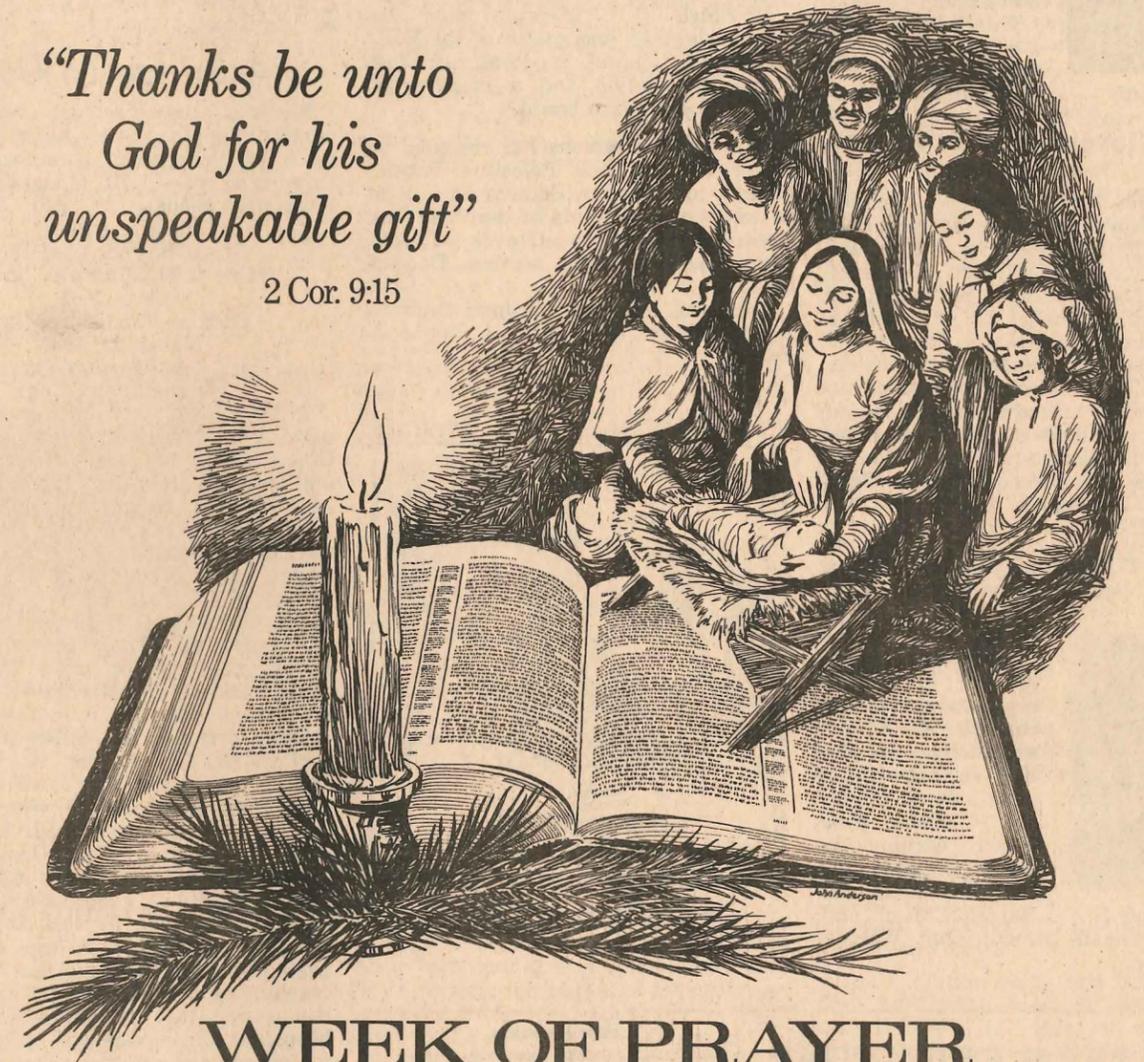


God's gift ... unspeakable

*"Thanks be unto
God for his
unspeakable gift"*

2 Cor. 9:15



**WEEK OF PRAYER
FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS
December 2-9, 1973**

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING GOAL: \$20,000,000

WESTERN RECORDER
DECEMBER 1, 1973

Staff Changes

Louisville native **Don Cowherd** has resigned a Maryland pastorate to enter full-time evangelism. He has served as pastor of churches in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio in addition to his current stint in Maryland.



Cowherd

Cowherd holds degrees from Georgetown College and Southern Seminary. He may be contacted at 5114 Oakglan Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Spottsville Baptist Church has called **Larry Birkhead** to serve as pastor. A native of Philpot, Kentucky, Birkhead is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and Southern Seminary. He has served as pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in McLean County and Sorgho Baptist Church in Daviess County. While in the Daviess-McLean Association, he served as vice-president and then president of the Owensboro Area Baptist Ministers Fellowship. He is married to the former Melva Jean Young of Lewisport. They have one son, David.

Ronnie Wallace of Bowling Green has been named manager at Camp Joy Assembly at Brownsville. The assembly is owned by the 14 Baptist associations which comprise the Southern Region in the KBC organization.



Wallace

Wallace is a licensed minister, Wallace has been serving as youth director for Burton Memorial Baptist Church and as Brotherhood director for Warren Association.

Steve Shirk is now minister of youth and music at Grapevine Baptist Church in Madisonville. He moved to his new position from Paducah and has also served churches in Mayfield and Nashville, Tennessee.



Shirk

Shirk will serve the Grapevine church under the direction of H. Ralph Gill, pastor. Gill, pastor of the church since July, also moved to Madisonville from Paducah where he was pastor of the Bellview Baptist church, moderator of West Union Association and a member of the KBC executive board.

Charles G. Simmons has resigned as pastor of the New Palestine Baptist Church in Christian County. He did so to accept the pastorate of the Pilot Oak Baptist Church in Graves County where he will begin serving December 1.

Simmons, his wife and three children may now be addressed at Route 3, Fulton.

Church Chuckles by CARTWRIGHT



"Bless this offering—what there is of it!"

DEVOTIONAL

John T. Wallace, Jr.
Pastor, Parkway Baptist Church, Lexington

A Bridge To God

There is a cemetery on a high bluff, overlooking the Ohio River and the town of Vanceburg, Kentucky. In it there is a grave with a marker whose inscription reads:

Rest In Peace
Rozzo Battore Camillio
Born In Piedicavallo, Italy
Feb. 1, 1861
Died in Vanceburg, Ky.
March 22, 1887
At The Age Of 26
He Died For Others

In 1887 the C & O Railway was complete from Washington in the east, to Cincinnati in the west, except for this one spot in Vanceburg. The trains were ready to run, freight was piling up at the terminals, but unstable ground and difficult formations under the surface of the earth prevented a bridge from being built. It had been tried several times, all failures. The company had to do something. They sent for some skilled stonemasons from Italy who could build up and strengthen the rock formations for the foundation. They arrived, and the job called for an especially skilled one first, to go into a deep and dark hole far under the surface, and back under a ledge to build up the stone. It was a small place, and required a small man. Camillio answered the call and went in, working all day, until at evening he had finished his task. As he was coming out, a large block of stone was dislodged from above, falling into the hole, and crushing him by its impact, taking his life away. But the foundations had been laid, the bridge was quickly completed and the railway began to run.

Christ, especially fitted and skilled for his work, left his bright, far away country to come and labor in the dark hole of our humanity, a labor which cost his life to accomplish that we might pass on to God.

Express Your Opinion
in
The Baptist Forum

HIGHLIGHTS FROM —

Baptist State Conventions Hold Annual Meetings

From Baptist Press Dispatches

ALABAMA —

Celebrates Anniversary

Messengers of the Alabama Baptist State Convention engaged in considerable debate over two resolutions. One, calling for teaching the Biblical view of creation alongside the evolution theory, was approved, but another, calling for an advisory committee to work with state legislators on matters of interest to Baptists, was defeated. The latter resolution lost because messengers apparently resented the implications of Baptist "lobbying."

