

The Ohio Independent Baptist

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The OIB

The Ohio Independent Baptist

The Newsletter of the Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches

Vol.67 No.3

April 1994



Downtown park in the heart of Bellevue, just minutes from hotels and shopping.

In This Issue

- Ken Dady is looking for facilitators. page 2
- Cedarville College to present "Sound of Music." page 3
- Lynn Rogers retires from the pastorate, but not from ministry. page 5
- OWMU Spring Rally location changed. page 6
- Our insurance debt is nearly history. page 8

See You In Bellevue!

A spiritual feast awaits you at the 63rd Annual Conference of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches in Bellevue, Washington, June 25-29. Centered around the theme, "Rekindling Our Passion," the conference offers preaching to set your hearts on fire and thought-provoking seminars, as well as Youthfest '94 and programs for your children.

You'll be challenged by men of God like Daniel Gelatt, Wendell Kempton,

David Miller, William Rudd, Lehman Strauss and John White, among others. "Bringing Your Budget Into The Black," "Revitalizing Communion Services," "Strategic Planning For The Church" and "Bridging The Interracial Communication Gap" are just four of the seminars from which to choose.

Set amidst the majestic beauty of the Pacific Northwest, Bellevue offers a pleasant, safe, small-town atmosphere within the Greater Seattle

complex. In your free time, plan to explore this magnificent city located between the pristine waters of Lake Washington and the snow-capped peaks of the Cascade Mountains.

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Having an Impact on Ohio



Larry Fetzer
State Representative

This year in my pilgrimage through the Word of God, I am using the New King James Bible. Recently I came across this text of Psalm 119:126,

"It is time for you to act, O Lord, for they have regarded Your law as void."

I am sure that you, too, are alarmed by the rapid degeneration of our society. The old restraints are being thrown to the wind, to be replaced by reckless behavior of the most extreme sort. People seem to purposely press to see how far they can go. Have we crossed the line yet in America? Only God knows.

On the other hand, this may be the great opportunity for the church of Jesus Christ. Could it be that God will use this crisis situation to drive us to our knees and awaken us to our responsibility as ministers of reconciliation to deliver the story of redemption to a floundering society.

Once again the OARBC is suggesting that our churches take part in the National Day of Prayer on May 5. If anyone in the land ought to be diligent in prayer for our country, it certainly should be us. In fact, we ought to be among the leaders in a great outpouring of prayer.

Let us be in the forefront as God's praying, witnessing agents to bring revival about. Take part in the National Day of Prayer.

Larry Fetzer

Facilitators For Church Planting

by Ken Dady

What is a facilitator? It is one who assists, a catalyst, a helper. In a day of high-tech and religious skepticism, today's church plants need all the facilitators they can get. We as the OARBC can work as a team, providing facilitators for new churches. Who is the OARBC? A fellowship of churches of like faith and practice. Who is the church? Each believer who has joined with the local church body. That means every member who is part of an OARBC church can be part of the facilitating team to help a new church plant.

"Who, me? You gotta be kidding!" No, I'm enthusiastically serious! Facilitators can give in a major way by transferring their memberships temporarily (with their home church's blessing) to a new plant near their home area. Other facilitators could do phone blitzes, door-to-door demographic blitzes, mailings, or special teen activities. Facilitators may be teens or adults.

Several churches in our state have done well in sending teams to help with the ABWE headquarters building and overseas missions building projects. Why not do a "church raising" for new plants in our own state!

Some of you are high-tech oriented. You could refurbish/upgrade used computers, copiers and overhead projectors to help new church planters have high efficiency at minimal cost. Some of you love making things with your hands. How about making toys for new nurseries and portable toy boxes for church plants meeting in schools, or rebuilding and refinishing used nursery equipment.

Senior adult groups could sort and warehouse used hymnals, making up sets of good hymnals for new church plants.

continued, back page

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Mark your calendar now for the **Church Planting & Church Growth Seminar** co-sponsored by Baptist Mid-Missions, Baptist Bible College of Indianapolis and the OARBC. The date: June 13-17. Information will be mailed soon.

