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Miss America To Speak At Acteens Conference June 25-29

Shirley Cothran, the reigning Miss America and a former Acteens leader, will be in the lineup of more than 50 program personalities at the National Acteens Conference (NAC) slated for Memphis, June 25-29.

About 500 Kentuckians will be among the more than 10,000 Acteens and leaders who have registered. Beverly Sutton, Acteens consultant for Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, said registration now stands at more than double the original projection. WMU has moved the meeting into larger quarters each time registration exceeded capacity.

Kentucky's WMU is sponsoring a bus to the convention. The bus will leave June 25 from Oxmoor Shopping Center in Louisville and return on June 29. Four of the 27 associations from Kentucky attending NAC are scheduled to take buses. These are: Severns Valley, South District, Crittenden and West Union. A few conference reservations are still available.

G'town Graduation Held

Georgetown College awarded degrees to 248 of its students on Saturday, May 24, marking the 146th time commencement exercises have been held on the campus of this Kentucky Baptist school.

The commencement address was delivered by Franklyn A. Johnson, program director of the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, Miami, Florida. The baccalaureate address was given by Jack Lowndes, executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist Convention of New York.

This year's honored guests included Coleman Arnold, Georgetown, and Henry S. Symonds, Orlando, Florida, who received honorary degrees from the college. Members of the class of 1925 were also recognized by the college and were presented medallions by Richard Newell, president of the alumni association.

Those interested should contact Anna Mary Byrdwell at the Kentucky WMU.

Most of the NAC sessions will be held in Cook Convention Center, Memphis. The theme of the meeting is "In Touch," designed to brief girls on how they can relate to worldwide crises through missions.

Special NAC features will relate to the fifth anniversary of Acteens, which is WMU's missions organization for junior high and senior high school girls. A "time capsule" exhibit will involve girls in the Acteens anniversary celebration. Other exhibits will be built as streets of the world and will give girls a chance to meet and talk with 36 missionaries.

Other noteworthy speakers will be Wendell Belew, director of the missions division of the Home Mission Board, who will lead the Acteens in a concluding service of commitment; Mrs. Charles Caldwell, author and modeling teacher from Houston, Texas, who will lead creative prayer periods; and Juliette Mather, WMU's first young people's leader and long-retired editorial secretary of the organization, who will present daily summaries of the news and will explain missions implications. Music will be directed by Forbes Woods, minister of music at North Phoenix Baptist Church in Arizona.

Church Chuckles by CARTWRIGHT



"Maybe I can't take it with me, but what's the difference the way dollars have declined in value?"

DEVOTIONAL



Kerney L. Bailey
Pastor, Southside Baptist
Church, Louisville

Excited About Bible

I read with interest an article in the March issue of *Outreach* magazine. The article was entitled "I'm Excited About the Bible," which was an interview with Jo Ann Shelton relating something about her renewal experience and her hunger for the Word of God.

I realize that for some people being excited about the Bible would be very strange. On the one hand excitement would be very much out of place since the Bible has been held in such high and holy esteem. On the other hand, there would be those who would not be excited about the Bible because they think it is just another piece of literature. While I could never agree with the latter position, I do believe the Bible should be held in high and holy esteem with excitement. It is very exciting to me to believe that the Bible is God's inspired Word, which provides a record of creation, the fall of man and redemption for man. You see, I was one of those persons. I was created by God, I am a sinner by nature and I have been redeemed through the blood of Christ. Man, is that ever exciting to me!

The Bible message is the expression of good news. Now, everyone thinks of good news as being exciting. When you read that Christ died for you, rose again and is alive, is the Lord of heaven and earth, is dwelling in the hearts and lives of His people and is the head of His churches, you are reading good news which is very exciting.

It is also exciting to think in terms of a new thrust of Bible reading emerging. An example of this is the plan of reading the Bible through this year. While there is no virtue in reading the Bible through, some are reading messages they have never read before. Isn't that great!

The late Karl Barth was asked concerning his most provocative thought. After a moment of study, he replied, "Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so." That is exciting! □



Two Korean worship services each Sunday are conducted in the Muldraugh Baptist Church. The mission is sponsored by the Muldraugh Baptist Church, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Severns Valley Baptist Association and the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The pastor is Paul Hyung Jik Ahn (inset), a Southern Seminary graduate student. Ahn also conducts two Korean services each Sunday at Beechwood Baptist Church in Louisville.



CUMBERLAND COLLEGE BSU OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL — Shown with Cumberland College religious activities director Elwyn Wilkinson are BSU officers and executive council members for 1975-76. They are [first row, left to right]: Clelie Bourne, Susan Wynn, secretary Kathryn Berry, Faye McGehee, William Gray, Joe Dugan, Elwyn Wilkinson. [Second row, left to right]: president Belinda Hall, Tracy Anderson, treasurer Jane Olds, Geney Caster, Ann Hurt, Dan Brock. [Third row, left to right]: Mike Campbell, vice president Bill Thompson, Mike Smith and Tom Ford. Not shown are Mary Lou Davis, Joni Hershenson, Willie Ailstock and Merle Bustle.

AT MEDIA CONSULTATION — Four Kentuckians attending the recent Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission second annual media consultation visit with Paul M. Stevens [second from left], commission president. From left are Robert E. Kersey, associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Paducah; L. Reed Polk, Jr., pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, and Robert Young, associate pastor, Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville. Those attending the seminary studied effective methods of religious broadcasting.



JUNE 14, 1975

Home Mission Board Gets Record Support, Looks To Future

The Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board received unprecedented support from Southern Baptists in 1974-75, according to economic indicators.

In spite of national economic ills, Southern Baptist gave unflinching support for their home missions effort through the denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions during the fiscal year.

The board's share of the record Cooperative Program receipts — up 13 percent in 1974 — was \$6,225,913. Annie Armstrong Easter Offering totals also set a new record — \$8,130,142, up more than \$1.1 million over the 1974 goal.

That support enabled the board to raise missionary and staff salaries, though the median salary for home missionaries is still some \$2,000 below the national median.

During the year, the board appointed 414 persons, a gain of 14 percent over 1973, with 75 missionaries, 165 associate missionaries, 148 pastoral missionaries and 26 serving two-year US-2 appointments.

Also, 1,005 student summer missionaries were appointed by both the Home Mission Board and the Baptist Student Unions across the nation, and, also 23 "sojourners"—high school summer missions volunteers—were appointed for the first time. (BP)

Reservations For WMU Bus To Ridgecrest Available, Last Call

There is still available space for several passengers on the chartered bus to Ridgecrest for the WMU Conference, August 9-15, 1975. The bus is scheduled to depart from Oxmoor Shopping Center's parking lot in Louisville at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, August 9. Stops will be made at Shelbyville, Lexington and Corbin. The return trip to Louisville will be on August 15.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to have a mountaintop experience at Ridgecrest while receiving WMU information that will be invaluable throughout the year.

Contact Miss Rosa Fiechter, WMU Office, Middletown 40243 immediately. •

WESTERN RECORDER

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST BUILDING MIDDLETOWN, KENTUCKY 40243

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Southern Baptists Mix Business With Fun

This week is no time for Baptists to get sick, die, marry or do anything else which would require a pastor. The shepherds of many Baptist flocks are in Miami Beach this week for the big annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. This is said facetiously because any Baptist pastor would skip or return early from the convention to serve any member or family of his flock.

A meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention is many things to many Baptists and there are no words to capture it completely. What the Kentucky Derby is to horse racing fans, the Indianapolis 500 to auto racing enthusiasts and Mardi Gras to revelers, the annual convention is to Southern Baptists. It's fun.

But it is more than this. It is a high tide of inspiration with powerful preaching and joyful singing.

It is a homecoming and reunion for thousands who once were closely associated in school or elsewhere but now see one another only at the national convention.

For some the convention is the only vacation which time and funds will allow. This is very proper because there's time enough for convention business and recreation. This is especially so this year with the meeting in Miami Beach.

