

Grady Randolph, superintendent of missions for Elkhorn Baptist Association since July, 1966, has been elected executive secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. For information on Randolph's election, see story on page 8.





GLEANINGS FROM THE FIELD

TOM AND RACHEL LEWIS, 535 North Parkway, Jackson, Tennessee, are the parents of a baby girl, Joy Ruth, born January 24, 1969. Lewis, now superintendent of missions of Madison-Chester Association of Baptists, was formerly pastor of the Wing Avenue Baptist Church in Owensboro and superintendent of missions for Christian County Association.

WALLACE THOMAS has accepted the position of minister of music with the First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon. A native of Corbin, currently he is a student at Cumberland College. He began his ministry in Mt. Vernon February 2.

ROY B. WYATT, SBC missionary to Columbia, was the featured speaker at Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, Sunday, February 16. To aid the church in its observance of "Missionary Day," Wyatt brought the morning message and during the evening service showed a color film about the work in Columbia.

WENDELL H. FORD, Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky, was the guest speaker for First Baptist Church of Frankfort, where he was baptized some years before. An active deacon in his home church in Owensboro, Ford spoke to the Frankfort congregation Sunday, February 9.

RICKY SHANNON is serving as interim pastor of the Hedgenville Baptist Mission, sponsored by the Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville. Shannon is a student at Georgetown College.

MONROE ASHLEY has been named director of Camp Ridgecrest for Boys in Ridgecrest, North Carolina, effective February 15. Ashley pastored in North Carolina and was Baptist Chaplain at the University of North Carolina before going to the Sunday School Board in 1967 as a management consultant.

RICHARD L. LANKFORD has resigned as pastor of Providence Baptist Church of Franklin effective March 1. He will devote himself to evangelism and interim pastorates. Lankford may be addressed at 109 Richland Drive, Springfield, Tennessee.

GREEN ACRES BAPTIST CHURCH, Louisville, recently completed what Pastor Don Randolph termed "a fruitful evangelistic effort." Held during the week of January 26-February 2, the revival was led by music-evangelists Ed and Bette Stalneckner together with their accompanists David and Carol Tyson. Those preaching during the week were Wayne Dehoney, James Austin, Hicks Shelton, John Turpin, Wayne Ward and the pastor. A total of 120 public decisions were recorded. Of this number 61 were for baptism.

JOSEPH PRICE is the new minister of music and youth director for the Falmouth Baptist Church. A student at Georgetown College, he is the son of a Baptist minister connected with the Foreign Mission Board. Price is a music major, director of the college BSU choir and member of several college musical organizations. He has traveled through 12 European countries with an All-Student Chorus, USA, on a "good-will" tour.



Price with an All-Student Chorus, USA, on a "good-will" tour.

OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Little River Association, adopted a resolution of respect to the memory of Mrs. Julia Bridges and Mr. Carey T. Vinson, Sr., cousins who died within a week of each other. Mrs. Bridges was teacher of the Young Women's Fellowship Class although nearly blind for several years. Vinson was a Sunday School teacher and long time deacon.

THE DAVIESS - McLEAN BAPTIST Association Woman's Missionary Union, in cooperation with the Negro women of the Green River Valley Mission Institute, held its thirteenth annual fellowship meeting Monday, February 10. More than 200 persons attended the meeting. "Christ, the Only Hope for Peace and Joy" was the evening's theme. The program was led by participants from both groups.

MIKE WATTS has accepted the call of the Albany Baptist Church in Freedom Association to become their pastor. To accept his new post, Watts resigned as associate pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington. He began his new work February 23.

DOVER BAPTIST CHURCH in Shelby County honored Mrs. Luther Parker February 9 for 60 years of continuous membership in that church. A plaque was presented her to commemorate the occasion.

A RESOLUTION in memory of the late Mrs. Brittie Pelphrey has been adopted by the Woman's Missionary Union of Warfield Baptist Church in Lovely. A portrait of Mrs. Pelphrey was hung in a church corridor.

THE MASKRAFTERS of Georgetown College will produce Arthur Miller's popular play, *The Crucible*, four evenings beginning February 28 and running through March 3 in Lewis Auditorium of Giddings Hall.

MRS. MARY A. REAMS, widow of the late John F. Reams, long time pastor in the Laurel River Association, died December 26 of cancer. She was a member of Long Branch Baptist Church.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST BUILDING LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40243

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WESTERN RECORDER

Church Relationship, Not Membership

Every year the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention report more and more persons as non-resident members. Just what is meant by non-resident is not always clear. In most cases non-resident means those who reside somewhere else. But there are many cases when it means simply those of whom we have no knowledge and who have no contact with the local church where he has his "membership."

The problem of non-resident members (or as some call them, inactive members) is a very serious problem to the church today. The report of the 54 churches of the Daviess-McLean Baptist Association, Owensboro, Kentucky, this past October reveals that of the 23,700 members 5,644 are non-resident or inactive members. This is 23.8 percent of the total membership of the churches that are lost to any kind of church life. This is nearing one-fourth of the total membership and this is alarming.

SBC non-residents

The 1967 figures from the Southern Baptist Convention reflects the same alarming statistics. In 1967 there was a total of 3,218,597 individuals on the rolls of Southern Baptist churches listed as non-resident. This is 28.8 percent of the membership of our churches. The number of non-resident members is increasing each year. The 1967 figures quoted above represents an 8.7 percent increase over the previous year. As the number of persons on the non-resident rolls of the churches increase, some serious questions about the real meaning and significance of church membership need to be faced.

Historically we have invited people who have been redeemed to join our churches and to become members. On Sunday in almost every Baptist church an open invitation is given to come and transfer one's "church membership." But does the New Testament teach this understanding of church membership? The New Testament talks of people being added to the church and to Christ, but never to membership. Membership is our term not the New Testament's. Some years ago many Baptists in some areas would have their "church membership," or "church letter" as they called it, at home in a trunk. Now how can one's church membership be in a trunk? If one's "church membership" or "church letter" is in a trunk then it becomes a "trunk membership" and not a "church membership."

Re-think church membership

We need to rethink and restate our position on church membership. What is church membership? The answer to this

question is found in the Old Testament figure of the covenant between God and man. A covenant is an agreement which one person has with another. The two parties of the covenant have a relationship because of the agreement. When either party breaks that covenant then the relationship is broken.

It is my contention that we need to talk more about church relationship and less about church membership. This may sound like an insignificant difference of semantics, but imagine what a difference it would make if people understood that when they no longer have a relationship with a church that they no longer have a "membership." How much easier would it be to talk to a Baptist who is from another area about

uniting with a local church if he knew that since he no longer has a relationship with the church "back home," he has no "membership"? Think of how much more effective our cooperate witness would be, if our people understood that when they came into the church they came into a relationship rather than a "membership." Think of how much more time there would be to visit and witness to the unsaved if the unenlisted Baptist didn't have to be pursued and pressured to transfer something called a "church membership."

Relationship is the word, not membership!

T. A. Prickett, Pastor
Seven Hills Baptist Church
Owensboro, Kentucky

Southern Baptist And Home Missions

How are Southern Baptist churches doing in winning those around them? How much are they willing to give in work, prayer, and money to boost their effectiveness?

Southern Baptists will answer these questions March 2-9 during the Week of Prayer and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

Theme for the week is "The Living Church . . . at Work," accenting the cooperative and individual witness and ministry efforts churches are making in the United States.

Goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is a record \$6,500,000.

Ongoing work of the Home Mission Board will get the largest cut of the offering. The first \$4,400,000 is earmarked for support of established programs and missionaries.

