



W. A.  
Criswell,  
Pastor  
of the  
First  
Baptist  
Church,  
Dallas,  
Texas—  
and  
New  
President  
of the  
Southern  
Baptist  
Convention

(See related  
editorial on  
page 4)



## GLEANINGS FROM THE FIELD

**SIXTY WOMEN** attended the second annual meeting of the Baptist Women's Union of Jordan, held in Ajloun during May. Twenty-five came by bus from Amman and Zarqa, where Baptist women's groups have begun meeting within the past year.

**THE SIXTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE** of the North Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary, Recife, featured a radio-television clinic and a presentation of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* by a 63-voice choir.

**EVANGELISM** was a topic discussed several times during the annual assembly of the Baptist Union of Ireland in Belfast, capital city of northern Ireland. The assembly adopted a resolution pledging its participation in interdenominational evangelism efforts as long as such participation has a two-thirds vote of its governing council.

**ABOUT 500 PARTICIPANTS** gathered in the Baptist church at Lyngby, a suburb of Copenhagen, Denmark, to celebrate the 50th anniversary session of the Danish Baptist Youth Union. The conference voted financial support to the Baptist Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements in Denmark.

**A. W. WALKER**, secretary of the annuity department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention at Middletown, led in a revival recently at the Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville. Several professions of faith were recorded. The pastor at the Hopkinsville church is Marion T. Duncan.

**HUBERT L. HARDY, JR.**, SBC missionary to Chile, received the doctor of education degree from New Orleans Seminary during recent commencement exercises. He is the son of Hubert L. Hardy of Fulton, Kentucky, and received the B.S. degree from Murray State University. He was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1950.



Hardy

**A TOTAL OF 21 PERSONS** made professions of faith during a recent revival at Panther Creek Baptist Church near Owensboro. The revival preacher was Evangelist Lloyd Bardowell of Anchorage, Kentucky. Art E. Christmas is pastor of the Panther Creek church.

**W. THOMAS CARTER** is the new pastor of Cove Baptist Chapel in Louisville. The congregation recently dedicated a new \$35,000 building at its location on Granger Lane and South Park Road.

**W. R. REYNOLDS**, a 1960 graduate of Southern Seminary at Louisville, has accepted the pastorate of Neckar Valley Baptist Church in Sindelfingen, Germany, near Stuttgart. Reynolds leaves the Browns Mill Park Baptist church in Atlanta to accept the overseas post. It is an English-speaking congregation serving military personnel and others.



Reynolds

**JOHN SCALES**, former BSU director at Oklahoma State University, has been appointed a field service consultant at the SBC Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, Tennessee. He will help develop materials and methods for teaching missions to Royal Ambassadors 12-17. The new Brotherhood staff member is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University at Shawnee and Southwestern Seminary at Fort Worth, Texas.



Scales

**CLASSES** for the first summer term at Georgetown College began June 11. The second term will begin July 15. This summer session features two classes, art and Spanish, in Mexico.

**BRADLEY D. BROWN**, former pastor of Union Baptist Church in Defoe, Kentucky, and Mrs. Brown left for Liberia recently following a furlough in the United States. Both are natives of Georgia.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** of Tripoli, Libya, an English-speaking congregation, has dedicated a lord's supper table to the memory of Vonely C. Day, who died during February. He was first pastor of the church, which he helped to organize in 1962 while stationed in Libya with the United States Air Force.

**EVANGELIST BILLY GRAHAM** has been named as one of the speakers for the every-fifth-year conference of the European Baptist Federation, which is scheduled to meet in Vienna August 6-10, 1969. Graham will appear at a rally on the closing day of the meeting.

**THE LOUISVILLE BAPTIST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE** has passed a resolution commending Emmanuel L. McCall of Louisville to the Home Mission Board. McCall, a former president of this joint fellowship of white and Negro Baptist pastors, was recently named to the department of work with National Baptists of the Home Mission Board at Atlanta.

**EVANGELIST LLOYD BARDOWELL** of Anchorage, Kentucky, recently led Wing Avenue Baptist Church of Owensboro in a revival. Fourteen persons joined the church by baptism and 12 by letter. Hobert Reynolds is the Wing Avenue pastor.

**H. I. STROTH, JR.**, a student at Campbellsville College, has been appointed director of publicity at the college. A native of Wayne, West Virginia, he was editor of the college student newspaper last year. He worked last summer as a reporter for his home-town newspaper.

### WESTERN RECORDER

"Earnestly contend for the Faith which was once for all delivered to the saints"—JUDE 3

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#### SUBMITTING PHOTOGRAPHS

Cost of making cuts must be assumed by those sending pictures for publication.

AS REVISED AND AMENDED:

## Convention Statement on National Racial Crisis

We recognize that no individual or organization can speak for all Baptists. The following represents the concern, confession, commitment and appeal by the majority of the messengers meeting in Houston, Texas, June 5th.

### We Face a Crisis

Our nation is enveloped in a social and cultural revolution. We are shocked by the potential for anarchy in a land dedicated to democracy and freedom. There are ominous sounds of hate and violence among men and of unbelief and rebellion toward God. These compel Christians to face the social situation and to examine themselves under the judgment of God.

We are an affluent society, abounding in wealth and luxury. Yet far too many of our people, black and white, suffer from poverty. Many are hurt by circumstances from which they find it most difficult to escape and injustice which they find most difficult to correct.

We are a nation that declares the sovereignty of law and the necessity of civil order. Yet, we have had riots, and have tolerated conditions that breed riots, spread violence, foster disrespect for the law, and undermine the democratic process.

We are a nation that declares the equality and rights of persons irrespective of race. Yet, as a nation, we have allowed cultural patterns to persist that have deprived millions of black Americans and other racial groups as well, of equality of recognition and opportunity in the areas of education, employment, citizenship, housing, and worship. Worse still, as a nation, we have condoned prejudices that have damaged the personhood of blacks and whites alike. We have seen a climate of racism developed resulting in hostility, injustice, suspicion, faction, strife, and alarming potential for bitterness, division, destruction, and death.

### We Review Our Efforts

In the face of national shortcomings, we must nevertheless express appreciation for men of good will of all races and classes who have worked tirelessly and faithfully to create a Christian climate in our Nation.

From the beginning of the Southern Baptist Convention and indeed of organized Baptist life, we have affirmed God's love for all men of all continents and colors, of all regions and races. We have continued to proclaim that the death of Jesus on Calvary's cross is the instrument of God's miraculous redemption for every individual.

Inadequately, but sincerely we have sought in our nation and around the world both to proclaim the gospel to the lost and to minister to human need in

Christ's name. Individually and collectively, we are trying to serve, but we have yet to use our full resources to proclaim the gospel whereby all things are made new in Christ.

### We Voice Our Confession

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14).

The current crisis arouses the Christian conscience. Judgment begins at the house of God. Christians are inescapably involved in the life of the nation. Along with all other citizens we recognize our share of responsibility for creating in our land conditions in which justice, order and righteousness can prevail. May God forgive us wherein we have failed Him and our fellow man.

