



**WESTERN
RECORDER**

DECEMBER 2, 1976

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

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Guest Editorial

He Served the Same Pulpit 50 Years

by William H. Rogers

Homer E. Nutter was pastor of the 186-year-old First Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky., from November 1926 to November 1976. About a year ago there was an editorial in this paper about the possibility of this man serving one church for a fourth of our 200 years of history as a nation. He did it.

It seems appropriate that Thanksgiving should be the season for the church to express appreciation and pay tribute to this man and his long tenure of service. Some 600 guests from across the state gathered at the Phoenix Hotel in Lexington Nov. 15 to make that expression.

In honoring Dr. Nutter many characterizations were used. Moderator G. M. Smith called him "Mr. Baptist of Kentucky." For 26 years Dr. Nutter held elective office in the General Association. For nine years he served as moderator. Dr. Smith presented a plaque from the General Association in appreciation. Mayor Foster H. Pettit of Lexington called him a "community leader" and said "he led us by his life as well as his words." The mayor characterized him as a "domestic, civic and religious leader of renown."

Dr. Nutter served on the Board of Regents for Kentucky State University for nine years and was chairman of that board for two years. His long time friend, H. E. Chaney, professor of history and political science at Kentucky State, gave the main address. He com-

pared Dr. Nutter to James Weldon Johnson's "God's Trombone." He characterized him as "a symbol of continuity and stability in a world of flux." He identified him as "a cushion of conscience in racial reconciliation."

With clarity of thought and a booming articulate voice Dr. Nutter gave response to the occasion. With words of appreciation to his wife, church and friends, he challenged young ministers to cultivate friendship among the clergy. He also challenged them to get all the training they can but never look down on older ministers with less training. Theirs is a repository of wisdom and should be drawn upon by the young. He also challenged young ministers to maintain a keen alert mind but to always speak to the hearts of people.

Over 50 years ago he was asked by one of his friends to do a solo for a break in a concert. He reported that the words of the song "My Task" became his motto for life. They are:

To love someone more dearly everyday;
To help a wandering child to find his way;
To ponder o'er a noble thought and pray,
And smile when evening falls,
This is my task.

To strive for truth as blind men seek for light.
To do my best from dawn of day 'til night.

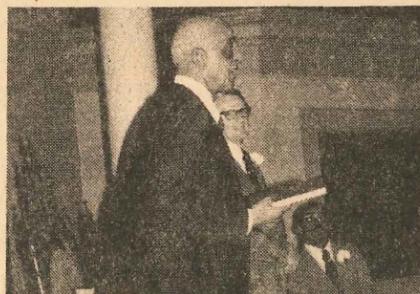
To keep my heart fit for His holy sight;
And answer when He calls,
This is my task.

And then my Saviour by and by to meet,
When faith hath made her task on earth complete.

And lay my homage at the Master's feet
Within the jasper walls,
This crowns my task.

All who know Homer Nutter recognize that the lives by these words.

His influence will long be felt by both black and white Baptists in Kentucky. At age 82 he plans to continue to preach occasionally as invitations and health permit. "Historians will be remiss if they do not take note of this man's life and influence," said Dr. Chaney.



Bill Rogers, director of Cooperative Ministries, Christian Life Department of Kentucky Baptist Convention, presents a copy of A History of Baptists in Kentucky to Homer Nutter [foreground] earlier this year.

Why an Eight Page Issue?



Readers of these words hold in their hands one of few eight-page editions of *Western Recorder* in modern history. We are not proud of this but we consider it necessary and ask our readers to understand.

The explanation is simple. The phenomenal cost increase in paper stock, postage and all other production expenses have brought us to a financial crisis. For several months we have been spending more than we took in

and we have no reserve funds. Therefore, we are cutting expenses every way we can in order to adjust expenditures

with income.

One of the results is this eight-page issue. If things are still as tight as now, we will print an eight-page issue every other week the rest of December and January. Of course the other issues during these months will be the regular size, 16 pages.

Other steps toward balancing our budget include using one less employee, reducing the work week for some workers to four days and cutting mileage allowance for travel.

We are not crying. We are only asking for your understanding and your prayers. We are willing to make the necessary sacrifices to operate without becoming a financial embarrassment to Kentucky Baptists.

Baptist News in Brief

Watch Your Language Mary Tyler Moore!

The surest way to rid television programming of excessive violence and sex is to hit the sponsors of offensive shows "in their billfolds — you can't get closer to their hearts."