The second portion of proposed allocations will go for special projects related to regular work: \$100,000 for student summer missionaries; \$75,000 for US-2 missionaries; \$175,000 for mission buildings; \$25,000 for disaster relief; \$60,000 for scholarships for missionary children; \$15,000 for scholarships for National Baptist volunteers for church vocations.

Project 500, the design to establish 500 new churches in strategic areas, will come in for \$1,500,000 after the ongoing home missions work is secure. The Project 500 allocation is tagged for pastoral aid for new churches and church-type missions.

The last \$150,000 of the \$6,500,000 goal will be set aside for assistance with Christian social ministries in communities with critical needs.

The goal is projected against the 1968 offering, which brought in more than \$4,680,000. The 1968 offering represent-

ed a 14.5 percent gain over the 1967 offering, according to Arthur B. Rutledge, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board. The increase was the largest dollar increase in any one year. Rutledge said, "If we can have the same 15 percent increase in 1969, we will have \$500,000 to invest in Project 500."

Miss Alma Hunt, executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union, explained the reason for the unusual increase in the offering goal. "When Project 500 was designed, we knew that such an unusual effort in missions would require unusual financial backing. We could not afford to reduce support of the permanent work of the Home Mission Board for this special undertaking. We felt that Southern Baptists would be willing to increase their gifts to match the great opportunity in Project 500. We boosted the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal enough to help cover the expense of Project 500."

Rutledge also explained: "Enthusiasm for Project 500 has been heartening, even though financial support has not been as great thus far as we had hoped. Project 500 was projected on the basis of over and above participation. We are hoping for a very strong rally to this opportunity in 1969. Approximately 150 Project 500 churches are already begun."

George W. Schroeder, executive secretary of the Brotherhood Commission, said: "The goal can and should be reached. Every man and boy should prayerfully give a worthy gift."

Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood, along with the pastor, are responsible for promoting the home missions emphasis in churches. Women's, men's, and children's missions groups will be having special prayer and giving sessions during the week.



Nothing Finer Than Carolina Ham And Virginia Bologna

It's really true! "There's nothing finer than to be in Carolina in the morning." Southern Baptist executive secretaries and editors from 30 states were convinced of this when they were in Raleigh for their annual mid-February meetings. North Carolina Executive Secretary Perry Crouch, *Biblical Recorder* Editor Marse Grant and their fellow Tarheel Baptists made it a memorable occasion for their guests.

The thoughtful hosts had almost every minute planned for their guests. Monday night it was a banquet for the whole group with Meredith College beauties singing and Wake Forest University President James Ralph Scales speaking on current unrest on college campuses. Editors and secretaries met separately Tuesday and Wednesday for their programs and business sessions, which were delightfully interspersed with luncheons and sightseeing.

A Tuesday afternoon tour began with a visit to the North Carolina legislature followed by a luncheon at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in nearby Wake Forest. For half or more of the group it was their first visit to the beautiful old Wake Forest College campus used by the seminary since its beginning in 1951. The amazing conversion and renovation of the old buildings and grounds along with some new buildings and the competence and the dedication of the faculty and staff at Southeastern make one of the happy Southern Baptist stories.

Dr. Syd Stealey's tall shadows are still felt and seen everywhere at Southeastern. It was this remarkable man, now retired in Raleigh, who as first president of Southeastern brought it from nothing to an outstanding theological center of learning. His successor, Dr. Olin T. Binkley, is a scholar and administrator of first magnitude but more importantly he is by every measurement one of the gentlest and strongest Christians of our generation.

From Southeastern Seminary we went to Durham and Duke University. The Duke chapel with its impressive architecture and its magnificent organ are worth any effort required to see them. The Duke campus was as quiet as the sunny Carolina afternoon

and the serious students on their way to and from classes gave no hint of the campus riot which broke out only two days later.

Back in Raleigh it was banquet time again, this time at Meredith College. A thousand beautiful and talented young ladies made this a happy and exciting visit. This North Carolina Baptist College for girls is flourishing under the extremely capable administration of former Kentuckian Bruce Heilman.

But the emphasis for the editors was not entertainment but work. The *Western Recorder* along with all other Southern Baptist state papers was analyzed and criticized by experts. We came back with some suggestions which we hope in time will be reflected in improvements in the *Western Recorder*. Assistant Editor Bob Terry and Business and Circulation Manager George Price accompanied the editor for this useful conference.

The three of us enjoyed the drive across the Appalachians to and from Raleigh. Though the majestic mountains and lovely valleys are still brown and naked from winter's breath, the melting snow and swollen streams hint of bursting buds and blushing spring flowers soon to come.

Surely there is nothing finer than to be in Carolina with the unsurpassed hospitality of Carolina Baptists, but we found something also delightful in the mountains of southwest Virginia on the way home. Of all places to find it, it was in a roadside country store where a do-it-yourself sandwich was a welcome change of pace from ham, roast beef, turkey and other delectables.

A thick slice of bologna and a wedge of cheese between two slices of bread and relished with mustard and a slice of sweet onion is really eating high on the hog. A soft drink, dutch apple cookies and a seat beside a pot belly coal burning stove made it sheer ecstasy.

Now it's home again with accumulated mail, telephone calls to return and deadlines to meet. This is delightful too after Carolina ham and Virginia bologna.

Grady Randolph Is A Good Choice

Persistence pays and patience is rewarded. The Kentucky Baptist Foundation directors have patiently and persistently searched for many months for a capable leader for the important ministry of helping those who love the Lord to glorify Him in their wills, in bequests and other gifts to sustain His work.

They had enough discouragement and disappointment to give up long ago but they held to their high ideals and now are rewarded with an outstanding man for this job.

Grady Randolph has proven his abilities as an effective administrator and communicator and has two special qualifications for this work. First, he is already well known and widely accepted by Kentucky Baptists. His ministries in Louisville and Lexington have enabled him to work with many pastors and church leaders in these two Baptist centers and he has also served effectively on statewide committees.

It's Now Up To The Churches

For Southern Baptists it was launched in the final session of the 1966 Southern Baptist Convention in Detroit. In practically every denominational meeting on every level since then this cause has been high on the agenda.

This is the Crusade of the Americas. Born in the hot hearts of Brazilian Baptists, this evangelism thrust by now envisions intense evangelistic efforts in thousands of Baptist churches in North, Central and South America this spring. In Kentucky the actual weeks set for the Crusade revivals are in March, April or May according to the geographical area of the church.

No evangelistic effort of Southern Baptists has engaged as many people nor as much energy. In Kentucky, for example, evangelism clinics are being conducted for most every association. Evangelism Secretary Hicks Shelton with the help of nearly everyone in the Baptist Building has covered the state leaving nothing undone to encourage and help every pastor and church leader to be able to conduct the most effective evangelistic effort.

All this promotion and preparation are now all but over. What's left now is the performance and this depends upon the local churches, their pastors and members. The denomination has done what it can do but all this is to no avail until the churches take it from there.

The price of revival and evangelism is high. Those who pay it will come rejoicing bringing their sheaves; those who don't will have let one of their greatest opportunities pass forever.

Second, he never considers he has learned it all but constantly is trying to learn more about how to do his work effectively. An example is his present enrollment in the University of Louisville for a course in urban studies. Not many men at 48, who already have an approved theological education, would commute 70 miles for specialized training in order to be able to do more effective work.

The Foundation directors are anxious to give their leader the best training for this specialized ministry. In Grady Randolph they have found a man willing to learn, ready to listen and committed to God's leadership. What else could a man have?

The Randolphs will be a welcome addition to the Baptist Building family and they merit the prayers and other support of all Kentucky Baptists in this vital ministry.