For still others it is a strenuous and busy time. Those on the program and the officers who preside and get accurate records of all which is said and done probably have it the hardest. Next most demanding is the task of Baptist editors and reporters who try to make certain a full report and an accurate interpretation are prepared for Baptists who do not attend.

A first time observer would likely be reminded of a Fourth of July picnic more than a religious gathering. Hundreds of happy Baptists stroll through the corridors, congregate in the exhibition and book store area and even use the grounds for their own conventions.

But to assume all these are merely bent on their own fun and are not interested nor participat-

ing in the convention would be wrong. They know the convention schedule and make their appearance when decisive issues are considered, when officers are elected, when resolutions are presented, when miscellaneous business is scheduled and when their favorite speaker is on.

This is also proper. Only the diehards and those ultra seat conditioned can sit through every minute of every session.

Any appearance that nothing really important is happening at a convention is woefully wrong. If this should ever be true, we are sunk. Actually this four day period is the only time of the entire year that the convention is in session. The rest of the year the various agencies of the convention and the Executive Committee of the convention do the work and act for the convention.

The convention during its annual session hears the reports of all its agencies and committees, decides on programs for them during the year or years ahead and allocates funds for all their ministries.

Of course the details of the worldwide ministry of Southern Baptists cannot be originated, discussed and decided upon in a meeting of 15,000 people. All the background work has to be done by designated committees. The important thing is that the convention messengers can accept, reject or change any recommendations from any committee.

The Southern Baptist Convention way of doing its business doesn't make sense to other religious groups. It really is impractical and is fraught with possibilities of chaos anytime. The spirit of Southern Baptists makes possible our life and ministry. We differ but we love one another; we disagree on methods and plans but cooperate in our central objective of bringing men to God through Jesus Christ and teaching them to observe all things Jesus taught.

Among the dangers in our way of doing things are the scarcity of laymen participation and the easy route of rubberstamping committee reports and recommendations.

GUEST EDITORIAL:

Beware Of Imposters In Evangelism

Several years ago the hit film, Marjoe, called attention to mass evangelism and those who make a living from it.

James Duncan
Former Editor,
Capital Baptist

preachers are raking in money with very little accounting. These ought to be exposed for what they are. There is one consolation — if they aren't in this life,

Marjoe is the film about a 28 year old evangelist, Marjoe Gortner, who admitted his fraudulent ways. When Marjoe was only three he received wide publicity as a child evangelist. He evidently has made lots of money and now stands to make much more with the film.

they will be in the next.

Other evangelists are sincere men called of God, here to do His will. These ought to be encouraged and helped. They ought to be given every opportunity to use their special talents.

The question is being asked, will this disclosure hurt other evangelists? A simple answer is it will hurt some and not others. Many questions have been asked about the ethics of some evangelists. We have questions about the ethics of some of them. Some give themselves titles that in reality are totally false. Some will list themselves, for example, as Southern Baptist evangelists when, in fact, the Southern Baptist Convention does not give its approval or disapproval to an evangelist. What they are, and should be called, is an evangelist who is a Southern Baptist.

How can you tell? Make lots of inquiries before you extend an invitation to a man or send him your money. Get some financial records. How does he finance his crusades? Does he insist on all the money he can raise or will he come for a reasonable fixed figure? Check previous places where the man has served. What kind of situation did he leave behind — lots of bills, dissatisfaction in the church or community?

Check your radio and television preachers by asking for financial reports. If they refuse to give them, you have a good reason for not giving.

Some evangelists have had a heavy hand in the till. Some of the modern day radio and television

Let's help those who are genuine and sincere. The best way to get the other out of business is to not provide any support.

BAPTIST FORUM



GRIEVED AT ARTICLES

Dear Editor:

I was grieved but not surprised when I read professor Beasley-Murray's series of articles on baptism. The *Western Recorder* has consistently printed articles which advocate alien immersion despite the fact that the great majority of your readers are opposed to this unscriptural practice.

Beasley-Murray makes the statement, "In the New Testament churches, from the Day of Pentecost on, baptism was always a baptism of converts responding to the gospel. When a Baptist minister baptizes members of other Christian churches he does something quite different: he baptizes the saints of God. And when he does that he inevitably makes of baptism something different from what it is in the New Testament." In conclusion he says, "The extraordinary situation has

to be faced: neither we nor anyone else can apply Biblical baptism to the saints of God."

Are not "converts responding to the gospel" saints of God? Where do we find New Testament authority for baptizing anyone but saints of God? Do we baptize believers or unbelievers, the saved or the lost, children of God or children of disobedience? This is rank Campbellism! The Campbellite preacher who precedes me on the radio villifies me every Sunday morning for "applying Biblical baptism to the saints of God." I never dreamed a professor from our own Southern Seminary would join him in this attack.

If your statement in your editorial of May 10 are correct and Beasley-Murray's arguments are the best that could be presented for consideration by Baptist churches of certain kinds of alien immersion, then your statement is one of the

strongest arguments for rejection of alien immersion.

Please give us at least one article on the other side of the issue. After all, this is the majority view among Kentucky Baptists.

Hazel, Kentucky James T. Garland

QUESTIONS ON BAPTISM

Dear Editor:

Regarding recent baptism articles some related questions are as follows:

1. Does failure to be baptized at conversion make redundant consequent baptism (thief on the cross)?
2. Is baptism the door into a church or is this a post-New Testament invention (Ethiopian eunuch)?
3. If baptism is the door into a church, are unbaptized (unchurched) Christians a part of Christ's action in His body, the church ("Lo, I am with you always")?
4. If baptism is the conversion confessional ("Repent, and be baptized . . . and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit") is this baptism required to receive the Holy Spirit?
5. Does anabaptism (rebaptism) have a Biblical basis

(Continued on page 15)

From One Center Of Life To Another

In 1965, Mrs. Margaret Lasley was a typical housewife in Louisville, her life revolving around her husband, three children and her church. But she became dissatisfied with her contributions — "I was bored" — so there began her odyssey—from one world, one life, to another.

Convinced by her husband's and children's enthusiasm, she enrolled in Simmons Bible College for Christian vocational training and started dropping by the Baptist Fellowship Center, which is directed by James Washington.

Before she had finished Simmons, she had become a part-time employee. In the fall of 1969 she became the center's director of week-day ministries. Since then life hasn't been the same at the center—or for Margaret Lasley.

"My husband," she says of her high school sweetheart, "is my whole source for everything. Without his cooperation it wouldn't work because I depend on him for everything." Edwin Lasley, a conveyor operator for a large manufacturing company for the past 28 years, supports his wife in her work and in her earning her religious education diploma from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, with a two-year social work major.

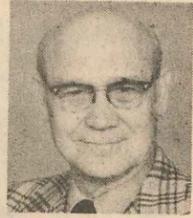
Besides recruiting for the center's activities, like the day-care center for

preschool children and the women's knitting group, she also interviews and selects the volunteer group leaders, leads orientation and polls the groups about future activities.

She's burdened by administrative duties and doing those things that others never seem to have the time to do, like sorting the clothes for the center's clothes closet. "The mothers don't use the closet very much," she explains. "They'll tell us they don't need anything, then they'll send a child over here dressed in its underwear, socks and shoes. So we dress them and send them back home."

Mrs. Lasley also counsels the young people that visit the center—"sometimes they're unsaved, sometimes it is a discipline problem—there's nothing wrong with the child, but there is something wrong with where he's coming from. I don't tell them they have to conform to my rules, but we do have a policy of limitations and we try to allow the child to be as free to be himself as possible, as long as he's constructive. All the group leaders," she continues, "are Christians. They set the example and the kids learn a lot from coming here. They learn to share, and to have fun. But not by us lecturing them—it's learning by example." □

Kentucky Sunday School Work



Roy E. Boatwright
Director, Sunday School Department
Kentucky Baptist Convention

The early years of Sunday School work in the state of Kentucky was done through colporteur. A number of men were appointed by the General Association of Kentucky Baptists to sell Bibles to pay their living expenses and at the same time promote Sunday School work. These men were very successful in certain areas of the state.