The signboard at First Baptist of Niles read, "If you're going the wrong way in life, God allows a U-turn." A lesbian was on her way to see her lover. She drove past the church, saw the sign, made a U-turn and came back, allowing Pastor Ben Reed to present the Gospel.

Cedarville College News

Dr. Paul Dixon has seen the student enrollment increase over 90 percent and the number of faculty double during his 15 years as president of Cedarville College. The College hopes to add 11 faculty for the 1994-95 academic year.

Dr. Duane Wood, academic vice president, says, "Each new faculty member is assigned a mentor from the senior faculty. One-third of our faculty have 15 or more years of service and one-third have been added in the last three years. This statistic has given balance. We have a large number of respected, successful faculty, known for their strong commitment to the mission and emphasis of the College. We also have younger faculty, equally committed, but with new blood and new ideas and initiatives which stimulate and bring about change where appropriate."

Cedarville students observed Homeless Awareness Week February 14-18. The activities included a clothing drive and donations to buy new blankets for homeless shelters in the Miami Valley. The students also collected money for a family in California affected by the earthquake and for the needs of the spring break team which helped build a homeless shelter in Mexico with Habitat for Humanity. A team of Cedarville students has a weekly ministry at The Other Place, a daytime shelter for the homeless in Dayton.

Kathryn Rodgers, assistant professor of music, Beth Sievers, adjunct professor of violin, and Dr. Charles Clevenger, professor of piano, will perform a faculty recital on April 12. The group will play trios by Beethoven and Mendelssohn. The college orchestra will present a Young People's Concert on April 15 to an audience of children from public, Christian and home schools. Last year's concert attracted over 900 people.

The Village Players of Cedarville College will present "Sound of Music" in six performances, April 29-30 and May 5-7, including a Saturday matinee on May 7. Rebecca Baker, adjunct professor of communication arts, will direct the production. Kathryn Rodgers will direct the college orchestra.

New Building Dedicated



Left to right: Doug Beason, general director; Arlene Beason; Rose Mary Stevens; Dr. Eldon Stevens, president; Esther Morrell; Dr. Ed Morrell, Jr., general director emeritus

Board members, staff, missionary personnel and friends of the Committee On Missionary Evangelism (COME) met to celebrate the dedication of their new home office in Shepherd, Michigan, on December 3, 1993. COME has prepared a folder explaining how a church or individual may help in furnishing the new office building. Everyone helping to furnish a room will be remembered by the inscription of their name on a memorial board in the main entrance. The folder may be obtained by writing to COME, Box 88085, Grand Rapids, MI 49518.

Salute To Summer Ministers To Youth

Cedarville College will host the annual Salute to Summer July 9-12 for students in grades 9-12. The theme this year is "Don't Be Normal: A Biblical View of Self-Esteem." Special speaker Scott Dixon is a Cedarville graduate and youth pastor of Grand Ledge Baptist in Grand Ledge, Michigan. The event includes skits, music, the '94 Cedarlympics, and a day at Kings Island. For more information, youth group sponsors should contact the Admissions Office at 1-800-CEDARVILLE.

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Across the State



Pastor Richard Seefried



Elyria **Abbe Road Baptist** held a reception for its new senior pastor, Rev. Richard Seefried, and his family on January 23. Tom Pycraft, chairman of the pulpit committee, presented the Seefrieds with gift certificates for groceries as a token of the church's love. Abbe Road had been nearly two years without a senior pastor before Seefried came. He had previously served as pastor of Calvary Baptist in Cresaptown, Maryland, for 15 1/2 years. He is a graduate of Baptist Bible College, Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. He and his wife, Nancy, have six children and reside in Grafton, Ohio.

Abbe Road celebrated its 30th anniversary on Sunday, February 13, by reflecting on its history of God's blessings over the years. The church began as a mission work of the First Baptist Church of Elyria under the supervision of the Fellowship of Baptists for Home Missions.



Van Wert **Faith Baptist** ordained James Baughman to the Gospel ministry following an ordination council in January. A council of 13 messengers assembled to examine Baughman, and Faith's pastor, Carl Thomason, served as moderator; Pastor Ken Van Loon served as clerk. The council commended Baughman for his excellent preparation.