TEEN TEMPO

Dear Editor:

On behalf of my Young People's Sunday School Class, we would like to say that we certainly enjoyed the Teen Tempo articles which were recently published in the *Western Recorder* for four consecutive weeks. The articles were very timely and thought provoking. We had planned to select the one we liked best; however, we find this impossible to do, since we consider all four articles to be of "best" quality.

If at all feasible we would like for the feature to be continued on a regular basis. I feel there is a very great dearth of reading material in our Baptist publications that is directed to teen agers.

I think that Donal W. Key is indeed a talented young writer and can use this ability to serve his Lord. I also think the *Western Recorder* staff can serve the Lord through publishing articles written by Key (or, some other young person with the same type of ability).

Bagdad, Kentucky

Wilma Yeary

WOMEN ORDAINED

Dear Editor:

I would like to make a statement and state a fact about the article, "Two Women Ordained By Faith Baptist, Georgetown" by Bob Terry, Assistant Editor.

The statement is as follows: "When Southern Baptists leave the scriptural outlines for choosing and ordaining deacons, I believe we are heading in the wrong direction."

The scripture says Acts 6:3, "Wherefore brethren look ye out among you seven men of honest report." We understand this to be the first deacons ordained in a New Testament Church. The scripture also makes this statement as Paul wrote the requirements of deacons to Timothy. First Timothy 3:12, "Let the deacons be the husband of one wife." Isn't this an impossibility for the sisters of Faith Baptists, Georgetown.

What next? Women preachers! God forbid. First Cor. 14:35B, "For it is a shame for women to speak in the church." Pikeville, Kentucky

Franklin P. Rowe

Southern Seminary Schedules Workshop On Closing Gap Between Youth, Church

Closing the gap between church and youth will be one of the focal points in the "Summer Youth Program Workshop," to be held May 9-11, on the campus of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Sponsored by the seminary's School of Religious Education, the workshop will be designed for those working with youth this summer and will offer practical programming ideas and skills needed for an effective program.

Specialized insight into the youth ministry will come from a number of experienced youth directors and seminary professors, and two members of the Church Recreation Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board—Leon Mitchell and Bob Oldenburg.

Areas to be explored during the workshop include: achieving effective Bible study, recreation, sports, retreats, camping, parties, evangelism, drama, and dealing with contemporary issues.

Workshop Director William R. Cromer, who teaches youth education at the

seminary, indicated that anyone who works with youth during the summer will find the May workshop "a valuable resource in starting and maintaining a youth ministry that will be alive and meaningful to the church, as well as to the young people directly involved."

Ministers of youth, summer youth directors, pastors, ministers of education or music, or interested laymen or laywomen, who might be working with a summer program, are invited to attend.

The \$10.00 per person fee includes housing on campus for two nights, as long as space is available. Early registration is encouraged to insure campus housing. If campus housing is not available, assistance will be given in locating accommodations. The fee also includes payment for a special participant's workbook, but does not include transportation, meals, incidentals, etc.

Persons wishing to register should send a \$5.00 registration fee to Dr. William R. Cromer, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40203.

Baptist Chaplains Expand Group

The Southern Baptist Association of Hospital Chaplains, meeting in New Orleans, voted to change its name and expand its organization to include any Baptist minister who serves as a health care, penal, industrial, correctional or governmental chaplain.

New name for the organization is the Association of Baptist Chaplains.

The group met in connection with a related session of the American Protestant Hospital Association Convention. John B. Cheshire, Jr., of the Baptist Hospital in Pensacola, Florida, is president of the newly-named Association of Baptist Chaplains.

Cheshire explained that government

chaplaincy was added to cover men serving police, fire, or governmental agencies as chaplains.

The organization is also now open to any Southern Baptist minister who serves as a denominational employee with direct interest in, or responsibility for a chaplaincy ministry.

Kentucky officer

Cheshire said that chaplains who qualify for membership under the expanded organization who have not in the past been members should contact Walter Jackson, secretary-treasurer of the association, at Kentucky Baptist Hospital in Louisville, concerning membership information. (BP)

Blakemans Accept Ridgecrest Post

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Blakeman of Frankfort have accepted the post of host and hostess for Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly in North Carolina.

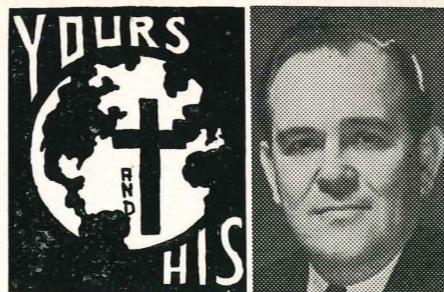
They left Frankfort for their new position during the week of February 2.

Blakeman has been an active deacon in First Baptist Church of Frankfort for several years. He has served as general secretary and superintendent of Sunday School and chairman of a building committee for the church. He also

led the church to establish a church library and served as chairman of the library committee.

Mrs. Blakeman has been an active choir member and WMU worker. Also, she served as superintendent of a Beginner department.

Speaking of their leaving, Herman M. Bowers, pastor of the Frankfort church said, "We rejoice with them in this excellent opportunity to be of convention-wide service but we shall really miss them in our congregation."



The Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission (and Society) is urging Kentucky Baptists to bring their history up to date with a new history book to help celebrate our 200th anniversary of Baptist preaching by 1976. I recommended this to the Executive Board and convention in November of 1968, and previous conventions. The Commission has offered its services to the Convention.

The last history, *A History of Baptists in Kentucky* by Frank M. Masters, copyright 1953, was published by the Kentucky Baptist Historical Society and the expenses were underwritten by its members. I have recommended that the Convention itself take the initiative, underwrite the costs, choose a competent historian, and publish a book which will not only be compilation of facts but also reveal the hand of God and the mind of Kentucky Baptists of all Kentucky in the moving stream of our conscious and unconscious response to the leadership of God in doing His work. A Bi-Centennial Committee has been called for, and President J. T. Miller is planning to name one to take the initiative.

They Waited 110 Years

In the preface to Frank M. Masters' history of 1953, he states that "one hundred and ten years had passed since the first Baptist church was planted on Kentucky soil and the Baptists of the State had become a great denomination, before a history of their activities was written and put in permanent form. By the action of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky (that's us!) in the session of 1876, the request was made that J. H. Spencer, D.D., proceed at once to prepare a history of Kentucky Baptists." After 9 years of toil, Spencer presented the manuscript to the General Association in 1885; which was published in two large volumes, covering the period from 1769 to 1885.

Sixty years later Prof. S. L. Stealey of the seminary made a motion to the Kentucky Baptist Historical Society that Spencer's history be brought up to date. A year later, 1944, the General Association passed resolutions to do so. Leo T. Crismon, then president of the K.B.H. Society, (and now, again!) moved that a committee be appointed to implement it. They chose Frank M. Masters to write it.

But now, a similar approach is being taken. History must repeat itself!

FMB Creates New "Fields," Transfers Kentuckians

The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in regular monthly session February 13, voted to establish the "field representative plan" of organization in two of its six geographical administrative areas of work. (The plan is already in operation in the two areas of Latin America.)

The action provides for two field representatives for Africa south of the Sahara and two for the area of Europe and the Middle East. The Board action divided Africa into two "fields": (1) West Africa and (2) East and Central Africa. The other area divides naturally into Europe and the Middle East.