Sunday School work has come a long way since then. Kentucky Baptists have followed the example of Jesus in outreach and teaching.

For the last several years the Sunday School department has been promoting outreach. There are five actions involved in the outreach plan for 1975: (1) Develop a prospect file, (2) Enlarge the organization, (3) Observe Preparation Week, (4) Determine High Attendance Day, and (5) Conduct an intensive visitation program.

Last year was the first year that the Southern Baptist Convention promoted High Attendance Day. This year the date is set for November 2, 1975. It is hoped that every church will adopt at least 70 percent of the Sunday School enrolment as a goal for High Attendance Day. We firmly believe there can be 250,000 studying God's word on November 2, 1975, in Kentucky.

Among the many state meetings which the department conducts two will be of great interest to readers. The first is Sunday School Week at Cedarmore August 11-16. This week is divided into two sessions. The first beginning at noon on Monday and closing at noon on Wednesday is designed for associational Sunday School officers. The second beginning at noon on Thursday and closing at noon on Saturday is designed for Sunday School workers in the local churches.

The second main event is in keeping with the Bicentennial Celebration. A state-wide Sunday School Conference will be conducted March 22-23, 1976, with the Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown. The two day conference will provide instruction and guidance in every phase of Sunday School work. □

Prosperity And Outreach—Key Words For Baptists In 1974

Sunday School

In its eighty-fifth annual report to the Southern Baptist Convention, held this year in Miami Beach, the Sunday School Board reported that the fiscal year 1973-74 was a good year, with total sales of \$1,812,235, or 8.1 percent above last year.

Even though there was an increase in sales, the board reported that they were \$363,592, or 1.5 percent, short of their budget of \$24,080,456. According to officials, there were various reasons for the deficit, none of which should exist for the upcoming fiscal year.

The board reported that the total operating expenses for the division were \$594,286, or 7.3 percent above last year, with the total this year being \$8,718,792. They noted that excluding a new expense of \$127,206 as charges for capital invested in property of the Book Store Building Operation, operating expenses increased only \$467,080, or 5.8 percent above last year.

Other areas of interest included in the board's report were those pertaining to the organization's various programs and their outreaches. Some of these are given below:

Broadman Publishing—Among the most significant books released by Broadman was *The Southern Baptist Convention and Its People: 1607-1972*. There were other new books and some backlist products that caused Broadman sales to rise significantly. Sales to dealers other than Baptist Books Stores increased by 22.5 percent over last year while last year's sales were up by 25.2 percent over the year before that. Overall, Broadman has just completed its first six million dollar year in sales.

Church Services and Materials Development—Church literature circulation increased by 12.8 thousand over the same period last year and the sales of this literature amounted to a total of \$21,411,890, which was \$1,546,890 or 7.8 percent above last year.

Church Training Development—Some plans for the future include focusing on increasing church training enrolment and

attendance. A convention-wide thrust to organize 1,196 new church training programs April 4, 1976, is also planned.

Cooperative Education and Promotion Work with State Conventions—The distribution of funds to the state conventions for 1973-74 was given. The total distribution was \$982,218, with \$899,978 being given to state boards and \$82,240 for student work.

The board spokesman stated that the members of the board are looking forward to the upcoming fiscal year and are certain that it will be a very prosperous year for both the Sunday School Board and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Annuity Board

Four hundred annuitants aged 55 were added to the roll, the Annuity Board reported this week to the messengers in Miami Beach. This brings the total number of annuitants to nearly 10,000.

The board also reported that its Student Insurance Program, started two years ago, is now available at all six of the seminaries in the Southern Baptist Convention. Expansion of this program is also planned for the Bible institutes in the various state conventions.

A net gain in annual dues for 1974 was reported with \$1,701,000 being received, which is more than twice the goal of \$800,000. The spokesman stated that almost \$16.5 million had been received in premiums for agency retirements.

The board's program of relief spent \$216,512 in 1974, an increase of \$26,771. This represented an over expenditure of \$10,446. The request for relief in 1974-75 was for \$250,000. The board received \$206,067 in 1974.

COMMISSIONS

American Baptist

School officials at the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee, report that a goal of \$25,000 has been set for the fund-raising drive currently underway. There was no doubt that this goal would be surpassed due to the increased support by National Baptists.

An increase in enrolment is also reported with 140 students enrolled for the spring semester.

Brotherhood

Much progress is the report from the Brotherhood Commission concerning its activities for the past fiscal year. The Memphis-based organization states that progress came in eight different areas. These are:

1. Enrolment—A stabilization occurred with 460,713 presently enrolled.

2. Church Renewal—David Haney, a specialist in church renewal, was hired as director of lay ministries. He helped train over 1,500 church renewal coordinators during his three months on the field.

3. Cooperative Planning and Promotion with States—A new cooperative process for planning and promoting Brotherhood work was initiated by Bob Banks, a newly employed executive assistant.

4. Long-Range Planning—A 28-member steering committee was organized to formulate and propose long-range objectives and goals for the Brotherhood work in the 1980's.

5. World Missions Conferences—More than one million persons attended the World Missions Conferences that were held in over 3,000 churches.

6. Innovative Communication Approaches—Three prayer breakfasts were held with such program personalities as (then) Vice President Gerald Ford and Georgia governor Jimmy Carter. Each breakfast drew audiences ranging from 700 to 1,500.

7. Field Services—A total of 846 days were spent in the field by the agency staff training Brotherhood leaders, participating in inter-agency conferences, and interpreting Brotherhood work.

8. Quality Publications—A new monthly tabloid, *World Mission Journal* (formerly *Baptist Men's Journal*) was introduced. There were also around two million copies of seven publications distributed.

(Continued on page 8)

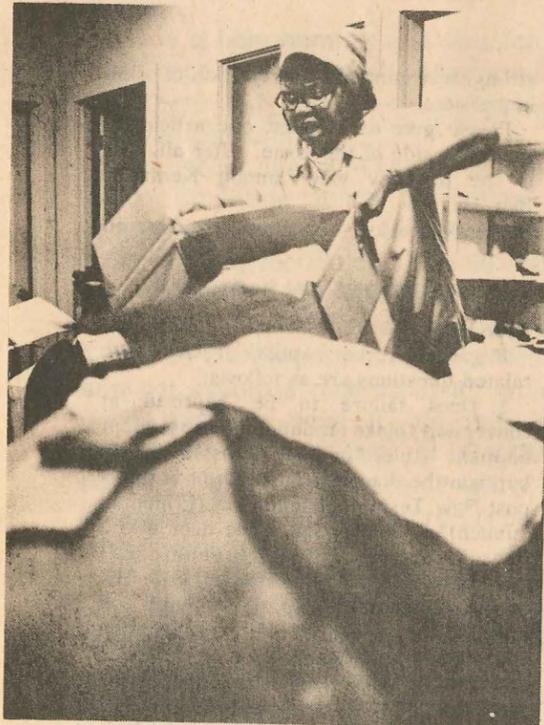
What Is A Baptist?

Being a Baptist is doing
Things that are pure and good
Making friends wisely
And living as Jesus would.

Stephanie Rodgers (8)
Crittenden Baptist Church

A person going to church and Sunday School to learn about God. Because he has and always will love and forgive me. And help me go to heaven. I love him too.

Denise Bush (5½)
Wallonia Baptist Church, Princeton



Mrs. Lasley sorts items for Baptist Fellowship Center clothes closet.

REPORTS

(Continued from page 7)

Christian Life

Officials of the Christian Life Commission reported to the Southern Baptist messengers this week that their major concern during the 1973-74 fiscal year was in the area of application of Christian principles. The Commission members hoped that by centering upon an area such as this a better moral and social climate could exist for the Southern Baptist witness for Christ.

Other areas of concern dealt with by the commission included race relations emphases, Christian citizenship, economics and several moral concerns, such as divorce, obscenity, violence, etc.