As Southern Baptists, representative of one of the largest bodies of Christians in our nation and claiming special ties of spiritual unity with the large conventions of Negro Baptists in our land, we

Approved in Houston by SBC messengers on Wednesday, June 5, by a vote of 5,687 to 2,119.

have come far short of our privilege in Christian brotherhood.

Humbling ourselves before God, we implore Him to create in us a right spirit of repentance and to make us instruments of his redemption, his righteousness, his peace, and his love toward all men.

### We Declare Our Commitment

The Christ we serve, the opportunity we face, and the crisis we confront, compel us to action.

We will respect every individual as a person possessing inherent dignity and worth growing out of his creation in the image of God.

We will strive to obtain and secure for every person equality of human and legal rights. We will undertake to secure opportunities in matters of citizenship, public services, education, employment, and personal habitation that every man achieve his highest potential as a person.

We will accept and exercise our civic responsibility as Christians to defend people against injustice. We will strive to insure for all persons the full opportunity for achievement according to the endowments given by God.

We will refuse to be a party to any movement that fosters racism or violence or mob action.

We will personally accept every Christian as a brother beloved in the Lord and welcome to the fellowship of faith

and worship every person irrespective of race or class.

We will strive by personal initiative and every appropriate means of communication to bridge divisive barriers, to work for reconciliation, and to open channels of fellowship and cooperation.

We will strive to become well-informed about public issues, social ills, and divisive movements that are damaging to human relationships. We will strive to resist prejudice and to combat forces that breed distrust and hostility.

We will recognize our involvement with other Christians and with all others of good will in the obligation to work for righteousness in public life and justice for all persons. We will strive to promote Christian brotherhood as a witness to the gospel of Christ.

### We Make An Appeal

Our nation is at the crossroads. We must decide whether we shall be united in good will, freedom, and justice under God to serve mankind or be destroyed by covetousness, passion, hate, and strife.

We appeal to our fellow Southern Baptists to join us in self-examination under the Spirit of God and to accept the present crisis as a challenge from God to strive for reconciliation by love.

We appeal to our fellow Southern Baptists to engage in Christian ventures in human relationships, and to take courageous actions for justice and peace.

We believe that a vigorous Christian response to this national crisis is imperative for an effective witness on our part at home and abroad.

Words will not suffice. The time has come for action. Our hope for healing and renewal is in the redemption of the whole of life. Let us call men to faith in Christ. Let us dare to accept the full demands of the love and lordship of Christ in human relationships and urgent ministry. Let us be identified with Christ in the reproach and suffering of the cross.

We therefore recommend to the messengers of the Southern Baptist Convention that:

1. We approve this statement on the national crisis.
2. We rededicate ourselves to the proclamation of the gospel of redemption of the individual and of his involvement in the social issues of our day.
3. We request the Home Mission Board to take the leadership in working with the Convention agencies concerned with the problems related to this crisis in the most effective manner possible and in keeping with their program assignments.
4. Call upon individuals, the churches, the associations, and the state conventions to join the Southern Baptist Convention in a renewal of Christian effort to meet the national crisis.



**President Criswell Has A Golden Opportunity**

The new president of the Southern Baptist Convention possesses many qualities which commend him for leadership of Southern Baptists. The emphases of his ministry are the historic emphases of our denomination and are as greatly needed today as ever. On the other hand he has been identified with some attitudes which cause reservation on the part of some of his fellow Southern Baptists about his leadership.

W. A. Criswell is first, last and forever a preacher. Since boyhood, to be a preacher and a pastor has been his consuming passion; and he has succeeded like few in all Southern Baptist history. His evangelistic fervor is as big as Texas, his missionary zeal as big as the whole world, and his booming voice can communicate both at once without electronic help. He is an eloquent orator and a persuasive speaker. He doesn't worry about how others do it or how the rule-book reads. He does it his way and succeeds. For example, at the First Baptist Church in Dallas, he recently finished preaching through the entire Bible book by book, chapter by chapter, taking over 17 years to do it.

His warm-hearted, evangelistic, Bible-centered preaching has attracted multitudes to him all over the Southern Baptist Convention. This includes Kentucky, where he has been a favorite since his seminary days. Especially at Mt. Washington and at Woodburn where he was pastor, he is remembered as a young, dynamic pulpiteer with a winsome personality and much self-confidence.

This writer had the unique blessing of being one of his successors at the Woodburn Baptist Church. Every Woodburn pastor since Criswell has been compared or contrasted with him. He returned to this village church last summer for its centennial celebration and seemed as much at home as he was 30 years ago.

Our convention can always profit, and especially in these days, from the emphasis of President Criswell upon the Bible, upon preaching, upon evangelism and missions. His conservative theology will also serve to reassure those who might fear the convention is moving toward a more progressive or liberal stance.

President Criswell has a golden opportunity to help Southern Baptists move along as an effective force in American society if he sticks to the strength of his ministry and avoids what some regard as mistakes in the past. His lengthy press conference following his election gave indication he will do just this. In this interview he fielded some rough questions about state-

ments and positions attributed to him in the past. He came through as an entirely sincere, compassionate preacher who did not always mean what it sounded like he meant and would say and do some things a little differently if he had them to do over. He admits also that he has been so devoted to his church and his pastoral duties he has neglected becoming informed in many areas of contemporary Baptist life.

In his press conference he got off to a fine start as convention president by endorsing without reservation the progressive racial statement adopted by the convention. His position on this matter was of concern to some who remembered some of his past statements which have been endorsed and even circulated by white supremacy organizations. He gained stature by confessing he had changed some of his own attitudes toward Negroes in recent years and had a growing concern and compassion for these people.

He declined also to take a swipe at theological liberalism, especially in Southern Baptist seminaries, as he sometimes has. Indeed, he seems to make room for those with whom he does not agree theologically. All in all, he displayed a sweet-spirited moderation along with an evangelistic fervor and missionary zeal. If he lives up to the promise of this first appearance as convention president, he will be a good one.

**Sowing A Wind, Reaping a Whirlwind**

Not since the War Between the States in the 1860's has America been so shaken to its very foundations. The assassination of Robert F. Kennedy following so closely the same fate for Martin Luther King, Jr., the rioting, burning and looting of American cities, the open rebellion of some college students and other disorder and chaos have made many wonder if the sun is not setting on our American civilization.

Certainly there has been intensive examination and considerable speculation as to the causes and the cures of our national illness. Some blame the president, some blame congress, some put all the blame on the Supreme Court, some give the credit to the civil rights movement and a few even credit all the trouble in America to communism. A few can ever come to see any personal blame for the state of affairs.

In this case as in most situations there is no one explanation nor any simple answers. Many factors

have contributed to the deplorable conditions of our day. Elective officials have made mistakes, congressmen too often have been more concerned with being re-elected than with being right, and the Supreme Court has appeared at times to be more concerned for personal rights than for the rights of society. Militant civil rights workers who flagrantly violate any law they don't like must share in the blame. Communists take advantage of every opportunity to hurt our American way of life and doubtlessly have stirred up trouble wherever they could.

There is one basic explanation which sounds too simple to many but which comes nearest being the truth. This is the disregard or outright rejection of God's laws and principles for righteous and orderly life. In spite of the religious connection of millions of Americans, the predominant concern of most of us is wealth, comfort and pleasure. Religious convictions that change persons from self-centered and self-serving beings to a Christ-centered and love-of-all-fellowmen kind of life is all too scarce.