The field representative is in reality a regional missionary representative. He retains his missionary status but is as-

signed to a "field" rather than to a specific Mission (organization of missionaries). He stands alongside the area secretary in interpreting Board policy to the Missions and the recommendations of the Missions to the Foreign Mission Board. He keeps in close contact with every missionary family on his field and often serves in a pastorate relationship, sharing in the family's plans and problems. Thus, the field representative plan makes possible a more intimate and vital contact between the missionaries and the Board in its rapidly expanding missionary program.

Kentuckians

The Foreign Mission Board also transferred a missionary couple, Mr. and Mrs.

W. Neville Claxon, from Nigeria to Dahomey, on condition that residence permits and permission to begin a mission program can be secured from the government of Dahomey.

Mr. and Mrs. Claxon are currently living in Louisville, where he is on the administrative staff of Kentucky Southern College. They will study French in France before proceeding to Dahomey.

This French-speaking West African country brings to 70 the number of countries to which Southern Baptist missionaries are under assignment. Dahomey, an independent republic since 1960, covers an area slightly larger than the state of Ohio and lies between Togo on the west and Nigeria on the east. The Fon, or Dahomey, people make up about half of the estimated 2,500,000 population, with four other major collections of tribes composing the remainder. Christianity has made progress among the people of the south, and some in the northeast have accepted Islam. Most others cling to an animistic religion.

Transfer medical institutions

The Board transferred the proprietorship of Baptist medical institutions in Nigeria to the Nigerian Baptist Convention with the understanding that title to mission property continue to be held by the Foreign Mission Board. In Nigeria, the term "proprietorship" does not involve ownership, but refers to administrative responsibility.

The transfer means that the full responsibility for the administration of the five Baptist hospitals, six clinics and dispensaries, and the Baptist Health Service (a program of clinics, health education, and nutrition carried out by doctors, pastors, and patients) will be assumed by the Nigerian Baptist Convention and administered through its medical board which is made up of Nigerian Baptist leaders and Southern Baptist missionaries.

A stipulation of the official transfer is that the hospitals continue to be supported as private institutions without financial aid from the government.

Nigerian relief

The Board appropriated \$15,000 from relief funds for the alleviation of human suffering in eastern Nigeria. This brings to \$85,000 the amount thus far designated by the Board for that purpose. Also, \$2,500 from the Board's current funds was added to the emergency fund of the Nigerian Mission, to assist missionaries who have lost their furniture and personal possessions during the disturbances.

Southern Baptist missionaries will operate out of Port Harcourt, largest city in the liberated area of Nigeria, to distribute food and materials.

Annual WMU Convention Planned For Glasgow, 2,000 Women Expected

Approximately 2,000 women will gather at Glasgow Baptist Church April 1-3 for the annual Woman's Missionary Union Convention.

Beginning at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday evening, the convention will ponder the theme "Christ, Hope of the World." Closing of the convention is scheduled for noon Thursday. Pre-convention meetings include conferences for age group workers, WMS organizations and WMU workers. Conferences will begin at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday.

Special features will include presentations concerning the centennial of Child Care Work of Kentucky Baptists, the Week of Prayer for State Missions, special musical groups, a report on the "new look" of Woman's Missionary Union work in the state and recognition of outstanding achievements in churches and associations.

Six foreign missionaries will direct the thoughts of those attending the con-

vention during the various sessions. Representing the Home Mission Board

will be Wendell Belew, director of the department of pioneer missions for the Board. Belew is a former Kentucky pastor having served the First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon, Rockcastle Association.

From the Birmingham office will come Miss Margaret Bruce, WMS director for the convention-wide Woman's Missionary Union.

Mrs. J. S. Woodward of Lexington, president of the state WMU will preside at each session.

Request for credential cards for registration should be made immediately according to Mrs. George Ferguson, state secretary of Woman's Missionary Union. These requests should be made to the WMU office in Middletown.

Because important materials will be distributed at the registration table, Mrs. Ferguson urged everyone to register, even if attending for only one session.

Detailed information about area motels is available in the winter quarter of *Kentucky Notes*, the bulletin mailed to all WMU directors.

Those interested in rooms in homes of area church members should write Mrs. Kenneth Jackson, Central Avenue, Glasgow 42141. Deadline for reservations in homes is March 15.

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Grady Randolph Resigns Elkhorn Post, Accepts Foundation Executive Secretary

Grady L. Randolph, superintendent of missions for the Elkhorn Baptist Association, has been chosen executive secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

The post has been vacant for more than a year following the resignation of James C. Austin who now is Alumni Secretary for the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

A native of Old Hickory, Tennessee, Randolph was ordained to the ministry in 1948 by the Woodmont Baptist Church of Nashville.

Although Randolph received his college degree from George Peabody College in Nashville, he attended Georgetown College for one year. In 1954 he graduated from Southern Seminary. Additional study has been done at

Vanderbilt University School of Religion and the University of Louisville.

Randolph served as associate pastor of the Woodmont Church in Nashville and pastor of the Glenwood Baptist Church of that city before coming to Kentucky.

He has been mission pastor for First Baptist Church, Shelbyville, pastor of Shawnee Baptist Church and Beechland Baptist Church, both of Louisville, as well as holding the mission post in Lexington. Before returning to the Elkhorn post, Randolph was pastor of First Baptist Church of Harrisburg, Illinois.

Randolph was unanimously recommended for the Foundation leadership role by the Foundation directors and also unanimously approved by the administrative committee of the Executive Board. The Executive Board members in turn elected him by mail ballots.

Speaking of his election, Randolph said he counted it a "distinct privilege and honor."

"I see the work of the foundation as a vital part of the total work of Kentucky Baptists," he said. "Through the Cooperative Program we support the total program of Christ in Kentucky and throughout the world. Through the Foundation that work is strengthened now and in the future beyond the life of the donor.

"For the Foundation to provide the financial support needed," he continued, "it will require the cooperation and participation of every Baptist in Kentucky."

Mrs. Randolph is the former June E. Hardcastle. The couple has three children: Wayne, age 21, a senior at Belmont College; Darlene, age 19, a sophomore at Belmont College; and Karen, age 12.



Roberts



Puckett

Roberts, Puckett Elected Presidents

Ray Roberts, executive secretary of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, and R. G. Puckett, editor of the *Maryland Baptist*, state Baptist paper for Maryland, have been elected presidents of their respective organizations for 1969.

Their election came at a joint meeting of state executive secretaries and state editors held in Raleigh, North Carolina, February 10-12.

Roberts succeeds the executive secretary of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Robert Lee, as president of that group. Elected vice president was Roy Gresham of Maryland with James H. Smith of Illinois elected secretary.

Puckett is the former editor of the *Ohio Baptist Messenger* and associate editor of *Western Recorder*. He succeeds Jack Gritz, editor of the *Baptist Messenger*, Oklahoma, as president of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

J. Marse Grant, editor of the North Carolina Baptist state paper, *Biblical Recorder*, was elected vice president.

Re-elected secretary-treasurer was Don McGregor, associate editor of *Baptist Standard*, Texas.

Memorial Aid Fund Given Georgetown

The Vaughn Men's Bible Class of the Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, D. C., has established a \$3,000 memorial student aid fund at Georgetown College honoring the late John Gordon Mein, Ambassador to Guatemala.

Ambassador Mein was slain on the streets of Guatemala City last August by assassins as he motored home from his office. He is the first American ambassador to be felled in the line of duty by terrorists.

Mein, a career diplomat, was a 1936 alumnus of Georgetown College. Two brothers and a sister also graduated from Georgetown. The late ambassador's son and daughter, David and Marilyn, are students at Georgetown.

John Gordon Mein was a long-time member of the Bible Class. This adult men's Class is the oldest active group of its type in the country. During one period of duty in the nation's capitol, Ambassador Mein taught the class.