The national seminar held in Houston was reported to have been a success with 306 attending, of which 206 had never attended such a seminar.

A special matter of consideration that was acted upon this year by the commission was the 1974 abortion issue referred to in the last Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas. The Christian Life organization stated that the resources of the Christian faith are the best guide for dealing with the problem of abortion and that they will continue to point people to these resources whenever the problem is confronted.

Education

Professional services to overseas educational programs and a six-point program to engender a renewed interest on Baptist campuses in foreign missionary commitment and service were the two major accomplishments during the past fiscal year, according to the Education Commission.

The commission, in their annual report to the Southern Baptist Convention, reported to the messengers in Miami Beach that there was an increase of \$11,047 in total receipts and application of funds over 1973-74. They also recorded an increase of \$2,014,835 in the support of the schools for operations and capital needs, which brings the total to \$28,622,557.

A detailed list of the commission's various programs' accomplishments was given. The overall results were very favorable and expectations for the upcoming year are very high, according to commission officials.



Radio and Television

On March 28 of this year the ground was broken for a multi-million dollar videotape production studio and training center by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

Commission officials reported this week to messengers at the national convention in Miami Beach that the groundbreaking ceremony came as a result of an anonymous \$500,000 gift. The only stipulation on the gift was that it must be matched by the commission. The gift was matched and an additional one and a half million dollars was authorized by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1972, thus providing the commission with what will be more than adequate facilities.

The new studio and training center, located in Fort Worth, is well on its way to completion. When finished, the complex will provide the commission with facilities capable of keeping up with the broadcasting industry and at the same time cut the cost of producing for television.

The commission spokesman was also proud to report that responses to the commission's programs in 1973-74 totaled 267,000, as compared with the previous high of 178,935. Included in the record high were 458 professions of faith, 1,433 rededications and 1,188 requests for more information on becoming a Christian.

The program "Night song," a musical program featuring The Centurymen, went from three nights to five nights a week on 40 stations, the commission reported. This amounted to a 40 percent increase in active air time audience potential. An estimated 100 million listeners and viewers heard the various commission's some 3,730 weekly programs during 1973-74, according to commission officials.

Historical

As Bicentennial celebrations draw closer and closer, so do the Bicentennial emphases of the Historical Commission become more and more of a reality.

The commission reported this week that they are rapidly readying themselves for the various Bicentennial activities next year and are already very active in promoting Southern Baptist participation.

A special issue of *Baptist History and Heritage* has been published and it will serve as a resource for the churches planning for a Bicentennial observance. Included in this special edition are articles concerning Baptist heritage and the role of the Baptist during the formative years of our country.

Other noteworthy accomplishments by the commission were reported to the messengers, with a major addition being the enlargement of the commission's historical resources.

Over 2,760 books, annuals, pamphlets, recordings, and pictures valued at \$4,265 were added to the historical library. There were also 1,571 items of Baptista on microfilm obtained, with its value cited at \$2,621.

Stewardship

Difficulty in accommodating all of the opportunities and requests coming their way was the major problem reported to the Southern Baptist conventioners this week in Miami Beach by the Stewardship Commission.

The commission spokesman stated that "doors, previously either closed or slightly ajar, stand wide open. Cooperation in every area of stewardship promotion is at its peak." This deterioration of resistance was evident in the 12.43 percent increase in total support for the Cooperative Program. The receipts totaled \$38 million, which was itself a record year in Cooperative Program history.

A note of high optimism and excitement was evident in the commission's report when a goal of \$150 million for the 1976 Cooperative Program was revealed.

The spokesman stated that the commission anticipates to "continue the exercise of good stewardship in its request for increased support and in carrying out its growing responsibility."

SEMINARIES

Golden Gate

Growth in enrolment and an ever increasing sense of seriousness of the seminary's purpose by the student were two major accomplishments given by officials of the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in their address to the Southern Baptist Convention this week in Miami Beach.

The spokesman for the seminary noted several additions to the faculty and the reinstatement of the master of church music degree in the curriculum.

The seminary also reported that over \$100,000 has been pledged toward the endowment of the Chair of Evangelism. More than \$60,000 of this in cash had been received by March 1.

There were 269 ministerial students enrolled in the seminary during the 1974-75 school year. Of these, 191 were in the master of divinity, 45 in the doctor of ministry, one special doctor in theology, and 32 in the certificate in theology. At the 1974 commencement there were 46 who received the master of divinity, one the master of theology, five the doctor of ministry, and three the certificate in theology.

The seminary also reported that there were 78 in their religious education program and 20 students enrolled in the church music area.

Midwestern

In their annual report to the Southern Baptist Convention, the Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary reported that they had experienced three significant gains during 1974-75. These gains were in: (1) student enrolment, (2) financial health, and (3) program development.

The spokesman for the seminary was proud to report that, cumulatively, 408 enrolled for 1974-75, which surpassed the 397 total in the previous school year.

The seminary's financial goal for the year was to halt all spending "in the red" and to finish "in the black." This was accomplished, according to the seminary report, with the operating deficit accumulated from previous years being reduced by approximately \$50,000.

The school's first doctor of ministry degrees were awarded in May, 1974, and according to school officials is the first of many improvements in the academic field.

The enrolment figure cited above included 23 diploma in theology, 257 master of divinity, 16 master of religious education, five diploma in theology, and three diploma in religious education. In the May, 1974, graduation, 84 students graduated with six receiving the doctor of ministry degree, 55 the master of divinity degree, 16 the master of religious education degree, five diploma in theology and three diploma in religious education.

New Orleans

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is growing and changing for the

better, according to the seminary spokesman in its presentation this week to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Landrum P. Leavell, former pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, took over the reins of president on January 1 of this year and already has been instrumental in the seminary's growth and improvement.

The seminary during the fiscal year began construction on the 21,000 square feet addition to the library, which provides student study areas and open stacks for approximately 193,000 volumes. A spire for Roland Q. Leavell Chapel was also contracted to be erected and the spire has already been put into place, according to school officials.

The report stated that the cumulative enrolment reached 888. During 1973-74 awards were made with six receiving the doctor of theology degree, 15 the doctor of ministry, 25 the master of theology, 63 the master of divinity, and 10 diplomas in pastoral ministries. There were also three doctor of education degrees awarded, along with one special education degree and 47 master of religious education degrees. In the area of church music, one special education degree was awarded, nine master of church music degrees and three diplomas in church music ministry.

Southeastern

Under the leadership of a new president, W. Randall Lolley the first alumnus of the seminary to serve as president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary enjoyed a good year both in enrolment and in accomplishments.

The spokesman for the seminary, in his report to the Southern Baptist Convention, stated that the cumulative enrolment for the school year 1973-74 was 774. Of this there were 482 in the master of divinity program, 48 in the master of religious education program, 95 in the certificate program, 44 in the master of theology program and 105 in the doctor of ministry program.

Bids for the expansion and renovation of the library building were scheduled to

have been let early this year. Six units (twelve apartments) of married housing were approved by the board of trustees.

Southern

Despite suffering approximately one million dollars in damage from a tornado that struck the city of Louisville on April 3, 1974, the seminary was still able to report a prosperous year.

This and other good reports were presented to the Southern Baptist Convention this week in Miami by Southern Seminary in their annual report to the convention.

Even though the seminary suffered quite extensive damage, only \$100,000 was uncovered by insurance. The spokesman for the seminary also expressed much thanks to God for the fact that no one connected with the school was seriously injured.

Three records were broken in 1974, according to seminary officials. The seminary graduated the largest class in history in June, 1974; received its largest entering class in history in August, 1974; and had the largest fall enrolment (1,381) in its history. Enrolment of regular students for the full year totaled 1,435 and surpassed the previous high of 1,367 set in 1972-73. The addition of special students provided a cumulative total of 6,637. Boyce Bible School also had an enrolment of 167.

The breakdown of students in each field of study was as follows: 1,050 in theology, 275 in religious education and 200 in church music.