Alabama's meeting was geared to the climax of a sesquicentennial celebration. A pageant, "The Vision Glorious," featured a 300-voice choir, the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and a cast of 100.

ARIZONA —

Defeats Restructure Move

A study committee proposal, which would have placed the two-state convention (Arizona and Nevada) and all its institutions under the administration of one executive director-treasurer, was referred back to the committee for another year of study. This proposal would have radically restructured the convention. A spokesman said the messengers "were not quite ready" for such far reaching changes and they simply chose to sidestep the changes by referring the proposal for further study.

The atmosphere of the convention, the spokesman said, was "amicable and highly spiritual, with no suggestion of discord," even during the debate over restructure.

ARKANSAS —

Argues Doctrine

"Messengers" to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention defeated a proposal to set up a department of information services to help churches find pastors. The proposal lost by a vote of about 60/40 percent.

Protest was raised concerning seating of messengers from two churches. One church, First Baptist Church, Russellville, Arkansas, had previously practiced "alien immersion," the practice of accepting persons baptized by immersion by other denominations. No messengers had been sent from this congregation. The other church, First Baptist Church, Malvern, Arkansas, previously had involvement with "open communion," the practice of observing the Lord's Supper with Christians of

other churches. Messengers were seated after the credentials committee reported that the church was no longer in violation of the convention's constitution.

CALIFORNIA —

Defeats Proposed Changes

Sidestepping expected heated controversy, messengers to the Southern Baptist General Convention of California calmly defeated six constitutional amendments which would have deleted, in one form or another, prohibitions against churches accepting alien immersion or open communion.

The debate about whether to accept churches into the convention which condone taking the Lord's Supper with other Christians or accept those immersed by other denominations has gone on for five years in California.

Consensus of those favoring the amendments, which were defeated by wide margins, was that a convention has no right to interfere with local church autonomy in such areas.

Citing widespread distrust growing out of abuse of political power, one resolution said, "Separation of church and state does not mean separation of religion from government nor politics, nor should it imply the divorce of religion's basic moral and ethical principles from the conduct of public affairs."

It urged President Nixon to "call our country to a national day of prayer and repentance" and affirmed "trust in the basic principles of the American system of democracy..."

COLORADO —

Government and Morality

Messengers to the Colorado Baptist General Convention passed resolutions on government and morality. They also opposed any alterations, "whether amendments or otherwise," in the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, "which was adopted by our forefathers to assure complete freedom of religion and separation of church and state..."

"The First Amendment," the resolution said, "has withstood the test of time."

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA —

Dual Alignment Fails

The District of Columbia Baptist Convention heard its outgoing president declare that the convention's at-

tempt at dual alignment with American Baptists and Southern Baptists has not worked. He proposed models for change, including possible conversion to a metropolitan association rather than a state-level convention.

James M. Windham, senior minister of First Baptist Church, Silver Spring, Maryland, said, "Our forefathers did not intend divisiveness and fragmentation when they made the Washington body of Baptists a dually-aligned convention. They meant for us to be a great national symbol of unity in the religious life of the nation."

"The ideal," he continued, "was a worthy one. Practically, the idea does not work. In matters upon which we differ we seem to divide almost instinctively along lines of our ABC (American Baptist Churches, formerly American Baptist Convention) and SBC (Southern Baptist Convention) orientation."

A certain amount of friction has existed over the years on several fronts, said James Langley, the D.C. convention's executive secretary. But, in his report to the convention, the day after Windham spoke, he said, "Rather than dual alignment having been found not to work it has been found difficult and not seriously tried by many of us as individuals and churches."

FLORIDA —

Jabs at Darwin Theory

Messengers to the Florida Convention took a jab at the theory of evolution, adopted the largest budget in the state convention's history and set up a plan for securing 400 new church sites by 1985.

The state board of missions was authorized to establish the plan for securing the 400 new sites in advance of population growth and further increase in property costs.

The evolution resolution said, "There are texts being used in some public schools of Florida that leave the impression that theories regarding the origin of man are fact."

It urged that these theories "be clearly taught as theories in our public schools" and that "the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention reaffirm their belief in the Biblical account of the origin of man."

The convention instructed that copies of the resolution be sent to state school officials and Florida governor Reubin Askew.

(Continued on page 7)

WESTERN RECORDER

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST BUILDING MIDDLETOWN, KENTUCKY 40243
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Mistaken Deification Of Youth

A recent news release reported that the trustees of one of the universities in Kentucky reelected the president for a full four year term though he was 64 years old. I could but think of how unlikely such a report could be made concerning a Baptist pastor or denominational worker. Somehow we have come to believe ability and inspiration desert a man of God in his early forties and it's a blessing for everyone when he is required to retire at 65.

Somehow we have to help churches, pulpit committees and denominational committees get over this deification of youth. With rare exception when pulpit committees ask for recommendations for pastors they specify the prospect among other things must be between his late twenties and early forties.

Such an attitude by a church is a sad revelation. It indicates we are caught up in a personality cult in which personal appearance, magnetism and personality are more important than knowledge of the gospel, experience and maturity. We think the most important group to be reached is the young people and a young pastor is required for this. This is not necessarily so. Appeal to youth depends upon attitude and

Good Days For Kentucky Baptists

This is the time of year most of us count our blessings and express gratitude. Kentucky Baptists have special reason to be thankful this year and it behooves us to give thanks to the Lord. Our income was the highest in our history and other statistics were equally impressive.

But we have more to be grateful for than impressive statistics. More important are the spirit and attitude of pastors and laymen all over the state. After all it's the way pastors and laymen in local churches feel that determines their response.

The annual convention in Owensboro week before last reflected the good spirit which exists. Several veteran observers say it was the finest convention they remember. This doesn't mean there was no debate at all. A couple of issues stirred enough discussion to prove it was a Baptist convention. Pity the day when Baptists don't speak their convictions. They will either be dead or won't care and either would be tragic. What's important for us is not disagreement

approach and often an older, experienced pastor is more effective than a younger pastor.

The deification of young pastors is a modern heresy. Baptist history centers mostly around leaders of experience and age. New Testament preachers who escaped martyrdom also seemed to grow in effectiveness and influence with age. We do not have the exact facts but Paul seemed to be at the very height of his influence when he lost his head at about 65 years of age. And John evidently was pastor of the great Ephesian Church when he was in his eighties or maybe even in his nineties. It was at this old age when he was exiled to Patmos and he wrote the Revelation which climaxes the New Testament.

Putting men on the shelf at 65 is not the practice in industrial nor in political life. Consider the ages of the Supreme Court justices. Or consider such current public figures as Senator Sam Ervin of the Senate Select Committee and Judge Sirica of the Watergate Case.

Is there reason to believe men in business or political fields improve with age while the Lord's servants are disqualified with age?

on issues but the spirit with which we disagree.

Nowhere is a genuine Christian spirit among Kentucky Baptists more evident than in the election of a convention president. There has been absolutely no denominational politics nor campaigns on behalf of any candidate for convention offices in the last several years.

This has not always been the case. In former years if one had his ears to the ground he could fairly well predict who would be elected convention president. I recall one year when this was embarrassingly demonstrated. Neither of those involved is any longer among us and so I can tell it. The public relations man for the convention was so sure that a certain man would be elected that he went ahead and wrote up his election as if it had already taken place. A man who resented such manipulations happened to see the writeup before the election and threatened to expose the matter but was persuaded not to do so.

The kind of trusting spirit among Kentucky Bap-

tists is not present among Baptists in every other state. Surely we don't take comfort in the misfortunes of others but we thank God for our good fortunes as we pray for fellow Baptists in other states. We also beseech God not to lead us into temptation but to deliver us from the evil one who will surely try to disrupt our harmony.

