

WESTERN RECORDER
AUGUST 10, 1977



Daley Observations

No Room for Boasting

Southern Baptists' giving records may be the envy of other denominations, but they are really nothing to boast about. This is especially so in giving for world missions for which we like to be known.

When we pool our mission gifts, they appear large. They are large in total dollars, but when we analyze them we cannot be too proud. For example, our mission goal through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program for next year is \$63.4 million. This is a lot of money but actually it is less than \$5 for world missions for each Southern Baptist for a whole year. Our gifts through the Cooperative Program this year will average about \$4 per Southern Baptist. We cannot expect world evangelization in this generation for such a minimal investment.



The manner in which we divide our gifts for various causes should be of as much concern as our level of individual giving. We generally divide these causes into those related to the local church and community and those used beyond the local church. The record reflects selfishness on the part of most churches.

For every \$100 put in Baptist offering plates, on the average only \$8.83 is channeled through the Cooperative Program for world outreach. Now some churches do vital missionary ministries apart from Cooperative Program projects and many churches raise very generous special mission offerings, but the bulk of missionary ministries of Southern Baptists is funded with Cooperative Program receipts.

When missionary causes beyond the local churches get less than 10% of each regular offering plate dollar, confession and repentance are more in order than boasting.

Let's look a little further. Cooperative Program gifts are divided between the ministries of state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention ministries. The messengers in state convention sessions give final approval to the division formulas for state and Southern Baptist Convention allocations.

Again selfishness seems to be reflected in the division formulas of most Baptist state conventions. Of the \$8.83 of each hundred dollars collected in churches channeled through the Cooperative Program on the average \$5.81 remains in the state and \$3.02 goes to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Following the \$3.02 to its destination, \$1.47 goes to foreign missions, \$.55 to home missions, \$.68 to our six seminaries, \$.14 to radio and television work and \$.18 to the rest of Southern Baptist Convention ministries.

Such is the story of the dollar placed in Baptist offering plates. It is a little disappointing to realize that it requires \$100 in regular offerings in Southern Baptist churches for home and foreign missions to receive \$2.02. I believe in everything else the \$100 goes for, but it does seem we could find a way to share a little more beyond our local churches and our state mission ministries.

For years we have dreamed of the ideal of churches sending one dollar for world missions for every dollar they keep at home and state conventions dividing 50-50 with Southern Baptist Convention causes. Few churches and fewer states have ever been so generous, but we should never give up this ideal.

Guest Editorial

The Baptist Editor and Controversy

by J. Everett Sneed, Editor
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

There is some difference of opinion regarding the Baptist editor's dealing with controversial issues. Some believe that nothing controversial should ever be carried in our denominational papers. Others feel that every week there should be something of a controversial nature.

This editor believes that the primary purpose of our Baptist state paper is to help churches and individuals reach more nearly the stature God intended for them to attain. This means that he must sometimes deal with controversy. His purpose must always be to help and never to hurt.

Professional surveys have been made across the Southern Baptist Convention asking whether editors of denominational papers should deal with controversial issues. The vast majority have answered in the affirmative. In our own non-professional and sketchy surveys we have

had the same response. Many, however, have added that it be done responsibly and constructively.

Everyone has the right to his opinions with all the facts in hand and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Premature judgments have often been the source of problems, division and wrong conclusions. Caution is, perhaps, more important for the Baptist editor as his opinion is more widely disseminated than the opinion of most.

Those who believe that the editor should remain silent on all controversial issues are usually ready enough to express their own views. They have also overlooked several important matters: (1) The Bible teaches the individual priesthood of all believers; (2) A tenet of Baptist faith is openness and freedom; (3) Our democracy is built on the free exchange of ideas; and (4) A Baptist editor often has,

by virtue of his office, access to information that others may not have.

Historically, Baptists were among the leaders in the fight for freedom of religion. Closely related to this is the concept of the free exchange of religious ideas. We should never fear Christian views. We should, however, consider them and weigh them by the Word of God. That which is contrary to the Bible is false.

Openness will sometimes result in a difference of opinion, even among Baptists. This should not be alarming, nor should we feel that those who hold opposing views are less Christian than we. The evaluation of new ideas should be a wholesome, enlightening and rewarding experience. It is only through the exploration of new ideas

that any individual will grow intellectually and spiritually.

The alternative to considering various views is to have a closed mind which maintains, "I have a monopoly on all truth and knowledge." It was this concept which led to the persecution of the Dark Ages. Anyone who dared to present a new or controversial idea was branded a "heretic" and was usually placed on the torture rack.

When an editor or a pastor claims his right to speak out on controversial issues he must also shoulder the responsibility which goes with that freedom. The responsibility demands that he know, to the best of his ability, all the facts, that he deal with them honestly, and that he never use his position to belittle the ideas of others. Let's guard with our lives our God-given right to speak responsibly the truth as we see it in love!

Baptist Forum

Medical-Dental Fellowship

This is a request to publicize a fellowship which is being organized through and with the help of the Foreign Mission Board. Officially it will be the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship, organized to promote volunteer medical work through the Foreign Mission Board. This organization will strive to provide Christian fellowship, stimulate Christian growth, offer a specific church-centered means of witness through medical service and explore means of deeper personal and group Christian involvement for physicians and dentists who participate.

At this time no formal attempt is being made to involve other health personnel and allied professional people, but we anticipate their participation and would invite response from not only physicians and dentists but also other persons involved in health delivery who are interested in missions, either through active participation or support.

We would appreciate it if pastors and other interested persons would pass this information on to anyone who might desire to become involved in a program such as this. Interest from students of the various groups would be welcome.

We will be glad to handle any inquiries regarding this organization with the hope that this means will enable us to develop a Kentucky

Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship in service for Christ. If desired, inquiries may be made directly to: The Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship, 2500 Woodberry Drive, Winston-Salem, N. C. 27106.

M. A. Winchester, M. D.
Whitley City, Ky.
William E. Snowden, D. D. S.
Winchester, Ky.

Beware of Madeline

I am writing in regard to your article in Western Recorder concerning Madeline Murray O'Hara's efforts to ban religious broadcasts which you stated were a rumor.

I also have read similar rebukes in other state papers against what we believed were a "Christian stand and responsibility." This "rumor" has been around quite a while—it's strange that so many letters and petitions were gathered, promoted and mailed before anyone let us know it was only "a rumor."

The work of Madeline Murray O'Hara was not a rumor a few years ago when she was successful in getting Bible reading and prayers removed from our schools and other successful efforts.

Where were our representatives, responsible Christian leaders and state papers then? We needed desperately some guidance and an opportunity to stand up for Jesus. Today our schools

are not safe, our educational system is in shambles, much more importance is put on teachers pay than on the education of our children. For some children the Bible reading and prayers were the only ones in their presence and in their behalf sent to our heavenly Father. There is practically no discipline invoked in our schools even though there are incidents of assault, larceny, threats and fear almost every day. We are all the loser in this, especially the children.

Maybe this so called rumor is just another of Madeline Murray O'Hara's tricks so we will let down our guard. If so, we surely played right in her hand. For after these recent rebukes for our efforts, you couldn't get another petition or letter written to our representatives on a bet. I'm afraid now Madeline will have clear sailing with no interference from God's family at all.

We were doing what we thought to be right—it did no harm. At least our elected officials were given notice of the Christian communities' true feelings and desires.