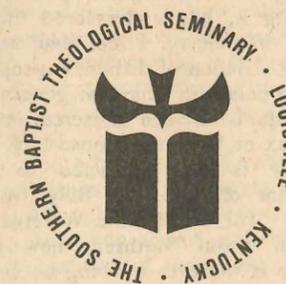
Southwestern

According to the report given this week to the Southern Baptist messengers in Miami Beach by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1974-75 was another record year for the school.

The spokesman for the seminary stated that 2,858 students enrolled for the school year, with 1,709 in the school of theology, 817 in the school of religious education and 332 in the school of church music. Of this enrolment there were 2,432 men and 426 women.

The presentation also noted the change in the doctor of theology program at the seminary. This degree has been changed to the doctor of philosophy degree.

The school received a face-lift in certain areas, according to the report, with J. M. Price Hall for Religious Education receiving complete renovation. The school also included a learning center in the hall to aid in the opportunities for academic excellence.



Let The Bells Ring!

By Jaroy Weber

Jaroy Weber, current president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas, since November, 1973. Previously he served as pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Alabama, and for five years before that as pastor of First Baptist Church, Beaumont, Texas. Before accepting the Beaumont pastorate, he was evangelism secretary for the Louisiana Baptist Convention. He has also served as pastor of churches in Orange, Texas, and West Monroe, Louisiana. A native of Louisiana, he holds bachelor of arts and doctor of divinity degrees from Louisiana College and a bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Leviticus 25:10

One of America's most treasured relics is a 2,000 pound bell now in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and today we have a replica of this Liberty Bell here in the convention hall. The theme of our presidential message comes from the phrase chiseled around the top of the bell which was taken from Leviticus 25:10, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." It seems particularly fitting that we speak today on the subject "Let the Bells Ring" and the text taken from the top of the Liberty Bell and add the spiritual dimension, "Let Christ's Freedom Ring."

Bells have always been significant in the history of our world. They are mentioned as early as the second book in the Bible. "A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the hem of the robe round about," Exodus 28:34. The Scripture makes reference to the bell in Zechariah 14:20, "In that day shall there be upon the bells. Holiness unto the Lord." Bells have historically been used to celebrate special events. All over the new world bells rang on July 4, 1776, 199 years ago. When the Allied troops pushed the aggressive Germans back at the Battle of the Marne, and the Germans surrendered to the Allies, bells rang in the cathedrals of France, in the great churches of Britain and all across America and the free world!

For some reason the bells in America stopped ringing. Like our Christian testimony they have been muted, like our songs of praise to Almighty God, they have been silenced, and like our prayers,

they have been throttled. On this eve of our bicentennial in this land so singularly and obviously blessed of God, I say . . . Let the Bells Ring, again!

1. Let the Bell Ring for a return to our national greatness.

America had a spiritual birth. Columbus, our discoverer, thought of himself as a servant of God. He set sail with prayer and placed a cross on the lead ship and when he landed he knelt and planted that cross upon the new soil and dedicated the new country to God. When the English settlers landed at Jamestown, their first act was to kneel and dedicate themselves to God and the new continent to the God who created it. When the Plymouth Pilgrims landed they placed the cross on old Plymouth Rock and knelt in a prayer of dedication to God. The first public building our forefathers erected was a church and their first public exercise was the worship and praise of their God. The Declaration of Independence demonstrated the religious commitment of the infant nation.

At the suggestion of Benjamin Franklin, the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia stopped and knelt in fervent prayer for God's wisdom in framing the Constitution.

These sturdy people crossed the ocean, not to find soil for their plows but liberty for their souls. The secret of America is her spiritual heritage. One hundred and fifty years ago a noted Frenchman came to America to seek the secret of her greatness. He wrote, "I sought for America's greatness. I found it not in her fields and forests; I found it not in her mines and factories; I found it not in her Congress and great tribunals. It was only when I heard her preaching righteousness that I discovered her greatness." Then he added, "America is great because America is good. If America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

America is living in an integrity crisis! We are seeing a culture developing which accepts lying, cheating and stealing as an acceptable practice in life to accomplish human goals. Watergate, pardon my mentioning it, has underscored the importance of honesty. I feel that we are becoming a nation of dishonest people. It is easy to point our finger at government officials who have been indiscreet in their income tax or have used obscenity. But, dishonesty is not restricted to high government officials. As Billy Graham has said, "There is a little Watergate in all of us." But brethren, how much difference is there in cribbing on college

exams or from letting a story in the first person which you lifted from some book of illustrations, or some joke you heard on television, become a personal experience? And are we always accurate in our statistics . . . about the number of baptisms, the number of people who come forward in our revivals? Or, are we like the man who wrote the IRS and said, "Last year I did not report certain income and my conscience has bothered me, so I'm sending you the enclosed check. P.S. If my conscience keeps bothering me I'll send you some more."

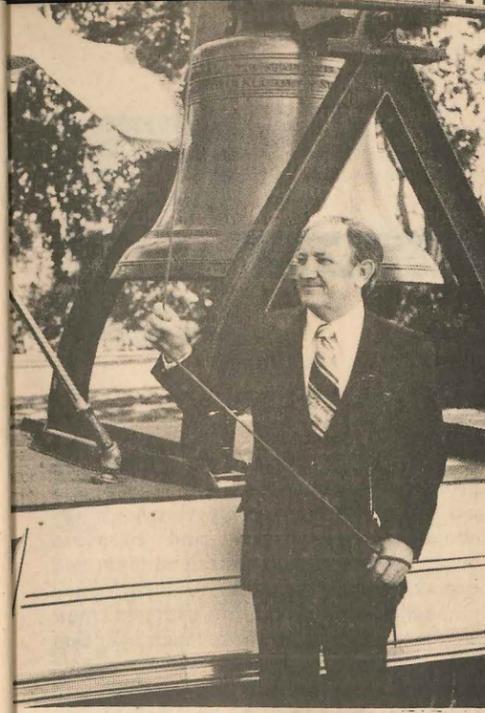
We are living in a belief crisis! We have lost our ability to believe or have faith in anything. This has developed a state of mind where we don't want to believe anything or anyone, yet we know we must believe. We are hungry to believe but we don't believe the food we are offered has any nourishment in it. Never have we been told so much and offered so little so we have become skeptical of everything and everybody.

What has produced this frame of mind in our great country? Clare Boothe Luce in a *U.S. News and World Report* interview, spoke it clear and loud, "Modern man has lost his soul. This is really what is at the root of his malaise." To regain our Christian hope demands more than a renewed patriotism to a troubled nation. It demands a dynamic encounter with a transcendent God who is alive in history and awaits His wandering children to come home. William Penn was right, "Men will be governed by God or they will be ruled by tyrants."

2. Let The Bell Ring to call us forward to a new world vision.

The prophet is heard to cry out, "Without a vision my people perish." Without a vision my church, my denomination will perish. The great commission demands that we look beyond the four walls of our churches and beyond the organized structures of our boards, agencies and institutions to see all peoples of the earth who are in desperate need. Christians cannot be isolationist, comfortably speaking religious terms to each other at eleven o'clock Sunday morning. The whole church of God must go with the whole gospel to the whole world.

This whole gospel must be like a coin with two sides, like a sword with two edges, like God working with two hands, a gospel with personal faith and social action. One without the other is a false hope or a false religion. They must go together like faith and work in the New Testament. Let us not be carried away by



Jaroy Weber rings the replica of the Liberty Bell at ceremonies held at the White House, May 28.

one or the other. We used to be told it was no use preaching the gospel to men with empty stomachs. It is now found that men with full stomachs do not even bother to listen.

We must speak to the social problems of the world but our speaking must be in the context of Biblical revelation and not from the lips of liberal sociologists, philosophers or theologians. We must take our stand upon the principles laid down in Scripture and not from the proclamations of unbelievers who propose a cause supported only by their demand for notoriety. The Bible has already spoken directly or by implication to every social problem which could ever confront ancient or modern man. "Thus saith the Lord," is adequate guidance for every generation.