The complete explanation for our fine state of affairs would require another editorial but one of the most obvious reasons for the good spirit is the lead-

ership of Executive Secretary Frank Owen. This is the testimony of everyone with whom I have talked. Let's face it. As independent as we are as Baptists, as goes the executive secretary, so goes the convention. As is true of any leader credibility is the most important quality for a denominational leader. Frank Owen has many fine traits and at the head of the list is credibility. While we are thanking the Lord for our fine state of affairs, let us express our gratitude for such a leader.

BAPTIST FORUM



HAROLD HUGHES

Dear Editor:

Senator Harold Hughes' leaving the U.S. Senate to devote his full-time to winning others to Christ reminds me of a lifeguard walking away from a pool full of drowning people to find someone to pull out of the water.

Louisville Thomas R. McKibbens, Jr.

ABORTION RESOLUTION

Dear Editor:

Congratulations are in order for the Kentucky Baptists who, at the recent convention in Owensboro, approved a resolution opposing "the wanton waste of human life in the practice of abortion." As one who is not a Baptist, I can be unreserved in my praise of this positive action approving the pro-life resolution.

Difficult work lies ahead, not only at the state and local level, but in the national arena as well. And continuing support, during the months ahead, offered by influential religious groups such as yours to this extremely important effort in behalf of social morality, can only be honored and appreciated by all those who are concerned with the pro-life movement in America.

Thank you to Kentucky Baptists for a positive step reflecting respect for human life and for the traditional ethical values upon which America was founded and under the guidance of which our country prospered for so many years.

Bowling Green James W. Wesolowski

APPRECIATES HERNDON

Dear Editor:

I am an avid reader of the *Western Recorder* and after reading the editorial page I turn hurriedly to the Bap-

tist Forum column — as it is often reflective of Baptist thinking and opinions on various issues. Perhaps my words will indicate a complaint or at least a regret. I noticed that when the Kentucky Baptist Board of Child Care report was made to our convention last week in Owensboro that no mention was made of the departure of J. D. Herndon from the staff of the Child Care work. It seems that would have been an appropriate time for someone on the staff to have paid a word of respect and tribute to a man who had meant so much to Kentucky Baptist and our Child Care program.

I realize that Christian eloquence has little to do with stage performance. But here is a man who has served in the arena of Kentucky Baptists and the Child Care program for 15 years with a sense of abandon and unusual commitment. He had a way of moving pastors and churches closer to our Child Care program. His interpretation of the needs and changes of the program of child care was clear and convincing. I personally regret losing such a servant as this from the staff of the Child Care program.

I am hopeful that a man of equal ability and compassion can be found to continue such a ministry as J. D. Herndon performed. Whatever the word rapport means — it is something which must be kept alive between Kentucky Baptists and her institutions if progress is to be made.

This is my word of praise for the good work which J. D. Herndon has done.

LaGrange, Kentucky A. L. Meacham

RECORDER IS 'CRUMMY'

Dear Editor:

Several months ago one day I picked up a *Western Recorder* and as I looked at it I wondered why Southern Baptist put out such a crummy looking

magazine as compared to the many other magazines I receive. Excuse the word crummy as that is the word that came to me.

The Baptist are the greatest denomination in the world, and should publish a magazine with the covers that will come up to the contents. We Baptist require our churches and our literature to be something we enjoy and admire.

The *Recorder* being printed on a type of newspaper is not as easy to hold in your hands to read as other magazines. Print on this kind of paper is harder on your eyes than on paper where the letters are more distinct.

I am mailing you under separate cover so that you may compare them with the *Western Recorder* in appearance, three magazines. One is the *Ky Sportsmen*, that I founded while president of the League of Kentucky Sportsmen, being only a bird hunter but the League kept me serving as editor for more than seven years, but while serving as such I tried to have it as attractive as possible, and it grew from 00 to around 12,000 subscribers during my seven years as editor. Being an optometrist, and busy during the day I gave it up as it was more work than I had time for.

I have been a Baptist for many years, and have served in about every capacity available for a layman, in a Baptist church.

I think we have waited much too long to improve our *Western Recorder*. It is natural for a person to pick up a good looking magazine to read than one of unattractive appearance. The *Southern Baptist Journal* is sure to outshine our paper. If their publication is what they hope for it to be it can accomplish a great deal of good. Even so, if we publish the kind of magazine we should we will continue to serve our usual readers and even more if our paper is improved as mentioned above. Somerset, Kentucky Dennie Gooch

(Continued on page 15)

Men And Boys Celebrate 90th Anniversary; Eat Steak

The 14th Brotherhood Convention met in Owensboro on November 23-24 to commemorate the 90th anniversary of boys organized for missionary education in Kentucky. J. B. Solomon, then pastor of the First Baptist Church, Owensboro, was responsible for first leading the boys in that church to begin mission activities.

The convention, attended by both Royal Ambassadors and men, commenced with a free steak dinner for everyone in attendance. The steaks, some 2,000 of them, were donated by Floyd and Tim Dievert, owners of the Blue Grass Angus Farms in Danville.

After the steak dinner a pageant was presented to salute the Royal Ambassador organization. Directed by Russ Mobley, assistant professor of theater at Campbellsville College, the presentation dealt with the relationship between an RA counselor and his boys.

Throughout the convention messages were brought to the participants by Gioele Settembrini, assistant director of Americans United, an organization dedicated to the preservation of the separation of church and state. The Italian born Southern Baptist minister came to the United States in 1954 and was employed by Americans United three years later.

The convention voted to retain the same general officers as in the past year. Serving their second consecutive term will be William E. Snowden, president; Carl Seal, first vice president; John Oldham, second vice president and Glenn Roberts, secretary.

During the president's message, Snowden, a dentist from Winchester, told the men that the hardest thing in living a Christian life for him was to realize that "I didn't care what people thought if they knew I was a Christian." He emphasized the importance of the men being witnesses for Christ in every phase of their lives, not only when they walk into a church.

The convention ended on the tone of a season of prayer. Eight men delivered their testimonies and spoke about a phrase taken from II Chronicles 7:14. The verse was divided into three or four word lines from which each speaker got his topic.

Conventioners heard the announcement that next year they will meet October 3-4 at Central Baptist Church Winchester. Also voted upon was the site of the 1975 convention. The men chose Paducah's First Baptist Church as the place for the October 2-3 meeting.

Win
The
Boys

FRANKLIN OWEN
Executive Secretary, Kentucky Baptist Convention



I've just been to the Brotherhood Convention in Owensboro, which began with a steak fry for men and boys. (Thanks to Floyd and Tim Dievert of Danville for the meat.) I'm tremendously interested in the men and even more interested in the boys.

Today's affairs in the churches greatly depend on the men, but tomorrow depends on the boys. If you want a tomorrow, you'd better be gathering the boys and engaging their interest, inspiring them to give their lives of service in Christian causes.

The example set by the men in their service for Christ and their participation before the boys in the fellowships of Christ may be even more important than what they achieve for Christ in this generation. The boys who follow their examples may be more effective in the next generation than the present men.

Causes that fail to win the boys are apt to die. This is true of both the good and the bad. That's why the liquor industry tries so hard to convert each new generation into drinkers. No matter how profitable the business today, it will be dead in a generation unless they can persuade new drinkers to succeed the old. Hoodlumism and gangsterism will dry up in a generation unless it can win replacements for those who die off. Likewise with noble causes.

I always think of Andrew and the lad with the barley loaves and the small fishes. I conjecture that he liked boys. He knew this boy mighty well, had a close relationship with him. He even knew what was in the boy's lunch basket. His relationship with him became the opportunity for his introduction of the boy to Jesus, and what the boy had, became, in the hands of Jesus, sufficient to feed a multitude.

Likewise, today, men like those I saw last week in touch with the boys may introduce them to Jesus and his service; and what the boys have, however meager, will be enough in the hands of Jesus to feed multitudes.

