weekend

Baptist Press
12/4/81

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--Members of 15 churches in South Carolina and Georgia recently conducted what they claim is the first Lay Renewal Weekend in Canada.

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Ira Craft, member of First Baptist Church, Columbia, S.C., brought the team to Main Street Baptist Church, Saint John, New Brunswick, at the invitation of Roy Campbell, director of evangelism for the Baptist Federation of Canada.

Although Craft had taught two Lay Evangelism Schools in Canada, the Lay Renewal Weekend was a pilot project.

Stan Middleton, who just moved to Main Street as minister of education from Savannah, Ga., said most of the Canadian Baptists didn't know what to expect from the weekend spiritual renewal efforts so common in the southern United States.

The Lay Renewal schedule called for almost a dozen sessions between Friday night and Sunday morning in which team members would share their witness and gradually lead the Canadian Baptists to talk openly about their Christian experiences.

Craft estimated there were 600 people involved in at least one of the sessions which included cola parties for youth, coffees in many neighborhoods, a ladies' luncheon and the Sunday morning worship hour.

Middleton said as the weekend progressed, he was amazed at how his church members began to open up and share burdens and joys in an unusual way in that area. A special "love-in" service with just Main Street members had an atmosphere of real Christian trust and openness that even surprised him and the pastor.

"Several of our members shared real, 'gut-level' testimonies of needs and burdens in their lives," he said. "There was a closeness that night that was not present in the church before."

"This trust level that has been built makes the church like a close family," Middleton explained. "This is uncommon in this area and is unique in the life of our church."

A Saturday night family worship service was "the first time many families had even prayed together--the first time children had heard their fathers pray," said Craft.

Middleton said that even before the South Carolina group left his church people were planning to form their own Lay Renewal team to go to other Canadian churches.

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Plane Brings New Life,
Not Crash for Muslim

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12/4/81

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--The Muslim woman prayed as she got on the plane that Allah would make it crash.

"The woman had severe physical handicaps and had just been told by her husband that there was no need for her to return home from visiting relatives in Canada," says Betty Craft of First Baptist Church, Columbia, S.C., who talked to the lady. "He told her there was no place for her at home. She was traveling with a broken heart.

"We read scripture, then I shared a tract and invited her to accept Christ.

"She prayed to receive Christ as her Savior, then looked up to me and said, 'It's lifted. There is something that feels different in my heart. I'm happy!'"

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Craft was returning from the first Lay Renewal weekend in Canada, with about 35 other team members.

The Muslim woman, a native of Trinidad, has two deformed arms. She told Craft "when people come in and sit down by me on the plane, they generally asked to be moved.

"But you weren't afraid to touch me."

-30-

Korean Man's Long Wait Ends
As American Tells of Jesus

By Charlie Warren

Baptist Press
12/4/81

PUSAN, Korea (BP)--Roger Shelton stepped into the dimly lit room and sat on the bare linoleum floor. Following Korean custom, the American pastor bowed his head and prayed silently.

Lifting his head, Shelton, pastor of Haywood Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., greeted the man who was already crouched in his usual place on the floor.

"I have come to talk with you about Jesus Christ," Shelton said, pausing for his interpreter to translate.

Through the interpreter, the Korean man responded, "I know, I have been waiting for you for a long time."

Knowing that they previously had scheduled the appointment, the interpreter explained they were not late. They were exactly on time.

"That's not what I meant," the Korean explained. "My people are Buddhist and I have been Buddhist, but Buddha gives me no comfort."

Pointing to a Korean Bible in the opposite corner, the man explained he had gotten it two years ago and had read it through twice.

"It tells of a great one," the man continued. "I have waited for somebody to come and tell me about him."

He believed if the Bible was true, God would send someone to him. In recent months, however, he had become very ill. A creeping paralysis had claimed both legs and was threatening to take his life unless the doctors treating him could discover a cure.

Shelton, one of 76 Southern Baptists in Korea on an evangelistic project sponsored by the Nashville Baptist Association, presented the gospel to the man, communicating through the interpreter.

"The man readily believed and rejoiced," Shelton said. "He was ready."

As the visitors rose to leave, the man thanked them for coming.

His final words shook every fiber of Shelton's emotional being. "You almost waited too long."

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RTVC Executive
Named by Baylor

WACO, Texas (BP)--John Scales, vice president for development of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, has been named director of development at Baylor University.

Scales, who began his new duties Nov. 30, had been on the staff of the Fort Worth-based RTVC since 1980. He replaces former Baylor development director Gerald Williamson, who died in July.

He added: "The challenge of giving direction to a fully staffed development office committed to establishing Baylor to become one of the finest universities in the nation led me to accept my new position. The great percentage of my development experience has been in higher education, and I am delighted with the opportunity to return to my original commitment."

Prior to joining the RTVC, Scales was director of institutional consultant services and program director for Resource Services, Inc., based in Dallas. Previously, he held administrative positions at Oklahoma Baptist University, the SBC Brotherhood Commission and Oklahoma State University.

Scales received a bachelor of arts degree from Oklahoma Baptist University and the bachelor of divinity and master of divinity degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has done graduate work in philosophy at Oklahoma State University.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Baylor University.

Baptist In Mexico Escapes
Harm In Bank Holdup

By David Daniell

Baptist Press
12/4/81

MEXICO CITY (BP)--Minnie Hicks, Southern Baptist representative in Mexico City, escaped unharmed from a bank robbery in which bandits escaped with nearly \$300,000 and maimed a guard.

The guard lost an eye when he was shot in the head as the robbers fled the National Bank of Mexico.

Hicks, from Mississippi, had just cashed a check for \$120 when three armed robbers entered the bank screaming, "This is a holdup. Shut up. Don't touch the alarm."

Her money was still on the counter when she, 30 other customers and 35 bank employees were forced to lie face down while the robbers emptied the bank vaults and cashier drawers.

One bandit waved his pistol menacingly as he screamed at the frightened customers and employees. Another was armed with a submachine gun.

"What occurred to me was to place my life in the hands of the Lord," Hicks said. "I thank him for watching over me."

Within four minutes the robbery was over. When she and the others got to their feet, Hicks found her \$120 still lying on the counter.

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Broadcast Services Director Is Named

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--George William (Bill) Nichols Jr., has been named director of the broadcast services department of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

In his new post, Nichols will provide consultation and production assistance to Southern Baptist churches, associations, conventions and agencies for their work in radio, television and cable broadcasting.

Nichols has been pastor of First Baptist Church of Albany, Ga., for five years. He is a graduate of the Florida State University, and has master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In Albany, the church worship services were broadcast and Nichols produced annual prime-time television specials. He has written five television dramas.

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Man Turns Scrap To Guest Crosses

Baptist Press
12/4/81

ST. JAMES, Mo. (BP)--Fred Tetley brings scrap wood to First Baptist Church in a box and gives it to visitors.

Before he gives it away, though, he carves it into crosses and puts his name and the date on back so guests remember their visit.

In just a year, Tetley has made over 800 crosses and distributed them to guests and friends in nearly every state. As head usher, he makes a note of visitors and greets them with the gift after church.

All of the crosses are made from fine woods like walnut, cherry and mahogany. Tetley, 77, and a Christian since he was 66, gets the wood from people who have torn down old houses, schools or other buildings.

Tetley, a retired mechanic, can make a cross in 15 to 20 minutes, and does not brag about his unusual ministry. "The Lord told me to do it and I did it," he says simply. "That's all I know."

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NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION