



ASK OF ME...

and I will make the nations your heritage
and the ends of the earth your possession.

Psalm 2:8



**The 1973 goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter
Offering for Home Missions is \$6,600,000**

The mission field that is America—sprawling urban complexes without churches, millions without Christ, others with special hurting needs—presents a challenge for creative efforts to make discipleship real. This offering supports more than half of Southern Baptists' national missions. It also holds the promise of new achievements because of the prayers, financial support and missionary volunteers that are a part of its emphasis.

Record Year Of Service Noted

After reaching record levels in several areas of its work, the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board recently announced plans to widen the effect of its ministry of retirement and insurance protection for church-related vocational workers.

Record statistics in investment income, premium dues and payments, benefits paid out, and funds held in trust were disclosed at the annual meeting of the board's trustees.

Board president Darold H. Morgan of Dallas told trustees that, as significant as the achievements have been, the board must work unrelentingly to reach more SBC churches and agencies with retirement and insurance protection for their staff members.

Funds held in trust for 38,900 participants in the board's retirement plans passed \$300 million for the first time last year, and now stand at \$336,439,081, Morgan said.

This surpasses last year's mark by about \$44 million. These funds are held in trust to pay out as benefits when participants retire from their places of service.

The Annuity Board invests these funds to increase retirement benefits it can provide. In 1972, according to Morgan, investment income reached a record \$22,295,543, an increase of over \$6 million from the year before.

Income from premiums and dues pushed past the \$30 million level for the first time last year, and amounted to \$31,172,754. This compares with approximately \$25 million the previous year.

Retirement and other protection benefits paid out last year topped \$10 million for the first time, reaching \$11,-

192,951, an increase of \$1.3 million over the years before. This does not include insurance claims for life, health, and disability coverage, Morgan noted.

Some 638 annuitants were added to benefit rolls of the Annuity Board in 1972, also a record. That number included 387 by age retirement, 188 widows, and 63 claiming disability benefits.

Another record also was set, a record low in the number receiving relief payments. This number continued its slow decline over a period of years, dipping for the first time below 400.

The Annuity Board, in the only phase of its ministry maintained entirely by Cooperative Program funds, now provides relief funds to 398 persons — 124 ministers and 274 widows of ministers.

Five years ago the board was providing relief aid to 501 persons. In 1972, according to Morgan, the board paid out \$171,581 in Cooperative Program funds provided for relief. (BP)

Church Chuckles by CARTWRIGHT



"Promise you won't take this and spend it on something foolish?"

DEVOTIONAL



Paul Whittler
Business Manager
Western Recorder

Hebrews 12:2

One of the big problems of our modern day is having our vision too low. We look about us and see the faults of one another. In the shortcomings and mistakes of others, we cry out in disgust, "Is there any hope?"

How often have we met people who were downhearted, disappointed, disgruntled at life and ready to throw in the towel because life had been more than they were able to cope with? Is life so hard and times so bad that life is not worth living?

Our country has more now than ever before in the history of our nation. Yet, it is not uncommon to find disgruntled people in a time of plenty. The answer is not in the amount of things that a man may possess but in what direction he casts his vision.

When a man looks about him and is disgusted with what he sees and cries out as did the prophet of old "vanity of vanity, all is vanity," he has his sights too low. When we look unto Jesus, He causes us to see ourselves as we really are.

Our problem is not in the distance of our vision but in the direction. As long as we look at our fellowman and expect perfection from him, we are going to be disappointed. But, when Christ is our example, this helps us see our fellowman differently.

Jesus had much to say about attitude. He said on one occasion, "Judge not that ye be not judged for with what judgment ye judge ye shall be judged, and with what measure ye mete it shall be measured unto you again." What did He mean? He was speaking of attitude as well as judgment. The attitude we take toward others will be the attitude that they take toward us in return. But what causes us to take either the right or wrong attitude is the direction we are looking in. If our vision is upon Christ, we will think of our fellowman in the term that Jesus did, seeing each one as a sheep without a shepherd, hungering and thirsting for inner peace. If our vision is on our fellowman, we will try to remove the splinter in the eye of our fellowman while there is a mote in our own.

Churches And Parents Should Teach Prayer

Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Tom C. Clark, who wrote the court's opinion banning compulsory prayer in public schools, said in St. Louis that churches and parents are to blame, not the courts or schools, for lack of religious training for children.

Clark was major speaker at the 25th anniversary conference of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

"Why cannot the churches teach the young people not only to pray, but also what prayer is about?" Justice Clark asked the 2,000 persons attending the conference.

Prayer in schools usually consists of forcing young people to mumble in unison over a prayer at the beginning of the school day, Clark observed.

"A child who prepares and gives grace at the family dinner receives more benefit from those few words of his own than from all the prayers that

others write and he chants in school," the former Supreme Court justice said.

Clark traced the history of conflict between religion and the constitution, and concluded that the Supreme Court decisions on prayer in schools "has proven to be constructive."

Glenn L. Archer, executive director of Americans United, told the conference that proposed federal tax credits on tuition paid by parents of parochial school students would constitute "subsidies for churches" in violation of the constitution.

Such "tax credit schemes" are proposed as measures for "circumventing the constitution," Archer said.

Representative James C. Corman (Democrat, California), a member of the House Ways and Means Committee before which tax credit measures are pending, told the group that a tax credit has the same financial impact on the treasury as a direct subsidy.

Corbin added that the tax credit plan

would result in "a substantial revenue loss" and could "open the flood gates for a myriad of similar proposals."

Several other speakers during the two day conference attacked tax credit proposals, and pledged continued opposition to measures providing government funds for churches.

Leo J. Jordan, counsel for the National Association of the Laity, a Catholic organization, said Catholics have not had an opportunity to express themselves, but instead it is the bishops who push for tax credits.

"Catholics are no different from the majority of Americans," he said, "in relation to religious liberty." Only one in three Catholic students attends a parochial school, he added.

Jimmy R. Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church of San Antonio and president of Americans United, closed the conference with an appeal for "re-establishment of an understanding of religious freedom." (BP)

Internal Revenue Service Puts Pressure On Churches

By Frank A. Sharp
Editor ABNS

By some quirk of administrative thinking in Washington, the government has apparently stipulated a new requirement in return for church tax exemption — namely, that churches refrain from political, economic and social activity.

Within the past several years there has been increasing government pressure on church organizations in the form of federal tax investigations.

The tax investigations show a pattern of harassment of those church groups that have been engaged in social action which runs contrary to the political philosophy currently in vogue. Apparently the current definition of good citizenship is to be neuter politically, don't rock the boat, don't disagree with the administration and don't try to change things, even by non-violent, democratic procedures.

Recently, the Internal Revenue Service asked to see the books of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, but the executive secretary, James A. Christison, refused to allow the IRS to examine the records. Christison said that he refused the audit because he considered it an unconstitutional intrusion of government into church affairs.

Last fall, shortly after the Pentagon Papers were published by Beacon Press, a religious printing house, FBI agents approached the bank where the Unitarian-Universalist Association does

the constitutionally guaranteed "free exercise of religion."

The resolution continued, "It is ironic that the Internal Revenue Service has thus become a bar to effective collective action of these groups most likely to serve the public interest, while corporations organized for profit can deduct as 'cost of doing business' the expense of their lobbying efforts."

The board also emphasized that when certain churches are granted tax exemption in preference to others it results in discrimination and preference that may be a violation of the constitutional "prohibition against an 'establishment' of religion."

Certainly a church organization should not have to abandon its constitutional rights in order to qualify for tax exemption.

A recent editorial appeared in the *Charlotte* (North Carolina) *Observer* which said regarding church activism that "apparently the movement has hit a tender spot in the Nixon administration." If the IRS (aided at times by the FBI) "is concentrating its investigative attentions upon activist groups because of nudging from high administrative officials acting out of political bias, this is a very grave matter indeed."

The editorial ended by saying that the National Council's report of governmental investigation of church ledgers "calls for serious attention." (ABNS)

Informed Baptists depend on
WESTERN RECORDER

WESTERN RECORDER

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST BUILDING MIDDLETOWN, KENTUCKY 40243

Vol. 147 February 24, 1973 No. 7

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Owned and published weekly, except one issue in January and July, by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Kentucky Baptist Building, Middletown, Kentucky 40243. Second class postage paid at Middletown, Kentucky.

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It's Urgent To Be In Portland This Year

Churches which have not already done so should immediately consider sending their pastor and/or lay representatives to the 1973 Southern Baptist Convention in Portland, Oregon, June 12-14. This is important for the sake of the congregation as well as for the welfare of all Southern Baptists.

The knowledge and inspiration which a pastor receives from the convention sessions enhance his ministry to the congregation far more than the cost involved. In fact, it's difficult for a pastor to be meaningfully involved and deeply committed to the life and work of our denomination without experiencing the spirit and participating in the actions of convention sessions. And the church generally reflects the attitude of the pastor in convention participation.

For some the Portland convention offers a wonderful opportunity to combine this event with a vacation and make it a family affair. Many of us crusaded years for convention dates in June so families with children in school could attend and now we have them. With travel trailers or other economical travel plans Baptist families can attend the convention and also see a spectacular part of America.

Every convention is an important one but the 1973 convention stands to be a critical one. This is because each convention reflects the mood of the geographical area where it meets. Issues that affect the work of Baptists all over the world are sometimes decided by a majority of convention messengers from the particular area where the meeting is held.

It's no secret that there is a continuing confrontation between those who support the present policies and stance of the convention and those who reject present leadership and want to dictate major changes. An example is the Broadman Bible Commentary

Commendation Of A Valuable Ministry

Ninth and O Baptist Church, Louisville, is to be commended for providing a long awaited and much needed Christian counseling ministry. There is likely no need among Baptists today as widespread and as urgent. Having such services available in the surroundings of a church and in the person of a trained

which has been a point of contention since 1970 when in Denver the first volume was rejected and instructions were given to rewrite it from a more conservative viewpoint. Not satisfied with the announced plans for rewriting Vol. I and finding fault with other volumes, a motion was made last year in Philadelphia to ban the whole set and rewrite it. The effort was soundly defeated but its advocates are not through. Reports indicate they will try again in Portland.

The Portland site for the convention encourages these crusaders because it is known the west has far more in proportion who think this way than other areas of the convention. It was not merely a geographical factor but the Philadelphia action last year on this matter was a strong reflection of the more progressive attitude of the seaboard area of the Southern Baptist Convention.

For the sake of balance and a truly representative vote on any issue considered, Baptists from all over the convention must be in Portland irregardless of the extra distance and expense. It's a sure thing the crusaders will be there. Whatever the majority of Southern Baptist believe is right about the Broadman Commentary or any other matter should be done but this is possible only if all areas of the convention are fairly represented in all conventions.

Choosing convention sites on the geographical fringes of the convention is unwise in spite of the boost which might result for Southern Baptists in the area. Hopefully the day will come when a central site will be chosen for the convention every year. In the meantime churches should see that they are represented wherever the convention meets. See to it in the next business meeting if provisions have not been made already. And make certain those going are officially elected messengers by the church so as to avoid registration problems.

professional who once was a pastor should relieve many of the reluctance to seek such help.

Unfortunately there remains in many minds some stigma in connection with emotional problems and nervous stress. Some people who immediately seek help for physical illnesses suffer severely from non-

physical problems while refusing to admit need for help. In many instances emotional problems arise from the same cause which brings on physical problems and one should seek available help for one as quickly as for the other.

Emotional health problems require professional treatment just as do physical ailments. Not many pastors have the training to deal with such complex problems and those who do can find time for only a fraction of the needs within one congregation. Most cases require counseling on a sustained basis which is time consuming. Pastors in Louisville and the surrounding area are fortunate now to have such a service to which they can refer those needing such help. Hopefully the day will come when such a ministry is available in all sections of our state.

It's very near impossible to live in today's society without suffering emotional stress. Few escape and the question is how serious is the stress and can it be handled without help. Two of the areas of most critical need are among youth and husband-wife relations. And being a Christian and being active in

church doesn't make everything peace and light. We still have within us the struggle between the desires of human nature and those of the Holy Spirit and this means problems.

The counselor made available by Ninth and O is Rev. Harold Malone, a minister of excellent training and proven maturity. Much of his successful experience has been with young people. As a family man he knows the problems of modern life and his two sons, a dentist and a church recreation staff member, are examples of proper parental guidance.

The services of Rev. Malone are unapologetically Christian though none the less professional. He handles the cases he is qualified to treat and refers others to properly qualified doctors. The charges are according to the ability to pay with no one refused help because of inability to pay. Arrangements for an interview with him can be made by writing him in care of Ninth and O Baptist Church, 2921 Taylor Boulevard, Louisville 40208, or by calling (502) 637-2519.

BAPTIST FORUM



LEGALIZED ABORTION

Dear Editor:

Several years ago I heard our beloved Rose Marlowe speak to us at the annual WMU regional meeting about her work in Japan. From her compassionate heart she told us about the people of Japan. With much concern she told us that abortion was legalized in Japan. I could hardly believe that could be true in any nation. I remember bowing my head and praying, "Oh, Lord, may the gospel be taken to those people to enlighten them." Was I wrong?

Will not the Lord say, "the voice of thy children's blood crieth unto me." Should not women control their own bodies before abortion becomes necessary?

I still believe we in America need the gospel to enlighten us as do the people of other nations.

Christ is the answer!
London, Ky. Mrs. Harold Feltner

CONGRATULATIONS: SHELTON

Dear Editor:

I write to congratulate Hicks Shelton, our evangelism director, for this past evangelistic conference. There were many positive aspects that came from the program, particularly Roy Honeycutt and Manuel Scott.

I felt that Roy Honeycutt's presen-

tation of "The Dawning of a New Hope" was a magnificent piece of work. I appreciated very much the excellent content of his message. He also exemplifies the fact that God still inspires men to study and prepare before they preach. When one does not prepare then one should forfeit the opportunity to preach.

Manuel Scott also made a lasting positive impression. He and his message is beyond words!

I was disappointed in the professional evangelist and his emotional and sometimes negative messages. I realize that he has his rightful place in the ministry and his approach to preaching will be highly attractive to the broader segments of our convention. So, it probably comes down to the matter of opinion.

I look forward to next year's conference and hope it will be one of quality.
Flatwoods, Ky. Robert C. Elliott

ACCURATE BUT HARSH

Dear Editor:

I have just finished reading three editorials in the February 17 issue of the *Western Recorder* concerning the Holy Land tours.

One of these articles was written by the editor, C. R. Daley, one by associate editor Bob Terry and the other by a guest editor, Vernon Wasson of Illinois.

It was with a great degree of interest that I read these editorials because, you see, I have just returned from one of these tours. I'm sure that I detected a great amount of criticism and sarcasm in these articles as well as much that is correct and true. The descriptions and conditions described in these editorials are accurate. Yet, I believe that you editors have dealt too harshly and too severely with both the preachers and travel agencies who arrange these tours. Surely they are profiting financially. That's business; the kind that has made America great. But as these preachers and travel agencies have profited from these enterprises they have also made it possible for many of us, who have taken these tours, to profit spiritually and intellectually. Had it not been for just such enterprises as these, many of us could have been deprived of this privilege.

We didn't expect to find conditions in the Holy Land today as they were 2,000 years ago. However, to see the beautiful Sea of Galilee that Jesus loved so much, the River Jordan where he was baptized, the Jericho Road over which he traveled, the City of Jerusalem over which he wept, the Mount of Olives from which he ascended back to Heaven and many, many more wonderful places, which the Bible tells us of, was enough to make the tour an unforgettable experience in our life.

Let us just be thankful that there are preachers and agencies who are arranging such tours making it possible for more of us to "walk where Jesus walked."

Murray, Kentucky Leon Penick

People And Places

Lucien E. Coleman, Sr., is a sales representative of a Nashville based architectural firm. The area served by Coleman will be the state of Kentucky. The firm, Gilleland-Wallace and Associates, is licensed to do business in thirteen states, including Kentucky.

Coleman formerly served as secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood department and also on the staff of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. His services are available to Kentucky churches interested in architectural services and he can be addressed at 114 Crescent Avenue, D-3, Louisville, Kentucky 40206, telephone (502) 897-6617.

Harold Renfro was ordained to the Gospel ministry by the Calvary Baptist Church, Glasgow, Sunday afternoon, February 11, 1973. The council consisted of 31, representing 13 different Baptist churches. Renfro is serving as pastor of Oak Forrest Baptist Church, Warren Association.



The Renfros have two children. They live at 120 Hi Haven Court, Glasgow, Kentucky 42141.

P. Ennis Taylor is now retired after serving as pastor of the Madison Avenue Baptist Church, Covington, for more than 24 years. He continues to live in the Covington area and does supply preaching and serves the churches in other capacities.

The success of his ministry at Madison Avenue is reflected in a record of more than 1,100 additions to the church membership and more than a million dollars in contributions with about a quarter of a million dollars going to mission causes.

He was also very active in associational affairs and during his tenure served on almost all of the committees of the association as well as serving as a moderator.

The present Madison Avenue pastor is Ernest Carpenter.

Randall and Carolyn Cox have returned to the Oneida Baptist Institute staff where they previously served from 1968-70. Cox will be teaching biology and other science courses at Oneida. He is a 1967 graduate of Georgetown College and has completed all of his work for PhD in biology from the University of Kentucky with the exception of his dissertation.

Chester Swor reports that he has now completely recovered from surgery which was performed in 1972. He reports that he has tried to bow out

to semi-retirement but has found it impossible because of the demands, especially from young people, to continue his ministry. He will continue to maintain his home and office at 902 Whitworth Street in Jackson, Miss.

Wesley O. Hanson, clerk of the Ohio County Baptist Association, reports that the association budget receipts have been so good that the executive board in December voted to contribute \$500 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and in the board's February meeting a similar vote gives \$500 to the Annie Armstrong Home Mission offering. Ohio County Baptist Association has 40 churches and one mission. D. L. Barnett is the associational superintendent of missions.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention recorded impressive and meaningful statistics this past year in the area of missionary education.

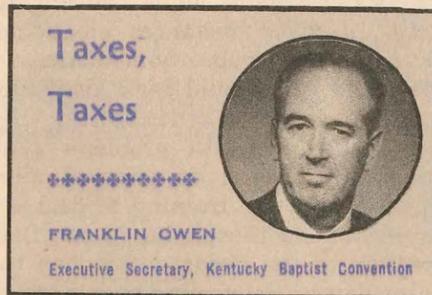
Eleven associations conducted World Missions Conferences with 190 churches involved. 62,021 people attended the programs at which 24 professions of faith and 334 other decisions were made. The conferences brought 112 state, home, and foreign missionaries to the participating associations.

The convention has a quota of 16 World Missions Conferences for 1973.

Only the charred concrete walls remain after a fire destroyed the building of the **Larkin Baptist Church** near Patonsville, Indiana. Freeman C. Powell, Philpot, Kentucky, is serving as pastor of the Larkin congregation and says the building will be reconstructed. The building was remodeled last year at a cost of \$10,000 including the installation of new heating and air conditioning systems.

The congregation is meeting temporarily in the Rockport, Indiana, elementary school for morning services and in the Patonsville United Methodist Church for prayer meeting and evening worship. Pastor Powell says a number of churches in the Owensboro and Evansville areas have expressed their concern and some are providing assistance. The pastor also says that the church is not asking for charity but would be grateful for gifts of items which could be used in the rebuilding and refurbishing plans.

The **Audio-Visual Club** at Kentucky State Reformatory, LaGrange, held their annual banquet January 11. Henley Barnette, professor of Christian ethics, Southern Seminary, was the main speaker. About 150 guests shared in the occasion. Appreciation awards were presented to a number of people who have made significant contributions to the club's work. Two special appreciation awards were presented — to the Woodland Baptist Church, Middletown, and First Baptist Church, Jeffersonton. These churches have maintained a monthly program of work with the Audio-Visual Club for about two years.



Taxes get heavier all the time. It hasn't been many years since one frequently saw figures presented to show the American tax payer how little he pays compared to other people of the world. We don't see or hear these comparisons anymore.

It may not be bad citizenship to give friendly resistance to the constant encroachment of taxes upon private income and property. One is compelled to note that from the time of ancient Rome until now, governments have tended to expand and expand, tax and tax, until at last they fall under their own crushing weight. It seems an eternal escalator that can go no way but up. Of course, government is forced down this road by demand of the citizenry for more and more services from necessarily bigger and bigger government.

H. G. Wells said that nations are born, grow, mature, decline, decay, and die, just like people. One of the constant marks in the death of nations is a crushing load of taxation that the people become unable or unwilling to bear.

Tax exemption for religious, educational and non-profit endeavor is being challenged. More and more people advocate the taxing of everything, exempting of favoring nothing. Even some religionists are inviting taxation of our religious properties.

Just as one man's opinion, it seems right to tax religious and educational groups on properties that make a profit, or properties that are used for profit making rather than for religious and educational endeavor. But I'm beginning to observe that tax people aren't particularly concerned with this distinction, but rather are simply pressing in as far as the traffic will bear.

I don't believe that we as religionists should try to hoard up unreasonable amounts of property that we don't need or intend to use for religious and educational purposes.

I do believe that reasonable preferential treatment is due non-profit, charitable, religious and educational services. This country has ever stood against preferential treatment for any religious sect. On the other hand it has a strong tradition for creating and maintaining a favorable atmosphere that encourages religious endeavor.

—Frank Owen

WESTERN RECORDER

D. E. Jones Honored

Pastor and Mrs. D. E. Jones were honored in special services on February 4 on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of Jones as pastor and also upon his retirement. The program for the day included the farewell message from the pastor and a fellowship dinner.

The South Jefferson congregation under the leadership of Jones has been a strong center of missions and evangelism. During the 30 years the church has been through eight building programs and has spent more than a quarter of a million dollars in expansion. The church is now debt free.

More than 2,000 people have been baptized into the fellowship of the church and mission gifts have increased from approximately \$600 a year to more than \$18,000 last year. The church budget now calls for 27% of all undesignated offerings to be used for mission causes.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones will be living at 8910 Hudson Lane, Fern Creek, Kentucky. He says he will be available for revivals, interim pastorates, supply preaching and other work.

VBS Workers' Clinics

Two state VBS Clinics are scheduled for the state of Kentucky. The first will be held at First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, on February 27, and the second at Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, on March 1.

These clinics are designed for the training of associational Vacation Bible School leaders in the newest methods. A new set of curriculum materials for both children and workers will be introduced. Nine leaders have been invited from each of the 80 associations to one of these clinics. These workers will return to their associations to conduct clinics for local churches.