—Frank Owen

THE . . .  IS
All Missions

WESTERN RECORDER

State Conventions

(Continued from page 3)

GEORGIA —

\$5.5 Million Center Voted

Georgia Baptists gave approval to construction of a major \$5.5 million Baptist Administration Center on the northeastern edge of Atlanta during their 152nd annual meeting in Atlanta. The new center will be located on a 25-acre tract adjacent to Mercer University in Atlanta.

In other action, the Georgia convention adopted resolutions urging respect for the sanctity of the Lord's Day; special prayer for war tensions in the Middle East; more involvement in all levels of government; and called on Georgia governor Jimmy Carter to retract recent statements favoring legalization of state-wide liquor sales.

A special committee was authorized to investigate the relationship between Mercer University in Macon and the Georgia Baptist Convention as relates to election of Mercer trustees. There has been tension within the convention for several years about the system by which Mercer names its own trustees.

HAWAII —

Increased Membership

Hawaii Baptists adopted a record budget, noted increases in membership and missions giving and passed resolutions related to the political scene.

Of the adopted budget of \$363,618, the convention expects \$125,000 from the Cooperative Program contributions of the 45 congregations in the Hawaii Baptist Convention. Twenty-five percent of the Cooperative Program receipts will go to the Southern Baptist world missions budget.

Reports show missions giving almost doubled, increasing from \$162,222 in 1972 to \$300,125 in 1973, and that membership in the 45 congregations increased by 807 to 10,428.

The messengers adopted a resolution favoring legislation limiting campaign contributions and another calling upon political leaders to commit themselves to the Christian standard of honesty in their relationships, justice in their dealings and compassion for their enemies.

A further resolution called on Hawaii Baptists to become more involved in the support of both issues and candidates and to vote only for candidates who will clarify their stands on issues in the 1974 election.

ILLINOIS —

Growth Goal Set

The Illinois Baptist State Association accepted a challenge to gain a net of 100 churches over the next three years. Resolutions approved commended the Illinois Supreme Court for its

decision against parochialism, affirmed faith in Biblical foundations of government, called for prosecution of those found guilty of maligning justice, called for support of national leaders with prayer, opposed a state lottery and recommended that non-participating churches enter the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Program for their pastors, and participating churches upgrade their pastors' pension plans.

Messengers took a final vote against changing the convention's constitution to remove the office of communications from the present administrative structure and place it under a separate committee. The office of communications publishes the convention's newspaper, the *Illinois Baptist*, and handles the convention's public relations.

INDIANA —

Names Woman Officer

The State Convention of Baptists in Indiana took a step toward becoming self-supporting by voting that any funds received above the \$636,000 the convention expects to receive through the Cooperative Program unified budget will go to church pastoral aid and that the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will be advised to reduce its allocation to Indiana by that amount; elected its first woman officer, Mrs. E. W. Springs of Hammond, Indiana, to the office of historical secretary; and passed resolutions on political unrest, pornography and freedom of expression.

KANSAS —

Ends Financial Crisis

Kansas Convention took action to change the two-state convention's name to the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists.

A motion which would have deleted constitutional requirements against churches which practice "alien immersion" or "open communion" was tabled. The tabled motion did not involve refusal to seat messengers but was merely another chapter in what has almost become an annual issue in the two-state convention. Another motion which would have deleted a constitutional requirement barring churches which affiliate with the World Council of Churches or any other ecumenical body was defeated.

In other action, messengers voted unanimously to call in all outstanding bonds of the convention's Church Loan Association, dissolve the association and accept a letter of commitment from two banks for a loan of up to \$500,000 to make the action possible.

The main result of the bond-calling action will be the freeing of \$78,000 annually, which had gone into the Church Loan Association's sinking fund. That amount can now be used for Cooperative Program unified budget purposes.

LOUISIANA —

Praises Vatican

The Louisiana Baptist Convention deleted the word "white" from its constitutional membership requirement for churches; drafted resolutions opposed to Watergate and tax support of private schools; and approved an office of information and counseling as a service to pastors and local churches.

Messengers passed a resolution which praised the Vatican for its "forthright declaration of freedom to the United Nations." The Vatican's statement was quoted as saying, "Everyone has the right of freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to adhere or not to adhere to any religion or belief, professed in public or in private; to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance. Freedom of religion, which involves freedom of choice and freedom of worship, is undermined by religious intolerance and discrimination on religious grounds."

MARYLAND —

Baptist Harmony

Maryland Baptists decried the current political crisis but called also for "redemptive involvement in the affairs of government and personal relationships wherever possible with the fallen politicians." In resolutions the convention called for repeal of Maryland's one year old lottery, which was branded "not successful," and opposed use of tax money for sectarian schools.

Messengers also heard plans for the development of Skycroft, the Maryland convention's new conference retreat and camping center.

MICHIGAN —

Elects Black VP

Messengers to the annual session of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan elected their first black officer. Rochelle Davis, black pastor of Temple of Faith Baptist Church, Detroit, was named second vice president.

Future relocation of the Michigan Southern Baptist body's administrative offices was approved. The move would probably take the convention's headquarters out of the Detroit city limits to a suburb more easily available to expressways.

The messengers also approved a five year program emphasizing various aspects of developing a stronger convention, including strengthening of fellowship, stewardship, local churches and evangelism and building a stronger base through expansion of the number of congregations in the convention.

MISSISSIPPI —

Moral Pollution

Resolutions dealt with were moral pollution, gambling and the proposed

(Continued on page 11)



COMMEMORATIVE PAGEANT — Directed by Russ Mobley, Campbellsville College, the special pageant paid tribute to the over 210,000 boys now associated with the Royal Ambassador program. Pageant actors included Sonny Vickery, Jeffery Mobley, Greg Mobley, Jim Hardy and Roland Raganas.

In the Spirit of Christmas.



LOTTIE MOON, missionary to China, 1873-1912.

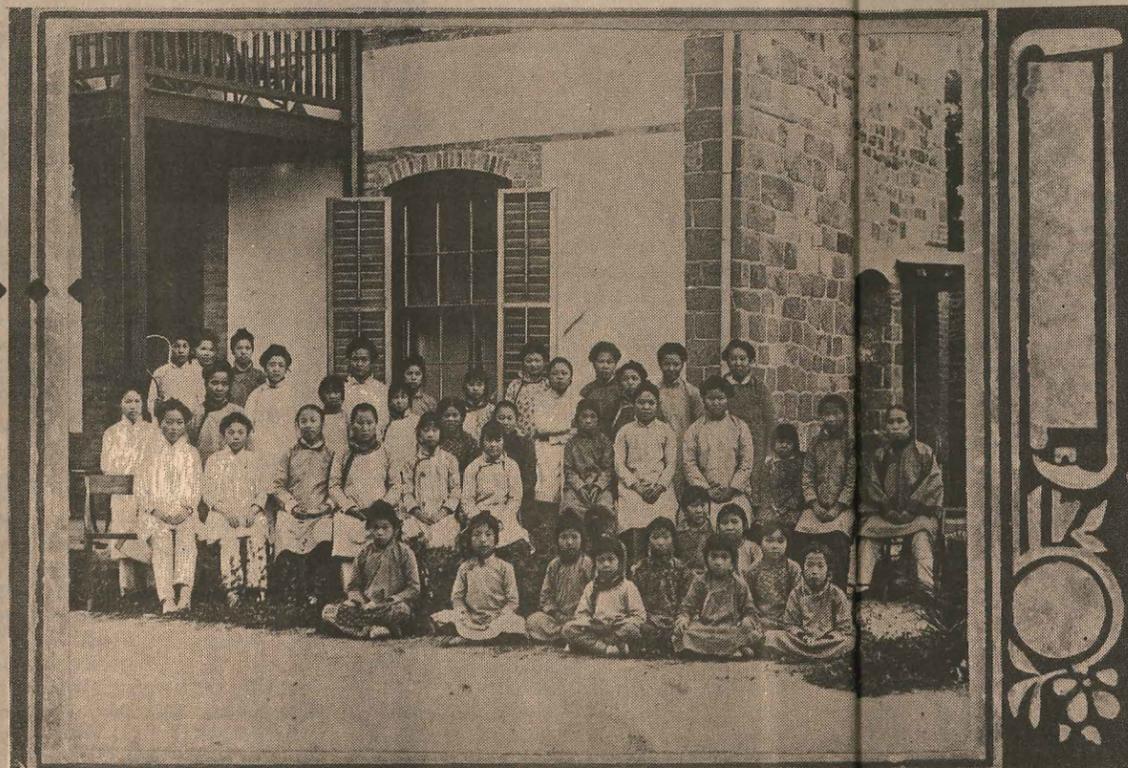
A century ago, just before Christmas, 1873, Charlotte Diggs Moon arrived by ship in North China.