Jim, a graduate of Faith Baptist Bible College, is the son of Baptist Mid-Missions missionaries John and Jean Baughman, who are serving in Bledsoe, Kentucky. He and his wife, Elaine, and son, Joshua, reside in Van Wert, where Jim has been serving an internship.



Struthers On February 27 the **Struthers Baptist Tabernacle** held an installation service for Pastor William L. Steven, who has been their pastor since the beginning of this year. Rev. Larry Fetzer, state representative, Rev. Brad Burrell, pastor of First Baptist of Struthers and Rev. James Lynn, pastor of Mayfield Heights Baptist spoke at the 3:00 p.m. service. Following the service the congregation celebrated Pastor Stevens' birthday and presented him with a new Bible.



Paulding Chaplain, LTC Ken Van Loon has been named to serve as the Command Chaplain for the Great Lakes Region of Civil Air Patrol. Van Loon is the missionary pastor of **Emmanuel Baptist**, a church planting and development ministry of Baptist Mid-Missions. He is a 1975 graduate of Cedarville College and served in Ohio as assistant pastor of Calvary Baptist, Lancaster, prior to his commissioning to missionary service with Baptist Mid-Missions. Van Loon's involvement in the Civil Air Patrol has earned him awards and ribbons related to his service. He is a pilot and has earned the rating as a mission observer for search and rescue activities.



Findlay **First Baptist** is in the midst of a Sunday School Olympics attendance campaign with the theme, "Pressing On Toward The Goal." The church has set a goal and special emphasis for each Sunday, with the final goal being 200 in Sunday school on April 3. According to Pastor Dwight Lehman, the campaign is going very well. He notes that his young married couples class has more than doubled in attendance. The church is planning special meetings with Rev. Howard Leman March 20-25.



Linda Coffman, church and choir pianist, and her court



Tiffin On February 12, **Calvary Baptist** held its annual Love Banquet. Pastor Gus Guthrie crowned the queen and announced her court. The following Sunday Queen Linda reigned in the morning service. Each Sunday school class presented her with a gift of appreciation for her faithfulness throughout the years, and a program was presented by the Dan Whisner family.



Grafton **Midview Baptist** hosted a Christmas Eve concert with the Doug Wilson family of Akron. In January ABWE missionary Tom Zentz presented the challenge of missions to Japan. February brought the annual Sweetheart Banquet with Lynn Rogers in concert and Dr. Jim Lytle presenting his call to Durban, South Africa, to direct a Bible college and work in church planting.

Also in February Midview concluded the purchase of ten acres of land adjoining the present property for expansion. Dr. Eldon Stevens notes that, "By God's grace it is paid in full!"



Louisville On February 13, **First Baptist** participated in the Canton Area GARBC pulpit exchange. Pastor Ken Pugh spoke at Millersburg Baptist and First Baptist of Rittman.



Summer staff applications are being accepted for Skyview Ranch. Opportunities for ministry are available for high school and college-age students. All staff members receive special training for a quality, hands on, supervised ministry experience. Contact the Ranch office at 216-674-7511 for an application.

**OIB news deadline
May/June issue
April 11**

Maternity Center Reaches Community



Volunteers at the MRC sort clothing.

During 1993 the Maternity Resource Center (MRC) of Baptists for Life of Central Ohio gave assistance to women in crisis pregnancies 366 times. In addition to baby items and maternity clothes, several hundred gospel tracts and over 150 Bibles or Bible portions were also given out. One client came to know the Lord as her Savior. All this was accomplished with the MRC only open Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. (about 230 hours over the course of the year.)

The "typical" MRC client is white, single, 24 years of age, with a high school education or less, and on welfare and/or ADC, has at least one other child, and has no connection with a church. In other words, these are women who need the Lord, but are not being reached by typical church ministries. Through the MRC they can see a practical demonstration of Christ's love, and the seed of the gospel can be planted or watered.

About 20 volunteers from Columbus area OARBC churches give of their time to staff the MRC, and thanks to the generosity of believers in the Central Ohio area and the donations of a local used children's clothing store, the MRC was well-stocked during 1993.