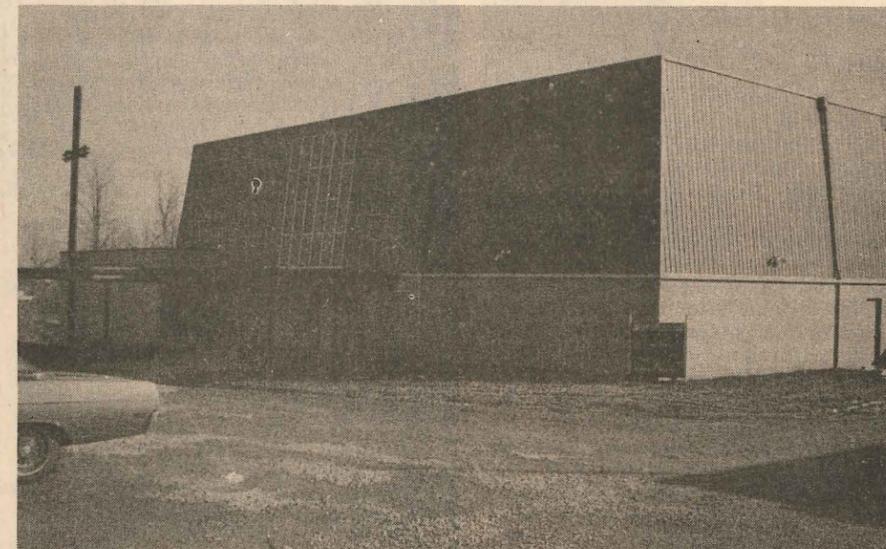
G'town Profs Lead Organizations

A Georgetown College professor is more than a disseminator of information in a chosen field. He participates in professional organizations, and, as is the case now, holds positions of leadership in these groups.

Georgetown College professors involved in the top leadership of organizations are rampant this year.

Those currently involved in these positions are: Ruth Heizer, philosophy, president of the Kentucky Philosophical Association; Mrs. Margaret Greynolds, speech, president of the Kentucky Association of Communication Arts; Roy Dobyns, mathematics, chairman of the Kentucky section of the American Mathematicians Association;

Mrs. Josiane Sullivan, French, vice president and secretary-treasurer of the American Association of Teachers of French; Mrs. Elinor Hay, home economics, vice president of the Bluegrass Association of Children Under Six and program chairman for the Southern Association on Children Under Six; Bob Davis, physical education, serves on the National Olympic Selection Committee; Ralph Curry, English, president of the Kentucky-Tennessee Studies Association; Ray Alexander, education, regional chairman of the Kentucky Association of Teacher Education; Richard Kahoe, psychology, secretary of the psychological section of the Kentucky Academy of Science.



The \$250,000 structure of the Highland Heights Baptist Church which was dedicated in special services on February 4.

Highland Heights Dedicates Facilities

Entirely new facilities on a new site were dedicated by Highland Heights Baptists on February 4. The original site and building were taken for the construction of an outer belt highway around greater Cincinnati. The new location is about one half mile south of the old location on Highway 27 and is across the highway from the new campus of Northern Kentucky State College.

Construction costs plus equipment amounted to over \$250,000 and 14 months were required to complete the building.

The church grew out of a mission sponsored by the First Baptist Church, Fort Thomas. The three pastors serv-

ing the mission and the church are Ed White, now of Orlando, Florida; Charles Minch, now pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church in West Palm Beach, Florida, and the present pastor, Ron Moore. All three of these participated in the dedication services along with George Jones, executive secretary of Northern Kentucky Association; George Munro, pastor of the Fort Thomas First Baptist and C. R. Daley, *Western Recorder* editor. The keys to the new facilities were officially presented by building committee chairman Don Strasinger to Melvin Richter, chairman of the trustees. The dedication services were followed by a four night study of the book of Galatians led by editor C. R. Daley.



Former pastors, Charles Minch, left, and Ed White, right, check program for dedication services with present pastor, Ron Moore.

FEBRUARY 24, 1973

Houseparties, Queen's Courts Set For March

"They'll know we are Christians by our love" is the theme of the three spring state activities for Acteens in Kentucky this year, according to Mrs. Anna Mary Byrdwell, state Acteens director.

Georgetown College will host the Acteens Houseparty for sophomore, junior and senior high Acteens, March 2-4. Special guests for this activity will be Mr. and Mrs. Gerald McNeely and Marsha, foreign missionaries from Spain, and Miss Wanda Carpenter, Kentucky Baptist Young Women Director.

Acteens' Queens Court at Cumberland College will be March 9-11. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Phillips from East Africa will be foreign missionary guests. A special feature will be the presentation of the folk musical, "Celebrate Life," by the Baptist Student Union Choir of Morehead State University.

Campbellsville College will host the second Queens Court. Mrs. Jim McKinley and daughters Kathy and Cherrie, missionaries in Bangladesh, and the Rolando Raganas family of the Philippines and Campbellsville Baptist Church will participate.



HELPING HAND — Children help officials break ground for the new \$750,000 Goldia and Robert Naylor Children's Building at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Manning the shovels from left are Herman J. Smith, contractor, and Jerry Haines; Dub Barker, advisory council chairman, and Patrick Adams; Ralph M. Smith, board of trustees chairman, and Angie Bryant; Joe Davis Heacock, dean of the school of religious education, and David Tatum; and Robert Naylor, seminary president, and Teresa Hamilton. The children are members of the seminary kindergarten.

BSSB Trustees Respond To Convention Actions

Trustees of the Baptist Sunday School Board in their annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, responded to two Southern Baptist Convention referrals, acted on several personnel and organizational matters, and authorized future construction at Nashville and at the conference center at Ridgecrest.

In two matters of reference from the Southern Baptist Convention in Philadelphia, the trustees reaffirmed present Sunday School Board policies.

A resolution urging all writers to use Scripture in all published materials pertaining to "salvation, the church, and the Christian life" was found to be based largely on materials the board had been asked to publish by the Convention, the trustees were told.

A study committee reported that Scripture references have been included without exception in all materials pertaining to the three designated topics.

The trustees pledged that the Sunday School Board "will continue to exalt the Bible as God's Book of Revelation," and will continue to seek by many different means "to get the Bible known, read, and heeded by all men."

A second referral called for the board "to study the possibility of mak-

ing available to all Southern Baptist Convention mission churches up to 75 Sunday School and Training Union books quarterly without charge."

The trustees agreed that the present method of supplying one quarter's materials to new Sunday Schools, Training Unions, and choirs, is strongly preferred from the standpoint of polity, economics and incentive.

In other actions, the titles of executive secretary-treasurer and associate executive secretary-treasurer, referring to the operating head of the agency and his associate, were changed to president and executive vice president.

The title of the head of the elected trustees was changed from president to chairman, and the designation of vice-chairman of trustees was added to the task of the chairman of the 18 member local executive committee which meets monthly.

Similar changes in titles had been taken within the past year by the SBC Annuity Board and Radio and Television Commission.

President Sullivan reported on behalf of the administration concerning sales and earnings during the fiscal year ending September 30, 1972.

Sales for the year totaled \$44,043,000, and an increase of \$2,261,000 over the previous year. Earnings for working

capital, fixed assets, and reserves were \$2,407,000.

All other funds over and above operating costs were used in assistance to Southern Baptist churches through efforts such as field services and educational program development and promotion. A total of \$958,458 was provided to state conventions for their promotion in areas of Sunday School Board program responsibility, Sullivan said.

The group approved the appointment of a committee to formulate procedures for the election of a new president upon Sullivan's retirement in February, 1975.

John Jeffers of Auburn, Alabama, was named chairman. Also named to the committee were Presnall Wood, Houston; Grover Kagy, St. Charles, Missouri; trustee chairman Scott Tatum, Shreveport, Louisiana, and vice chairman Devaughn Woods, Nashville.

In building authorizations, the trustees agreed to the addition of two stories to the West Wing building in Nashville for meeting, dining, and training rooms, plus offices if space permits.

An addition of 32 apartments for the Royal Gorge building at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center also was approved. (BP)

Staff Changes

Monty D. Carney, a student at Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, was recently called as pastor of the Pleasant Point Baptist Church, Shepherd Town.



Carney

Revival Team which was sponsored by the Baptist Home Mission Board. Presently, he is employed part-time in the radio production department at the Clear Creek Baptist School.

Carney is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Thomas Carney of Louisville and is married to the former Ruby Jewell Caldwell of Hazard.