The consequence of this disregard for God's immutable laws is nowhere more evident than in the violence that characterizes our day. There really is no reason not to expect this harvest of violence whose seed have been sown so widely during recent years. Consider, for example, modern communications media and their effectiveness. No generation has been so bombarded with the sights and sounds of blood, sex, rape, murder, war, burning, looting and every other conceivable

form of violence. News of these acts of violence fill the newspapers we read, the television programs we view, the modern best-sellers we read; and rarely is there a movie these days without some glorification of lawlessness or violence. Everywhere we look it is violence, violence, violence.

With such a diet of grapes, why should our teeth not be set on edge? Sowing such a wind, what can we expect but a whirlwind? The law of sowing and reaping is as old as man, and why can't we believe experience that confirms God's word?

America is in real peril. Not only does disorder and violence threaten us but the possibility of a panic reaction setting in that could sweep away all personal freedoms is an even greater threat. Let's be careful and sane. Any office seeker and especially any official on the national level who promises to restore order by throwing every dissenter in jail and stopping every mouth that objects to majority opinion is a dictator at heart and has fascist designs.

Let's keep our faith in America and her basic freedoms. Let us major on self-control ourselves and self-control for others by preaching and practicing Christ-control. By example as well as by word let us respect and obey all laws of the land. We could begin by eliminating such hypocrisy as passing the Southern Baptist Convention resolution on law obedience and then watching for the expected announcement concerning how to get parking violation tickets taken care of without being fined.

**BAPTIST FORUM**



**Keep It Simple**

Dear Editor:

H. R. Keesy wrote about the hard words in our church literature. It is true. The Sunday School Board that edits these materials knows it is true. For several years they have been printing *Sunday School Lessons, Simplified, and Training Union Quarterly, Simplified*.

These quarterlies carry the same material in easier words. Most churches have some adults who would enjoy using these quarterlies. They are also good for the deaf to use. Both Sunday School and Training Union simplified quarterlies may be ordered with the regular church literature order.

Part of our strength as Baptists seems to come from our many differences. One of these differences is in amount of education. I would add to Mr. Keesy's plea that our writers remember this. I work

on simplifying the Training Union lessons. Much of the material is aimed more at seminary than even college graduates.

Not everyone would enjoy a simplified quarterly. Neither do many enjoy theological jargon. Writers, please hear the pleas from the people. Understanding and idea exchange by all Baptists is our hope for keeping the truth. Pikeville, Ky. Mrs. Floyd Titsworth, Jr.

**Concern for the Elderly**

Dear Editor:

After reading your issue of May 30, I am happy and delighted to know that the leading Southern Baptist Convention executives have seemingly become interested in the plight of the poor and disadvantaged in our country.

For many years, some of the elderly Baptists in Kentucky, including some of our retired missionaries, have gone be-

fore our Kentucky Baptist Convention and pleaded and begged for them to start a movement to provide a home for the senior Baptists of Kentucky, but all to no avail!

I would like to suggest that those mentioned from Kentucky, before shedding any more crocodile tears, read I Timothy 5:8.

Louisville, Ky. Mrs. R. J. May

**Dr. W. C. Boone Critically Ill In Tennessee**

According to late reports from Jackson, Tennessee, Dr. W. C. Boone, former executive secretary of Kentucky Baptists, is desperately ill. He is hospitalized in Jackson with complications following an earlier coronary heart attack.

Mrs. Boone said he was recovering very satisfactorily from the heart attack when a kidney complication set in.

She expressed appreciation for the concern and interest of their many friends in Kentucky and requested continued prayers for Dr. Boone and the family.

## New Orleans Professor Calls for "New Reformation"

A strong note of theological conservatism underlined the two-day Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference through 58 sermons, messages and devotionals.

Sounding the major chord with three addresses was Clark H. Pinnock, assistant professor of New Testament at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, who called for a new reformation within the church.

Joining the seminary teacher in support of the theme were J. Norris Palmer, pastor of First Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Robert G. Lee, pastor emeritus of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tennessee, K. Owen White, metropolitan missions coordinator for

Southern Baptists in Los Angeles, and W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas.

In a business session the pastors chose vice-president Harper Shannon of Dothan, Alabama, to succeed President Gerald Martin of Memphis.

Shannon, pastor of First Baptist Church and a widely-sought evangelist will direct the pastors' conference during the next 12 months with Don Berry, pastor of Memorial Drive Baptist Church of Houston, vice-president, and Allen Comish, pastor of Waldrop Baptist Church, Columbus, Georgia, secretary.

Pinnock described the job of Christians this way: "Our primary responsi-

bility is to make known the unsearchable riches of Christ to all men. We are called to reform the world by changing men's hearts. We are not called to editorialize but to evangelize."

Speaking on the topic, "The Fact of Christ," Pinnock told the pastors that "men do not need the Christ of liberal theology. They need good news, not good advice. He will not be saved by bearing our cross, but by accepting His. "Men today are confused about God. They are bewildered by the welter of conflicting religious claims."

Reminding that Southern Baptists stand at a crossroad, Pinnock said "millions of contemporary professed Christians are forsaking the Biblical Christ for a false Christ of process philosophy and revolutionary social action."

In earlier sessions, Pinnock, whose addresses drew repeated applause from an estimated 6,000 persons, charged an early-stage drifting away from Southern Baptists' Biblical, Christ-centered theology is apparent. But he added that it is not too late for the denomination to regain its stability.

"Compared with other churches, our own decline theologically is at an early stage. If we are alert, the drift can be checked," he said.

Pinnock called for a new reformation within the church to "restore the crown rights of our divine Lord, and the infallible authority of His inspired Word."

The Protestant Reformation has become the "Protestant Deformation" today, espousing a man-centered and man-made theology based on a consensus of human opinions, he continued. (BP)

## SBC's Isolationism Must Go, Declares Texas College Pastor

The Southern Baptist Convention can no longer be isolationist socially, racially or denominationally if it is to be a part of the creative action of the twentieth century, a prominent college pastor declared at Houston.

James G. Harris, pastor of University Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, told the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association that "the eyes of the world are upon us this week. God help us to measure up to the crises of our day."

There are some who have tried to force the convention to choose between evangelism and an involvement in the social application of the gospel, Harris pointed out.

"It is not an either-or proposition. The old saying (that if you) get a man converted he will do right is only a half truth. He will do right when he knows what is right.

"Actually, the more truly evangelistic a Christian becomes, the more concerned he is not only with the sin in the life of a man, but also the sins of his community and his world."

Harris, who has served churches in Arkansas, Alabama and Louisiana, urged the religious educators to support their pastors as they try to be prophetic during these days of racial tensions.

"I am not suggesting that some of you from problem areas go home and tear your church asunder with radical immediate demands, . . . but I am saying that the racial problem on the local level is primarily an educational process and the pastors must look to you for help and support."

In describing the new roles needed for Southern Baptists, Harris said the convention could not ignore the growing de-

sire for interdenominational involvement.