I would now feel silly asking my people to petition for anything unless I had a documented request for same—lest we be called "alarmists" or "simple minded fundamentalists."

For Jesus' sake won't you please help the Christian community in a constructive way as best you can?

Dan S. Crawley III
Stamping Ground, Ky.

Baptist News in Brief

New Corps to Strengthen All SBC Mission Efforts

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials believe strong support for the newly proposed Mission Service Corps reflects a heightened interest in missions that will reinforce all Southern Baptist missions efforts.

The volunteer program adopted at the Southern Baptist Convention seeks to involve more personnel in one to two-year projects overseas.

As the board prepares to put its full weight behind the new volunteer program, key members of the board staff voiced their feeling that Southern Baptists are ready to become involved in missions on a scale never before attained.

"We are thrilled when new crests of enthusiasm move across Southern Baptist life. Our responsibility of channeling those efforts to the world becomes more exciting when mission interest reaches a peak such as the one now apparent throughout the convention," said R. Keith Parks, the board's mission support division director.

Parks' view of the new mission corps supports that of the board's executive director, Baker J. Cauthen. Cauthen described the corps as "something that

has caught in the heart of our people and is building to be something very, very significant."

Under Cauthen's direction, the board staff is making preliminary plans for applicant processing, orientation procedures and maximum utilization of the volunteers overseas, even though final details of the new corps are still being worked out by the special committee.

"Devoted laypersons make strong allies for missionaries and national leaders in the extension of Christ's kingdom," said W. Eugene Grubbs, the board's consultant for laymen overseas.

Missionaries' Son Saves Jordanian Youth's Life

Dwight Fuller, 18-year-old son of Southern Baptist missionaries J. Wayne and Frances Fuller, is credited with saving the life of a young man who was drowning at a sports complex in Amman, Jordan.

While swimming in a crowded pool, Fuller discovered the limp body of an Arab youth lying on the bottom of the pool. He brought the boy to the surface and swam with him to the edge of the pool.

When lifeguards reached the scene,

Fuller was applying mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. The victim, whose body was already discolored by lack of oxygen, began to breathe shallowly and was taken to a hospital. The victim was released from the hospital in good condition two days later.

Fuller recently graduated from American Community School in Athens, Greece, and will attend Furman University, a Baptist school in Greenville, S. C.

Allen Visits Honduras

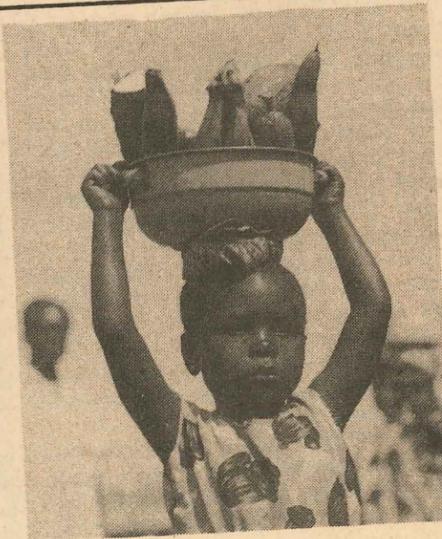
Honduras was the first Southern Baptist mission field visited by Jimmy R. Allen following his election as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Forty-two laypersons from First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., where Allen is pastor, were involved for nine days in a "mission venture" in southern Honduras. Workers included two evangelistic teams, two medical teams, a construction team and an eye specialist who performed surgery in the government hospital in Choluteca.

Allen met with missionaries in the capital city of Tegucigalpa to discuss the Mission Service Corps, a program of short term volunteers being planned by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Double Exposure

A little girl at a market in Ejura, Ghana, typifies Southern Baptists' commitment to a world-wide witnessing program, Bold Mission Thrust. Pray this week for those who are called as full time missionaries to testify to the one true living Lord. They speak on behalf of our denomination in tongues that men and women across America and around the globe can understand. Thank God for their personal sacrifices in sharing the good news, and ask him to strengthen them with courage, mental and physical stamina, love and support from home for the important work to which they have been called.



Vol. 151, No. 31

Carter May Keynote SBC Missions Rally

A missions rally for Southern Baptist lay persons, with President Jimmy Carter invited to make the major address, will be held in Atlanta, Ga., June 16, 1978 under the auspices of the Brotherhood Commission.

Glendon McCullough, executive director of the Memphis-based missions agency for Southern Baptist men and boys, announced the giant missions meeting at the final session of the week-long Bold Mission Leadership Conference at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center.

The missions rally will be held the day following the three-day 1978 Southern Baptist Convention.

President Carter, a former trustee of the commission, has personally agreed to consider an invitation to address the lay people and will respond officially to the invitation a few months before the meeting.

The meeting is one of a series of projects to provide Bold Mission opportunities for Baptist lay people at the national level during the next two years.

Rutledge Hospitalized

Arthur B. Rutledge, retired executive director-treasurer of Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, is convalescing after having suffered a series of mild heart attacks.

Rutledge, who stepped down Dec. 31, 1976, after heading the board for 12 years, suffered a mild coronary July 12, another July 16 and a third July 28. He was hospitalized in Emory University Hospital, Atlanta, Ga.

Since retiring Rutledge has lived near Cumming, Ga., and has been involved in teaching and writing.

16,271 'Officially' at SBC

Led by 2,314 persons from the host state of Missouri, 16,271 persons officially registered for the 120th annual sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Kansas City, June 15-17.

A survey taken during the convention

reveals most of the registered messengers were male, and most involved in some phases of denominational work.

Figures compiled by the SBC Historical Commission indicate the 16,271 persons came from 47 states and the District of Columbia. Besides the preponderance of Missourians, other top ranking states included Texas, 1,344; North Carolina, 1,279; Georgia, 1,160; Tennessee, 1,153; Alabama 1,045.

South Carolina barely missed the 1,000 mark, with 934 representatives. Others sending 500 or more were Kentucky, 832; Mississippi, 768; Virginia, 698; Oklahoma, 661; Florida, 594; Louisiana, 547; and Arkansas, 516.

Construction Starts Soon On Mallory-Taylor Wing

Construction will begin Aug. 15 on a new wing which will house a combination recreation and dining area at Mallory-Taylor Hospital, La Grange.

The addition to this Baptist-operated hospital is expected to be completed by Dec. 15. Cost for the project is expected to be between \$35,000 and \$40,000.

Construction on the 850 square foot addition was scheduled to have begun in June, but bids received greatly exceeded architectural estimates. Some design modifications were made and the contract recently awarded to Esposito Builders, Inc., of La Grange.

Pastor Backs President

President Jimmy Carter's pastor declined to criticize his best-known parishioner for appointing a personal representative to the Vatican.

In a radio interview Charles A. Trentham, pastor of First Baptist Church, Washington, D. C., noted that the practice among presidents to appoint envoys to Vatican City dates to 1936 and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"At the moment, I do not think that the appointment of Mr. (David M.) Walters . . . is a departure from what has been going on with the last succession of presidents," Trentham said.

"My attitude," he continued, "is that there are over 700 million Catholics in the world with whom we need some conversation . . ."

Throughout the interview, Trentham underscored his conviction that his first concern is to be pastor to the President and first family rather than advisor on public questions.

Trentham disclosed that a large percentage of the calls and letters he receives are requests to send messages or arrange meetings with Carter. He said he will not be used as an intermediary for such requests or to lobby on issues.

The 58-year-old pastor told the reporters that when Carter decided to join the historic congregation six blocks from the White House, "I determined to preach the heart of the gospel."

Western Recorder

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

Published 50 times per year by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43401, Middletown, Ky. 40243. Second class postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

C. R. DALEY JR. Editor
JAMES H. COX Associate Editor
PAUL WHITLER JR. Business Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
C. Carman Sharp, Louisville, chairman;
John W. Kruschwitz, Ft. Thomas, vice chairman; Mrs. Julia S. Woodward, Lexington, secretary; William S. Blakeman, Winchester; H. Stanton Carney, Paducah; Glenn M. Durham, Marlan; Curtis Erwin, Glasgow; W. Kenneth Forman, Maysville; William D. Jagers, Prestonsburg; O. G. Lawless, Bowling Green; Billy D. Marcum, Brandenburg; Harold J. Purdy, Madisonville.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Individual, \$3.68 (tax included); Foreign, \$3.75; Church Budget, \$2.50. All except church accounts payable in advance. Church accounts must have tax exemption number.

NEWSGRAM

FOR THE MONTH CLOSING JULY, 1977

	1977	1976
Cooperative Program receipts July	\$ 625,463.18	\$ 533,101.42
Goal to date this year [Operational]	5,500,000.00	5,041,666.63
To date this convention year	6,252,543.14	5,816,403.83
Over goal	752,543.14	774,737.20
To date this time last year	5,816,403.83	5,084,490.26
Increase	436,139.31	731,913.57
Percentage increase	7.49%	14.4%

Needed each month to reach Operational Goal	\$500,000
Needed each month to reach full Cooperative Program Goal	\$600,000

Viewpoint

The Enigma of the Single Baptist Clergyman

by Earl Shelp

This article is an attempt to raise some questions about an issue in Southern Baptist life that seldom receives the intelligent, informed analysis and discussion it deserves. My observation is that the sort of attention it generally receives is a whispered disparaging comment or ill-humored joke. I suspect it takes this hushed form because our attitudes toward it would be a source of embarrassment should they be exposed for all to know.

My purpose here is not to single-handedly resolve the issue or to present an exhaustive analysis. Rather, my intention is to speak to the concern from the perspective, on the one hand, of one who is committed to Christian ministry and to the Southern Baptist Convention; and, on the other hand, as one who lives with the problem. The issue is the enigma of the never married, male, Southern Baptist clergyman.

I have purposefully chosen the noun "enigma" to characterize my class of clergy since it is defined as "a perplexing, baffling or seemingly inexplicable matter or person." The "perplexing, baffling" problem that the single clergyman presents to Baptists is simply what to do with him.

The general assumption among Baptists is that the pastorate and many

Earl Shelp holds a Ph.D. in theological ethics from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and is currently doing post-doctoral study at the Institute of Religion, Texas Medical Center, Houston.

other significant positions of leadership should be held by a married man. This assumption is presently being challenged by the increasing numbers of women who are seeking ordination and service as pastors.

Where women seeking opportunities of ministry are finding Baptist doors closed to them because of their gender, single men are finding many of the same doors closed because they have not yet discovered the "unclaimed blessing" or have chosen to remain unmarried for any number of reasons. The increasing numbers of men who choose to delay marriage pose a challenge for some Baptists to reexamine the apparent prejudice and discrimination in this area.

The scripture would require us to consider the marital status of men and women capable of and willing to be used by God as unimportant. The biblical record without question affirms the potential of single people to be prominent and important in God's redemptive work.

A look at the history of the church will show that many of its most important spokesmen have been non-married. It would have been tragic if their voices had been silenced and their desire to serve frustrated because they were single.

Perhaps . . . The "unspoken" insistence of Baptists that the pastor or other leader be married is almost unique among Protestant denominations. One can only speculate as to the reasons for this phenomenon.

Perhaps laymen consider a married man a better bargain. It is assumed in some circles that the pastor's wife will be a full time unpaid worker shouldering secretarial, custodial and hostess services while leading in WMU, Sunday school, Church Training and other church organizations.

Perhaps laymen panic about social etiquette. Three for dinner instead of four? With whom will the good host's wife chat?

Perhaps the single pastor will require too much. One could reason that a man without the responsibilities of wife and children would have little sympathy for the multitude of demands made upon the layman's time.

Perhaps the congregation feels that only a pastor with a family can provide

This . . . is non-biblical, discriminatory, prejudicial, illogical, unloving and unjust . . .

a sufficient model of Christian lifestyle for all to emulate.

Perhaps the people fear he will not understand the complex problems in family life that would be shared in counseling sessions.

Perhaps the congregation fears sexual seduction; seduction of the pastor by female members or seduction of female members by the pastor.

I submit that each of these reasons are illegitimate when considered alone or in total.

- A church calls a pastor to serve the people. His qualifications and the leadership of God should be the primary concern, not the prospect of his wife's free labor.

- Even numbers is customary in some social circles, but by no means is it required.

- The pastor is also a busy person who appreciates relaxation and leisure.

- The fishbowl existence of a pastor's family is a heavy burden to place on them and it is often resented.

- It is inconsistent to teach children to emulate Jesus (a single man) and not accept the single pastor as a possible model of Christian lifestyle.

- Empathy for the problems of family life may be gained through one's own family experiences or through sharing with others so many of life's joys and pains in a way that only a pastor can.

- The risk of seduction exists with a married pastor as well.

Single clergymen as a group are not abnormal or unqualified, they are merely in the minority. A man ought not be called as pastor or placed in a position of responsibility because he is single and he ought not be denied the pastorate or leadership role because he is single.

Baptist Inconsistency

Baptists appear inconsistent in their attitudes toward singleness. Local churches recommend single men to the seminary to prepare for the pastorate and ordain them to the ministry and yet close their doors to them if they remain unmarried.

Local churches profess love for singles as they rush to establish ministries to this group and yet tend to refuse singles the opportunity to fill the highest office in the church.

Local churches through the Cooperative Program subsidize the costs of ministerial education. Yet Baptists realize little or no return on this investment unless places of service are open to the single man.

Pastors call upon young men to forego all other occupational education to exclusively pursue their preparation for the Lord's work. But, if the young man who sacrificed all also sacrificed the finding of a wife and is unable to find a church-related position he is left without other marketable skills.

I am suggesting that this seemingly inconsistent, contradictory attitude toward single clergymen is non-biblical, discriminatory, prejudicial, illogical, unloving and unjust to everyone concerned.

Reflects Mood

My impression is that single clergymen have a better chance of finding a place of ministry in roles other than the pastorate such as the chaplaincy, missionary service, music, education, social ministries or administration on the state or national levels. Yet, I fear that even in the state and national conventions the rarely spoken bias against singles is not as entrenched but still present and reflective of the mood of the people.

I do not mean to imply that all Baptists harbor a conscious or unconscious ill will toward the single clergyman. I am aware of a few as yet unmarried men who serve admirably as pastors with the virorous support of their congregations or who serve credibly as professors or in denominational posts.

Yet, on the whole, the single clergyman appears to be an enigma for Baptists. He is a "perplexing and baffling" person when we are predisposed to accept only "paired" persons. He presents a "perplexing and baffling" problem to Baptists when we affirm God's call of him and can't find a way for him to exercise his ministerial gifts.

The Church: Mission or Mess?

by Jerry B. Hopkins

The Bible says that "Christ loved the church and gave himself for it." Paul writes that "we are not our own, we are bought with a price"—the death of Jesus on the cross.