That observation, put forth by an advertising agency executive, represented a consensus of methods offered at a public hearing in Arlington, Tex., on television and morality.

Foy Valentine of Nashville, executive secretary of the SBC's Christian Life Commission, said testimony at the hearing will be compiled and presented to network executives and officials of federal regulatory agencies.

William Hill, who directs production of commercials for the Bloom Agency in Dallas, told Valentine and the commission's Harry N. Hollis Jr. and C. Welton Gaddy who conducted the hearing, that companies which sponsor network television shows are "extremely sensitive" to public opinion.

"The networks and sponsors live and die on audience," he said. "If the ratings are there the programs remain."

The way to influence the networks and sponsors to clean up the shows is to select individual programs and let the network and sponsor know they are offensive.

Persons testifying at the hearing singled out several programs as being particularly offensive. "Starsky and Hutch," "The Streets of San Francisco," "Baretta," "Police Woman," "Police Story," and "The Rookies" were cited as violence-prone.

"I am concerned about the subtle way sexual values are being interjected into many so-called family shows," said Mrs. Gayle Taylor, a Dallas housewife.

She cited "The Tony Randall Show," "The Nancy Walker Show," and recent episodes of "Happy Days" as objectionable.

"I believe that if my children see enough pre-marital and extra-marital affairs on television, like with violence, they will come to accept this as beneficial behavior," Mrs. Taylor said.

Mrs. Taylor said she was concerned about an increasing use of profanity on "family shows" such as "Mary Tyler Moore" and "The Bob Newhart Show."

Truett Myers of the Radio and Television Commission said the threat to the American home through offensive programming "does not lie with the stations or networks, but largely with the Hollywood producers and packagers" of the programs.

Louisianans 'Quiet'

Louisiana Baptist Convention "messengers" in 129th annual session at Shreveport adopted a record \$7 million Cooperative Program unified budget, plus an additional \$1 million for advance and challenge goals, resolved to pray for President-elect Jimmy Carter and voiced concern over encroachments by government into Baptist life.

In what was described as a quiet, non-controversial meeting, messengers again chose to raise Cooperative Program receipts to Southern Baptist causes worldwide, this time from 32 to 33 percent.

Fla. Commends Plains

Messengers to the 115th annual session of the Florida Baptist State Convention commended Plains (Ga.) Baptist Church for its decision to end racial discrimination and deleted a requirement that associations be consulted in filling vacancies on state boards.

In other action, Florida Southern Baptists elected Barney Burks Jr., a layman and mayor of Pensacola, Fla., as convention president, and voted a record \$7.5 million Cooperative Program unified budget, with 47 percent of that amount going to worldwide Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) mission causes.

Tenn. Ok's \$9.4 Million

"Messengers" to the 102nd annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention (TBC) at Jackson adopted a record \$9.4 million Cooperative Program unified budget, covenanted to pray for President-elect Jimmy Carter and decried Christian movements that drain from local church resources while ignoring the churches.

J. Ralph McIntyre, pastor of Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga, was elect-

ed president.

The 1977 Cooperative Program budget provides for 33.33 percent of receipts to be distributed to Southern Baptist mission causes worldwide.

A move to rescind a 1974 action that created the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation, which has responsibility for coordinating programs of ministry and facilities for senior adults, was overwhelmingly defeated after about a half-hour of debate, according to reports.

Messengers then rejected a recommendation by the convention's executive board to invoke a \$15 million limit for construction by the Service Corporation of senior adults facilities at three sites. They approved, instead, a substitute motion that set the corporation's debt ceiling at \$5 million, which a spokesman said was agreeable with corporation officials.

The corporation was told it could go ahead with the most viable project, which appears at this time to be, a spokesman noted, Belmont Plaza, next to Belmont (Baptist) College in Nashville.

Carter, Mercer, Texts On Georgians' Minds

Georgia Baptists, meeting in Augusta, the city where the Southern Baptist Convention was organized in 1845, pledged prayerful support to native son Jimmy Carter as the nation's new president and reaffirmed their commitment to the church being open to all persons.

Former Georgia Governor Carter was mentioned in several speeches and side comments at the annual meeting of the Georgia Baptist Convention. A telegram sent to him in Plains pledged Georgia Baptists' "Prayer and best wishes" and said "may you ever be used as an instrument of reconciliation and peace."