"A new wind is stirring that will demand that we find ways to communicate and associate with our brethren of other denominations. The new generation will not be satisfied with our self-sufficient isolationism."

Calling for a "deeper respect and affection" for those of other faiths, Harris suggested the educators specifically seek out areas where they can cooperate in mutually compatible areas of concern.

## Christian Response to Current Issues Urged

Southern Baptist women were challenged at Houston to respond in a Christian spirit to issues from race to space.

Dr. Dorothy Brown, Negro professor of surgery at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, drew a standing ovation from 3,000 delegates to the annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union when she called on the church to do its job in race relations.

Edward B. Lindaman, a space program manager for North American Rockwell Corp. of Downey, Calif., who shocked the women with an account of technical space progress ahead, called for Christians to recognize the scope of love as worldwide.

In a business session the women chose Mrs. Robert Fling of Pleasantville, New York, to serve them another year as president. They re-elected Mrs. J. R. Lobaugh of Kansas City, Kansas, as recording secretary.

Other major speeches included Jesse C. Fletcher, secretary of mission per-

sonnel at the Foreign Mission Board, and Miss Alma Hunt, executive secretary of WMU.

In a hard hitting address, Dr. Brown, a Tennessee legislator, placed the blame for the current plight of the American Negro on the church.

"The church has sung its songs, prayed its prayers, and then closed and locked its doors to the real reason for its being.

"If the church would do its job, we wouldn't need any more human relations commissions or further civil rights laws," she said.

Dr. Brown strongly condemned violence as the cure for America's ills.

"Nonviolence, the abiding philosophy of that great Baptist apostle of non-violence, Martin Luther King, is the way of calmness, rationality, Christianity, and faith. But he is gone, and I feel that it is now white Christian Americans' turn to raise up a leader to take his place," she said. (BP)

## Kentuckians at Houston

More than 500 Baptists from Kentucky were among the 15,000 messengers from all over the United States who attended the 1968 session of the Southern Baptist Convention at Houston. There they listened to sermons, heard reports of the SBC agencies and institutions, voted on issues before the convention, met old friends, and visited places of interest in the city. The *Western Recorder* camera captured these photographs of Kentuckians in Houston for their annual meeting. (Photographs by Assistant Editor George W. Knight.)



Walter E. Cooper of Campbellsville College Industries mans a booth at the convention and talks with a conventioneer about the college's church furniture products.



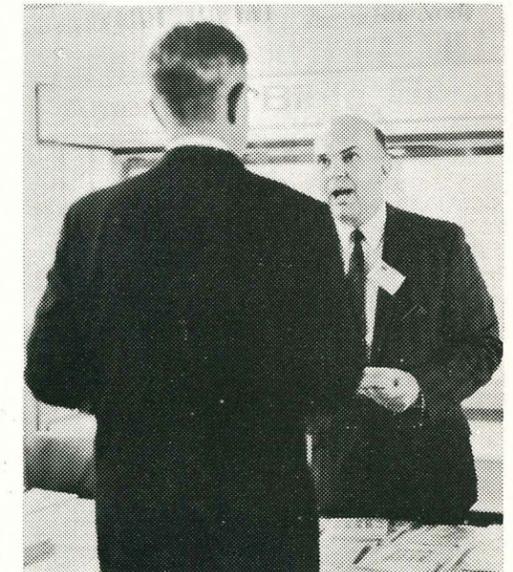
Four Kentucky Baptist pastors in front of the convention coliseum—Glenn Armstrong of Beaver Dam; and William Weedman, Jim Jones, and Ercil Barker, all of Louisville.



Paul Kirkland (center) and Jim Austin of Southern Seminary, Louisville, talk with William Miller (left) of Gardenside Baptist Church, Lexington, about the seminary's Billy Graham evangelism chair endowment campaign.



Jesse C. Stricker, secretary of the stewardship department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and his family are surrounded by empty chairs as they wait for a baseball game to start at Houston's fabulous Astrodome.



Ed Cunningham of Lexington, distributions secretary for the American Bible Society, talks with a messenger about the programs of the society.

# 111th Annual Session of the Southern Baptist Convention in Photographs...



**CONCENTRATION** — Three unidentified messengers to the Houston convention concentrate on the debate on the convention floor. This year's SBC sessions featured several miscellaneous business sessions and invited response from the floor after the presentation of the reports of each convention agency and institution.



**RACE STATEMENT**—James Pleitz of Pensacola, Florida, chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, presents the controversial "Statement Concerning the Crisis in Our Nation" to the Houston convention.



**WMU OFFICERS** — Officers for 1968-69 for the SBC Woman's Missionary Union are (left to right) Mrs. Charles Standridge of Arlington, Virginia, member-at-large for the executive board; Mrs. Robert Fling of Pleasantville, New York, president; and Mrs. J. R. Lobaugh of Kansas City, Kansas, recording secretary.



**CONVENTION CONCERN**—This little girl sleeps peacefully on the floor of the SBC nursery while her parents and other messengers debate vital issues before the convention. Nursery facilities this year were arranged and coordinated by the First Baptist Church of Houston in cooperation with the Houston-area Union Baptist Association.

**THREE PRESIDENTS**—The new president of the Southern Baptist Convention, W. A. Criswell (left) of Dallas, Texas, greets Harper Shannon, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dothan, Alabama, new president of the Pastors' Conference; and Mrs. Robert Fling, of Pleasantville, New York, who was re-elected president of the Woman's Missionary Union.



**CONVENTION INTERVIEWEE**—Dr. Dorothy Brown, physician and state legislator from Nashville, Tennessee, is interviewed by the press following her address to the annual convention of the Woman's Missionary Union. She drew a standing ovation with her plea for the church to take the lead in working for racial justice.



**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**—Outgoing SBC President H. Franklin Paschall of Nashville preaches the annual president's sermon in Houston. It was entitled "Good News for Today's World."



**STUDENT MEETING** — Foy Valentine (standing), executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission, moderates the discussion of "Baptist Students Concerned" with SBC leaders and pastors. More than 250 persons jammed the room to hear the students call for involvement by Southern Baptists in the great national issues of today.



# SBC Votes Resolutions on War, Pornography, Alcohol

by RODDY STINSON

Violence, war, pornography, beverage alcohol, and Monday holidays were attacked by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention at Houston.

The action came as the messengers adopted 12 resolutions presented to the convention by the denomination's resolutions committee.

In a resolution concerning violence and disregard for law, they expressed shock at the tragic death of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and commended President Lyndon Johnson's urgent plea to Congress to "pass laws to bring the insane traffic in guns to a halt."

Acting on an amendment from the floor, the messengers also urged the President at the same time to "maintain the constitutional rights of the legitimate possession of arms."

A peace resolution pleaded with responsible leaders on all sides of the Vietnam conflict "to seek an immediate cease-fire and a termination of all hostile activities and any further buildup of military power or advantage. . . ."

The messengers reaffirmed their opposition to obscene, pornographic, and offensive publications and entertainment.

Noting that the federal government has spent vast sums of money for the study of the effects of smoking on health, they requested that the Surgeon General of the United States "undertake a similar effort on the effect of alcoholic beverages on physical and mental health."