What is this church Jesus loved and bought with his death doing? Are we to be entertaining folks? Are we to be a social club? Do we minister to a "select" few? Are we a benevolence society?

I think we get some glimpse of our mission in the words of Jesus—"I came to seek and to save the lost." In Matt. 28:19-20 the Lord gave to the believers our mission in the great commission.

This great commission establishes that our task is two-fold: witness to the lost and teach the saved. This is the mission of the church in the world. In the light of this emphasis on witnessing and teaching through missions this question arises: Is the church on a mission or in a mess?

The church is on a mission if it has vision. It is in a mess if it gives place to vicious trivia. People without vision lapse into concern over trivial things. In the spiritual realm the issue is even more significant. "Where there is no vision, the people perish." When God's people have no vision people die without Christ, perish in their sins and go to everlasting torment.

Jesus spoke about vision. "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest." Jesus wanted us to see people. The church that cannot see beyond itself will die while people all around die and perish forever. Look! That's what we need to do.

Jesus, also said, "Watch therefore; for you don't know when I will return." Jesus is coming back. Is that in your vision? The people who do not have a vision of perishing people and the coming Christ will be occupied by trivial things. A church without a vision is in a mess not on a mission for Christ.

The church is on a mission if it loves. It is in a mess if it is loveless. Jesus had something against the church at Ephesus. He said, "I have something

against you, because you have left your first love." The church that does not love Jesus is a mess.

Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that you are mine, if you love one another." Church members who do not love one another are in a mess. Lovelessness is a tragedy! It is sin! It is triumph for the devil.

The church is on a mission if it gives. It is a mess if it is greedy. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give, than to receive." He said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you."

God is a giving God! Christianity is a giving religion! Our basic mission is to give not to get. God can't give to some people because they are always trying to get. We have abundant opportunities to contribute to missions. Only those with vision and love will give. Giving is a mark of Christian vision and concern.

The church is on a mission if it is selfless. It is a mess if it is selfish. Man's biggest problem is self. The biggest problem in the church today is that of self—corporate selfishness. We have no problems in promoting programs to get money. When it comes to programs to spend money, the tempers flare, anger rises and tongues lash. What a shame! In the church of Jesus there should be great joy in selfless giving.

We must remember individually, as well as corporately, Paul's words in Gal. 2:20: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loves me, and gave himself for me." Let this be our example—giving of self to others, even as Jesus did for us.

What do you want for the church? A vision or vicious trivia? Love or lovelessness? Giving or greediness? Selflessness or selfishness?

Do you want your church to be a mission or a mess? Whichever it is will be up to you! You are vital to the church. Is your life a mission for Christ or a mess for the devil?

Jerry B. Hopkins is pastor of Mt. Freedom Baptist Church, Wilmore, Ky.

Influencing Public Policy: How to Go About It

By John W. Baker

Lobbying is the term generally applied to attempts by individuals and groups to influence the actions of the legislative and executive branches of government. Many people conceive of lobbying as an unwholesome and/or dishonest undertaking. Generally this is a serious misconception.

There are lobbyists who use questionable or even illegal methods to influence government. These are an exception and are not at all typical of the activities of the Washington lobby. American political scientists are in agreement that the lobbyist is an important element of the American democratic process.

Members of Congress or employees of an executive agency have come to rely on individuals or organizations to supply them with varying perspectives on an issue. Such diverse organizations as the National Association of Manufacturers, the A.F.L.-C.I.O., Common Cause, the U.S. Catholic Conference, and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs might be asked their opinions on the same issue in order that a decision maker may have an expression of potentially conflicting views to aid him in reaching conclusions.

The organizations which relate to government when the interests of their constituencies are involved are many and varied. The Washington telephone Yellow Pages has more than six full pages with four columns on each page containing the names of associations within the city. Alphabetically, these range from an organization called "A Better Chance" through the "Zionist Organization of America." In addition, a substantial number of the law firms in the area represent the special interests of clients when the actions of government affect them. By presenting conflicting views they serve to guarantee that all facets of a problem will be explored before a decision is made. Thus, this kind of interest representation can be seen as an important component of democracy.

At times interest groups take the initiative in making their views known. At other times government actively seeks those views. For example, the general counsel for a House subcommittee re-

cently asked the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs to present testimony directed at the church-state implications of a piece of legislation the subcommittee was considering. Other organizations receive similar requests for expert testimony. Very few of them decline to appear.



This type of lobbying is usually called "direct" lobbying. The lobbyist is involved in "face-to-face" contact with government. Under certain circumstances it can be very effective. But it is not the most effective way to influence the actions of elected officials. Individual voters can have a much more potent influence on their elected representatives.

If voters take the time and effort to make their desires known in a proper manner, representatives pay close attention. This "indirect" or "grassroots" lobbying, which consists simply of letter writing or telephoning, is effective and takes few skills. There are, however, some general rules which should be followed:

1. Things you should do:
 - a. Be informed about the issue rather than acting in haste or in response to unfounded rumors. A letter based on unfounded rumor is of no value and could serve to discredit a later communication involving a real issue.

- b. Write briefly and to the point, explaining the bases of your support for or opposition to pending action. Write on only one issue at a time.
 - c. Be constructive—if you oppose a piece of legislation, explain how and if it can be made acceptable to you.
 - d. Write to your representatives congratulating them when they have done something good and thanking them if they have voted as you requested. (Voting records are usually reported in a local paper—or will be if several people request that they be reported.)
2. Things you should not do:
 - a. Never threaten a representative. Do not say "Neither I nor any of our church members will vote for you if . . ." A positive statement of your position is sufficient.
 - b. Never sign form letters or duplicated petitions. One handwritten letter is worth dozens of these nonspontaneous communications.
 - c. Do not write on every piece of legislation which comes along. Be selective to be effective.
 - d. Never write unless you really know what you are writing about. An uninformed letter could be counterproductive.

One of the best publications available to aid citizens in expressing views on public issues is the pamphlet *Register Citizen Opinion*. It lists the members of Congress, their committee assignments, addresses, proper salutations, etc. This valuable pamphlet can be ordered from the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs for 25¢ each. Bulk orders will be billed as follows:

- Ten copies \$2.00
 - One hundred copies \$17.50
 - One thousand copies \$137.50
- Postage and shipping charges will be added to the above price.

John W. Baker is an associate director with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

"I don't want to get my feet back on the ground just yet. I might stump my toe."

Owen Cooper's adrenalin was still pumping as the retired industrialist and former Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) president attempted to unwind after an evening with Jimmy Carter in the Coopers' Yazoo City, Miss., home.

President Carter spent the night of July 21 with the Coopers after attending a town meeting of some 2,000 people in Yazoo City.

Although Cooper, retired president of Mississippi Chemical Corp., the world's largest ammonium fertilizer manufacturing cooperative, had associated with Carter before, the President's visit left him full of superlatives.

He called the visit exciting but said Carter is such a "natural and genuine" person "you don't feel a sense of awe, you feel a sense of companionship."

In the Cooper den that night, while the President ate Mrs. Cooper's homemade ice cream topped with peaches, and at the breakfast table the next morning, while he ate fresh peaches and drank coffee, host and visitor talked about a lot of things.

The President's informal, human touch set the tone for the visit.

Carter, who had taken off his coat in the heat of the un-air conditioned gymnasium where he spoke, arrived at the Coopers' still without it.