It has always been true, that a denomination that does not reach out to meet the needs of the world in which it lives, will die within that world. Jesus not only preached to multitudes, he fed them. Jesus told his disciples in front of a crowd of 5,000 hungry people, "Give them to eat." We must not forget this command which came from our Lord, even if we realize that our help is only a drop in the ocean. The Lord will know how to use it, as He used the five loaves of bread and two fish. Any individual with a Christian conscience is disturbed and moved with compassion for the starving, suffering multitudes of the world.

We must remind ourselves as we give bread for life that we must also give the Bread of Life. I hope our denomination

will never cease to believe that it makes its greatest contribution to mankind when it introduces him to Jesus Christ.

All the great revivals of history have resulted in social action which has endured through the ages. One that stands out as a testimony of the power of the gospel is the Evangelical Revival of England, led by Wesley and others, which broke the yoke of slavery. Spurgeon and Moody had employment bureaus, hospitals, orphanages, and offered other social services. They never considered it either-or, but rather both meeting man's total need. This is the gospel message in its full orb. The power of the gospel is adequate to usher in a social, moral, political and personal revolutionary change in society. There is no substitute for the power of the gospel as proclaimed in evangelism.

To give bread for life and the Bread of Life we must challenge all the people of our churches to become involved. We can no longer wait for a specialized task force of professional missionaries to win this world to Christ. Some practical plan must be adopted and propagated by the Foreign and Home Mission Boards to involve lay persons in our direct mission task. Lay persons are ready and willing to become a part if we are willing to innovate our strategy to include them. The proposed Bold New Plan for World Missions which the missions agencies are exploring is encouraging in this direction.

God has given us the divine game-plan to undergird our world mission program . . . the Cooperative Program. As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our togetherness we pause with a spirit of thanksgiving for leaders like M. E. Dodd and others who led us in joining hands and hearts through the Cooperative Program. Every pastor and church must rethink their relationship to this plan of mission support. Can we continue to call ourselves missionary or Christian unless we are willing to share more of the tithes and offerings of our people with the lost multitudes of the world? We have done so much with so little, we envision with excitement, what would be accomplished if we were to take the great commission seriously and let it be reflected in our church budgets? Now is the time to cut out all the frills of our local programs and channel more of God's money to world missions. It is time to catch the spirit of our forefathers who in 1845 stated, "Our life as a denomination emerged in an effort to elicit, combine and direct those resources over which God has placed us as stewards."

Let all who believe in the power of God through prayer give immediate support. I would also challenge every church to have at least one church-wide offering to feed the hungry of the world, and help

develop to a greater degree the self-reliance of people on their own resources. It is now time to do more than talk. It is time to act.

3. Let The Bell Ring calling us to build New Testament churches.

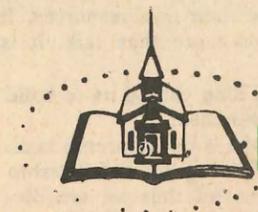
This has been and is our supreme task, winning and disciplining into a fellowship called His Church. All that we are discussing about world evangelization is determined at the level of the local church. It is here that we win or lose the battle. We thank God that the victory has been won at Calvary and Jesus said about His Church, "The Gates of Hell shall not prevail." The degree to which we include all men in God's redemption is dependent on our faithfulness in making real the Great Commission.

Our Southern Baptist Convention statistics indicate some growth in 1974, however, not to the degree of some other years. This is not a time to sit and cry but a time to do or die. This is the time to rethink our priorities, redesign some of our strategy, call upon the divine power of God and move forward. The cause of Christ has always flourished best in difficult situations. The book of Acts teaches us that the gospel can flourish in spite of social and economical corruption or upheaval. The darker the day the brighter the light of the gospel has shone. In spite of martyrdom and persecution the gospel spread. The blood of the martyr has always been the seed of the church. There is a great spiritual vacuum in the world and we are being challenged to step into this emptiness and proclaim, "This is the way of the Lord, walk ye in it."

We must hear the ring calling us to Biblical authority. The Baptist Faith and Message Statement adopted by the Convention in 1963 has a basic statement to which most people subscribe. "The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. It reveals the principles by which God judges us; and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ."

It is a sad statistic to read in one of our Baptist periodicals that 1,000 of our Southern Baptist ministers defect from the ministry each year. A study committee has made an evaluation and report which indicate some of the basic problems.

(Continued on page 14)



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By H. C. Chiles

(These Lessons for June 22, 1975)



LIFE AND WORK SERIES

In Missionary Outreach

In the church at Antioch in Syria the members were submissive to God's will and yielded to the Holy Spirit's leadership. Thus, a splendid missionary spirit existed.

Acts 13:1-3

Even though the church was young, there were many prophets and teachers in it. The prophets made known the will and purposes of God, and the teachers explained the meaning of the Word of God. Both were essential to the effectiveness of the church. In this first Gentile church, there was a genuine interest in the salvation of those far away. While the members were in the line of Christian duty, the Holy Spirit said to them: "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." This was a call to pioneer work among the unevangelized in distant places. Responsive to the Holy Spirit, they did not raise any questions or offer any objections. Instead, they were willing to give their ablest and best leaders to the missionary cause without complaint. Had they been like many church members today, they probably would have tried to keep their best and most capable leaders for themselves.

After fasting and praying, they laid their hands on Barnabas and Saul and sent them forth as missionaries, under the direction of the Holy Spirit. The church members were convinced that since Christian brethren had brought the gospel of Christ to them they should carry the glorious news to the unsaved elsewhere.

Having been selected by the Holy Spirit and set apart and commissioned by the church, Barnabas and Paul willingly and promptly departed to proclaim the gospel to those who had never heard it. The knowledge that they were God-directed must have filled them with abundant courage and the blessed assurance of success.

Acts 14:8-20

One day, while Paul was preaching in a public place at Lystra, he observed an eager listener, a cripple who had never walked. The man's listening manner attracted Paul's attention and convinced

him that the man believed his message and had sufficient faith to be healed. Compassionate Paul felt led of the Holy Spirit to perform a miracle so he commanded the man to stand. Instantly the man leaped to his feet and walked. The statement of Paul and the faith of the lame man came as a result of the recognized presence of the Lord and His power to heal.

This sudden, complete and public cure of a congenital disease caused much astonishment. The impact of this miracle upon the peoples' superstitious minds was so great that they concluded that Barnabas and Paul were more than mere men. They exclaimed that the gods had again visited them in the likeness of men. They thought that Barnabas was Jupiter, and that Paul was Mercury. They identified Paul with Mercury because his persuasive eloquence corresponded with that outstanding attribute of the Roman god.

Believing that Paul and Barnabas were gods, the people wanted to worship them

with appropriate sacrifices. When the priest of Jupiter brought oxen and garlands, and the worship ceremony was about to begin, Paul and Barnabas became horrified and restrained them and explained the true facts to them. They persuaded the people to withhold their worship of them. These men of God informed the people that they were only men like them and that they had come to tell them about the true and living God, to Whom all credit for the miracle was due.

Some Jews who were there sought to convince the people that the power of these missionaries came from Satan instead of God. A mob seized Paul, stoned him, dragged him out of the city, and left him for dead. Although the people believed they had killed Paul, God raised him up and brought him back into the city because He still had much work for him to do. Deeming it wise to leave the city, Paul and Barnabas went to Derbe. On their return, they exhorted the Christians to remain true to Christ. □

INTERNATIONAL SERIES

The Value Of The Bible

The Bible is the message of the living God to its readers or how to be saved and what to do after they are saved. The Bible is food for the soul, indispensable for Christian growth. The physical body cannot develop without proper nourishment. Likewise, man's spiritual nature cannot develop without feeding upon the truths of God's Word.

The Uniqueness of the Bible

1. It is perfect (Psalm 19:7). The law of God reveals to us our duty both to God and to our fellowman.
2. It is sure (Psalm 19:7). We can always depend on what the Bible reveals.
3. It is right (Psalm 19:8). In the Bible man has a perfect standard of righteousness.
4. It is pure (Psalm 19:8). God has never commanded man to do anything that is degrading or wrong.