A resolution on "the Lord's Day" stressed that a bill now before the United States Congress to fix certain national holidays on Monday would "encourage further disregard of Sunday as the Lord's Day." Messengers appealed for a proper and faithful observance of Sunday.

A resolution on traffic safety called

## Southern Student Named To Golden Gate Faculty

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary trustees elected a new assistant professor of religious education during their meeting at Houston.

The new teacher is James Curtis Bradley of Louisville, who is completing his dissertation for the Doctor of Education degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Bradley, a native of Beebe, Arkansas, is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and received a master's degree in religious education from Southern. He has served as minister of education at Sherwood Baptist Church, Albany, Georgia, and First Baptist Church, Macon, Georgia. He is presently on the staff of the Bethany Baptist Church in Louisville. He will join the seminary staff August 1.

attention to the 52,200 persons killed and four million persons injured on the nation's highways in 1967 and urged stronger legislation at all levels of government.

A resolution on church-state relations urged Baptist agencies and institutions "to assign leadership responsibilities concerning church-state relationships designed to safeguard both the people's rights under government and their freedom under God."

The resolution stressed that tax funds come from all citizens and should not be used for sectarian purposes.

In other action, the messengers reaffirmed their support for the church, pledged to support evangelistic endeavors, particularly the Crusade of the Americas, and commended convention officers, the host convention city (Houston), and the American Bible Society.

The resolution on peace noted that as disciples of the Prince of Peace, Christians have a mandate to be peacemakers, to seek the preservation of human life, to love and to pray for all people, even enemies. The messengers resolved to

"pray for the peace negotiators, the delegates of the United Nations, and the men of good will in all of the world who seek after peace and justice."

The law and order resolution called upon all citizens to support their local police and all who are in authority. It also commended "responsible leaders of all groups who have shown and are showing remarkable determination in seeking to hold violence in check while working for social justice."

The messengers approved a recommendation by the resolutions committee to ask its Christian Life Commission to communicate the convention's complaint about profanity and vulgar language on television.

A resolution by S. L. Whatley of Mobile, Alabama, was not returned by the resolutions committee because it was "not germane to the business of this convention." The resolution dealt with a request to President Johnson to appoint "one additional clergyman" to his recently appointed committee to study the increase of crime and violence in the nation. (BP)

## Valentine Urges Baptists To Fight Racism with Open Minds, Hearts

Foy Valentine, a leading exponent of Christian morality, urged Southern Baptists at Houston to fight racism with open minds, hearts and housing.

Speaking to the annual progress report of the Christian Life Commission which he directs, Valentine told messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention there was no cure for racism but Christian brothering.

"There is no way out of the mire of prejudice except by the hard road of a moral ministry that demonstrates repentance."

Valentine called for Southern Baptists to respond with open doors, open hands, open housing, open opportunities, open minds, and open hearts.

Speaking on the topic of "Words and Deeds," the leader of the Nashville-based Christian social action agency said the demands of Christian morality require identification with the alienated, brothering, peacemaking and ministering.

In amplifying the peacemaking role, Valentine hastened to say he felt the church has neither the equipment, mandate, nor the right to dictate details of foreign policy to the state, economic formulas to labor and management, and specific programs for a disordered society.

Valentine encouraged Southern Baptists to avoid the extremes of empty humanism and inane religiosity as they performed Christian ministries among the poor and illiterate.

"While such involvement in the great moral struggles of the day could lead in the direction of a theologically-rootless humanism, the alternative of non-involvement requires a rejection of the incarnation and the adoption of a hocus-pocus, pie-in-the-sky, opiate-of-the-people caricature of Christianity which is absolutely unacceptable to true believers."

Valentine, a former Texas minister, urged the messengers to stop spending their time trying to decide which comes first, word or deed, and to get about their duty of hammering out the moral conflicts of daily life. (BP)

# Music and Missions Discussed by Church Musicians

New developments that seem destined to make music increasingly important in missions efforts were outlined for more than 500 persons attending the annual Church Music Conference at Houston.

Music leaders from throughout the Southern Baptist Convention agreed, however, that new ideas should be tested against their "probability of producing spiritual results."

T. W. Dean, head of the school of music at Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, told the group the text of the music must be sound scripturally.

"I don't care how effective the music is. If it's not true, it's not evangelistic."

Conference President Donald Winters, head of the music department at William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, reminded fellow musicians that it is not sufficient for music to be a performance.

"As a part of the sensitivity to need, the awareness of change and the possibilities of diversity as they apply to church music, we need to be certain we do not lose the all-important sensitivity," Winters said.

J. William Thompson, supervisor of literary publications for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, identified leadership training as the greatest music need of churches.

Some new developments utilizing music as a major vehicle in foreign missions were given by Claude H. Rhea,

Jr., who is completing his first year as the Baptist Foreign Mission Board's music consultant.

Rhea told the music leaders data processing is being used in conjunction with a census to determine specific needs. He also said that the Foreign Mission Board is analyzing the music resources among its personnel.

"The future is wide open for music missions," he said. "We may eventually have a music missionary couple for each of the 69 countries where we have foreign missions."

New officers elected by the music directors are Bob Burroughs of First Baptist Church, Abilene, Texas, vice president of the local church division of the

conference; Charles Worley of Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, and Carl Perry of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee, council members for the local church division; James D. Woodward, chairman of the department of church music at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, vice president of the educators division; Scotty Gray of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, council member for the educators division; Rod Latta, music director for the Illinois Baptist State Association, vice president, denominational division; and James Allcock, church music consultant for the Baptist Convention of Maryland, council member for the denominational division. (BP)

## Record Budget of \$27,000,000 Is Approved by SBC Messengers

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention approved without discussion a record budget of \$27,670,480 for 1969, an increase of \$970,480.

The allocations included \$26,561,019 for the Cooperative Program operating budget and \$1,109,461 for capital needs.

In other business, the messengers voted to hold their 1973 convention in Portland, Oregon, and to participate in a worldwide evangelistic crusade in

1972-73 "if such is projected."

The actions were taken in response to recommendations to the messengers by its Executive Committee.

Major increases in the budget included the \$1.1 million allocation for capital needs, \$818,619 additional money for the Foreign Mission Board, and \$700,000 increase for the convention's six seminaries.

The biggest chunk of the capital needs allocation will go to the Home Mission Board, which will receive \$400,000 in 1969.

A minor flurry occurred on the convention floor when the recommendation was made to meet in Portland.

J. G. Green of Indialantic, Florida, opposed the motion. He said:

"There prevails in our convention a desire to travel abroad. Of the 28 churches in our association, 20 could not attend such a meeting. It would be impractical for us to go."

He made a substitute motion to return the recommendation to the Executive Committee for further study.

James Monroe, a member of the Executive Committee from Miami, Florida, spoke against Green's substitute motion. He explained that it would be extremely difficult to secure necessary commitments from any other city in order to change to another site.

A vote was taken, and the substitute motion was then defeated by about a 6 to 4 margin. The Portland site was then approved.