He asked his host if he could slip off his tie, and then spent the first 10 minutes with the Cooper grandchildren. "We just sat down and talked," Cooper said.

They discussed mental health and Mrs. Carter's recent trip to South America, among other things.

"We talked a little church, but not

Yazoo City, Mississippi:

The Day the President Came to Town

much," Cooper said. "We mentioned his reading his Bible daily in Spanish and asked him to read a devotional thought for the evening from I Cor. 13."

The President went upstairs to get his Spanish Bible and discovered he had left it at home. The Coopers had a paperback New Testament in Spanish and Carter used it. Following the Bible reading, Ben Ladner, the Coopers' son-in-law, led in prayer.

The President retired at 11 p.m. and was down for breakfast at 5:45 a.m. As they ate, Cooper brought Carter up to date on the program the President had recommended to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting last June in Kansas City.

Following a meeting with SBC agency heads, in which he proposed the SBC beef up its short term volunteer mission programs to tap the resources of Baptists of all ages, Carter made a videotape appeal to the convention. His suggestion passed enthusiastically.

Cooper filled in the President on procedures being followed and told him the target date of having orientation in the spring for the first group seemed realistic.

Characteristically, Carter volunteered his services if there was anything he could do further, Cooper said.

Cooper, a member of First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, said he felt the meeting in the town on the edge of the Mississippi delta had helped the community.

"There was a wonderful feeling of cooperation in staging the event and that cooperation can come in other ways if we can get together and work," he said.

Part of the cooperation came from Cooper's next door neighbors, the Charles Jacksons, who moved out of their house for the evening to help the Secret Service. Jackson, senior vice president of Mississippi Chemical, is a city alderman and past chairman of deacons at First Baptist Church.

Jerry Clower, a national television personality and also a member of First Baptist Church, did his share by serving as master of ceremonies at a watermelon cutting for the town and visiting newpeople. The mayor of the city, Floyd Johnson, is also a Baptist.

The townspeople received the President warmly, giving him a standing ovation when he entered the gymnasium.

But it was not the first standing ovation of the evening. Shortly before the President arrived, Cooper walked in. Spontaneously the crowd was on its feet applauding.

First Baptist Church pastor, James Yates summed up how Yazoo City feels about Cooper:

"Even though people might not agree with all his decisions and philosophies, they could not help but appreciate what he was trying to do for the city and they respect him for it. Owen Cooper puts the interests of others first—especially his church and his pastor."

President Jimmy Carter's reading of I Cor. 13 in Spanish while a guest in the home of fellow Southern Baptist layman Owen Cooper was a "natural" for the special visitor and his hosts.

The evening that the President stayed with Cooper began with a session with photographers and reporters and an informal discussion between the President and Mrs. Cooper about their native Georgia. The mention of Rosalynn Carter's goodwill tour of South America and her interest in Spanish prompted the President to describe a custom of the first family.

"It was about a quarter till eleven at that point," Cooper recalled, and he told us that each night either the President or Mrs. Carter would read

out loud to the other a chapter in the New Testament in Spanish."

"Would you read us a chapter in Spanish?" Cooper asked his guest. After the President agreed, he read I Cor. 13 from Cooper's Spanish-language New Testament.

A few minutes after bidding his hosts good night, Carter returned downstairs to request to borrow Cooper's Spanish-language New Testament since he had forgotten to bring his own copy "for my devotion tonight."

Carter returned the New Testament to Cooper after autographing it at his host's request. Cooper plans to give the copy to Oscar Romo, language missions director at the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board.

*Devotional
In Spanish
'Natural'
for
Jimmy Carter*

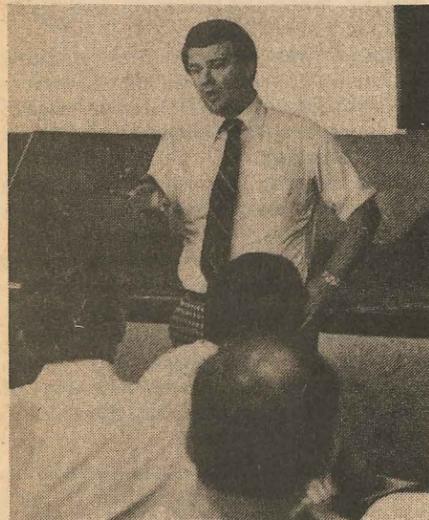
Christian Education

Smoot Named as U of L Baptist Campus Minister

G. Thomas Smoot has been appointed Baptist campus minister at University of Louisville effective Aug. 15.

Smoot, a native of Louisville, has served since 1974 as campus minister to Kentucky Wesleyan and Brescia colleges and Henderson, Hopkinsville, Madisonville and Paducah community colleges. He was minister of education and youth at Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green, prior to 1974.

A graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Seminary, Smoot is a specialist in drama and recreation. He is married to the former Jennifer Newman and they have two daughters, Heather and Holly.



J. Altus Newell, pastor of Louisville's St. Matthews Baptist Church, is shown teaching a course on "The Life and Work of the Pastor" as a visiting professor at Southern Seminary in July. Newell was one of several Kentuckians who taught at Southern during July. Others were Wesley R. Monfalcone, chaplain director at Louisville General Hospital, and Danny Flanagan, campus minister at Campbellsville College.

Outstanding Young Men

Four men connected with Campbellsville College, three of them brothers, have been named as Outstanding

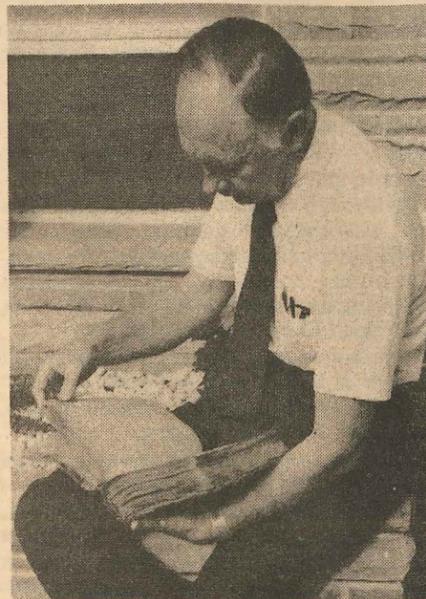
Young Men of America for 1977.

Two of the men, Michael L. McMahan, assistant professor of biology, and Frank Cheatham, assistant professor of mathematics, teach at Campbellsville.

Cheatham's brothers, Tom and Don, both Campbellsville graduates, were also selected for this honor. Tom is an assistant professor at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., and Don teaches at Marion County High School, Lebanon.

Cumberland History Frat Receives National Award

Cumberland College's Upsilon Upsilon chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, international society in history, was recently awarded the best chapter award for the 1976-77 school year for chapters on a campus with 1,000 to 2,000 students. Along with the honor goes a gift of \$250 in books to the college.



D. M. Aldridge, president of Clear Creek Bible School, Pineville, browses through a 261-year-old Bible which was recently presented to the school. The Bible, which was published in 1716 in London, England, was a gift from Birney Manning, Somerset, and Simeon J. Hale, a Lincoln County native. The Bible is partially covered in goat skin and is easily readable.

Two Baptist Colleges Get Government Grants

Two Baptist colleges have received grants from the federal government totaling \$245,800.

Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Baptist College at Charleston (S. C.), are among 90 two- and four-year colleges receiving grants from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The grants were made to help them achieve financial stability and academic improvement. Ouachita received \$17,300 for continuation activities and Baptist College at Charleston was granted \$174,000 for the same purpose.