All her years in China, Lottie Moon pioneered Christian witness beyond the cities. She continuously pled with fellow Baptists at home to provide more support for sharing the Gospel. More workers. More funds to underwrite their labor. So effective was her persistent ministry that still today her life symbolizes missionary compassion, still inspires missionary advance—into all the world.

Now famous among Southern Baptists as a missionary milestone is her letter published in the December 1887 issue of the FOREIGN MISSIONS JOURNAL. In this she suggested that the week before Christmas be an observance of prayer and giving for the expansion of the Gospel witness at home and overseas.

During this centennial year of the beginning of Lottie Moon's ministry in China, Southern Baptists have before them the challenge of a \$20 million goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. This offering reflects a corporate and deliberate commitment to tell the good news of the Gospel everywhere.

Today the smallest congregation, and the largest, participate in worldwide Gospel outreach because of the common desire to do together what no one congregation can do alone. In this labor of love, missionaries and supporting congregations share the truth of the Gospel in all possible ways. And by the cooperative efforts of all the churches the missionary witness continues in the name of the Prince of Peace... in the spirit of Christmas.



GIRLS' SCHOOL, TENGCHOW — "Four days in the week I must visit day and examine the pupils, or hear them examined" — Lottie Moon.



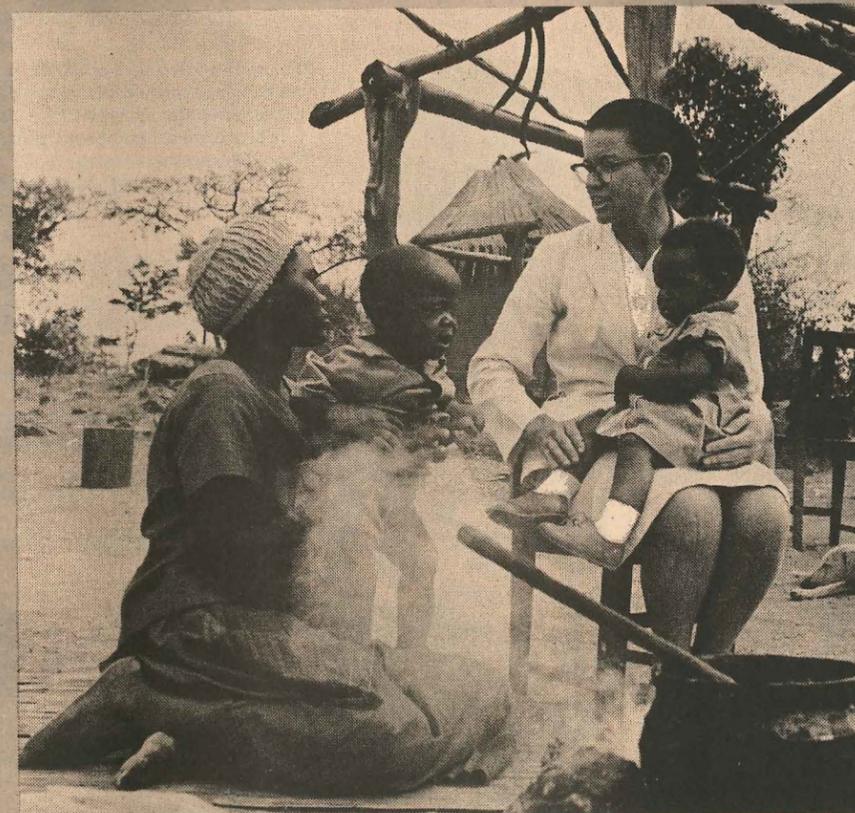
"THE LITTLE CROSSROADS," TENGCHOW — Life here is so much the same from day to day that there's little to write about it" — Lottie Moon.



MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS ON KP, TENGCHOW — "We ask (people) to cast in their lot... making themselves part and parcel of the native society around them" — Lottie

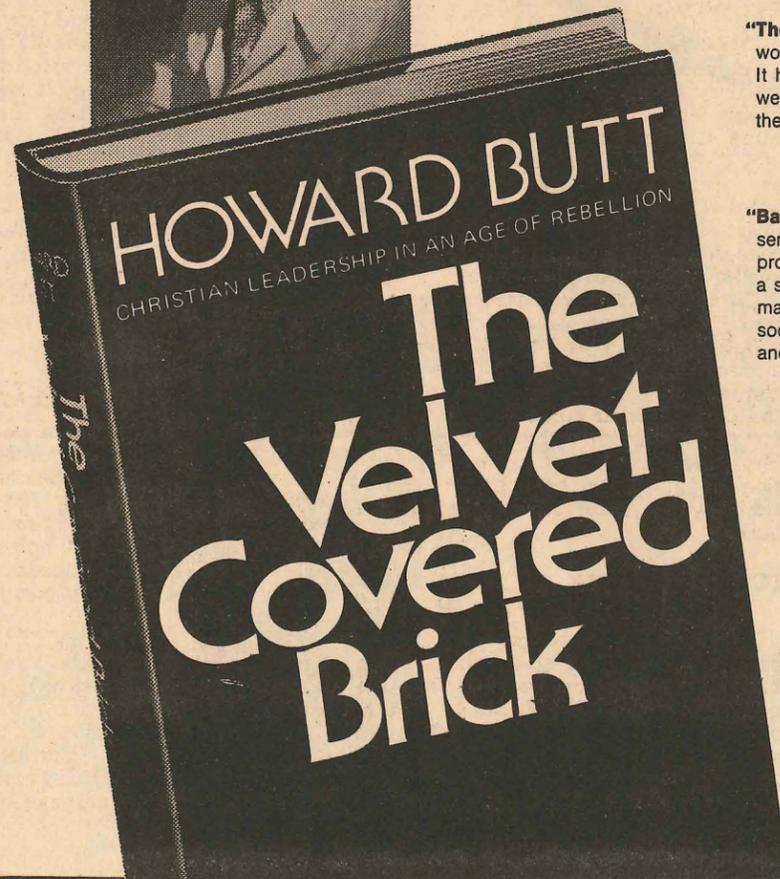


STUDENTS TODAY — Ministries with students are still a vital part of the foreign missions efforts of Southern Baptists. Though methodology may change, the message of Jesus Christ remains the same whether in China of 1873, or (above) Mexico of 1973.



"SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN..." — Missionary Frances Greenway, in the same Christian spirit as her missionary predecessor Lottie Moon, ministers to physical and spiritual needs of children in Rhodesia.

"For those who really mean business with God."



Says Howard Lindsell of *Christianity Today* in his advance review of the great new book by Howard Butt. In it, the dynamic Texas executive and lay preacher goes to the core of today's leadership crisis and dares to say that the solution lies in reactivating the traditional Christian principles of authority and submission. His book demands real change—change that can only come from a reintroduction of these timeless ideas today. THE VELVET COVERED BRICK confronts head-on the problem of what valid Christian leadership means in a day of rebellion.