The vote to participate in a worldwide evangelistic crusade included a request that the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board represent Southern Baptists in the planning for such a crusade, in full cooperation with the Inter-Agency Council. (BP)

## ABC-SBC Merger is Remote Possibility, Says ABC President Culbert Rutenber

The president of the American Baptist Convention (ABC) predicted at Houston it would be a long time before his convention and the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) merged.

In a press conference, Culbert Rutenber, professor of philosophy of religion at Andover-Newton Theological Seminary, Newton Centre, Massachusetts, said, "I consider the question of organic union highly academic. Right now neither convention would accept the other."

The two conventions disagree strongly on such issues as their relationship to the National Council of Churches, he said.

Rutenber also said the two conventions are held apart because of the stereotypes with which each group tags the other. He said Southern Baptists, for instance, feel that all American Baptists are "shot through with theological modernism."

Rutenber, who was elected last week to head the ABC, said that the two conventions could contribute much to each other.

"If we could combine the strengths of the American Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, we

could have the greatest group of Christians since the Apostles!"

He said he thought American Baptists were ahead of Southern Baptists in their concern about social issues but Southern Baptists were ahead of American Baptists in evangelism.

Rutenber was asked if he thought more dialogue would emerge between the two conventions now that they are working in some of the same geographical areas, such as the Northeast. He said this would depend on the Southern Baptist ministers who are sent into these areas.

"In the early years, the only ministers who came were refugees who couldn't get a job in the South—that is, your worst ministers. In recent years, however, the quality has improved, and this will help."

In a statement concerning his position on the war in Vietnam, Rutenber said he has been a pacifist for many years and that he favors stopping the bombing of North Vietnam and reducing the war in South Vietnam.

Rutenber was in Houston to bring greetings from his convention to Southern Baptist messengers meeting there.

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# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By H. C. Chiles



(These Lessons for June 30, 1968)

## INTERNATIONAL SERIES

### PATIENCE AND PRAYER

James 5:7-16

This lesson, which completes the quarter, is the last in the series of eleven from the studies in wisdom literature of the Bible dealing with the practical aspects of faith and conduct.

#### I. A Plea For Patience (James 5:7-11)

Even though the early Christians to whom he wrote were suffering terrible persecution, James exhorted them to be patient. As a special inducement to cultivate patience, James cited three outstanding examples of those who exercised patience: first, the farmer waiting for the fruit of his labors from plowing time until the harvesting season; second, the prophets of God; third, Job.

In writing to those early Christians who were undergoing great trials, afflictions and sufferings, while their persecutors were living in wealth and luxury, James exhorted them to endure these things for the sake of Christ, and then he assured them that when Christ returned their persecutors would be punished and they would be rewarded.

James reminded his readers of the prophets as "an example of suffering affliction and of patience." Most of the prophets had a very difficult time and had to suffer much, but they endured their sufferings patiently and cheerfully. Some of the things which the prophets suffered are listed in Hebrews 11:36-38: "And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth."

Job is the outstanding human sufferer and victor of all of those who are mentioned in the Word of God. Job bore all of his troubles and sufferings in such a way that he proved himself to be a real man of God. Instead of criticizing God, Job said, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him."

Patience is needed greatly in these days. We need it when we are ill, or when we are undergoing trials of any sort. We need to be patient with others, and especially with those to whom we

present the gospel.

#### II. A Presentation Of A Prohibition (James 5:12)

In verse 12 James deals with a sin of the tongue, which was very prevalent in his day as well as in ours. It is noteworthy that James dealt more with the sin of the tongue than with any other single sin. Knowing that many were prone to allow their impatience to be revealed in rash oaths and in profane swearing, James uttered the prohibition, "Swear not." Profane speaking is a despicable sin for which there is no excuse or justification. Throughout the Bible profanity is forbidden. James presented it as a serious offense, and urged his readers to guard against it with all earnestness.

#### III. A Plea For Prayer (James 5:13-16)

Prayer is especially appropriate and

profitable to Christians in times of affliction. Hardships, afflictions and suffering are inevitable in this life. How will we react to them when they come? Unless we pray as we should, it is likely that we shall groan, grumble and growl.

When the body is subjected to one or more of the diseases common to man, one should call persons of long standing and of genuine Christian experience, who have the ability to pray, and ask them to "pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." When God so wills, He can and does heal directly, but He also uses means, such as medicines and the skills and abilities of doctors and nurses, to bring about the restoration of health.

James emphasized the importance of confessing sin. He implied that confession of sin is a vital factor in availing prayer. Prayer should be offered to God in all kinds of situations. Prayer is both a privilege and a duty. True prayer accomplishes so much. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." By prayer we harness God's omnipotence to our impotence.

## LIFE AND WORK SERIES

### TRANSLATING LEARNING INTO LIFE AND WORK

It is appropriate that the final lesson in this current series should disclose and emphasize the fact that God rightfully expects His children to translate what they have learned into life and to practice it faithfully each day. Learning is not very valuable until it is translated into Christian character, life and work.

#### Matthew 10:1-8

After Christ had issued a command to His disciples, saying, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest," He selected the twelve whom He wanted to perform the task which He assigned to them.

#### 1. The Call. Matthew 10:1-4.

Christ gave 12 men, whose names are listed here, along with certain designations about them, a specific and personal call. Christ always calls people to Him ere He sends them forth to work for Him. Having previously called the

H. C. Chiles is pastor of the First Baptist Church, 203 South Fourth Street, Murray, Kentucky.

12 to discipleship and to intimate fellowship with Him, Christ called them to apostleship.

Those whom our Lord calls into His service, He always endows and empowers for the task. He never sends them forth into the world on their own. He knows full well that they would be helpless in the face of the tremendous forces arrayed against them unless His power is operating in them.

#### 2. The Charge. Matthew 10:5-8

Christ gave the Twelve specific instructions as to the field in which they should work—preaching, healing, cleansing the lepers, raising the dead and casting out demons. The place to which He directed them to go is of special significance also. He told them both where not to go and where to go. He forbade them to go to the Gentiles, and then commanded them to go "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." The message which He charged them to proclaim as they went was that "the kingdom of the heaven is at hand."

#### Philippians 2:12-16

Ever mindful of the mutual and abiding love between the Philippians and

himself, Paul wrote to them and urged them to continue in the fine way in which they had started. He highly commended them for their faithful obedience both in his presence and in his absence.

Salvation, which includes deliverance from the penalty, the power and the presence of sin, is a gift from God. It cannot be earned or purchased, but it can be and is received as a gift. Writing to the Christians in Philippi, whom Christ had delivered from the penalty of sin, Paul urged them to "work out" their salvation. By that he meant "to carry on to completion" or "to carry to its ultimate conclusion" God's work in them.

Both the will to do and the power to do are divine gifts. God has saved us in order that we may do the things which please Him. "To will" is the problem of some—they do not want to please God. "To do" is the problem of others—thank God, He provides the power for doing His will.

Few exhortations are more incisive or demanding than this one: "Do all things without murmurings and disputings." The sin of murmuring is displeasing God. For that reason, the murmuring spirit is to be shunned by the Christian.