5. It is true and righteous (Psalm 19:9). It depicts the true course of right conduct.

6. It is desirable (Psalm 19:10). It is worth more than money. The spiritual nourishment and enjoyment gained by a study of the Bible far exceeds the satisfaction gained from eating the finest honey.

7. It is beneficial (Psalm 19:11). The Bible promises a reward of peace and satisfaction to each child of God who obeys it. When rightly used, the Bible refreshes the spirit, gives wisdom to the mind, illuminates the understanding, brings joy to the heart, and gives effectiveness to the life. One must study and obey this unique Book if he is to become the person God wants him to be.

Matthew 4:1-10

When Jesus Christ was lifted out of the baptismal waters by John the Baptist, He

listened to the testimony pertaining to His divine sonship, heard the Father speak His approval of the action of His beloved Son, and immediately thereafter was led by the Spirit into the remote and desolate parts of the wilderness to contend with Satan. Let's take a look at the tempter, the temptations and the triumph.

The Tempter

The tempter is Satan. God never tempts anyone to do wrong. Temptation always comes from Satan. Those who acknowledge the truthfulness and authority of the Scriptures cannot doubt that Satan is a real person.

The Temptations

Taking advantage of the situation at the end of Christ's fast of 40 days and nights, Satan tempted Him to distrust God's care and to use His power to work a miracle and satisfy His hunger. Had the Master done so He would have separated Himself from His brethren, because they were unable to perform any miracle.

Christ's power was for the benefit of others. Satan tried to get Jesus to use His power in a miraculous way to satisfy His desires and needs, but He refused. Instead, Christ merely quoted God's Word (Deuteronomy 8:3).

Repulsed at one point, Satan tried to get Christ to test God's keeping power by jumping from one of the wings of the temple in view of the crowds below, with no injury being sustained. Christ's reply was Deuteronomy 6:16. By Christ's refusal, we learn that it is right to trust God and wrong to make presumptuous experiments to test this trust.

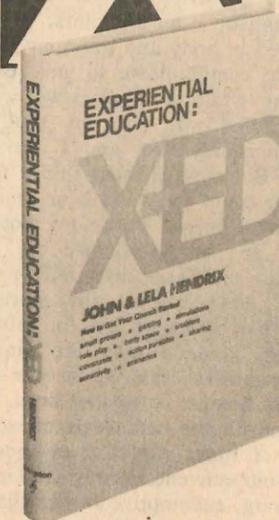
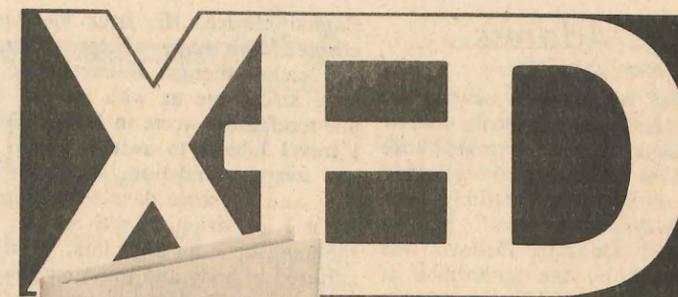
Having failed in his temptation of Christ in the areas of appetite and adventure, Satan then turned to the realm of ambition. He diligently sought to get Christ to render to him that worship which belonged to God alone. Satan tempted Christ to sacrifice principle for property and power. In abhorrence at this suggestion, our Lord quoted Deuteronomy 6:13.

The Triumph

Each time Satan assailed the Lord Jesus he made a miserable failure. He was unable to stand before the incisive power of God's Word. So, he fled and left Christ alone for a season.

In His triumph over Satan, Christ used the threefold method of all victory over him; namely, absolute dependence on God, accompanied by absolute faith in God, and reinforced by obedience to God. If we, as Christians, will follow Christ's example, we can be triumphant over Satan too. □

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Express Your Opinion in The Baptist Forum

President's Address

(Continued from page 11)

The Christian ministry has never been easy. David Haney in his book, *Renew My Church*, says, "Jesus promised those who follow Him only three things: they would be absurdly happy, entirely fearless, and always in trouble." History recalls in 1651 Obadiah Holmes was publicly whipped by the authorities of Massachusetts for participating in a

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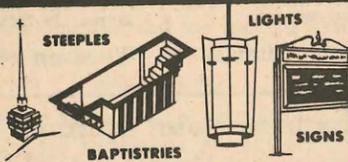
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Baptist service. His back bleeding and covered with huge whelps produced by the leather thongs, Holmes cried, "You have struck me as with roses." One of our forefathers wrote in 1805, "Everyday I travel I have to swim through creeks and swamps, and I am wet from head to feet, and for some days from morning to night I am dripping with water. I have rheumatism in all my joints. What I have suffered in body and mind my pen is not able to communicate to you. But this I can say, while my body is wet with water and chilled with cold my soul is filled with heavenly fire, and I can say with Paul, 'But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy.'" In comparison we are living in luxuries and ease like millionaires and kings. Nevertheless, the spirit of the world has bled over into the ministry and we are plagued with the sins of our congregations resulting in our downfall. Broken homes, dissipated lives, forgotten dreams fill the cathedrals of worship. In spite of these regretful episodes, I call upon our convention to be understanding, forgiving, redemptive rather than critical and derogatory. If they are to be restored they must have a helping hand from the people of God. Some agency of our convention ought to develop a redemption center, a restoration clinic, and a rehabilitation clinic for those in true repentance. If what we preach about God's forgiveness is true, let us practice it.

Action speaks louder than words. If we really care, God has given us the most strategic time in history to demonstrate it. It is true, "This is no time to sit and cry but a time to do or die."

One contemporary historian marked the basic factors in the success of the early church in this manner. First, they

believed in spiritual gifts which included a divine call and purpose. Second, they believed in the immediate return of Christ which gave them a sense of urgency. Third, they knew that God had pointed them to a destiny and would see them through it. These elements of faith are now evident in our fellowship and will move us toward victory in Jesus Christ.

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Send for this non-operating model now. Wear it in the privacy of your own home to see how tiny hearing help can be. It's yours to keep, free. The actual aid weighs less than a third of an ounce, and it's all at ear level, in one unit. No wires lead from body to head.

These models are free, so we suggest you write for yours now. Again, we repeat, there is no cost, and certainly no obligation. Thousands have already been mailed, so write today to Dept. 4621 Beltone Electronics, 4201 W. Victoria Street, Chicago, Ill. 60641

Jim Kearce sings "Because He Lives,"

"Oh, How I Love Jesus," "Pass It On," "Amazing Grace" and seven other sacred favorites on this latest album, arranged and produced by Ron Huff.

Dr. Harold Sanders calls Kearce an "authentic man," a "resonant baritone," a "beautiful spirit with a true insight into life."

Don't wait to participate in this inspiring musical experience. If your local record shop is sold out send \$6.30 plus .50 shipping to: K & L RECORDS, 480 Iroquois Drive, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101. You'll find that Jim means business when he says . . .



I JUST CAME TO PRAISE THE LORD!

(Continued from page 5)

(were Aquilla and Priscilla rebaptized; were Corinthian church members baptized in the name of others than Christ unacceptable and rebaptized in the name of Christ)? 6. Is the most important feature of baptism the witness of being buried with Christ (death to sin) and rising with him to walk in newness of life?