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"Dramatically portrays the life style of a host of American religionists... Instead of the highly predictable ho-hum plot usually associated with this type of book, where the hero then makes millions and is elected president of the company, Howard Butt loses business power, but gains the power to become truly human and truly a leader."

—Mark O. Hatfield, U.S. Senator (Oregon)

"Thought-provoking... This book is well worth careful reading and mature reflection. It has many inspirational insights, and a wealth of common sense—all expressed with the felicitous turn of phrase."

—Humberto Cardinal Medeiros, Archbishop of Boston

"Bares the soul... In clear, explicit, no-nonsense words, Howard Butt articulates with profound relevance the tensions in the life of a serious follower of Christ which forge the maturity so desperately needed in modern society. This book... gives encouragement and strength to others."

—Richard C. Halverson, Fourth Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C.

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State Conventions

(Continued from page 7)

prayer amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The resolution concerning the proposed prayer amendment put messengers on record as "opposing any efforts to tamper with the First Amendment to the Constitution."

A report of the restore "Gulfshore" campaign committee revealed that some \$800,000 has been pledged toward the current drive to raise \$1,250,000 to add to other funds to rebuild the Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at Pass Christian, Mississippi, which was practically destroyed by Hurricane Camille in 1969.

NEW MEXICO — Placid and Satisfied

The Baptist Convention of New Mexico adopted a Cooperative Program budget of \$1.5 million, honored its retiring promotion and stewardship director, and had as one observer remarked, a "placid and satisfied" annual meeting.

NORTH CAROLINA — Non-Immersed Eligible

North Carolina State Convention rejected an amendment to its convention constitution that would have limited "messengers" to those coming from churches which have only immersed members. Observers characterized defeat of the amendment as a vote for local church autonomy and not a vote against baptism by immersion.

The convention messengers passed resolutions on Christian citizenship, more responsible television programming and stronger liquor laws.

NORTHERN PLAINS — Four Women Elected

Messengers to the four-state Northern Plains Baptist Convention (Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming) endorsed Mrs. Richard Sappington's resolution to the 1973 Southern Baptist Convention in Portland on the "God-given role of women."

The resolution on women, which a spokesman said was made without most messengers knowing the specific content of the Portland resolution, passed with no debate.

Four women were elected by the convention messengers. Mrs. Charles Highlan, the convention's bookkeeper, was named recording secretary; Mrs. Jerry Glass, wife of a Sturgis, South Dakota, pastor, was named assistant recording secretary; Mrs. Thomas Sherrill, wife of a pastor from Minot, North Dakota, and Mrs. W. L. Findley of Great Falls, Montana, were the first women ever elected to the convention's executive board.

Harley Miller, a building contractor from Bismarck, North Dakota, became the first lay president of the Northern Plains Baptist Convention.

The convention's by-laws were amended to make provision for the convention to have agencies, including the newly-incorporated Northern Plains Baptist Convention Foundation.

NORTHWEST — Adopts Restructure

The Northwest Baptist Convention adopted a report which will lead to reorganization of its convention structure. "Messengers" voted to phase out the convention's Baptist Building in Portland, Oregon, and develop a convention office-church program training center complex near Portland.

Messengers decided that 50 percent of any funds in excess of the Cooperative Program budget will go to SBC causes and 50 percent to Northwest Baptist Convention causes.

OHIO — Urges Prayer

The messengers of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio upgraded salaries of convention employees; voted to continue assistance to the Ohio Free Public Schools Committee, a state committee opposing use of public tax funds in parochial schools; and resolved to encourage Baptists to pray for their national leaders rather than criticize them.

OKLAHOMA — Strength in God

As shells from nearby Fort Sill's artillery training center thudded ominously throughout the proceedings, some 1,100 messengers threaded their way daily to the convention site, avoiding terrain pitted with prairie dog holes. The holes have "spread" from a nearby "prairie dog town," set up because ecologists want to preserve part of the state's western heritage.

Citing a welter of national and international crises, such as Watergate, inflation, energy and the Middle East, a resolution encouraged "all people to continue looking to God for strength, the Bible as their guide and the church for Christian fellowship and service." Messengers also spoke against legalization of parimutuel betting and restrictions by the state on uses of church buses.

SOUTH CAROLINA — Warning Label on Booze

The South Carolina Convention called for a label to go on all alcoholic beverage containers warning that the contents might be harmful to health, opposed legalized gambling in all forms and urged cooperation with government officials in conserving energy.

In a meeting that one "messenger"

described as "three days of complete harmony with not a dissenting voice," the convention adopted a 1974 Cooperative Program (unified) budget of \$6,375,000, an increase of \$325,000 over the 1973 budget. In the absence of crucial issues, messengers gave primary attention to the program's main speakers, including three laymen.

The lay speakers included SBC president Owen Cooper; Jimmy Carter, governor of Georgia; and the 1973 South Carolina Baptist president Patrick L. Baughman, a Waggner businessman.

TENNESSEE — Atmosphere of Calm

During the three-day annual meeting, messengers to the Tennessee convention increased the number of members on committees and deferred a proposed constitution change that would increase the executive board membership.

The 1,300 messengers voted a record \$7 million Cooperative Program budget amid an atmosphere of "calm" and looked toward next year's centennial meeting in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

In a convention marked by a lack of controversy and few resolutions, the messengers voted to distribute two-thirds of Cooperative Program (undesignated) \$7 million budget to Tennessee Baptist work and the rest to SBC cases.

It was thought prior to the annual meeting that an offer to give \$5 million to Union University if the school would move to the Memphis area would create a rift during the convention, but the offer was withdrawn prior to the meeting and wasn't an issue.

Messengers recognized Mrs. Eura Lannom, assistant to the editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*, news publication of the Tennessee convention, and Charles Norton, secretary of the convention's church training department, for 30 years service each, and Miss Beulah Peoples, promotion director of Woman's Missionary Union for Tennessee Baptists, for 15 years service.

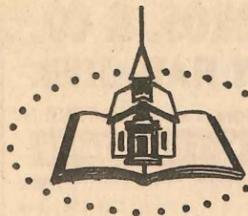
TEXAS — Elects Black Officer

Texas messengers were startled to learn of an error in counting the ballots when they elected their new president earlier in the day. Two sets of computer cards for balloting had been used. One type had 18 holes and the other had 20. This caused the computer to yield a false result on the election.

Corrected results revealed that Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, Texas, had been elected president.

Harold Branch, pastor of St. John's Baptist Church in Corpus Christi, emerged as second vice president and

(Continued on page 14)



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By H. C. Chiles

(These Lessons for December 9, 1973)



LIFE AND WORK SERIES

The Life In The Spirit

Promise of the Spirit John 14:16

During His ministry among His disciples our Lord had guarded, protected, encouraged, and guided them, but now that He was about to leave them Christ assured them that the Holy Spirit would come to be with them, and to assume the responsibility of being another guardian of the same kind as He had been. Christ made it perfectly clear to His followers that the Holy Spirit is a Person Who knows, feels, and wills. He assured them that the Holy Spirit would continue the work that He had begun in their lives. He informed them that when the Holy Spirit indwelt them that He would remove their inadequacies and enable them to cope with the problems of life, and to do whatever was necessary for them to live triumphantly.

Presence and Power of the Spirit Romans 8:9-17, 26-27

A distinguishing characteristic of a regenerated person is that he is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The fact that the Spirit indwells an individual is positive proof that Christ has saved him and that he has eternal life. When the Spirit of God takes up His abode in the heart of a believer in Christ, that person is no longer under the control of the flesh or devoted to the satisfaction of the fleshly lusts. The indwelling Holy Spirit enables the Christian to have victory over the temptations of Satan and to produce fruit to the glory of God.

Christians have the joyous privilege of living victoriously over carnality on the condition of their willingness to receive and appropriate the strength that is made available to them by the indwelling Spirit of God. As they hold in check the inclinations to the wrong manner of life, rely upon the Holy Spirit for enabling power, and walk humbly before God and in the sight of men, they wield a most wholesome influence. The Spirit of God leads His dear children from sin, and from dependence on themselves, and into the paths of service into which He directs, and for which He provides the strength which is needed.