Glenn Noe is now pastor of the Maytown Baptist Chapel, Langley. He preaches at the chapel at 9:30 a.m. and reaches his pastorate at Mousie in time for the 11 a.m. service. A native of Hazard, Noe is a graduate of Cumberland College.

The Maytown Chapel, whose attendance has averaged over 79 since starting last June, is under the sponsorship of the First Baptist Church of Allen. The First Church pastor is Earl Waugh.

Ron Burdon has been called as pastor of Southern Heights Baptist Church, Lexington. He will assume his new responsibilities at Southern Heights on February 26. For the past three years, Burdon has been associate pastor of the Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington.

Burdon and his wife, the former Carolyn Mays of Henderson, have two children.

Jack Palmer, pastor of the Earlington First Baptist Church, will begin to serve the Bethel and Logan Associations as missionary for the two associations on March 1, 1973.

Palmer was born in Brooklyn, New York, and graduated from Stetson University in 1951 with a BA degree and Southern Seminary in 1958.

Palmer served as pastor of the Guthrie Baptist Church, Bethel Association, for two years before his pastorate at Earlington. Other pastorates he has held were in Loudon County and Knoxville, Tennessee; Scooba, Mississippi; Nobb, Indiana; and St. Peters-

burg, Florida. He is married to the former Gloria Bearse of St. Petersburg. The couple has four children: David, Gary, Paul and Jack, Jr.

Bob Hollifield, minister of music and associate pastor for Shively Heights Baptist Church, Louisville, has accepted a call to the Parkview Baptist Church, Lakeland, Florida. His resignation at Shively Heights is effective Sunday night, February 25.

Bobby Helton, pastor of Ballardsville Baptist Church, has resigned to accept the pastorate of the Valley Grove Baptist Church in Thomaston, Georgia. He has served Ballardsville since September, 1969, and held pastorates in Georgia before coming to Kentucky.

Helton is a BS graduate of Georgia Southern College and a MDiv graduate of Southern Seminary. He is married to the former Ruth Williams of LaGrange, Georgia. The couple has three children.

Charles Mitchiner has been called as pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Chapel, located on Ballardsville Road in northeast Jefferson County, sponsored by St. Matthews Baptist Church. He assumed full-time responsibilities there in January.

Mitchiner served as pastor of Auburndale Baptist Church, Louisville, for 20 years and as associate pastor at Carlisle Avenue Baptist in Louisville. The Hillcrest Chapel and both churches are in the Long Run Association.

Ronald S. Brooks, student at Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, was re-



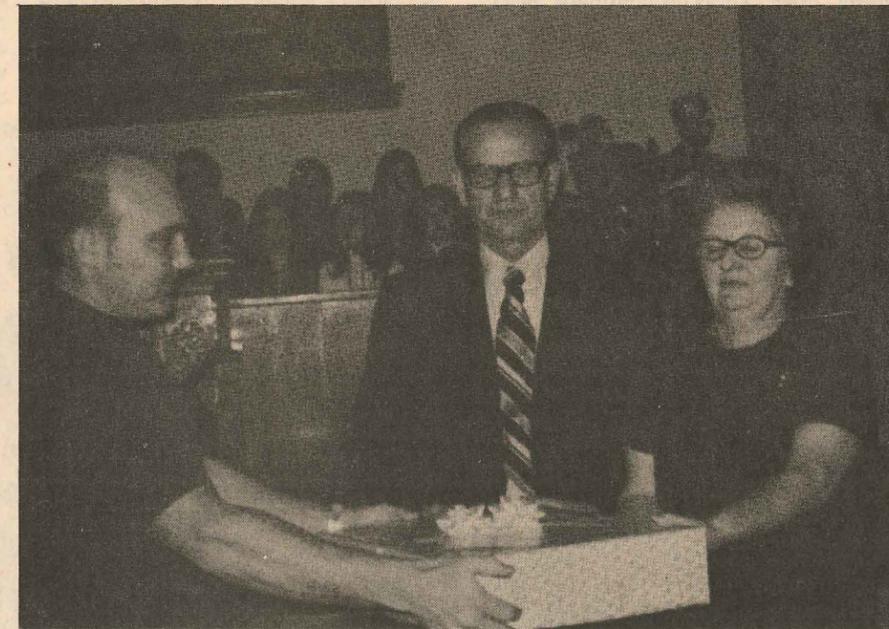
Brooks

cently called as pastor of the Pathfork Baptist Church, Pathfork. Brooks is a native of Hot Springs, Arkansas, and is married to the former Phyllis Touchatt of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Brooks have two children: Russell and Randall.

Chester Igleheart, director of associational work for the Severns Valley Association, announced his retirement as of July 1, 1973. He will complete 20 years of denominational service in February and has served in the Severns Valley Association for the last five years.

Bob DeFoor, pastor of the Gilead Baptist Church, Glendale, is chairman of the personnel committee that is in charge of selecting a replacement for Igleheart.

Tim Townsend, pastor of Vine Street Baptist Church in Louisville, has resigned to become associate pastor of Buechel Park Baptist Church, also of Louisville. Townsend, a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary, was pastor of the Vine Street Church for about five years before his resignation. Townsend is currently serving as evangelism chairman for Long Run Association and is enrolled in the doctor of ministries program at the seminary.



HONORED — Chaplin Baptist Church, in Nelson Association, gathered on January 20 in the church fellowship hall to honor their pastor, Wesley Powers, who resigned effective January 28. There were approximately 100 persons present for the supper. Later, the congregation gathered in the auditorium for a short song service and prayer after which an inscribed silver tray was presented to the honored guest as a token of the church's love and appreciation for its pastor of eight and one-half years. Jesse Hardin, left, made the presentation.

Returning Prisoners Need Understanding, Fite Says

By Robert O'Brien

When David Fite sits across the breakfast table from his eight year old son, Mark, he often thinks, "I wonder what you were like when you were a little boy?"

That silent question is part of the heartache of a former Southern Baptist missionary snatched from his family to spend four years in a Communist prison in Castro's Cuba.

And it's only part of the trauma and turmoil that Fite realizes will face men returning from dehumanizing years in North Vietnamese prison camps.

All the POWs, he says, will struggle to adjust — caught in a mind-dizzying culture shock, buffeted by internal forces which they may not know how to verbalize and which will mystify and perhaps even annoy family, friends and employers.

Many, if they are as fortunate as Fite, will return to normalcy and ability to cope with life and assume useful roles. Others may not.

A large measure of their success, Fite says, will depend on the love and patience of those closest to them.

During the four years, 1965-68, which he spent in the Cuban prison, Fite says he had it easier than the men now returning from North Vietnamese prisons.

"I had some advantages. I was not a combatant, and I had lived in Cuba for quite awhile and understood the culture and language. During most of my imprisonment, my father-in-law, Herbert Caudill, was there with me, along with imprisoned Cuban Christians.

"That fellowship, the abiding faith I had in Christ and brief monthly visits from my wife, Margaret, helped me bear up under the pressures."

But the physical and mental cruelty of his Communist captors, coupled with severe "brainwashing" techniques and daily management of his every move, took their toll on Fite.

"In a prison environment," he explains, "every decision is made for you — hour by hour, day by day. They tell you when to get up, when to eat, what to eat, whether or not to eat, what to wear, what to do, when to sleep.

"One of my major adjustments involved re-learning the process of decision making.

"For a long time," he explains, "my life was complicated by the fact that I had to spend a lot of time making little decisions that most people make automatically."

Fite says he would stand in a supermarket, caught in the dizzying swirl of fast-paced American life and take 20 minutes to decide what shaving soap to buy.

Not only may returning veterans face a "decision crisis," but family and friends may expect them to reweave the threads of their lives too quickly, Fite says.

"I hope the rehabilitation program planned by the military may solve that," he says.

"In my case I found that a period of moratorium, in which I was not immediately thrust into major responsibility, helped me readjust."