The men have also resolved to solicit funds from other sources. The Vaughn Bible Class, in making the announcement, felt this memorial expression best typifies the continuing major interest of the late Ambassador who maintained an avid interest in higher education and youth.

The announcement of the Fund was made to the College by one of the Bible Class' past Presidents, Navy Captain Ancel Cook, a native of Georgetown and a graduate of the College.

Evangelism Clinics Prepare For Americas Crusade

by BOB TERRY
Assistant Editor

"We're getting into about 70 of our 80 associations. That is the most we've been in since I have been here."

These were the words of Evangelism Secretary Hicks Shelton as he reflected over the Evangelism Clinics already held and toward those remaining in February and March.

"We are trying to make our people realize that evangelism is more than mass meetings," Shelton said. "In the conferences I'm leading, we talk about 'Making Disciples' but this year the Training Union is participating. They are leading conferences on 'Training the Disciples'."

Also assisting in the Clinics are the Brotherhood Department and the Department of Direct Missions.

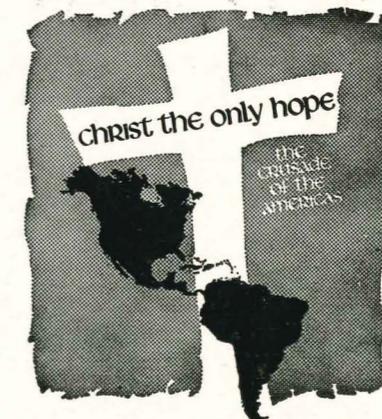
Shelton pointed out that twenty years ago, Southern Baptists were riding the crest of the greatest number of baptisms and public decisions. "What we overlooked," he added, "is that evangelism is not complete until those evangelized are equipped to be evangelists."

The Secretary then related an incident of picking up a hitch-hiker at the toll gate on the Kentucky Turnpike near Elizabethtown. "During the conversation I asked the boy about his relationship with God," stated Shelton.

"Are you a preacher?" he replied.

"You know, it is a sad day when only the preacher is supposed to be interested in the soul of a person," he said contemplating the experience.

When asked if the people across the state were understanding the personal involvement emphasized in the Clinics, Shelton replied that many were.



"We will reach the leaders of more than half the churches in the Kentucky Baptist Convention during these Clinics. Where there is alert leadership, this point is getting across. Where there isn't, we aren't being heard."

Shelton related that in some areas a vital interest in the Crusade of the

Americas has been kindled. "Logan County and that area are just doing a great job. They are on radio and television and the newspapers are covering the Crusade with front page stories," he said. "Places like this are prepared to hear and to act.

"However," Shelton added, "most places are not like Logan County. Most of us Baptists are so committed to popular evangelism (mass meetings) that we don't hear anything else," he said.

"Now I am first of all a preacher," the secretary stated, "and I believe in mass evangelism but it is just a harvest time. Unless the one-to-one work is done by the pastors and laymen popular evangelism will not get the job done."

The Crusade of the Americas has three goals Shelton pointed out. They are: 1. The deepening of the spiritual life within the churches, home and individual Christians; 2. The evangelizing of the American Continent; 3. The establishing of true moral and spiritual bases for the betterment of mankind's economic, social and physical welfare.

Remarking that Kentucky is concentrating only on the second goal, evangelism, Shelton added that the Crusade will have to be more than another simultaneous revival to be a success.

"I have been saying for three years that unless we properly prepare, the Crusade could be the greatest flop Baptists have ever been connected with.

"I get letters most every day from a church that has just decided to get in the Crusade of the Americas. Well it is almost too late. Two years of the Crusade are over. Now we are coming to the harvest time. If we expect God to bless us for six weeks' work like he would for three years' work, we haven't been reading our Bibles," Shelton commented.

"If we haven't sown seeds and cultivated them, we can't expect a great harvest. The Bible teaches we reap what we sow."

Financial Woes Plague SBC

Sad news awaited Southern Baptist agencies and institutions when the 1970 budget recommendations were made by the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in its semi-annual meeting in Nashville, February 17-19. The request made for additional appropriations by the agencies and institutions for 1970 amounted to \$5,363,000 over the amounts already approved for 1969.

After considering the anticipated Cooperative Program income for 1970, the Executive Committee recommended only a two percent cost of living adjustment in 1970. The total increase recommended will amount to \$597,000 instead of the \$5,363,000 requested. Requests generally exceed the amounts recommended but not by such a margin. The Southern Baptist Convention budget for 1970 will be considered and acted upon at the Convention in New Orleans, June 10-13, 1969.

This is the least expected increase which the Convention has budgeted in many years. In addition is the \$722,530 deficit for 1968 in the capital needs section of the Southern Baptist Convention

budget. In light of the prospect of the 1969 Cooperative Program receipts being less than the budget goal for operating funds and capital funds, the agencies are being told not to anticipate funds in 1969 and asked not to make obligations for using such funds without Convention or Executive Committee approval.

Concern was expressed for finding ways to increase Cooperative Program support among the 35,000 Southern Baptist churches. This concern was reflected in a special \$50,000 appropriation from a reserve fund for the purpose of conducting a pilot project in Cooperative Program promotion. The Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission will be in charge of this project.

In other action of the Executive Committee, Dallas was recommended as the site for the 1974 Southern Baptist Convention. The date would be June 11-14. Sites already approved for the Convention meetings are New Orleans, 1969; Denver, 1970; St. Louis, 1971; Philadelphia, 1972; and Portland, 1973.

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MEMO FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I mentioned a few weeks ago in a memo here that hundreds of men and women had found, at Clear Creek, the answer to their special needs for Christian training. I mentioned too, that literally hundreds of these men and women are now serving churches in almost every state of the nation.

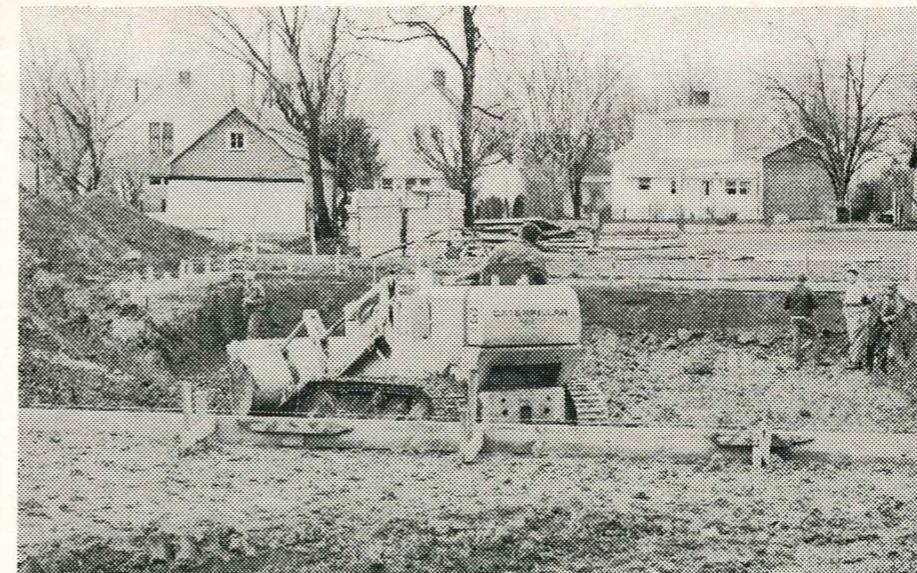
In a sense we are in the exporting business—sending out well trained Christian men and women to serve these needy communities, while settled here in this peaceful valley and busy with the day-to-day activities with these fine students, it is exciting to know that reaching from the hills of Pineville, there is a strong, steady influence of Christian leadership at work all over the country.