Baptists have always been rebaptizers (anabaptists). Early Christians faced hordes of adult converts from all over the Roman Empire and developed a catholic (general) system to assimilate the converts which worked everywhere and intended to differentiate Christendom (the sacred) from paganism. The Catholic system (arising in third century A.D.) designated (finally) the following as sacred: clergy, building (house of the church became the House of God), rites (baptism once only, Mass often), certain days, relics. Anabaptists (Baptists) have never held baptism and the supper as sacred (as sacraments), but from the Reformation on perpetuated the clergy (ordination) and House of God which put on a performance for believers as spectators the same as the Catholic system so the priesthood of believers was still squelched. The charismatic fad today is merely the priesthood of believers making itself felt in all Christian communions. My opinion is that Christ would never return until His churches have recaptured the priesthood of believers which prevailed at His ascension. The only sacred things are Christian people (each is equal) themselves. Nothing else at all. How many more centuries will have to elapse before we learn this?
Louisville, Ky. Homer Wm. Smith

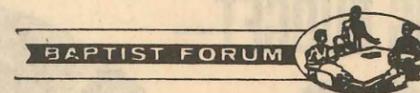
LIKES BLAIR ARTICLE

Dear Editor:

I want to express my appreciation for the article "Alien Immersion" — What Is It? by R. Charles Blair in the May 31, 1975, issue of the *Western Recorder*. The Scriptural essentials of baptism are set forth succinctly. The Bible has much to say about baptism. Matthew 28:18-20 is the classic passage that supports the statements of Blair's definition of alien immersion in the final paragraph of the article.

Thank you for sharing this article with us. Thank you R. Charles Blair for your observations.
Crofton, Kentucky Ray Gilliland

Speak Up In Baptist Forum



BEASLEY-MURRAY GOOD

Dear Editor:

Enjoyed professor G. R. Beasley-Murray's articles — the last one was very good. Here is a truly educated man. I do believe we are really growing at last. How right he is when he says that so many people have little grasp about baptism, or any other of the New Testament teachings as to that matter.

But you find this in all age groups. Some people hesitate to ask about these things. Maybe with persons like the professor they won't have to, and this can be changed. It is important to understand about believing, and these ordinances.
Leitchfield, Ky. Mrs. Virginia Wilson

TIME TO MOVE ON

Dear Editor:

It is my opinion that the editor of our state paper has a responsibility to print all kinds of news and different kinds of views. It is also my opinion that it is his responsibility to lead all Kentucky Baptists forward in a spirit of unity. I am writing this letter after having received the May 31, 1975, *Western Recorder*.

Obviously, "Alien Immersion" is a controversial issue. It almost split the Elkhorn Baptist Association in 1969. You have now presented both sides of the issue. Let's move on.

Why not feature articles such as "How to Win Our State to Christ," "How to Win Our City to Christ," "How to Be an Effective Witness." Why not use our state paper to help train all of us how to be better soulwinners.
Lexington, Kentucky Ron Burdon

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Editor:

I read with interest your editorial relative to the Kentucky Baptist Executive Board. I agree with you that board members have some frustrations when items are brought before them with no time for forethought. I served on the board for one term. I also agree that there can be developed some procedure whereby the members can become more informed about the work of the committees and your suggestion of the committees meeting a month before the combined board meeting has merit.

However, the idea of reducing the representation of Kentucky Baptists is something which I hope never becomes accepted. We have too little participation as it is. It is no wonder that we have an undercurrent of disagreement out among the grassroots folk. Few Baptist know the salaries of their employees. They know nothing of the retirement or other benefits of our employees.

The main reason I am opposed to the idea of a reduction in the number of Executive Board members is that it reminds me of the system which we Baptists have shunned throughout our history. We do not need a hierarchy of a few planning everything and filtering it down as if we are incapable of contributing to the welfare of all Baptists. Surely there are some problems with our system but I'll take it over any other because I believe it is the most Biblical.
Campbellsville, Ky. Richard A. DeBell

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Editor:

In the May 24 issue of the *Western Recorder* a letter was printed in the Baptist Forum about missing the doxology and all the numerous announcements. I am in complete agreement with this person. It gets boring to regular members at times but I feel a lot of times we have visitors in our meetings on Sunday mornings, some of whom may be Christians and some perhaps have come seeking something that is missing in their lives. After sitting for 10 minutes listening to talk of which they aren't a part of they are turned off. If there are printed bulletins for everyone, that should be enough. A beautiful service of songs, prayers and preaching are what we want and need in this trying world.
Dunmore, Kentucky Bonnie White

ADDRESSES NEEDED

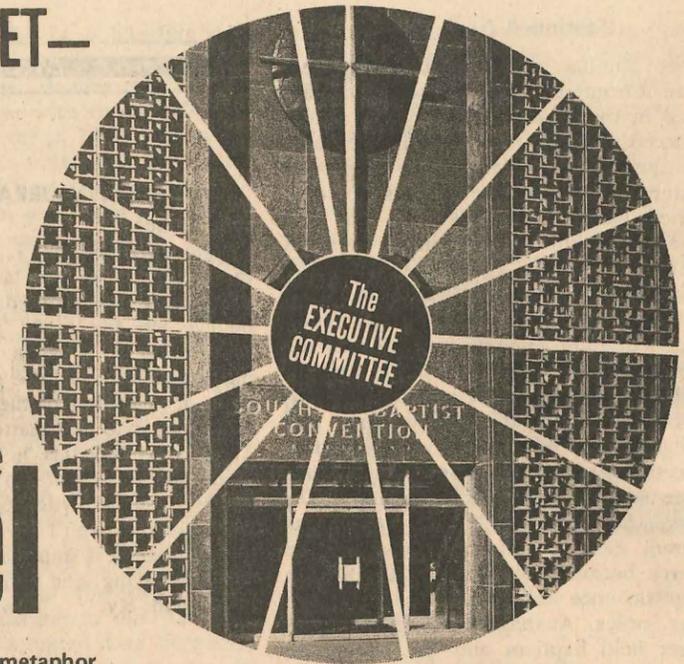
Dear Editor:

On July 7 approximately 1,300 young men from across America will begin their "plebe" year at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Heritage Baptist Church (College Avenue Baptist Church until 1972) is looking forward to ministering to all of them we can. It would be helpful to learn the names and home addresses of those who are coming, in order that a personal contact may be made with them before they arrive.

If you, a friend or a relative, will be coming to the Academy, please send me the needed information should you care to: Fred T. Moffatt, Jr., Pastor, Heritage Baptist Church, 1740 Forest Drive, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.
Annapolis, Md. Fred T. Moffatt, Jr.

The SBC OPERATING BUDGET—

Grease for the Hub of the Wheel



The "Hub of the Wheel"? That's an earthy metaphor, perhaps, but it clearly describes the function of the SBC Executive Committee as the operational center of Southern Baptist Convention activities. And the SBC Operational Budget? It is, indeed, the MEANS to the WAY—the "grease" that keeps the wheel running smoothly. (The SBC Operational Budget provides not only for the budget of the SBC Executive Committee, but for expenses of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention and an allocation to the Baptist World Alliance as well.)

Exactly what is the Executive Committee?

It might be called the "right arm" of the SBC. In reality this Committee is made up of two groups. The governing body consists of 64 pastors and lay persons representing all qualifying states. To qualify, a state must have cooperating churches totaling 25,000 or more members. Neither pastors nor lay persons may comprise more than a 2/3 majority of this group. This Committee meets three times a year to set and review policy and make necessary decisions.

The other aspect of the Executive Committee is a working staff of 16 persons, who on a full-time basis, carry out policies established by the committee of pastors and lay persons. This working staff is headquartered at the SBC Building in Nashville.

Among other duties, the Executive Committee represents the Convention in any legal matters

not specifically assigned to the agencies, carries on the general work of promotion and publicity, presents to the annual meeting of the Convention a comprehensive budget for the SBC and all its agencies, and acts as a coordinator between the Convention, the state conventions, and the agencies. It also provides for expenses of special committees and the cost of maintaining and operating the SBC headquarters building.

Though it plays a vital role in keeping the "Hub of the Wheel" rolling, the SBC Operating Budget uses less than one percent of the total Cooperative Program funds.

In essence, *you* apply the "grease" to the hub that keeps the wheel running as smoothly and efficiently as possible. You apply it through your church contributions which make the Cooperative Program a reality. *You* provide the *means* to the way.



**COOPERATIVE
PROGRAM
50th ANNIVERSARY**

Second in a series of ads on the Cooperative Program.