During the moratorium, he spent time with his family and earned a doctorate in theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, before assuming his current full-time job as director of continuing education for ministry at the seminary.

Return from a long absence in prison puts a strain on children and husband-wife relationships as they readjust roles, Fite says.

A father, removed from his children's formative years, experiences a gap in his understanding of their development.

Mark was one month old when Fite

went away and nearly four when he returned.

His other two boys were six and eight when he left, and 10 and 12 when he returned four years ago.

But probably the most severe readjustment facing the Vietnam returnees, Fite believes, will involve overcoming the emotional scars of brainwashing.

"They try to destroy a person's sense of self-worth," Fite explains. "They underscore all the negative feelings one has... try to destroy your morale so you will become putty in their hands for propaganda purposes. Then they use you and throw you away like a piece of old tissue.

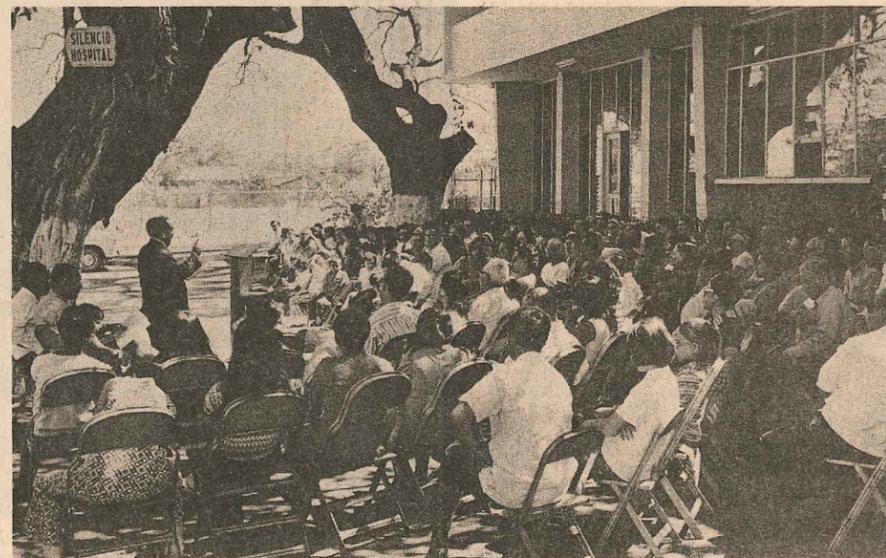
"They abuse you physically, make you fear for your life, treat you nicely one moment and badly the next, reward you for doing things that go against your sense of values, punish you for standing firm.

"Wives and families must understand these internal pressures and show patience and understanding and help reaffirm these men's sense of personal worth," Fite emphasizes.

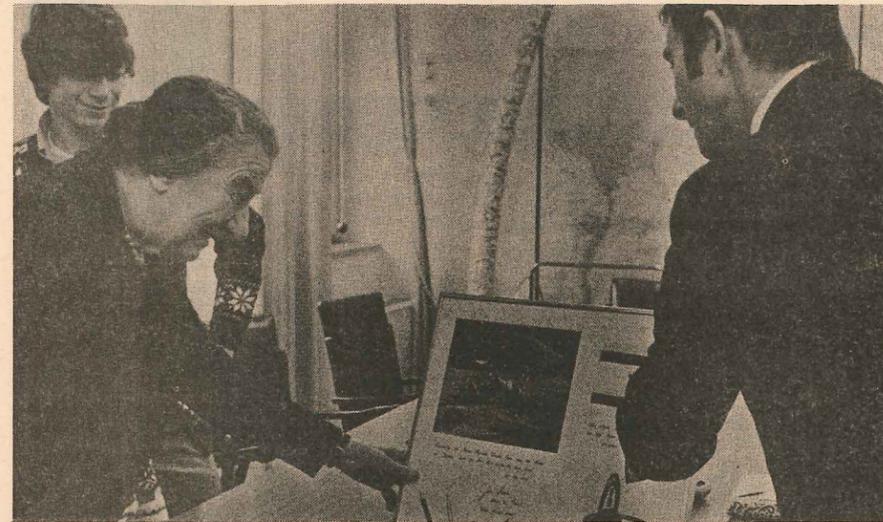
Fite says a person without a sense of self-worth is an emotional cripple. "If you don't love yourself, you can't give love to others," he says.

"I hope each one who returns will have an understanding family and an understanding group of friends like I did — people who accepted me and loved me as I was.

"Families facing these strains," he said, "should not be ashamed to call on all available resources — personal resources and community resources such as counselors and pastors. That would not be a sign of weakness, but one of hope," he said. (BP)



EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS UNDAUNTED — their auditorium virtually destroyed, more than 250 members of First Baptist Church of Managua, Nicaragua, still refused to let an earthquake interrupt as they worship on the lawn in front of the Baptist Hospital. Adolpho Robleto, an editor at Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Texas, and their former pastor, brings their message.



ISRAEL PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES BAPTIST ASTRONAUT: Prime Minister Golda Meir of Israel accepts an encribed photograph and an Israeli flag from the moon during a presentation by Apollo 15 Astronaut James Irwin in Tel Aviv. When Irwin told Mrs. Meir that to look at the earth and see its beauty from the vantage-point of the moon is to "feel you are looking at the earth with the eyes of God," Mrs. Meir nodded, saying "I felt like this at Mt. Sinai" when she saw the Holy Land as Moses must have seen it when he received the Ten Commandments. (BP)

Former Astronaut Plans POW Retreat

Apollo 15 astronaut James B. Irwin, working through his High Flight religious foundation, plans to schedule a renewal retreat program for American prisoners of war returning from Viet-

nam in an effort to help them readjust to life in America.

Exact time and place for the retreat program he hopes to sponsor have not been set, although tentative plans call for the retreat some time in June after the former prisoners have had some time with their families and have

Baptists Aid Managua

Although Managua's seven Baptist churches all suffered destruction or serious damage in the December 23 earthquake, their congregations, alive and well, continue to meet under lean-tos and shade trees.

With the rainy season due to begin May 1, this solution will not be adequate for long, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials were told.

Special contributions from Southern Baptists and monies appropriated by the Foreign Mission Board will make possible the construction of wooden structures as temporary worship facilities for Nicaraguan Baptists.

The buildings are to be modified from a basic design to meet individual church's needs. Some of the zinc-roofed structures will be reinforced with steel beams, and will be suitable for later conversion to education or recreation facilities.

As of February 7, \$9,434 in funds designated for relief in Managua had been received by the Foreign Mission Board. Construction materials will cost \$10,500, according to W. Eugene Grubbs, the board's consultant on laymen overseas. (BP)



ASTRONAUT WELCOMED TO JORDAN: Apollo 15 Astronaut James Irwin is welcomed to Jordan by SBC Missionary Paul Smith, right, and Pastor Foaz Ameish, president of the Jordan Baptist Convention. In the background is a portrait of King Hussein, who like Astronaut Irwin, is a pilot. Both Smith and Ameish introduced Irwin to a crowd of 2,200 attending a special performance of "The Messiah" after which Irwin gave his testimony. (BP)

gone through official debriefings, High Flight officials said.

"We have already been in touch with some of the personnel in the Pentagon who are involved in the work with returning men, and they have expressed their delight with the idea of this way of sharing with these men we have in mind," Irwin said.

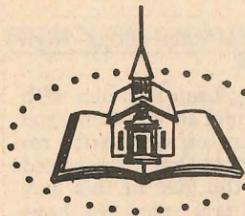
William H. Rittenhouse, vice president and executive director of High Flight, knows first hand the trauma of readjustment that will face these men since he was a prisoner of war in Rumania during World War II, Irwin pointed out.

Rittenhouse said he and Irwin were deeply concerned about the problems of readjustment for the returning Vietnam POW's. "We want to provide these men and their families with a retreat that will let them have recreation, information and inspiration," he added.