Baptists for Life of Central Ohio is a pro-life organization with its roots in the OARBC. Its parent organization is an approved agency of the GARBC. There are also BFL affiliates in NW Ohio and in the Akron/Canton area. For more information write: BFLCO, 3417 Palmetto St., Columbus, OH 43204.

Pastor and Mrs. Lynn E. Rogers



Northfield

Northfield Baptist announces the retirement of its senior pastor, Rev. Lynn E. Rogers, after more than 40 years of service. His retirement was effective January 31, 1994. Over 300 attended the special services on January 16.

Rev. Drew Baker, a former Northfield resident and pastor of Emmanuel Baptist in Dayton, spoke at the morning service. After a carry-in dinner, Rev. Richard Durham spoke at the afternoon service. Present and former members gave testimony to Pastor Rogers' faithfulness, and a slide presentation, special music and the presentation of a retirement gift completed the service. The day was concluded with a cake and punch reception.

Rogers began his ministry in Northfield in 1953, accepting the call of what was then the Village Baptist Church. In 1954, Village Baptist and Northfield Center Baptist merged to become the Northfield Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor Rogers.

In addition to his pastoral ministry, Rogers has served as youth director for the Hebron Association of Regular Baptist Churches; president of the Baptist Bible Institute; Youth Chairman and many-term member of the Council of Twelve of the OARBC; trustee of Camp Patmos; trustee and council member of Baptist Mid-Missions; member of the advisory committee of the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism; member of the board of directors for Orange Christian Academy; and member of the board of trustees of Cedarville College.

Pastor Rogers and his wife, LaVerne, will continue to reside in Northfield.

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- (2) Upper Elementary

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Camden Baptist Church

Corner of Routes 511 & 303
(mail) Route 2-Box 50679
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

Invites you to the

Spring Rally

Women's Missionary Union

Tuesday, April 19, 1994
10:00 a.m.

Speakers: Mrs. Shirley Hull and Mrs. Debbie Seymour
Theme: Declare His Glory Among the Nations
Scripture: Psalm 96:1-4

Dear Ladies,

These last few months have been a time of change and adaptation for me and for our other officers. The weather has cancelled numerous meetings, making planning even more difficult. The result has been a shortage of information about our spring rally. **We will NOT be going to Grace Baptist, Westerville, in April; instead, we're going to Camden Baptist in Oberlin.**

Fliers are being mailed to all the churches. If you did not receive one, or if you have questions or need more information, please call me. (See box for phone number.)

Camden Baptist is located in the central northern part of Ohio. The church has a brand new addition for our comfort, and is easy to find. However, the actual city of Oberlin is six or seven miles to the north. This is the nearest area for lunch. It will, of course, be available to you, and the ladies of Camden will provide directions for us, but I would suggest that you consider bringing a brown bag lunch. Beverages and tables will be provided. Be sure to bring a lunch for your children in the nursery. You will need to claim them for the lunch break.

While I know that you haven't forgotten, I cannot miss this opportunity to encourage you to bring your filled quarter folders (and your checks) for our project, the publication of seven study guides and the tape duplicating machine for the T.I.M.E. Department of Baptist Mid-Missions. By investing in this project we are helping our missionaries throughout the world redeem their time, disciple new Christians and reap rewards in eternity. As we have a part in the investment, we will also have a part in the rewards. May we, with God's help, meet and go beyond our goal of \$6,500. I continue to encourage you to invest YOUR TIME, as well, that we may hear the words, "Well done," when time is no more.

I cannot encourage you enough to come and participate in the spring rally. We have great things planned. I know you will enjoy the speakers and the music. Come and find out about the other "changes and adaptations" we've been making for the coming year. Hear a preview of the retreats and get in on the ground floor for our new project.

-- Diane Varner

South Bethel Women To Meet

"The Great Love Story" is the theme of the South Bethel Women's meeting to be held March 31 at Calvary Baptist Church, 1140 Rush Ave., Bellefontaine. Speakers for the day are Tom and Edie Sartor, ABWE Bangladesh. Lunch for the women, a nursery, and a program for children 6-9 will be provided. The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.

North Bethel Plans Spring Meeting

The North Bethel Women will meet April 7 at 10:00 a.m. at Meadowbrook Baptist Church, 2101 W. Breese Road, Lima. Brenda Dittmar, who works with a fellowship of students on the Purdue campus, is the speaker.