The Georgia Baptist Convention also approved, without discussion, a lengthy statement reaffirming historic ties between the convention and its oldest institution, Mercer University in Macon.

Three years ago, the Georgia Baptist Convention appointed a special committee to seek to resolve longstanding tensions with Mercer related to such issues as its method of selecting trustees, objectionable movies on the cam-

(Continued next page)

Baptist News in Brief

(Continued from previous page)

pus, questionable advertisements in the campus newspaper and the general feeling that Mercer was moving away from the mainstream of Georgia Baptist churches and denominational life.

Last year, that committee presented a lengthy report urging Mercer trustees to remember that the university belongs to the convention, and not the trustees, and requesting concrete actions to preserve a Christian atmosphere in all aspects of university policies.

The Georgia Convention approved a report calling on public school officials to use "only text books which represent the best in our culture . . . and which do not commend, endorse or glorify speech and conduct which is below generally approved moral and ethical standards of our communities."

This report was in response to a motion made in 1975 by Herschel A. Markham, pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church, in Fairborn, Ga., about alleged evil influences in public school text books.

Markham made a similar appeal at Southern Baptist Convention sessions in 1975 and 1976. The day after the 1976 SBC session in Norfolk, he was arrested in downtown Atlanta and charged with "terroristic acts" or "threatening to blow up a federal building." He later clarified comments about having a

"bomb" in his possession as meaning "a literary bomb."

In September, he was given a pro-bated 12 month sentence in Atlanta. He resigned his church 10 days before the Georgia Convention met and did not attend sessions in Augusta.

Graham Not Confidant

Billy Graham doesn't expect to be a spiritual advisor to President-elect Jimmy Carter "because I'm not one of his close friends."

But the North Carolina born evangelist hastened to add in a news conference in Fayetteville, N. C., that he certainly will pray for the next President because "he will need all of our support and all of our prayers as he faces almost unsurmountable problems not faced by other U. S. Presidents."

Graham said, "All of us will be fortunate if there's no war in the next four years," adding that trouble spots include Middle East and southern Africa. He said he was also concerned about the Soviet arms build up and threats from OPEC oil producing nations.

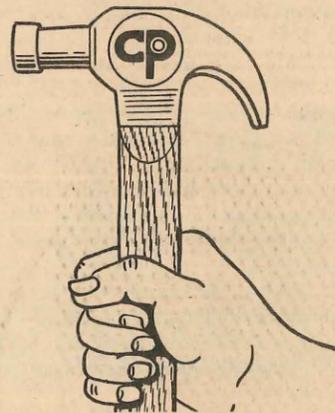
Graham was in Fayetteville to speak to the North Carolina Baptist Convention, where a \$12 million budget, plus another \$1 million challenge goal, was approved with no debate. One-third of it will go to the Southern Baptist Convention's worldwide missions causes.

Races Meet in Alabama

Mixing politics and religion, more than 5,000 Alabama Baptist — both black and white and representing five different conventions and 1.3 million members — came together for an historic joint meeting to observe a special U. S. bicentennial session at the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center.

Billed as a "festival of freedom" the program featured a mass chorus of 1,500 voices, a patriotic paean of praise, a sermon by a black Baptist pastor from New York and a bicentennial address by Oklahoma Governor David Boren.

Let An Expert Do The Job...



Double Exposure

This young Guatemalan boy is among those who lost homes, possessions and loved ones in the earthquake that shattered the country Feb. 4. Southern Baptist missionaries responded to the disaster with food, medicine and supplies partially as a result of the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. The goal for the offering taken during the current week of prayer for foreign missions is \$29 million. "Good News of a Great Joy," theme of the week, captures the message Southern Baptists are beaming toward areas of the world thus far short-changed in the spread of news of the Saviour's birth.



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

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Mountains to the Mississippi

Kentuckian Earns PEP

Judith Wright of First Baptist Church, Leitchfield, has completed certification requirements under the Church Secretary's Personal Enrichment Program (PEP).

PEP, designed for church secretaries who want to improve job performance, is a project coordinated by the church administration department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Mrs. Hayden Recognized

Mrs. Mary Hayden was honored by Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Owensboro, in receiving a 20-year pin. Mrs. Hayden has been the director of a children's department.

Nowlin Heads Task Force

Robert Nowlin, community minister at Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, has been appointed chairman of the Ministry Competency Task Force of the Southern Baptist Social Service Association.

Serving with Nowlin are Mrs. Beth Lambert, director of student support services at Southern Seminary, and William Fulkerson, pastor-director of Portland Bridge Mission in Louisville.