May those of us who are Christians firmly resolve that we shall never be the cause of discord among Christ's follow-

ers. Frequent disputes between professing Christians have been so disgusting and repulsive to the unsaved that, thus far, it has been impossible to get them to accept Christ as their Saviour and to unite with a church which has members whose conduct in this regard is so unbecoming.

When we "shine as lights" we are passively Christian, but when we "hold forth the word of life" we are actively Christian. In one case we are character witnesses, and in the other we are articulate witnesses. We are to shine and to speak. We may never have to die for our faith, but, by the grace of God, we can live for it.

## Ministers' Wives President Urges Better Race Relations

The new president of the Southern Baptist Ministers Wives Conference said after her election that fellow Baptists are "just beginning to touch the hem of the garment" in improving relations between persons of different races.

Mrs. Andrew Hall, wife of the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Fayette-

ville, Arkansas, was chosen to lead the group of ministers wives at their annual luncheon at the Sheraton Lincoln Hotel.

Mrs. Hall said wives could help their preacher-husbands implement the Christian principle of brotherhood by creating friendships with persons of other races and valuing their personhood.

A columnist with the *Arkansas Baptist News Magazine*, Mrs. Hall said she would like to see women take the lead in their own communities to find the possibilities for involvement with persons of different races and varied economic backgrounds.

She mentioned the possibilities of women working in community action and service programs such as Headstart, in addition to their regular church interests.

Other offices elected included Mrs. G. Avery Lee, New Orleans, Louisiana, vice-president; Mrs. Landrum Leavell, Wichita Falls, Texas, secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. John Taylor, Tupelo, Mississippi, corresponding secretary.

## Kentuckians Named to SBC Agency Boards

Three Kentucky Baptists were named for the first time to the boards of trustees of three SBC agencies during the recent annual meeting of Southern Baptists at Houston.

They are Franklin Owen, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, named to the board of trustees of the Sunday School Board at Nashville, Tennessee; Austin Roberts, pastor of Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, Danville, named to the Annuity Board at Dallas, Texas; and Eldred M. Taylor, pastor of First Baptist Church, Somerset, and president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, named to the Foreign Mission Board at Richmond, Virginia.

In addition to these Kentuckians, five

others were reassigned to agency boards or committees on which they have been serving for the past several years.

Reassigned for three-year terms were Charles E. Chatham of Shelbyville, Brotherhood Commission, George E. Hayes Jr., of Louisville, Stewardship Commission; and John A. Wood, pastor of First Baptist Church, Paducah, Home Mission Board.

Reassigned for one-year terms were C. R. Daley of Middletown, editor of the *Western Recorder*, chairman of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; and Duke K. McCall, president of Southern Seminary, Louisville, who will serve on the North American Baptist Fellowship.

## What does the Garden of Gethsemane look like today?

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## World Missions Conference Set

Several Southern Baptist Convention leaders are scheduled to speak and conduct conferences during the annual World Missions Conference for Kentucky Baptists, scheduled July 29-August 2 at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly near Bagdad.

The purpose of the annual gathering is to define and study world missions and to inspire Kentucky Baptists to pray, give and participate personally in the missionary task of the church.

The SBC leaders who will participate in the conference include:

► **LUCIEN E. COLEMAN, SR.**, former Brotherhood secretary in Kentucky, who serves now as special projects co-ordinator for the SBC Brotherhood Commission at Memphis, Tennessee.

► **ALBERT McCLELLAN**, program planning secretary for the SBC Executive Committee at Nashville, Tennessee, who will be one of the main speakers for the World Missions Conference.

► **FRED B. MOSELEY**, assistant executive-secretary of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, who will present mission needs in the United States.

► **JOSEPH B. UNDERWOOD**, consult-

ant in evangelism and church development for the SBC Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Virginia, who will major on mission needs overseas.

The annual World Missions Conference in Kentucky is sponsored jointly by the Woman's Missionary Union of Kentucky and the state Baptist Brotherhood department.

Brotherhood Secretary Forrest R. Saywer said the conference is open to all church members, pastors and church leaders who desire to learn more about the mission task of the church.

Children of the participants will attend their own activities at the children's building during the conference. Workers will be available for nursery, beginner, primary and junior-age children.

Kentucky Baptists may receive further information on the conference by writing to the Woman's Missionary Union at the Baptist Building in Midletown.

Persons who wish to register for the sessions should send a \$2.00 registration fee for each person to Marvin Byrdwell, manager, Cedarmore Assembly, Bagdad, Kentucky.

## 165 Students Get Camp'ville Degrees

Bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees were conferred upon 165 seniors at commencement exercises held recently at Campbellsville College.

Five graduates received the honor of *Magna Cum Laude*, and 21 graduated with *Cum Laude* honors.

Featured speaker at commencement exercises was Dr. Carl E. Shepard, president of Oakland City College, Oakland City, Indiana. Robert Richardson presented the baccalaureate sermon on Saturday night prior to Sunday's commencement.



## \$1,000,000 Transaction

This \$1,000,000 loan transaction was the first step taken recently toward expanding Southern Baptists' church loans service by \$10,000,000. Robert H. Kilgore (right), director of the division of church loans for the Home Mission Board, accepts a \$1,000,000 check from R. W. Corstaphney, associate counsel in investments for the Southwestern Life Insurance Co. of Dallas, Texas.

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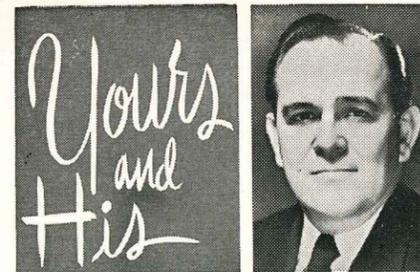
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## Conventioneers, We

Baptists love to go to Conventions! More than 500 Kentucky Baptists went all the way to Houston, Texas, for the Southern Baptist Convention two weeks ago—and we are just like Baptists in other states. We love to meet, to hear about our work at home, abroad, to have fellowship and share with fellow Baptists. And it is good. People in all walks of life, in all kinds of businesses, do the same. We are normal people! Certainly our Baptist Conventions have a good purpose, and usually inspire our people to greater concern for the work of our Lord around the world.

## State Convention Coming

Already hundreds of Kentucky Baptists have made their motel reservations in Florence for the 131st annual Kentucky Baptist Convention November 12-14. Pastors and wives, yes; deacons and wives; Brotherhood men and wives; youth. We want them all. Plan now. Make your reservation—Statler Hilton Lamplighter Motor Inn, Dixie Highway, Covington, is Convention headquarters. See list of motels in *Western Recorder*, May 30, page 11. Write today.

## See You July 1-4

Those adults and young people who read this—what about joining me and Thomas H. Shelton and others in the state Prayer and Bible Study Retreat at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Monday supper through Thursday lunch, July 1-4?

It will be one of the richest spiritual experiences of our lives. Time for Bible study, prayer, fellowship, rest—time enough, for one time!

Two great leaders for our thoughts: Bible Study (II Peter)—**Gray Allison**, former teacher at New Orleans Seminary, now Bible lecturer and evangelist. Leading us in repentance and prayer, and seeking the Holy Spirit—**Miss Bertha Smith**, retired (?) Baptist missionary to China, Cowpens, South Carolina.