We listen and we watch with thankful hearts to the reports as they come in from "our students". They speak clearly of what God is doing through them in the varied ministries they find themselves. They have gone into rural areas where the need for Spiritual leadership was desperate—and have found a mission field waiting for a harvest.

Never have we more felt the intense need to continue this unique training program. There are so many areas in this land of ours where communities are without pastors, and trained educational workers, that we find, each day, renewed inspiration from the knowledge that Clear Creek Baptist School has a vital part in extending the Great Commission of Christ to areas far outside our campus.

We are inspired, too, by the many who have committed themselves to the prayerful support of this work. If you would like to receive a free subscription to our publication, *The Mountain Voice*, just drop us a postcard with your name and address.

D. M. ALDRIDGE, PRESIDENT



CONSTRUCTION BEGINS—Bad weather delayed the start of construction of the new J. K. Powell Athletic Center at Campbellsville College. However, workers have begun digging for the indoor swimming pool in the new \$700,000 building. Originally the athletic center was to be completed May 1. No new target date has been set but May 1 seems impossible to meet according to college officials. Funds for the new building were borrowed from a local Federal Savings and Loan Association and will be repaid with appropriations from the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

SBC Statistics Show Gains And Losses

Church membership in the Southern Baptist Convention increased to 11.3 million during 1968, the denomination's research and statistics department reported in its annual report.

Although total church membership increased 189,503 over the 1967 membership figures, decreases were reported in Sunday School, Brotherhood (laymen's groups), and Woman's Missionary Union organization enrollments, and in the number of baptisms.

The statistics were based on reports from 34,295 churches affiliated with the nation's largest Protestant denomination. The number of churches was up 148 from the number reported last year.

The research and statistics department of the SBC Sunday School Board, which tabulated the report, estimated that churches affiliated with the SBC contain 43 percent of the membership of all Baptist churches in the nation.

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Ben Mitchell Resigns

Ben F. Mitchell announced his resignation as interim pastor of the Clifton Heights Baptist Church, Louisville, effective February 15. The announcement was made during the Sunday morning worship service February 2.

Mitchell, for 14 years superintendent of missions for the Long Run Association, has served the church since he resigned his associational post in 1967.

Members of the Clifton Heights Church honored Mitchell and his wife at a farewell luncheon Sunday, February 9, after the morning worship hour.

Mitchell will continue to live at his home in Louisville. He will now be free for pulpits supply, revivals, Bible study teaching and interim pastorates.

Preparation For '70s Feature Of Conference

A five-day series of meetings, including a session concerning preparation for the 1970's, will be held April 14-18 for ministers of education across the Southern Baptist Convention.

Sponsored by the Sunday School and church training departments of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, the seminar, "The Minister of Education Building a Teaching and Training Program," will be in Nashville at the board's Church Program Training Center.

Registration for the five-day session, including three meals, will be \$20. Inquiries concerning the seminar and registration fees may be sent to The Church Program Training Desk, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tennessee 37203.

Summary of 1968 Southern Baptist Convention Statistics

	1968	1967	Numerical Change	Percent Change
Associations	1,196	1,187	9	.8
Churches	34,295	34,147	148	0.4
Baptisms	373,025	378,937	-5,912	-1.6
Additions by Letter	531,351	541,391	-10,040	-1.9
Total Membership	11,332,229	11,142,726	189,503	1.7
Sunday School Enrollment.....	7,545,513	7,579,203	-33,690	-0.4
Vacation Bible School Enrollment	3,227,705	3,439,325	-212,620	-6.2
Brotherhood Enrollment	448,738	457,770	-9,032	-2.0
Woman's Missionary Union Enrollment	1,407,673**	1,444,464	-36,791	-2.5
Music Ministry Enrollment	1,038,290	1,019,130	19,160	1.9
Tithes, Offerings, Special Gifts...\$	761,898,138	711,775,365	\$ 50,122,773	7.0
Mission Expenditures	128,025,859	120,454,869	7,570,990	6.3
Per Capita Tithes, Offerings, Special Gifts	67.23	63.88	3.35	5.2
Per Capita Mission Expenditures	11.30	10.81	.49	4.5
Church Property Value	3,657,097,050	3,495,020,717	162,076,333	4.6
New Construction, Local Church	129,976,060	155,209,065	-25,233,005	-16.3
New Construction, Local Church Mission	4,268,246	6,428,565	-2,214,319	-34.2

** Includes hospital and campus YWA's in addition to statistics for churches.

Criswell Urges De-Emphasis Of Pre-Convention Meetings

The president of the Southern Baptist Convention, expressing concern about attendance trends at the annual meeting of the SBC, suggested that the pre-convention meetings held in conjunction with the SBC be de-emphasized.

Speaking to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in Nashville SBC President W. A. Criswell of Dallas said that by the time the pre-convention sessions are over, those who attended have been "bled emotionally dry."

Instead of emphasizing five different "conventions" in addition to the annual session of the nation's largest Protestant denomination, Criswell urged the program planners for the five group meetings to cooperate in making the SBC meeting more powerful and meaningful.

He urged the convention program planners to admit that "it is not possible any more to have these long, extended conventions."

Criswell, pastor of the 14,000-member First Baptist Church of Dallas, used three words to describe the annual cluster of meetings at convention time: "anticlimatic," "fragmentary," and "aimlessness."

Public Opinion Poll For Baptist State Papers Planned

Plans for a Baptist public opinion poll similar to the famed Gallup Poll were presented during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Press Association held in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The public opinion poll on current issues is to be conducted by the research and statistics department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, and distributed through the Baptist Press.

Called "Baptist VIEWpoll", the monthly feature will try for the first year to give a cross section of the views of Baptist pastors and Sunday School teachers on current affairs and issues, the editors of nearly 30 Baptist state papers were told.

Martin Bradley, secretary of the board's research and statistics department, told the editors that the national accounting firm of Peat, Marwick and Mitchell was helping by maintaining all contact with the pastors and teachers polled, to insure complete confidence of the names of those being polled.

Bradley said there would be cooperation between Gallup and his office so that subject matter could be used at the same time by both groups, enabling a comparison between Baptist views and the general public. (BP)

He cited trends nationally for big conventions to be shorter. He noted the tendency of many Baptists to skip the closing sessions of the SBC.

He suggested joint planning by the committees that outline the program of the SBC and the Woman's Missionary Union Convention, and even the possibility of pooling resources to bring outstanding speakers to both meetings.

Citing the organization of the SBC and past history, Criswell said that concern for missions ought to bind all Baptists together when they meet for their annual sessions.

Not going anywhere

Criswell reserved his strongest words for the SBC Pastors' Conference which precedes the SBC each year, and the Evangelists' Conference that usually meets on Thursday afternoon.

"My impression of the Pastors' Conference and Evangelists' Conference is that they are just having a preaching marathon," said Criswell, who added he was a frequent preacher at both meetings.

"They're just up there feeling good, God bless them for that—I need to feel good—they're up there saying marvelous words, but we're not going anywhere," Criswell declared, drawing both laughter and applause.

"We love that convocation—why, I love to hear a gifted preacher preach. . . . But as surely as God lives in heaven, we are taking the energies of our Southern Baptist people, its leaders, its pastors, its people, and we are channeling it in an aimless convocation."

"And when the time comes to get down to do something," he added, "the people are all gone. They have washed out. They've been bled emotionally dry."