Brackney Leads SBSSA

Bob W. Brackney, pastor-director of Jefferson Street Baptist Chapel, Louisville, was elected president of the Southern Baptist Social Service Association at the annual meeting in Memphis, Tenn.

The association seeks to promote social ministry education, encourage research, interpret needs and encourage spiritual emphasis in the practice of social work throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

Anyone interested in obtaining information about SBSSA may contact Brackney at Box 577 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.



Brackney

Frank Owen



SEEKING A PASTOR

So you are looking for a pastor. Of course you will do this carefully and prayerfully. Try to find one whom you would like to keep awhile, perhaps all the way to his retirement age. This would compliment both pastor and church.

Naturally you will want your new pastor to be a good preacher. You won't be able to tell that from a sermon or two. His reputation with people who have been hearing him the last seven years will be a more dependable test. Then it is also important to note with whom his preaching is popular. We don't all like the same thing. I've heard some preaching strongly approved, which, to me seemed to appeal to people's prejudices and stirred up more hate than love. Take note of what kind of Christians are most appreciative of his sermons.

You will want to know that he is evangelistic, a Sunday school and organizational builder. How many additions (especially by baptism) does he have at his present church? Don't fall too hard for these statistics, though. Time and placeness influence this sort of success. Most "supermen" are just ordinary men at the right place at the right time and many "ordinary men" are supermen whom God somehow chose to use in ordinary places. I don't pay much attention to letters from pastorless churches in other states that ask for the names and statistical records of the 10 most "successful" preachers in our convention.

Above all, ascertain that your prospective pastor is a Christian gentleman whose moral and spiritual posture in the community is a credit to the office he holds and the master he represents. *Being* comes before *doing*. Many children grow up with very few personal observations or relationships with strong image men of moral and spiritual stability whose examples they might follow. Just humbly to be "a good minister of Jesus Christ" (I Tim. 4:6) in the community may, by example, achieve more unawares, in other lives "than whole burnt offerings" (Mark 12:33) of measurable "success."



On Nov. 14 New Salem Baptist Church, Valley Station, celebrated its 15th anniversary with the dedication of a new educational facility. Pictured are members of the building committee and pastor, Charles Flener [lower right] burying a time capsule to be unearthed at the church's 25th anniversary.

Sunday School Lessons

Lessons for Dec. 12, 1976

by H. C. Chiles, Murray, Ky.

International Series

The Coming Anticipated

Luke 1:39-55

Upon being informed by the angel, Gabriel, that God had chosen her to bring the saviour into the world, Mary went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who resided in the hill country of Judea. Upon her arrival Mary greeted Elizabeth, who responded by joyously expressing her congratulations to Mary for believing the promise of God and then assured her that God's promise would be fulfilled. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth was able to recognize the important role that Mary was to have in God's will. In response to Elizabeth's meaningful greeting, Mary broke forth in the words of this inspired song, usually called "the Magnificat," which gives us a marvelous insight into her wonderful character.

The Character of Mary's Song

1. It was worshipful.

A study of Mary's song reveals that praise was its keynote. Stirred by the announcement that she was God's chosen vessel, Mary was moved to magnify the greatness, goodness and graciousness of God in making her the channel of blessing to the whole world.

2. It was confessional.

Instead of being filled with pride because she had been so highly favored, Mary expressed her deep gratitude to God for the grace and goodness which he had bestowed upon her. She expressed her appreciation for the wonderful blessing of salvation which she had received.

3. It was prophetic.

Mary realized that the great promise that God had made to Abraham, which embraced all the nations, was culminating through her. Knowing that the birth of the saviour would be a fulfillment of many of the Old Testament prophecies, Mary treated those promises as if they were fulfilled already.

Mary thanked God and praised him for salvation, both for herself and for others. She needed a saviour just as every child of the human race does. Fully conscious of her need she said: "My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." She thoroughly magnified the Lord and thereby repudiated any worship of herself.

Mary praised God for his almighty power, absolute holiness and abundant mercy. His abundant mercy was not limited to Mary but it is "on all them that fear him from generation to generation."

Mary gave the assurance that the saviour would exalt those who turn from their sins and exercise faith in him. He would also send away empty those who might arrogate importance to themselves because of the things which they had received, all of which had come from his own bountiful hand.