Irwin said that High Flight will seek to underwrite all expenses so there will be no charge to the former prisoners or their families.

Rittenhouse said the program would be non-denominational in approach, with a person-to-person emphasis. Personalities, including astronauts and religious leaders across the country, will be enlisted who can share what their faith has meant to them in times of stress, trauma and readjustment.

Rittenhouse is author of a book entitled *God's POW*, telling how his faith was a source of strength during his imprisonment in Rumania during World War II. (BP)



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By H. C. Chiles

(These Lessons For March 4, 1973)

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Responsible For Fellow Christians

I Corinthians 8:1-13

The Corinthian Christians had emerged from heathenism but they still resided in a very corrupt and wicked city with all of the temptations connected therewith. One acute problem which arose among them was the question of whether or not it was right for Christians to eat meat that had been offered in sacrifice to idols and later sold in the public markets.

Inasmuch as the very best animals were sacrificed, this meat was better in quality than ordinary meat. Naturally the quality of the meat was not altered in the least by the procedure of dedicating it to idols. The mature and strong Christians were convinced that it was not wrong for them to consume the meat simply to satisfy their hunger, since they were not involved in any way with idol worship. Some of the more immature and less knowledgeable Christians thought that eating meat from an animal that had been slain and used as a sacrifice to an idol constituted identification with that idol, and, therefore, they believed that it was wrong to eat such meat.

What was to be the attitude of Christians toward eating such meat? Were they to abstain from it, on the ground that by partaking of it they were associating themselves with idolatry? Or, were they to eat it without compunction, on the ground that the god for whom the idol had been made and to whom the sacrifice had been offered was a nonentity?

Fearing that if they fed upon meat of this character they would be bringing dishonor upon the name of the Lord and possibly appear as approving idol worship, it is not surprising that those early Christians wrote to Paul and asked him, "If we eat this meat, are we involving ourselves in the practice of idolatry?" Above everything else, they were anxious to avoid compromising their Christian witness in that pagan city. The stronger Christians certainly had a right to know whether or not they should be deprived of eating such meat out of consideration for their immature fellow Christians.

In dealing with this question, Paul said, "We know that we all have knowledge." They knew the one true

and living God. They were fully aware of the folly of idolatry. They also knew that such meat did not have any defiling effect. But, as Paul reminded them, knowledge is not the main thing, for knowledge alone frequently has a tendency to make people proud and conceited and, therefore, incapable of true discernment. Paul taught that love, rather than knowledge, must be the arbiter in this case. Whereas knowledge inflates with conceit, love always moves one to have a concern for others.

Frequently we are baffled as to what our conduct should be in certain instances. In such cases we must consider the effect which our conduct would have upon others. Unconcern about others who are weaker is a sin against them and a sin against God.

In attempting to help the Corinthians in the solution of their problem, Paul enunciated a principle which has been

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God's creation of the world
Genesis 1:1, 26, 31

In the sublime statement, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth," the God of power is revealed as having been in existence before the beginning. The Creator preceded His creation. The word "create" means "to bring into existence that which had no previous existence" or "to make something out of nothing." To "create" is "to bring into being without the use of preexisting material," but to "make" is "to form something out of materials already existing." "Create" is the strongest word in the Hebrew language to express the idea of the origination of substance. Although the curious may wonder, the philosophers may speculate, and the scientists may investigate, this plain statement from the Bible serves as an intelligent and satisfactory explanation of the origin of things.

very beneficial to multitudes in their solution of similar problems. Christian consideration for others will cause us to refrain from doing the things that would lead others into temptation and cause them to do wrong. A Christian does not have any right to abuse his liberty by harming a fellow Christian. Rather, his freedom must be governed by Christian love.

By our conduct as Christians let us make personal sacrifices in order that we may be positively helpful to others. Let us be very careful about our influence, and ever see to it that it is always helpful. God will certainly hold us responsible for our influence over others. Love is the dominating motive for the Christian who would honor his Lord and help his fellow Christians. It is commendable in any Christian to forego his rights for the sake of others whom the Lord has saved, but as yet are not as strong as they should be. □

In verse 26 for the first time we are told about the three persons of the Trinity counseling together. The Trinity consulted, agreed, and decided to make man. The creation of man was the result of God's sovereign decision (verse 26) and by God's direct and immediate act (verse 27). God made man in His own image, so there is an unspeakable dignity attached to him. This image was not material or physical, but rather a likeness of personality. Just as God knows, feels and wills, so man, made in His image, knows, feels and wills. God gave man dominion over the other orders of creation.

According to verse 31 God created a good world. When He surveyed what He had made, He saw that all had been well done. God was well pleased with what He had made. When we consider His approval upon His work in creation, we are made to ask ourselves, "Is He pleased with the work which He



has been able to do in and through our lives?"

God's ownership of the world
Psalm 24:1-2

In these two verses God is simply claiming what is His by right of creation. While men in their ignorance deny His claim to ownership of that which He has made, it is nevertheless true that "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof." Out of the inexhaustible resources of His power the eternal God first made things — the earth, light, physical life, and the laws that govern. Then God made man to be the lord of things, and gave him the essentials for his support and happiness.

God has never transferred what He created to the ownership of another. He has never given anyone a deed to any of His property. The world and all that is in it belong to God. He said, "Whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine" (Job 41:11). God's claim to the ownership of man is based on creation, preservation, providential care, and redemption. We and all that we have rightly belong to God. Since God owns us, our wills should be subject to His perfect will, and our lives should be at His disposal. Since God made, owns, and sustains us, it is a mark of dishonesty to deny His ownership of us and all that we possess.

God's control of the world
Psalm 104:24-30

In this psalm the writer praises God for the gracious provision which He has made for all His creatures. The beasts of the fields, the fowls of the air, and the fish of the sea are all under the care of their Creator. He provides water for their daily needs. He causes the soil to respond to man's tillage with abundant crops for the needs of men and of the animals. The psalmist cheerfully ascribes credit to God for His provision for the needs of His creatures. Even though some people like to assert their independence of God and their own self-sufficiency, all are dependent on God.

Plants, animals, and human beings are dependent on God for the gift of life and for that which sustains life. He provides for the needs of the animals by the streams, the conies among the cliffs, and the sea monsters tumbling among the waves. In spite of the evil which is present in the world, God has stocked the world with good things and filled the whole creation with His riches.

Praise to God is always appropriate. Let us ever praise Him for the matchless light and power of His wonderful Word, and for the gift of His only begotten Son Who died to redeem us from our sins.

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Gleanings

Ben Gill, director of endowment and capital giving service for the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission, has resigned to enter private business with Resource Services of Nashville, a private fund raising firm Gill has organized.

Gill has been instrumental in developing both a consultant-led, and a do-it-yourself fund raising service available to Southern Baptist churches and institutions through the SBC Stewardship Commission, according to James V. Lackey, executive director of the

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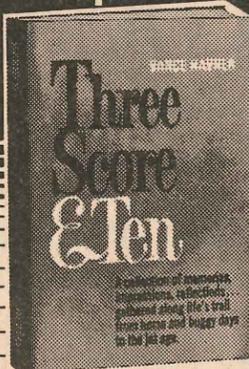
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commission.

More than \$11 million has been raised for church and institutional capital needs projects through the service, Lackey said. Gill has held the position for nearly four years. (BP)

Don J. Singletary, 60, who recently took disability retirements as president and chief executive officer of the Texas Baptist Church Loan Association and the Texas Baptist Church Loan Corporation, died in Fort Worth after a long illness. (BP)

Charles Willis, an information specialist in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's office of public relations, has been promoted to information associate, according to Gomer R. Lesch, office director.

A native Tennessean, Willis joined the Sunday School Board as an information specialist in 1968.

Willis holds the bachelor of science degree in journalism from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He is a member of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalistic society; the Nash-

ville Chapter of Religious Public Relations Council; Baptist Public Relations Association; and The Associated Church Press. (BP)

Jimmy R. Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, has been elected chairman of the 14 member committee to nominate a new executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Executive secretary T. A. Patterson will retire at the end of 1973, after 13 years service.