Solutions

As a solution, Criswell proposed that the Woman's Missionary Union begin their convention on Sunday, and that the leaders of the four other groups jointly help plan a SBC program that is "powerful and meaningful."

"We don't know what a blessing it would be to take all of the energies of our convention and channel them all toward solving and facing some of the tremendous, overwhelming problems of our day and generation," he said.

He specifically mentioned the need for joint planning by the SBC Woman's Missionary Union Convention, the Religious Education Association, the Church Music Convention, the Pastors' Conference, and the Evangelists' Conference. (BP)



Blessitt

Blessitt To Lead Louisville Crusade

Nationally known hippie evangelist Arthur Blessitt will conduct a youth crusade in Louisville March 1-15.

Blessitt, owner and operator of a Sun Set Strip night club named His Place, has received national television and press coverage for his work with hippies, Black Panthers and Sun Set Strip youths.

Sponsored by the Walnut Street Baptist Church, the Crusade will begin Saturday, March 1, when Blessitt meets with Louisville area pastors and laymen for a breakfast at the Walnut Street Church.

Sunday morning Blessitt will preach at Walnut Street. The message will be carried throughout the area by WLKY television, channel 32.

Four other church services are planned, Sunday through Wednesday evening. Each service will begin at 7:30 p.m.

"After that we don't know what will happen," said Robert Young, associate pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church. "We are hoping that things will begin to happen outside the church."

Young explained that wherever Blessitt goes things just begin to happen. In at least a half dozen major cities where Blessitt led crusades, youth meeting just "broke out" in schools, driveways, shopping malls and night spots.

"We don't know why it happens but the Lord is using him," Young said. "We want the same thing to happen in Louisville."

Saturday, March 8, a city-wide youth meeting is scheduled at Atherton High School. Tentatively, the Convention Center has been reserved for a meeting Saturday, March 15.

"We aren't scheduling the Holy Spirit out of this," Young emphasized. "We have left most of the schedule open to see what happens."

Persons wishing to attend the Saturday breakfast at Walnut Street church, should make reservations with the church no later than noon Friday, February 28.

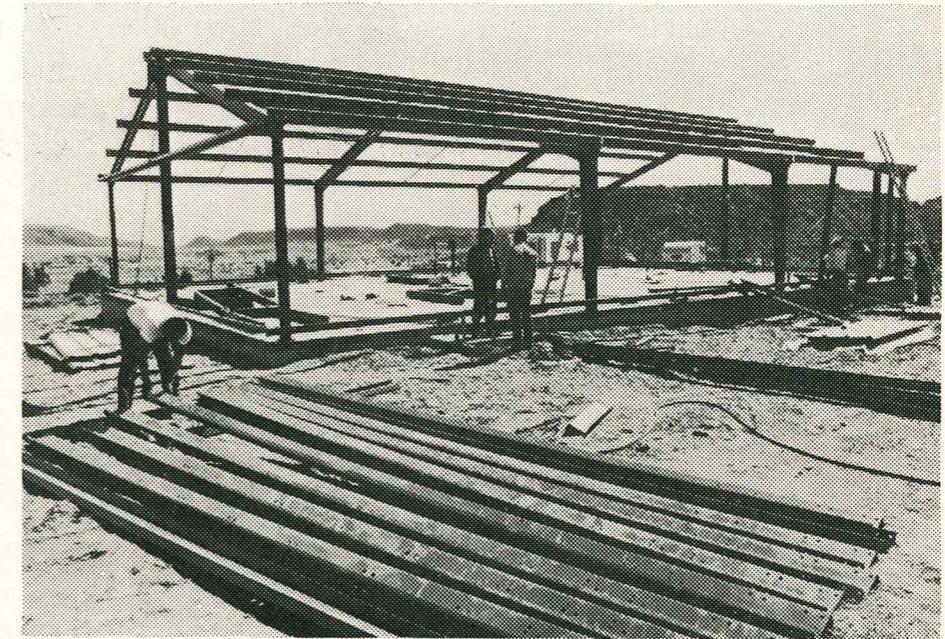


MEDICINE for the body, the story of Jesus for mind and soul. Ministry and witness at the Well Child Clinic of the Baptist Neighborhood Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, is one of hundreds of home missions enterprises dependent on the Week of Prayer for Home Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Week Of Prayer For Home Missions

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

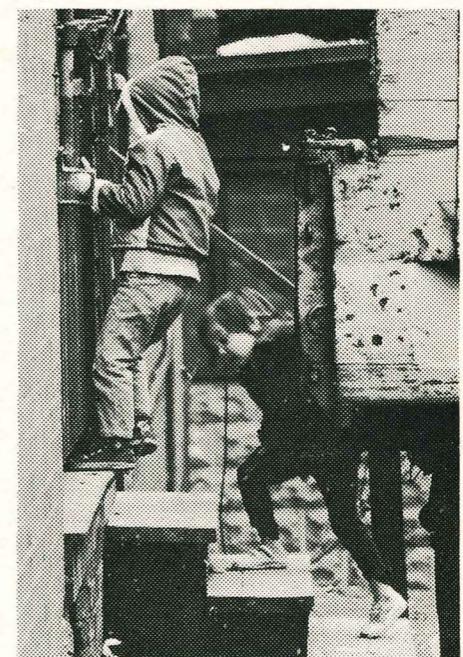
Goal: \$6,500,000



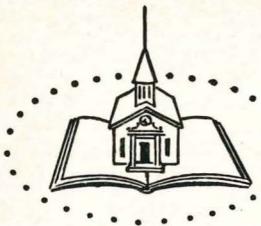
BETTER FACILITIES are often the key to effectiveness, as in the Indian mission of Teec Nos Pos, Arizona. Proposed allocation for mission buildings: \$175,000.



MISSIONS WORK is boosted annually by student summer workers like these who are working with migrant farmers in Utah. Proposed allocation for sending out 675 summer missionaries: \$100,000. For sending 65 US-2 missionaries: \$75,000.



IN COMMUNITIES where crowded conditions and human misery create a crisis, the Home Mission Board can step in with Christian social ministries. Proposed allocation for special assistance in critical areas: \$150,000.



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By H. C. Chiles

(These Lessons for March 9, 1969)

INTERNATIONAL SERIES

The Meaning Of Discipleship

Mark 10-17-31

Upon leaving the house in which He had blessed the children Christ was met by a young man who came running and knelt before Him. From this graphic story, which is so rich in practical instruction, we shall observe some things that are worthy of our most thoughtful and prayerful consideration.

A striking ruler

In all probability this young man was approximately thirty years of age. He possessed many praiseworthy virtues. Seriousness was one of the first signs of his greatness. He was unusually discerning. His morals, habits, and conduct were commendable. His character and reputation were above reproach. He was justly proud of his clean record. He was reverent in spirit, but, like many others, his piety was purely negative. All that he could boast of was the evil which he had not done. He had great possessions, but that fact speaks of great opportunity and grave peril.

A strange request

Even though the young man had a high position, a clean record and great possessions, he still had a craving for something which he did not have. He was not discontented with what he had, but he was dissatisfied with what he was. Having heard about eternal life, and knowing that he did not have it, he was interested in learning how he might obtain it.

Confident that Christ knew the secret of how it might be secured, he ran and knelt at His feet and asked Him, "Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" The young man deserved commendation for going to the right person and in the right spirit.

His question revealed the fact that he thought eternal life could be obtained through his own efforts. He was woefully ignorant in supposing that it could be secured by something that he himself could do. By the deeds of the law no flesh is ever justified in the sight of God.

A startling reply

Christ directed his attention to the commandments, which he had been trying to observe in the belief that nothing else would be required of him. The

Saviour wanted him to see that eternal life is not something bestowed upon one as a recompense for moral excellence or faithful service.