In addition, Ouachita received \$54,500 to increase its fund raising capabilities. This grant allows training in the skills necessary to organize, strengthen and implement fund raising efforts.

In order to qualify for the continuation grants the schools had to show that they had used previous grants satisfactorily and that financial hardship would result if the grant were not renewed. Several other church-related colleges received grants from HEW.

New CC Program Told

Beginning this fall the general education requirements for Cumberland College students will be lowered from 55 to 49 semester hours.

This new program will affect all entering freshmen and those students who have yet to complete those areas undergoing change.

A task force of faculty, administrative personnel and students developed the program which will offer students a more viable education and will also conform to new state guidelines.

The three major divisions of the program are personal development (18 hours), symbolics-communication (13 hours) and natural and social sciences (18 hours).

The program is designed to show how the major sciences interrelate with man and his environment and to make each student aware of the natural world as God's creation.



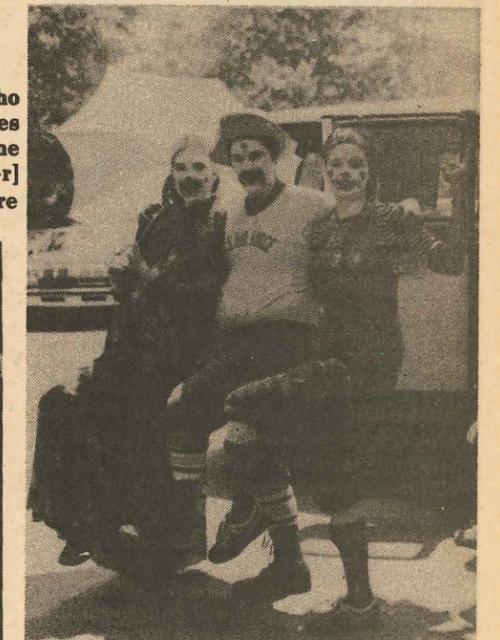
Terry Alton [l] and Sam Reeves, shown in photo at left, were two of the 27 Cumberland College students who participated in the ministry at Cumberland Falls State Park. At right are Bill Traylor and Decision in one of their performances.



Cumberland Students Lead In Holiday Park Ministry

Clowns, music, slapstick comedy, drama, crafts and, most importantly, the gospel of Jesus Christ were all presented as 27 Cumberland College students led a resort ministry at Cumberland Falls State Park over the Fourth of July weekend. Also featured on the program, which was sponsored by Cumberland's Baptist Student Union, were the Son-Share players of the Kentucky Baptist Student Work Department, the SonShine puppets from Owensboro and Bill Traylor and Decision from Catlettsburg. An estimated 10,000 people were touched by some phase of this ministry as the students put on 25 shows in a three day span.

In photo above are some of the estimated 10,000 tourists and campers who attended some phase of this holiday weekend ministry. Below left, Sam Reeves [l] and Ted Ford present a song. Shown in photo below center are the SonShine puppets from Owensboro who delighted the kids of all ages. Below right, [l-r] Vickie Sayors, Joe Burt and Terri Phillips show how far the students were willing to go to make sure their audiences were entertained.



Market Place

Kay and Jim Morris Realtor Associates



Guaranteed Sales Plan
Wallace Real Estate
Brownsboro Center Arcade
Home Phone 459-5030
Office 897-0121

HOLY LAND & EGYPT

11 Days • Oct. 3 only \$1199*

HAWAII

3 Islands 11 days
from Louisville Dec. 17-27
with touring \$669*
*plus tax and handling

Information and brochure from
J. SMILEY COLLINS
1605 Tartan Way, Louisville, Ky. 40205
456-1095

Kendall Realty



George Herman Kendall
Lexington, Kentucky
Ph. 252-6046 [24 hours]

"Golden Rule Broker"

FINANCING
FOR
CHURCH BUILDINGS
Call Toll Free
ANDY F. HARDY
1-800-231-6068



SECURITY CHURCH FINANCE, INC.

An Impressive,
Comforting Service
that meets the requirements
of every family calling us

Kerr Brothers FUNERAL HOME

Lexington, Ky.
463 E. Main St. • Dial 2-3345

ADVERTISEMENT

Afraid You're Going Deaf?

Chicago, Ill.—A free offer of special interest to those who hear but do not understand words has been announced by Beltone. A non-operating model of the smallest Beltone aid of its kind will be given absolutely free to anyone answering this advertisement.

Send for this non-operating model, put it on and wear it in the privacy of your own home. While many people with a hearing loss will not receive any significant benefit from any hearing aid, this non-working model will show you how tiny hearing help can be, and 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.

These models are free, so we suggest you write for yours now. Again, we repeat, there is no cost, and certainly no obligation. Thousand have already been mailed, so write today to Dept. 4277 Beltone Electronics Corp., 4201 W. Victoria, Chicago, Ill. 60646.

SERVING ALL RELIGIONS
Prices to satisfy every preference and need

AIR CONDITIONED PARKING AREAS

OLD PEARSON & SONS
Since 1848
FUNERAL HOMES

1310 S. THIRD Phone 634-3628 149 BRECKINRIDGE LANE Phone 896-0349

PEARSON FUNERAL SERVICE
Louisville, Kentucky
Members: Kentucky Funeral Directors Burial Association
Members: National Selected Morticians by invitation

STEEPLES LIGHTS
BAPTISTRIES SIGNS

P.O. BOX 2250 DANVILLE, VA 24541
PHONE (804) 797-3277

BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES

FIBERGLASS

- STEEPLES
- WALL CROSSES
- STAINED FIBERGLASS WINDOWS
- BAPTISTRIES
- BAPTISTRY HEATERS

Write for free color brochure.

Fiberglass Specialties

214 657-6524 Box 931 Henderson, Texas 75652

Art Taphorn
Salesman.

- Realtor Associate
- Professional Salesman
- 23 Years Experience
- Member Baptist Church

Home Phone 267-8795
Office Phone 491-5500

Allen Blacketer COMPANY REALTOR

Mountains to the Mississippi

History Society Meets

The annual meetings of Kentucky Baptist Historical Society and Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission on July 29 were hosted by Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College, Paducah, and Columbus Baptist Church.

Activities of this year's meeting included a tour of historic sites of Baptist interest in extreme southwest Kentucky and a picnic barbecue dinner served by ladies of Columbus Baptist Church.

The tour was planned and conducted by Charles Blair, dean at Mid-Continent. Sites included Blandville, where a Baptist school once existed; Clinton, where another Baptist school existed for several years and where Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College began; Wickliffe, where a burial site for a pre-historic Mongolian race in America has been unearthed; and Columbus, which was once proposed for the United States capitol and where a battle of the War Between the States took place.

The tour concluded at Columbus where pastor Ronald Cruse and the Columbus Baptist ladies served a picnic dinner in the state park located on the high bluff overlooking the Mississippi River and Missouri.

In the society's business session Mid-Continent president Wendell Rone reviewed early Baptist history of the area. The meeting was presided over by Leo Crismon who was reelected president. The other present officers, vice president Ford Deusner, secretary Jack Birdwhistell and treasurer Frank Owen, were also reelected.

Time and place of the 1978 meeting will be announced later by executive secretary Frank Owen.

Lynch Sets Celebration

Lynch Baptist Church will observe its 50th anniversary with special services Aug. 14.