1993-94 State Officers

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Keeping Up With Our Camps

Camp Patmos



Work on sewer lines is now complete.

Last fall hundreds of feet of new sewer lines were installed and paid for! Now we are asking your help as we install the sewage treatment plant. We are thankful for the churches which have taken special offerings to help us with this project.

As announced last month, Patmos has an executive director. If you would like to schedule Lynn Rogers for a meeting, you may reach him at 216-467-4341 or write to 7854 North Boyden Rd., Sagamore Hills, OH 44067.

Skyview Ranch

This year's ministry theme is "The Winning Edge." Based on the book of I Peter, the challenge to campers will be to remain true to the principles of our faith no matter what the circumstances. The Ranch ministry desires to evangelize, disciple and motivate ranchers to serve the Lord Jesus.

The Ranch summer program includes:

- A beautiful outdoor setting that leads campers to Christ through the testimony of God's creation.
- A team of counselors and staff motivated to serve the Lord.
- A safe place for a quality experience.
- A staff trained to motivate campers to live the Christian life.

Contact the Ranch for a copy of "Get Acquainted with Skyview Baptist Ranch," a brochure detailing the Ranch ministry. Our office number is 216-674-7511 or FAX 216-674-4606.

Please note an error in our brochures. Senior Hi camp is July 11, not June 11.

Please pray for our staff this year, that we will have spiritually qualified and willing workers. Should you or someone you know be interested in serving at camp this summer, contact Lynn Rogers or Pastor Dave Chapman, Fostoria Baptist Church, Box 1005, Fostoria, OH 44830.

Should you need more registration forms, please contact the registrar: Darlene Morgan, Mogadore Baptist Church, Box 126, Mogadore, OH 44260.

Upcoming Events

Pastors & Wives Retreat	Aug 22-23
Milo Thompson	
Sr. Saints Retreat	Aug 23-25
Willis Hull	
Singles Retreat	Aug 26-27

Scioto Hills

Eleven winter retreats and guest groups in January and February, along with a combined 50 inches of snow. What a great time to see God's glory majestically revealed in His creation. It was also great to see God work in campers' lives.

There has been much progress on the feasibility study to make Scioto Hills all it can be to assist our churches in reaching and teaching people for Christ.

Moving the offices has resulted in a much more efficient operation.

Progress update on the Wayne National Forest land: We met with the Forest Service again and are waiting for the application to lease 20 acres plus a large meeting facility and 2-acre lake. This area will enable your youth group, AWANA group, etc., to do primitive camping. Our major cost will be to upgrade the building and clean up around the lake.

Watch the next OIB to see how you and your church can be involved in making Scioto Hills a better place.

Retreat Schedule

Apr 29-30	Men's Retreat #1 Dr. David Drullinger
May 3-5	Sr. Saints Retreat
May 6-7	Men's Retreat #2 Dr. David Drullinger
Sept 8-10	Ladies Retreat Cheryl Fawcett
Sept 30-Oct 1	Couples Retreat #1 David Dornlan
Oct 4-6	Sr. Saints Fall Retreat Richard Durham
Oct 7-8	Couples Retreat #2 David Dornlan



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Debt Draws To Close

Funds are continuing to come in toward the reduction of our RBF medical insurance debt. What once loomed as a nearly impossible challenge is now well within reach, thanks to God's abundant provision. At this writing we are getting the first reports of responses to our February Brotherly Love offering. Our prayer is that the offering will be sufficient to cover all the remaining debt.

There remains one very complex account on which we do not, at this point, know what our final responsibility will be. We trust our attorney will be able to help us settle the claim soon.

In the next OIB we will give you a report on the February offering and the balance outstanding.

Again we voice our praise to God and our thanks to all our churches and people of Ohio and elsewhere who have so graciously helped us in resolving this very large debt.

Facilitators, *continued*

These same groups could develop a network of finding, getting and storing hymnals that are seconds from publishing companies.

Friends, I've just scratched the surface of what facilitators can do. I'm excited about the potential of the OARBC to help new church plants get going. Churches supplying facilitators will give their people a wider vision and set their own church on fire.