No man had ever been saved because of what he did to or for his fellows. Although some people are teaching salvation by works with new vigor and viciousness today, it is still true that nobody has even been able to save himself. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us" (Titus 3:5).

Knowing full well that he had one fatal lack, which was eternal life, Christ commanded the young man to dispose of his possessions because they were standing between him and salvation.

A sorrowful result

Seeing infinite possibilities in the young man, if he were only saved and submissive to the Lord's will, Christ gazed at him lovingly and longingly. When He offered eternal life to him on terms which were different from what

he expected, the young man declined to receive it. He wanted the blessing, but only on his own terms. The eager look passed from his face and the shadow of a great disappointment darkened his brow as he turned and went away from Christ in great sorrow, without salvation or hope of heaven. Conscious that he was missing much, he turned his back upon Christ and made the greatest mistake that one can possibly make, namely, that of refusing eternal life.

When compared to eternal life all else sinks into insignificance. Because it is the one matter of primary concern, get rid of whatever is keeping you from yielding your will to the will of Christ and obtaining eternal life, regardless of what it is. Salvation is possible only on the Lord's terms and in His way. When one is saved by Christ and then makes a full and unreserved commitment of his personality, possessions and plans to Him he will be richly rewarded both in this life and in the life to come.

LIFE AND WORK SERIES

Partners Through Prayer

Earnest prayer is a prerequisite to success in missionary endeavor. This lesson teaches Christians that they can make a tremendous contribution to the progress and effectiveness of the gospel by dedicating themselves to the important ministry of intercessory prayer.

Prayer for Himself

Romans 15:30-33

This dedicated and courageous missionary planned to carry the offerings received from the Gentile congregations to the mother church in Jerusalem. Due to the animosity of the Jews, who plotted to cause him serious trouble and possibly take his life, wisdom dictated that he travel by land rather than by water. Because of his grave concern about what might happen to him at the hands of the unbelieving Jews, Paul besought the Christians at Rome to pray for his personal safety and for him to

have an effective ministry in Jerusalem. He requested them to agonize with him before God on his behalf. It was his earnest hope that God might bring him safely to Rome for a period of rest and spiritual refreshment before he proceeded to Spain. He wanted the people of God to join him in prayer to the end that God might be pleased to grant him this joyous privilege. It is noteworthy that Paul unselfishly prayed for those whom he requested to pray specifically for him and his ministry as a missionary.

Prayer for more workers

Matthew 9:35-38

Instead of establishing a residence and dispensing His favors to all needy applicants, Christ proceeded on a tour of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, healing all kinds of diseases, comforting the sorrowing, and raising the dead.



Through these different methods of doing missionary work Christ sought to minister to the minds, spirits, and bodies of those He met.

As Christ moved hither and thither, observing the condition of the masses in those populous centers, His heart was moved with compassion.

"Compassion" is such a beautiful, expressive, and rich word. It is more than pity or mercy. It means the going out of the inmost soul in tender love and earnest longing, and suffering with those in need. Such compassion is one of the great needs in the lives of present-day Christians. Is your heart moved with compassion as you see the unsaved all about you? What are you doing to help them become reconciled to God? Our Lord certainly wants His followers to have a kindred compassion for the Christless millions around the world.

Christ gave a very definite command as to how to obtain more laborers. He said, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." Do you ever pray fervently for God to send His unemployed to work for Him? Do you ever ask Him to thrust cut new workers into His vineyard with a real sense of divine compulsion? He has a perfect right to send whom He pleases, for it is His own harvest. However, if we are to pray earnestly for laborers to be sent forth, as He has commanded us to do, we must be willing to be among those who are sent, as the Lord wills. Let us yield ourselves to Him for this purpose, saying with Isaiah, "Here am I; send me."

Prayer for all

I Timothy 2:1-4

Both in those troublous days and in the present-day international disorder and violence, prayer was and is a duty that every Christian owed or owes to God, to others, and to himself. Prayer is also a precious privilege. Since Paul was exceptionally faithful in his personal prayer life, we are fortunate in having his instructions and counsel about the scriptural matter of prayer.

In his request, which applies to both the private and public prayers of God's children, Paul set forth four types of prayer: supplications, petitions, intercessions, and thanksgivings. Supplications are the requests which are made of God by those who have a keen awareness of their personal needs and of their own insufficiency to supply them. Petitions are the verbal expressions addressed to God of our desires for Him to supply our needs. Intercessions are our pleas to God in behalf of another or others. Thanksgiving is an expression of appreciation to God for His gifts to us.

What a pity that so many pray only as a last resort! Christ prayed about everything, and we shall never be able to improve on His example.

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MUSIC INNOVATION—Cumberland College recently installed a Baldwin Electro Piano Laboratory in its music department. It is the first installation of such equipment in Kentucky and only the third in the United States. Harold Wortman, music department head, called the six student units and one teacher unit "one of the latest developments for the classroom."

SBC Opposes Vatican Ambassador

Southern Baptists would not favor the appointment of any official representative of the United States Government to the Vatican. This is the position communicated to President Nixon by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in the light of persistent reports that such an appointment is under consideration. No confirmation of such plans has been made by the White House but a report in a Washington newspaper says the Vatican has confirmed that such plans are under consideration.

The statement to the President, unanimously approved by the Executive Committee in session on February 19, listed several reasons for not favoring the appointment of such a representative. "There is a growing mutual spirit of respect and goodwill among the various religious bodies in the United States today. We feel that this new spirit of openness and trust would suffer if churches, . . . , tried to reassert or claim old political prerogatives on the European model."

The statement also reminded the President that Baptists understand the United States Constitution to contain the assumption that churches are essentially spiritual bodies without special political position or political power.

"The appointment of a special representative to the Vatican would, in our opinion, seriously erode civic and religious goodwill in this country," said the statement. Such an appointment was also described as "an unfortunate step backwards in American political theory and practice, and in the separate and proper functioning of church and state."

It was not known whether such a possible appointment would be an official ambassador or a personal representative. One rumor has it that the representative would accompany the President on his current trip to Europe and remain in Rome following the President's visit to the Vatican.

Myron Taylor served as a Presidential "personal representative" to the Vatican under President Roosevelt and President Truman. An "ambassador" was proposed and dropped in 1950.

Advocates of such United States representation at the Vatican say the Vatican has important information on world affairs which would be valuable to the United States and that peace efforts might be advanced by such a relationship between the United States and the Vatican.

The statement from Southern Baptists opposing such an appointment was communicated to the President by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Deacon Ordinations

Glasgow Baptist Church, Glasgow: Marvin Nicholson, Jr., Elwood "Red" Jeffries, and Murphy M. Demunbrun.

Central Grove Baptist Church, Ohio County Association: Otis Jackson.

Immanuel Baptist Church, Elkhorn Association: Sam Yeary, Joe Elam.

First Baptist Church, Princeton: James Greer, Woodrow Thompson.

Barren River Baptist Church, Bowling Green: Billy Ray Smith, Gene Manning.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, South District Association: Jake Burns, Edward Bottoms.

Columbia Church Calls David Gardner

David M. Gardner is now serving as pastor of the Columbia Baptist Church, Columbia. He moved to this pastorate from Munfordville where he had served for three years.

Gardner was born in Owensboro, Kentucky, and received his college education at Georgetown College and his theological training at Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville.



Gardner

He is married to the former Barbara Shelton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hicks Shelton. Shelton is secretary of evangelism for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The Gardners have three children: Mark, age 5; Lisa, age 2; and Amy, age 1.

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