Fred Roth, Clarence Jones and A. R. Hoe, three former pastors, will participate in the special celebration. Also scheduled is a drama depicting the beginnings of the church.

The morning prayer will be led by George Collins, the only charter member still living. J. D. Hillman is pastor.



Kentucky governor Julian Carroll heaves the first spade of dirt in groundbreaking ceremonies July 3 at Reidland Baptist Church, Paducah. Carroll, an active Presbyterian layman, was featured speaker during the morning worship service and also led in ceremonies beginning construction of Reidland's \$550,000 family life center. Reidland pastor C. Wyman Copass [r] looks on.

Bethel Marks 175th

Bethel Baptist Church, Franklin County, will celebrate its 175th anniversary Aug. 14 with special services.

Bill J. Leonard, assistant professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, will be guest speaker for the morning service. A dinner on the grounds will follow.

That evening the church will enjoy an "old fashioned service" along with a display of artifacts from the church's history.

All former members and interested visitors are invited to attend this special event. Larry W. Gray is the Bethel pastor.

Black Baptist Association To Meet in Paducah

The 109th annual session of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky is scheduled for Aug. 16-17 at Washington Street Baptist Church, Paducah. This annual meeting of black Baptists in Kentucky always attracts large crowds and presents an inspirational program. G. M. Smith is moderator and Prince Hatchett will serve as host pastor.

Deaths

Prominent Texas Pastor, James G. Harris, Dies

James G. Harris, past president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and pastor of University Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Tex., died suddenly July 31.

The 64-year-old pastor was serving a third consecutive term as president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas at the time of his death. He was first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention during 1973-74.

Harris has also been vice-chairman of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and chairman of the Christian Life Commission.

Buyers Guide

ALUMINUM SIDING, exterior decorating, quality work. Call Colville Aluminum Co., (502) 368-1100.

EARN FREE TOUR: Holy Land or Hawaii, Christian Group, Deluxe Accommodations, Generous Benefits. For information, write or call Jim Highland, 8 Sequoyah Dr., Shelbyville, Ky. 40065. (502) 633-3460.

HELP WANTED - Church Directories: Full and part time rep. and proof consultants for national co. Work in local market with some travel. Will consider husband and wife team and minister's wives also. \$4.75 hour to start for training proof consultants. Send resume to David Stewart, 840 Russleo Dr., Nashville, Tenn. 37209.

PAD-A-PEW: For free estimates and fabric samples, send pew length: (Not a loose cushion). By-Line Mfg., Box 645, Jackson, Ohio 45640.

So you're planning a revival . . .

How to Host Your Evangelist

by Nancy McGough

You've been planning your revival for months. The church needs it, the community needs it and you need it. Now the time has come to take care of practical details. For example, how can you be a good host to the evangelist, so that he can do the best job he is capable of doing?

Two men with special insight in this area are Lewis Drummond, associate professor of evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Harold D. Tallant, church evangelist of Louisville Highview Baptist Church. Drummond has led over 150 revivals throughout the United States, England, Yugoslavia, Australia and Mexico. Tallant was a pastor for 30 years before becoming a full time evangelist eight years ago.

Both men suggest that as a good host you will want to establish communication and understandings about everything that will take place. This should be done as early as possible, and should range from giving information on the number of services and their theme to details concerning transportation and accommodations.

Although some churches may consider it a sign of a poor host to arrange for the evangelist to stay in a motel, this may be his preference.

"I really prefer to stay in a motel," Drummond says. "It's far more relaxing. You're always 'on' when you're in a home. Of course I've stayed with some lovely people in homes, but there's always a certain amount of formality."

Tallant notes he stays in a motel 95 percent of the time, but that he leaves the decision to the church, even though a motel is his preference. If he does stay in a home, he feels privacy is extremely important, and that neither he nor his hosts should feel the need to entertain the other.

For meals Tallant and Drummond believe one meal a day in a home should be the maximum, with the others eaten privately at a restaurant. When an evangelist is taken to different homes to eat, he feels obliged to eat more than he wants to show his appreciation. Also, three meals a day in different homes can take as much as six hours in a day.

Time is precious to the evangelist both men concur. A good host will give ample study time, Drummond says. He suggests giving the entire morning for study, unless there are morning services or special visitation that can be done only at that time. Four or five hours is a minimum of study time the evangelist needs. He should also be given time alone just before the services.

"He needs half an hour at least to calm down, collect his thoughts and get his mind and heart prepared for the service. If he rushes from the place where he eats right into the revival, that's difficult," Drummond notes.

Besides adequate study time, Tallant also emphasizes the need for the pastor and evangelist to make visits in the afternoons. He believes the pastor should prepare in advance a list of visits to be made.

Making financial arrangements clear is another way to be a good host. This way the evangelist is not always "up in the air," Drummond points out, adding that for many evangelists, revival offerings are their means of supporting their families. Such is the case of Tallant, who notes money is probably the most "touchy subject" of the revival. He adds he does not take it upon himself to ask about money, and so he seldom knows the arrangements.

These suggestions, along with careful preparation, prayer and evangelism throughout the year, will help your church have a meaningful and revitalizing revival.

Frank Owen

WOULD WE
LIKE HEAVEN?



It seems like most people expect to get to heaven, somehow. At least, when they talk about it, they always talk about going there.

Even people who admit that they are not prepared talk in terms of getting prepared before the time comes. People always want to think that their deceased loved ones have gone there, regardless of the circumstances. Heaven seems to be the anticipated future of everyone who talks about it.

The question arises, "Would we like heaven if we were there?" Assuming that church people have not gone entirely astray; and assuming that their fellowship is, at least, closer to heavenly ways than worldly fellowships, then the question arises, "Why does the worldly man want to go to heaven?" His choices here on earth indicate that he would not like the company there or the customs of life.

For that matter, we occasionally observe people within the church fellowship who are so ill-adjusted to the spirit of the majority that we wonder whether they could find themselves happy in heaven. If it is to be assumed that the will of the majority in a spiritual fellowship is the nearest to the right, and the nearest to the type of circumstances that will be in heaven, then those of us who are constantly out of harmony here would be apt to find ourselves in the same disharmony there. Would we like heaven?

If belief and faith is the prevailing disposition in heaven, then, would one who is disposed entirely to unbelief be happy in that atmosphere, among all the believers? Could he learn to enjoy singing the hymns of praise and thanksgiving which he has not appreciated on earth?

There is a serious possibility that the words of the Negro spiritual express indeed a final truth; namely, "Everybody talkin' 'bout heaven ain't a goin' there."

Wonderful Cooperative Program receipts in July. \$625,463.18 compared with \$533,101.42 a year ago. We are now in the last month of the fiscal year. Have we heard from everybody?

Sunday School Lessons

Lessons for August 21, 1977

by H. C. Chiles, Murray, Ky.

International Series

Sampson: Struggle Against Opposition

Judges 13:1; 16:23-30

Manoah and his wife were disappointed over being deprived the joys and responsibilities of parenthood. They were heartbroken over being deprived an heir. God sent a messenger to Manoah's wife and announced his intention of giving her a son who would be the human agent "to deliver Israel out of the hands of the Philistines." Filled with joy, this couple resolved that they would do their best to help the son achieve God's purpose in his life.

From infancy Samson was dedicated to the Lord under the Nazarite vows, which cause him to refrain from partaking of anything that came from the vine, from indulging in the pleasures of the world and from going near the dead.