Life and Work Series

Teach Us to Pray

Luke 11:1-4

Seeing and hearing Christ commune with the Father convinced the disciples they needed to know much more about this spiritual exercise. Because they wanted to learn to pray as he prayed, one of the disciples uttered the request, "Lord, teach us to pray." In reply to that earnest request, the Lord gave his disciples the prayer which had to do with the whole range of human need. It was a model of brevity, simplicity and comprehensiveness. Three things are indicated — relationship, "Our Father"; reverence, "Hallowed be thy name"; and resignation, "Thy will be done."

It is permissible to summarize the human side of prayer in the following threefold manner: as related to self, the supply of daily bread; as related to God, the removal of guilt; and as related to Satan, victory over his temptations. Christians should pray for everything they need and, to the best of their ability and knowledge, for the needs of others.

Ephesians 3:14-21

Possessed by the love of God, nurtured by the working of the Holy Spirit and yielded to the Lordship of Christ, Paul prayed this majestic and meaningful prayer for the Ephesians, revealing God's longings for all of his children. Paul asked for four things in particular:

1. That believers might have spiritual power (verse 16).

Paul did not ask for physical or intellectual strength to be given to believers but that they might receive the inward strength of the Holy Spirit.

2. That Christ might dwell in the hearts of believers by faith (verse 17).

As used in the Scriptures, the heart is the seat of the intellect, the emotions and the will. The heart is the region of affection and desire, the place where thoughts spring up and purposes are formed and the area in which future actions have their birth.

Paul prayed that Christ might become a permanent occupant in the hearts of believers, rather than an occasional visitor. When he is a permanent resident there, Christ liberates the heart from the power of Satan, weans it from other things, satisfies it, strengthens it and fills it with the hope of glory.

3. That believers might understand the love of Christ (verses 18-19a).

Paul prayed that believers might be able to comprehend the love of Christ in its four dimensions and that they might have an experiential knowledge of it.

4. That believers might be filled with the fullness of God (verse 19b).

Before Christians can have this delightful experience they must be emptied of self. There must be an implicit faith in God and not in self. Paul declared God's infinite power far exceeded all that we can ask or think.

Christian Education

Miss Worden Honored



Miss Worden



Owens

students from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary nominated for the 1977 edition of *Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges*.

Miss Worden is enrolled in the School of Religious Education at Southwestern Seminary and is working toward the master of religious education degree.

She was chosen on the basis of her academic achievement and contributions to the Ft. Worth community and seminary.

Cynthia Sills Worden, daughter of Barner D. Sills, Burna, is among the 46

John Joseph Owens, professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern

Baptist Professor Elected

Baptist Theological Seminary, was elected president of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew at the group's recent annual meeting in St. Louis, Mo.

Owens, a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southern Seminary, has been on the Baptist seminary faculty since 1942.

Reelected as vice president of the Hebrew professors' group at the St. Louis meeting was Page Kelley, also professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern Seminary.

H-SU President to Retire

Trustees of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., have approved Elwin Skiles' request that he be relieved of his duties as president of the university effective June 15, 1977. Trustees also voted to name him chancellor with continued duties in the H-SU development program.

The action at the recent fall meeting of the board coincided with an announcement that the Cullen Foundation of Houston had given H-SU \$1 million, which virtually completes the university's current fund-raising campaigns.

Famous Lawyer's Sons Give \$150,000 to School

The sons of the late George E. Allen, a Richmond attorney who built a national reputation as a trial lawyer, have given \$150,000 to the University of Richmond to establish a law professorship in his memory.

One of the stipulations of the gift from the sons — George Jr., Wilbur and Ashby — was that "others would be encouraged to match the gift so that a minimum of \$300,000 could be set aside to produce income to cover a significant part of a professor's salary at the University of Richmond."

The George E. Allen Chair will be the first endowed chair in the 105-year history of the T. C. Williams School of Law at the Baptist university.

Allen practiced in Virginia, first in Lunenburg County and later in Richmond, for 62 years prior to his death in 1972.

Among many other honors, he was given in 1965 the first Award for Courageous Advocacy by the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL).

PASTOR, do you need help in developing an evangelistic program in your church?

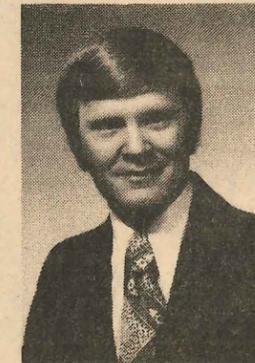
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