When the Holy Spirit regenerates us, God shuts us up in Christ and we are sealed by the Spirit. What a wonderful

position in which to be! The Spirit then gives us the assurance "that we are the children of God." He also indwells the believer, strengthens him, helps him in prayer (8:26), guides in the study of God's Word, directs in the Lord's work, comforts in the time of sorrow, and empowers for service.

"The Life Which I Now Live" Galatians 2:20

In this verse Paul attempted to explain his personal Christian experience which, actually, was beyond the power of words to express. Paul was a great thinker, missionary, and pioneer for Christ, but he was greatest of all as a Christian. Here Paul tells the secret of his Christian life — "Christ liveth in me." Even as Christ was crucified to the law, sin, Satan, and death, so that they did not have any further power over him, even so the Apostle, being crucified with Christ in spirit, was dead to the law, to sin, and to the world.

Paul declared that he was not living as he had formerly. A wonderful transformation had taken place in him and Christ was living in him. Christ within meant refreshment, enjoyment, and abiding strength for the daily life. It

meant victory in the battle against Satan and sin. His whole life came under another mastery and was proceeding in another direction. Christ's personality had invaded Paul's and had taken complete possession of it.

Christianity is Christ living in us. It is not the imitation of a splendid model, but the indwelling of a living presence. When Christ enters the life, His presence brightens up the dull, monotonous days and makes life worth living. When Christ lives within, the dormant powers are aroused and greatly improved.

Paul, who had been a bitter persecutor of God's people, and an enemy of the cross of Christ, one day had his eyes opened, and he suddenly realized that the One Who died on the cross went there for him, and that it was love that led Him to go to that shameful death. When he repented of his sin and believed on Christ as his Saviour, the transformation was complete. From that moment Paul's heart went out to Christ in adoring gratitude, and until the very end of his days he found his greatest joy in proving his love for Him by a life of personal service. ■

INTERNATIONAL SERIES

Who Is This Jesus?

John 10:22-39

Directing the attention of his own disciples to Jesus Christ, John the Baptist said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Consistent with the purpose for which the gospel according to John was written, "that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:31), it portrays Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the Messiah of the Jews, and the Saviour of sinners. From this gospel we learn that our Saviour was co-eternal, co-existent, and co-equal with God the Father. His essential deity is confirmed throughout the New Testament. On numerous occasions Christ claimed that He was the Son of God.

During His sojourn in Jerusalem and its environs people were increasingly

interested in Christ Jesus, and controversies arose and raged over Him. Was He a deceiver or truly a good man? In the winter the time arrived for the celebration of the Feast of Dedication which was an annual event.

Jesus Christ was walking in Solomon's porch on the east side of the temple area, just inside the outer wall of the courtyard. It was under a roof which protected the people from the cold rain, and the wall afforded them protection from the cold wind. As one might expect, the Lord Jesus was walking through the crowds that were assembled there during the inclement weather, in order that He might teach the ones who were willing to accept instruction and bless them in various ways.

Reports of His remarkable teachings and wondrous miracles had been circulating in the city. These reports had

caused many to wonder if He were really the Messiah. A group of the Jewish leaders, who were His enemies, surrounded Him. Pretending that they were being held in suspense as to whether or not He was the Messiah, they asked Him to make a plain statement to them as to whether or not He was the Christ.

Inasmuch as He had previously told them Who He was and acknowledged His deity (John 8:25-29), and then had performed miracles which proved His claim to deity, Christ chided these hostile Jews for their unwillingness to believe. His works or miracles constituted sufficient evidence for any who would acknowledge reality and admit the truth, but the unwillingness to believe on the part of these hostile inquisitors proved beyond a peradventure of a doubt that they were not His sheep, and that they really did not want to hear the truth from His lips.

In contrasting His irritated and infuriated questioners with His true followers, whom He called "my sheep," Christ uttered one of the clearest statements that has ever been made about the security of the children of God. He declared that true believers have two characteristics, namely, they hear and recognize His voice, and they follow Him. Moreover, he declared that He recognized or knew them.

According to the statement of Christ, Who is the Son of God and the only Saviour of men, He gives eternal life to individuals when they believe on Him as their personal Saviour, and "they shall never perish." Since a believer in Christ is kept by the power of God, he cannot be lost until the power of God fails. A true acceptance of the declaration of Christ concerning the security of the believer in this passage increases one's faith in Him, love for Him, and devotion to Him, strengthens one's desire to live a clean and victorious life, and quickens his zeal to render obedient service for Him.

Having boldly denied the deity of Christ, it is not surprising that His enemies were infuriated when they heard Him say, "I and my Father are one." Because of their inability to win the argument with reference to the deity of Christ, the Jewish leaders were ready to stone Him and prepared to do so. On many occasions the enemies of truth have tried to destroy the messengers of truth, and in numerous cases they have succeeded in their attempts.

Unable to disprove that Christ had performed miracles and had done many wonderful works, the highly prejudiced and embittered Jews called Him a blasphemer because He had claimed equality with God, but He denied their accusation and refused to allow them to stone Him to death, and escaped from them. ■

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Gleanings

Baptist churches in Mexico suffered heavy damage from the floods and earthquake which struck in August, causing at least \$390,000 damage to Baptist congregations. Churches in the state of Puebla were most severely damaged. Carl W. Tiller, associate secretary and relief coordinator for the Baptist World Alliance, is serving as a channel for Baptist bodies and churches which wish to provide financial help. (BP)

A student inquired of Feliz Gresham, dean of students at **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary**, how to make a contribution to the seminary's student aid program. Gresham explained the simple procedure involved. Several weeks later, the man returned with a cashier's check for \$10,000. To say Gresham was surprised would be an understatement. The student asked not to be identified, stating that several years ago he made a promise to God to share a portion of his business' prof-

its. The \$10,000 gift represents this year's share. The money will be placed in permanent endowment with the earnings to be used in aiding five or six students each year. (BP)

The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission honored its president, **Paul M. Stevens**, for 20 years service as the agency's chief executive. Gifts and tributes were presented by commission board members, employees and city civic leaders, commemorating his tenure.

Porter Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, said the commission has received over \$17 million through the Cooperative Program, since Stevens was elected in 1953, to communicate the Christian message through radio and television. (BP)

Charles Houston Bolton, 87, former SBC executive and pastor, died November 14, 1973, in Thomasville, Georgia.

A native of Franklin County, Alabama, Bolton was formerly executive secretary for both the SBC Foundation and the Florida Baptist State Convention. He was an associate executive secretary for what was then known as the Southern Baptist Convention's Relief and Annuity Board (now Annuity Board) from 1939-41.

Bolton is survived by his widow, the former Lena Mae Painter and two daughters. Services were at First Baptist, Thomasville, with burial in Jacksonville, Florida. (BP)

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State Conventions

(Continued from page 11)

as the first black officer in the convention's 88-year history. He has been a Southern Baptist since 1947. Twenty-two black churches have already joined the 4,400 Texas Baptist congregations.

WEST VIRGINIA — Urges Honesty

Messengers of the West Virginia Convention called for honesty in government; elected Carlisle Driggers, a pastor from Morgantown, as convention president; and adopted a \$260,736 budget. The budget is largely underwritten by assistance from the SBC Home Mission Board and the Sunday School Board.

VIRGINIA — Religious Liberty

Virginia Baptists interspersed business with its sesquicentennial celebration, adopting a \$5.7 million Cooperative Program unified budget and passing resolutions calling for religious freedom, a free press and honesty in government; opposing parimutuel gambling and relaxation of state alcohol control laws and urging cooperation to end the energy crisis.