Other committee officers are vice chairman W. E. Norman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Quanah, Texas, and recording secretary Browning Ware, pastor of Calder Baptist Church, Beaumont, Texas. (BP)

The **Luther Rice Seminary**, Jacksonville, has been licensed by the state of Florida. President Robert Witty regards this as important in light of the stringent law passed in recent years by the state of Florida requiring all degree granting institutions to be licensed after a thorough examination.

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X-Rated Movie Closed

The 4th Street Cinema, Paducah, has closed its doors and an official of the company which operated the theater credits the objection of Christians in the Paducah community for the closing. The movie featured X-rated films.

Floyd F. Bradford, executive vice president of the company operating the movie house, gave credit to John Wood, pastor of the First Baptist Church, for organizing the opposition to the movie. Wood and other ministers in the community organized pickets who operated in front of the theater from late November through New Years. Bradford commended Wood for his approach and spirit in two conferences related to the matter.

Wood identified other pastors involved in the effort as Harold Cathey, East Baptist Church; Jack Naylor, Oaklawn Baptist Church; David McMichael, Olivet Baptist Church; and Joe Hebel, Highland Baptist Church.

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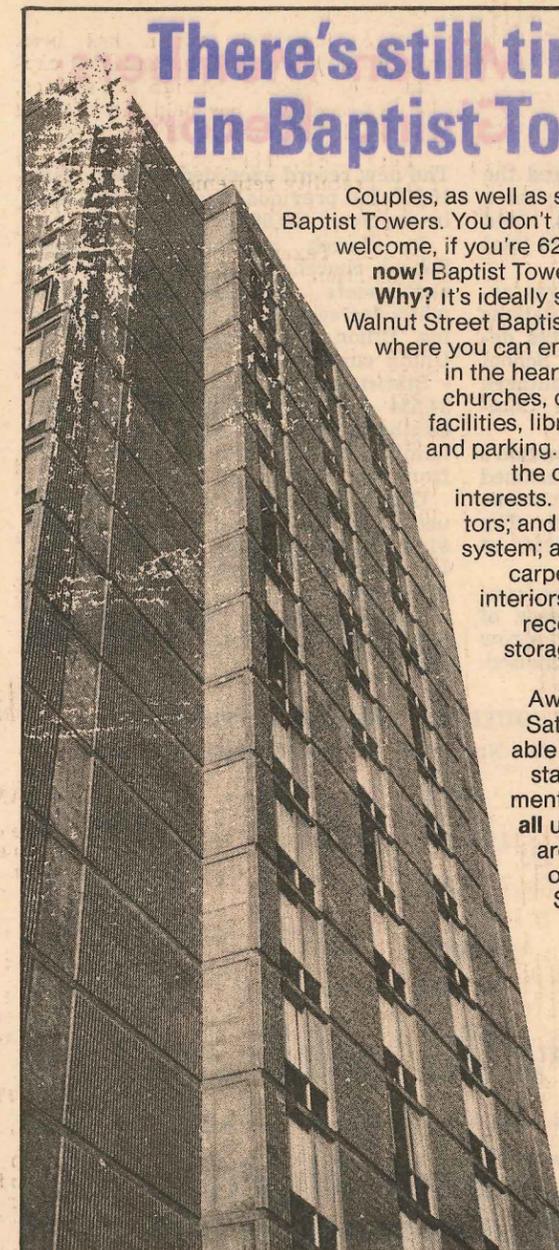
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SBC Tops 12 Million Members; Sets Baptism, Giving Record

Southern Baptists in 1972 passed the 12 million mark in membership, set a record number of baptisms, and reached the billion dollar mark in total receipts.

The record year of growth was reflected in annual statistical tabulations compiled by the research services department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, and reported to the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee meeting in Nashville.

Church membership for the nation's largest evangelical body increased nearly a quarter of a million persons (240,821) over 1971 membership. The 1972 total membership was reported at 12,067,284.

The record number of baptisms (conversions) was 445,725, an increase of 36,066. It was the second year in a row the number of baptisms had increased.

The new record exceeded by more than 16,000 the previous record for baptisms in one year, 429,063 in 1959.

In church organizations, Sunday School, church music and Brotherhood enrollments increased during 1972; while decreases were reported in Training Union and Women's Missionary Union enrollments.

Statistics were based on a total of 34,534 churches cooperating with the Southern Baptist Convention. The number of churches increased by 93 from the 1971 report.

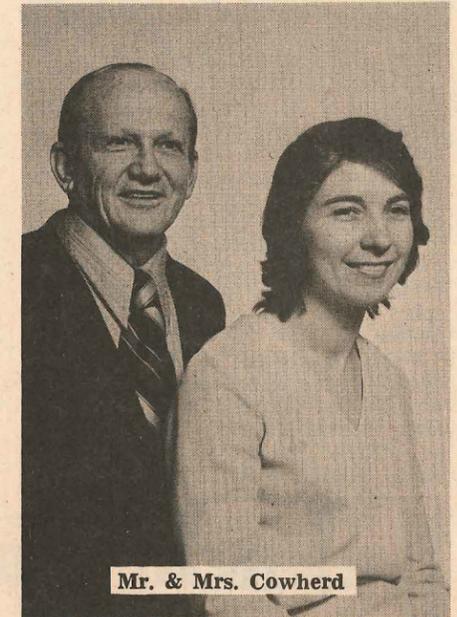
Giving by Southern Baptists continued to increase. Total receipts reached \$1,071,512,302, passing the billion dollar mark for the first time, an increase of \$96,239,363.

Contributions to missions increased \$14,226,635 for a total of \$174,772,885. (BP)

SUMMARY OF 1972 SOUTHERN BAPTIST STATISTICS

Columns (1)—1972; (2)—1971; (3)—Numerical Change; (4) Percent Change

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Churches	34,534	34,441	+93	+0.3
Baptisms	445,725	409,659	+36,066	+8.8
Church Membership	12,067,284	11,826,463	+240,821	+2.0
Ongoing Sunday School Enrollment	7,177,651	7,141,453	+36,198	+0.5
Ongoing Brotherhood Enrollment	454,272	451,538	+2,734	+0.6
Ongoing WMU Enrollment	1,125,641	1,137,586	-11,945	-1.0
Ongoing Church Music Enrollment	1,173,004	1,088,980	+84,024	+7.7
Ongoing Training Union Enrollment	2,044,445	2,106,855	-62,410	-3.0
Total Receipts	\$1,071,512,302	\$975,272,939	+96,239,363	+9.9
Total mission gifts	\$174,772,885	\$160,546,250	+\$14,226,635	+8.9



Mr. & Mrs. Cowherd

Kentucky Couple Named For Work In Hong Kong

Mrs. Charles P. Cowherd of Louisville, formerly of Halifax, Yorkshire County, England, was appointed for overseas service by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board during its meeting, February 13. Mrs. Cowherd's husband has 26 years' tenure as a Southern Baptist missionary to China, Indonesia and Hong Kong. They expect to be assigned to Hong Kong.

The couple met in Hong Kong and were married last July. They are presently studying at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He is in the doctor of ministry degree program and she is taking Bible courses.

In December, 1971, after teaching for 3½ years in Halifax, Miss Handscombe went to Hong Kong with another woman, an independent missionary. Their aim, she says, was "to seek to reach teen-agers for the Lord."

She was teaching Bible in a Chinese secondary school and studying the Mandarin dialect when she and Charles Cowherd met. He had continued as pastor of a Mandarin-speaking church there after the death of his first wife in 1967.

Cowherd was born in Falmouth, Virginia, and lived in Blenheim and Branchville, South Carolina, while growing up. He received the bachelor of science degree from Clemson University in South Carolina and the master of theology degree from Southern Seminary.

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