You cannot be told what this could mean to change your life—just know that God has blessed and changed many lives through the testimony of these great servants of God. Of course there will be others, our own Kentucky leaders, present. Send \$1.00 registration fee today to Marvin Byrdwell, Route 1, Bagdad, Ky.

HAROLD G. SANDERS

## Registration with Government Refused by Spanish Baptists

Representatives of the Spanish Evangelical Baptist Union, meeting in Valencia in late May, recommended that member churches and pastors abstain from registering with the government as required under a new law.

"It is not wise to register under the present provisions of the law, because it does not provide the minimum requirements of the modern concept of religious liberty, and is not in accord with the spirit of Article VI of the Spanish charter of rights," the Baptists maintained in a statement of their position.

The vote was 82 not to register and 19 to register, with eight abstaining.

The law in question, passed by the Spanish Cortes in June, 1967, provides that the state will guarantee free worship to officially-recognized non-Catholic religious groups. However, recognition can be granted only when these groups organize as "confessional asso-

ciations" and request registration with the Ministry of Justice. The deadline for registering was originally set for December 31, 1967, but was extended to May 31, 1968. Further discussions between the government and church groups took place in the interim.

The Baptists' decision at Valencia reconfirms the stand on the registration law taken by the Spanish Baptist Union during its regular biennial meeting at Albacete in September, 1967.

The Valencia assembly further recommended that the Union, through its legal committee, continue to pursue contacts with the proper authorities in the Ministry of Justice, seeking "a satisfactory change in the legal texts of the laws that govern the matter of religious liberty" and "a feasible solution to the problems that would arise in putting into practice both individual and collective rights."

## Midway Baptists Renovate Church Sanctuary

The sanctuary of the Midway Baptist Church, Midway, has been completely renovated under the direction of Pastor Byrd R. Ison. The walls and ceiling were replastered and painted and new lights, carpet, pulpit furniture and pews were added.

A homecoming celebration on May 19 welcomed many guests and former members to worship in the redecorated sanctuary. Three former pastors returned for the occasion. Thomas Nelson, now pastor of the First Baptist Church, Travelers Rest, South Carolina, spoke at the morning service. Dinner was served at the church for members and visitors. Speakers for the afternoon service were Sherman Swan of Palms Garden, Florida, and William Austin Roberts, pastor of Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville.

Midway Baptist Church was constituted on June 17, 1872 by residents in Midway with church membership at Georgetown, Great Crossing, Mt. Vernon and First Baptist in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The renovated sanctuary is the original brick building constructed soon after the church was begun. Pastor Ison says plans for a centennial celebration are already being made for June of 1972.

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## Baptists in U. S. Must Work For Unity, Hargroves Declares

by BETH HAYWORTH

All Baptists on the North American continent should work for unity "not because they have to but because they want to," Southern Baptist messengers were told at Houston.

V. Carney Hargroves of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, chairman of the North American Baptist Fellowship encompassing eight Baptist bodies, including the Southern Baptist Convention, said Baptists must not be "driven to unity by desperation but by inspiration."

Hargroves, an American Baptist pastor, listed several possibilities for cooperation and involvement between different Baptist bodies in North America.

Among the suggestions, he encouraged the ministers present to take the lead in their own communities to form an interracial and inter-convention committee to plan various cooperative efforts. He also urged the development of projects that would bring together large groups for rallies or small groups for informal discussions.

The American Baptist leader deplored the lack of information within individual denominational ranks about other Baptist groups.

"State convention papers might well carry a regular column of this nature," Hargroves said.

In addition, he urged program committees of state and national conventions and assemblies to make use of speakers and leaders from as many Baptist bodies as practical.

Exchanges between pastors, seminary students and professors which would take them into different environments would also be meaningful in helping us

to understand each other and to know how to work together, Hargroves said.

"There are 16 million Baptists related to each other in the North American Baptist Fellowship. Let's get together and literally turn North America, and even the world, upside down in the name of Jesus Christ."

Another American Baptist, Culbert G. Rutenber of Newton Centre, Mass., newly-elected president of the American Baptist Convention, praised the Southern Baptist Convention for striking a "blow for social justice" in the affirmative vote on the race statement.

"When Southern Baptists speak, the rest of us listen and take courage," Rutenber said. Rutenber is professor of philosophy of religion at Andover-Newton Theological Seminary, Newton Centre, Massachusetts. (BP)

## Joseph Smith Receives Campus Ministry Grant

Joseph M. Smith, Baptist campus minister at the University of Kentucky, has been awarded a Danforth campus ministry grant to study during 1969-70 at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Smith was one of 42 persons from all over the United States to receive the grants awarded this year. He was the only Southern Baptist among the 1968 recipients. The grant pays a stipend of \$6,000 plus tuition and fees for an academic year.

Smith, 30, has been at the University of Kentucky post for two years.

A native of Louisville, he is a graduate of the University of Louisville and Southern Seminary.



Smith

## SBC Messengers Give Opinions On Politics, Race, Name Change

If the Punch-O-Pinion stand in the Southern Baptist Convention's exhibit hall had been an official voting machine, messengers would have elected Richard M. Nixon president of the United States.

Statistics at the opinion booth revealed that 70% of the 390 Baptists polled during four hours favored Nixon. Runners-up were Hubert H. Humphrey, 19%, Nelson Rockefeller, 8%, and Robert F. Kennedy, 3%. These names were the only choices given.

Punch-O-Pinion gives Southern Baptists a chance to tell convention leaders what they think, said Martin Bradley, secretary of the research and statistics department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, which operates the poll.

Quizzed on their political party leanings in the presidential race, 48% said it depends strictly on the candidates. About 30% indicated Republican loyalty

with only 6% favoring the Democratic Party. Third-party candidate George Wallace drew support from 16%.

While messengers debated the controversial statement on the race crisis, 475 voters punched opinions on the statement, "Elimination of all racial discrimination is a desirable goal of Christianity." About 78% said yes and 8% said no. About 14% were uncertain.

In another race-related vote, recorded after introduction of the race crisis statement but before the debate, 68% said that excluding Negroes or other racial groups from church activities would not be justified in some communities. Some 20% thought exclusion could be justified in some communities, while 12% were uncertain.

A test of feeling on possible change of name of the Southern Baptist Convention supported the formal straw vote taken in a convention session. About 56% opposed the name change. Most of them thought a change would lose the traditional Southern Baptist theological identity. Others indicated the name should not be changed in order to avoid dissension.

Those favoring the change, 44%, thought a new name would more adequately describe the geographical boundaries of the denomination, and that a new name would make members outside the South feel more comfortable.

In the convention straw vote, messengers voted more than two to one to keep the name. (BP)

## Davidson Leaves Walton For Pastorate in Ohio

Don Davidson, pastor of New Banklick Baptist Church, Walton, Kentucky, for the past six years, has resigned to accept the pastorate of the Second Baptist Church of Defiance, Ohio.



Davidson

A former pastor in Falmouth and Cynthiana, Davidson was a member of the Executive Board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He is a former moderator of

North Bend Baptist Association. Church membership at New Banklick has doubled during Davidson's six-year ministry. The congregation built a new sanctuary in 1967.

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