Samson grew up believing he was dedicated to God, there was a specific work for him to do and God would enable him to do it. The energies of his body, faculties of his mind and strength of his will were yielded to the Lord. Samson taught his contemporaries that the strength they needed to overcome their foes came from God alone.

As long as Samson was obedient to God he was endowed with superhuman strength. His life was auspicious at the beginning, rich in possibilities, wondrous in God-given

strength, but profligate in the use of God's gifts. When Samson indulged in sin it cost him his strength, his vision and his freedom.

The Philistines were having a great celebration at Gaza in honor of their god, Dagon, who they claimed had delivered mighty Samson into their hands. To them this was proof that Dagon was a mightier god than Samson's God. When the people were drunk, they called for Samson to be brought forth to exhibit his great strength. Here came poor, blind Samson led by a little boy! The spectators began to jeer and mock Samson.

Samson gave an exhibition of his strength. After a time, he indicated he would like to rest and the lad led him to the arched entrance to the temple. With each hand Samson embraced a pillar and stood with his head bowed. But Samson was not resting; he was praying. He said, "O Lord, God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once."

Suddenly the two pillars which upheld the roof gave way and down crashed the building burying the multitude in its debris. Thousands of the Philistines lay dead amid the ruins. And there among them lay Samson. Samson wrought his vengeance upon the jeering Philistines, but he died with them.

Life and Work Series

The Priority of Family Ties

Exodus 20:12

Fundamental to any happy home is the respect and reverence of children for their parents. God regarded this matter as sufficiently important to include it in the 10 commandments. The importance of this commandment is enhanced by its location in the decalogue. Next to our duties to God are our obligations to our parents.

God said, "Honor thy father and thy mother." This commandment does not tell us to honor our parents only while we are young, or only if they are all that they ought to be. We are to hold our parents in high esteem, obey them and always show true affection for them.

Mark 7:5-13

Attempting to embarrass Christ, the Pharisees accused his disciples of neglecting to wash their hands before they ate bread, an action which was very offensive to them. Christ quoted Isaiah 29:13, "This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me." Those who pretend to honor God with their lips but whose lives do not give any evidence of obedience and devotion need not expect the approval and blessing of God. Vain and empty worship will never be an acceptable substitute for loving obedience to God.

Christ rebuked the Pharisees and scribes for adding their traditions to the Word of God, for placing these traditions on a level with the Word of God in the realm of authority

and for exalting them above the Word itself. Charging them directly with rejecting God's commandments in order that they might observe their own traditions, Christ enunciated the principle that God's Word must be the first, last and only authority on matters pertaining to the Christian. Nobody has any right to substitute his own ideas for the Word of God.

Christ taught that defilement is not a matter of the food which has been consumed, but of the words which have been spoken as an expression of the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Ephesians 6:1-4

Children bring their parents immeasurable joy, tremendous responsibilities and numerous problems. The most successful parents are submissive to God. And the submission of children to their parents forms a foundation upon which the happiness in the home rests.

When parents fail to evoke the respect and obedience of their children they are encouraging behavior similar to their own in the lives of their children. Children who are not taught and trained to obey their parents find it difficult to obey the laws of the land and of God.

The failure of parents to instruct their children in the ways of the Lord is to do them irreparable injury. Rearing children for the Lord is life's great opportunity and challenge.

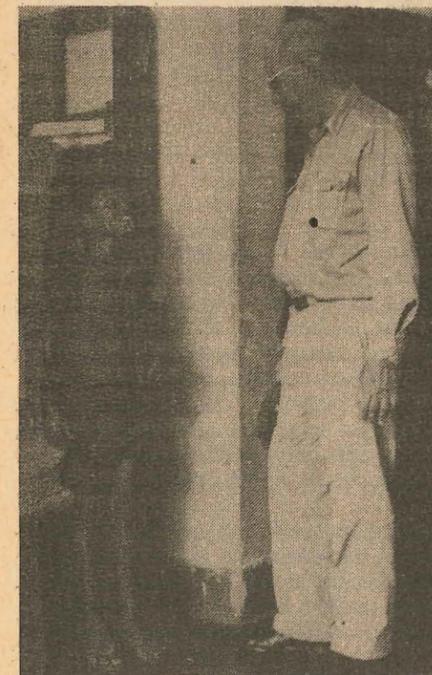
Missions & Ministries



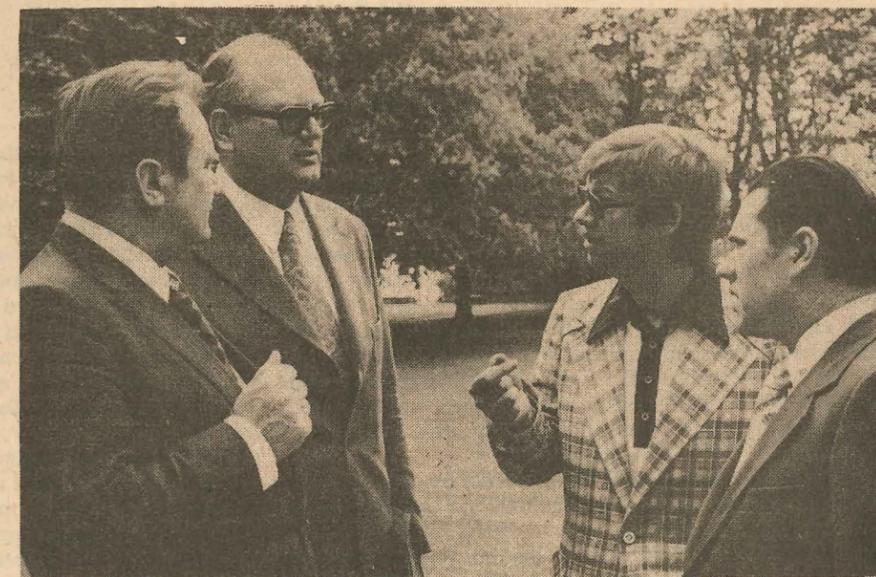
When two South Carolina churches of different faiths, size and racial composition joined hands to conduct a vacation Bible school, the enrolment was so high the children had to move outdoors. Ten adults from Ashley River Baptist Church in Charleston traveled 50 miles each day to Walterboro to lead the Bible school at the black St. James Holiness Church.



Southern Baptist missionary Fred L. Hawkins [l] examines water line left on a home by the flooding Parana River in Brazil. A Brazilian evangelist and male nurse, Geraldo Silva [c], ministered to the island people until he had to be hospitalized from exhaustion. The owner of the home is shown at right. Southern Baptists sent \$110,000 to this area for hunger relief and rebuilding.



Southern Baptist Missionary Horace W. Fite Jr. [r] talks with one of the boys enrolled in the B. H. Foreman Baptist Agricultural School in Ceres, Brazil. From the school the boys take back to their homes not only an education that helps them earn a living, but also a witness for Christ.



John David Hopper [second from right], a Southern Baptist missionary, confers with Romanian Baptist leaders during a recent evangelism and education conference in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. Hopper, Foreign Mission Board's fraternal representative to Baptists in Eastern Europe, was the contact person with Romania through whom the board arranged \$100,000 in disaster aid. Romania was hit by an earthquake in March which killed 16,000 people, injured 12,000 and left 18,000 homeless. A number of Baptists were among the victims and Baptist church and seminary buildings were destroyed.