Underscoring attempts "both from without and within" Southern Baptist ranks to dilute basic principles of religious freedom, a resolution reaffirmed "the autonomy of the local church, separation of church and state, the right of the individual to interpret the word of God as he is led by the Holy Spirit..."

The messengers also approved statements "affirming the essential relationship of free press and religious liberty, the one being essential to the other" and applauding "the free press in its diligent pursuit of truth in the face of lies and attempts at suppression."

But, after some debate, messengers accepted a motion from the floor to also "deplore and condemn some segments of the press and other news media that abuse freedom of the press by suppression of the truth and by publication of gross misrepresentations and lies."

Virginia Baptists also deplored "abuse of electronic surveillance and computer personal data files as dangerous threats to individual freedoms, both civil and religious," called for resistance to encroachments on religious liberties by "insisting on the public's right to know, by calling for clear limitations on secrecy in government and by becoming personally active in political processes, demonstrating a Christian witness at all times."



(Continued from page 5)

OPPOSITION BRINGS ALARM

Dear Editor:

As a Baptist, I was alarmed over the article declaring opposition to the Buckley-Hatfield Amendment prohibiting abortion by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. If they oppose this amendment, they are, in fact, saying we support the Supreme Court's decision of January 22, 1973, which bars states from preventing abortion within the first three months of pregnancy. Also, a woman may for any or no reason demand an abortion in the first six months and have her demand guaranteed as a constitutional right. In the last three months (6-9 months pregnant), she has the constitutional right to have her health — physical, emotional, mental and familial — preferred to the life of the fetus. This is, without a doubt, ABORTION ON DEMAND. Is this not against God's law, "Thou shalt not kill." (Deuteronomy 5:17)? I feel that once life at any stage is threatened, life at all other stages of growth and age is endangered.

The Hatfield or Hogan Amendment would again restore respect for life in our legal system, protecting not only the unborn human baby, but also the elderly, the mentally deficient from euthanasia. I salute William Hagan's proposal. I think all Christians should consider this issue seriously and take a stand now while we can reverse the legislation. Join pro-life groups and take a strong public stand. As parents of two young children, my husband and I urge other parents to fight this senseless killing of innocent lives. Consider what this lack of respect for life will lead to and what sort of violent society it will help create for our children to enter. Write letters to our legislator: Senator Marlow W. Cook, Room 347, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Franklin _____ Mrs. Sharon Henderson

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Missouri Moves To Resolve Leadership, Finance Crises

A record 1,889 "messengers" to the annual meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention dispensed with the planned program for their three-day annual meeting in Columbia, Missouri, to concentrate on settling a year-long controversy over convention leadership and finances.

During two days of almost continual open discussion of convention business, the messengers questioned auditors about charges of administrative mismanagement, considered motions for improving convention business practice, elected 17 new members to the convention's executive board and the board authorized a procedures committee to recommend guidelines for selecting a new executive secretary.

Early in the opening session a motion was passed by a large majority to eliminate most of the scheduled reports by the convention's agencies, institutions and committees "to provide adequate time to discuss fully the business conditions of this convention and the state of its leadership."

W. T. Holland, pastor of First Baptist Church, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and a former president of the Missouri convention, introduced the motion.

Early debate centered on the 51-member executive board. The convention's nominating committee submitted 20 persons for election to the board. Five of them were replaced by nominations from the floor. Only three of the 20 were persons returned to the board for second terms.

On August 24, the board had received a report from special auditors that serious irregularities appear in the convention's financial records for the calendar years 1970, 1971 and 1972.

At that time the auditors stated, "The records and funds of the Missouri Baptist Convention have been maintained in an unacceptable manner with lack of proper controls over the funds,

inadequate records, lack of supporting evidence and commingling of the personal funds of the Executive Secretary with assets of the Benevolent Fund."

Earl O. Harding, who had been executive secretary since 1954, died on August 12.

Representatives of both the convention's regular auditors and the special auditors were present to answer questions. One concern which emerged was the propriety of the convention borrowing \$1,040,000 from its restricted Building Fund for operations and for remodeling the convention's office building.

The convention referred to its executive board a motion to refinance this loan and pay back the Building Fund by October, 1974.

The 1972 audit of convention financial affairs also showed a \$254,654.39 excess of expenses over income.

The convention voted to refer to its Structure and Reorganization Committee a lengthy motion calling for clearer executive board policies on conflict of interest, commingling of employee personal funds with convention funds, compliance with the spirit as well as the letter of tax and revenue laws and complete openness and full disclosure by the board on these and other matters. Committee membership was increased from four to 15.

Messengers accepted the auditors recommendation and voted that convention financial records be closed on December 31 each year instead of on January 5 or 10, as has been the practice in recent years.

H. L. McClanahan, who has been serving as interim executive secretary since August, submitted his resignation to the board in a pre-convention meeting. He stated, "I have been placed in an untenable position that will not permit me to perform to the maximum of my ability." He agreed to a request by

the board to stay on until a permanent executive secretary can be secured.

A motion calling for the firing of W. Ross Edwards as editor of *The Word and Way*, journal of the Missouri Baptist Convention, was introduced by J. B. Phillips, a layman from St. Louis. After debate, the motion lost by a narrow margin. Edwards said to the crowd, "I appreciate the confidence demonstrated by this vote."

The convention's membership was up about 13,000 to 546,705 over a year ago. Baptisms reported for the past year totaled 19,106, slightly less than the previous year.

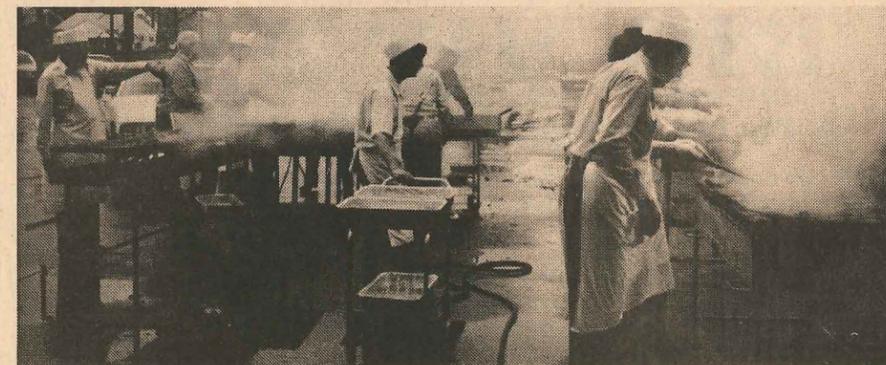
Regarding the significance of the convention sessions, G. Hugh Wamble, elected convention president for the coming year, said, "One, the convention was a reaction against the past and there was considerable openness in dealing with past grievances.

"The second significance has to do with the future. The procedures of the convention, the operating of the convention itself, will need to be reflected on very carefully and deliberately," said Wamble, who is professor of church history at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The messengers adopted resolutions against lobby laws which jeopardize citizen rights, legalized gambling and government-aided religion.

Another resolution supported legislation to curb alcoholism and drunken driving. A general resolution of thanks to various people also expressed gratitude for all the good work done by Harding and McClanahan. A resolution on abortion was referred to the Missouri Christian Life Commission.

Regarding the future of the convention, F. R. Cole, the retiring president, said, "I am optimistic and believe that the best days are ahead. We are going to have some changes made in structure and method of operation, but I think that they will all be good and healthy for us and help us to do even better than we have done." (BP)



NO MEAT SHORTAGE HERE. Over 2,000 steaks were donated by the Dievert brothers, Floyd and Tim, for the men and Royal Ambassadors at the 14th Brotherhood Convention in Owensboro. These men are shown preparing the steaks before the crowds began to arrive.

Reports Available

Some few copies of the 1973 Book of Reports prepared for use during the annual sessions of the Kentucky Baptist Convention are available upon request. If you desire a copy, please write the Executive Secretary's office, P.O. Box 43433, Middletown, Kentucky 40243 and a copy will be mailed to you.