Facilitators—yes, you and me! Pray and then act on the answers God gives you. See you on the firing line.



Newsletter of the Ohio Association of
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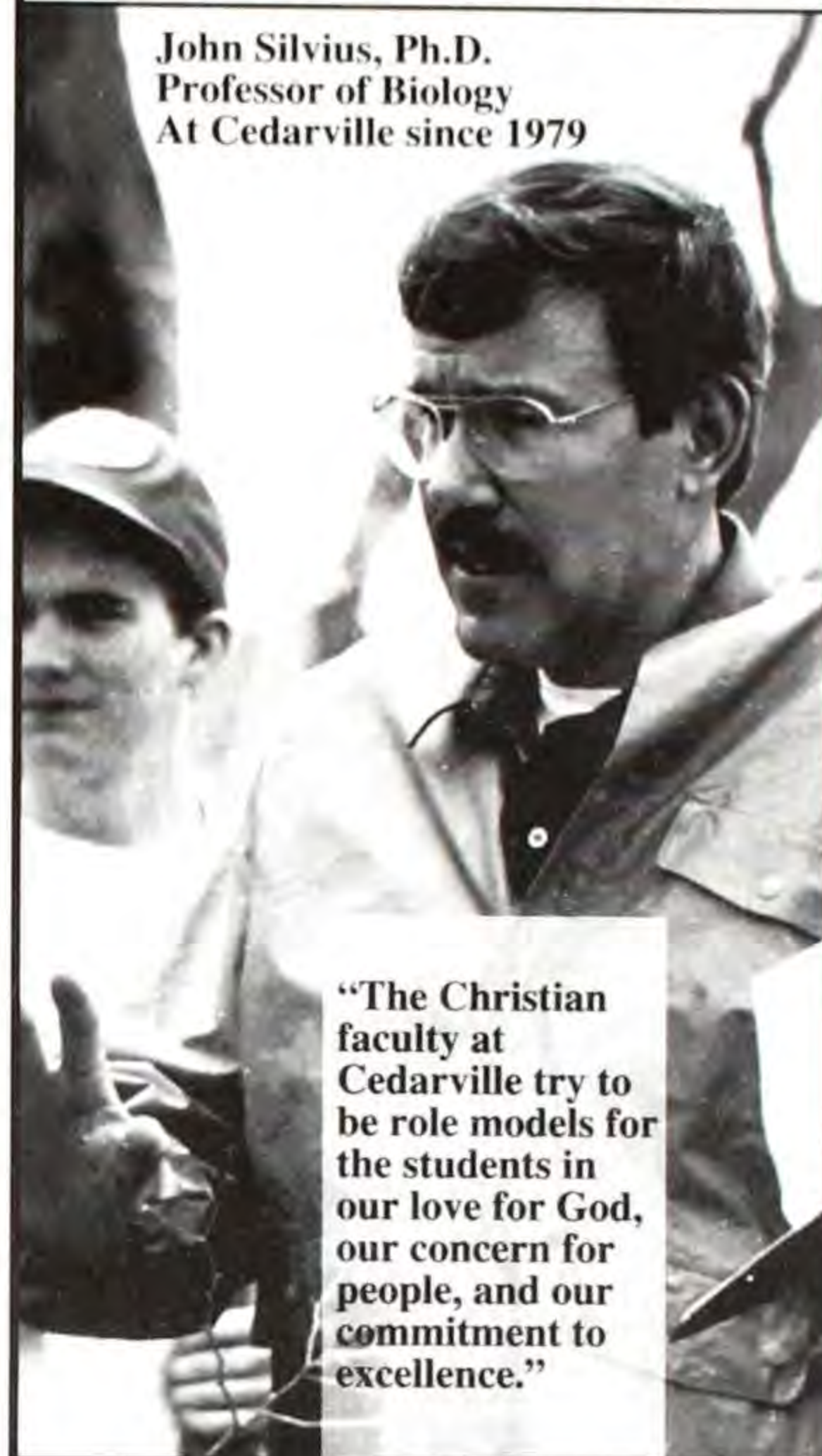
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