

WESTERN RECORDER

AUGUST 17, 1977

How Is It With You?

The most shocking revelation in the final accounting for many Baptists will be the Lord's attitude toward what they did on earth with his materials. Too many Christians who otherwise meet high standards fail miserably when it comes to the disposition of what they have accumulated in life.

God's preachers and teachers will also answer because of failure to declare the whole truth of God concerning the stewardship of materials. We are timid when it comes to the gospel of giving and we settle for a few tithers and enough offerings to meet a minimum church budget. Most Baptists never get out of kindergarten when it comes to Biblical stewardship.



In this respect many Baptists sin every time the offering plate passes them and they sin even more grievously when they come to the end of life on earth and make disposition of their accumulated resources.

I suppose everything that can be said about stewardship has already been said and many readers who started reading this article will never get to this paragraph. We come to expect stewardship pleas from pulpits and from denominational publications

and automatically change channels. This is lamentable. We should listen reflectively because occasionally new insights into old truths break through.

This happened to me recently in prayer meeting where stewardship was the topic. No great new revelation came to me but a fresh conviction gripped me. I wish I could communicate it but such communication is difficult. Such experiences only come when we are open and receptive to the teaching of the Holy Spirit and this is not often enough.

Two things turning over in my mind recently helped

Living Up to Expectations

Nothing is so humiliating to a sensitive person as realizing he or she has not lived up to someone's high expectations. I shall never forget the personal humiliation I suffered as a college student when I failed to live up to someone's recommendation.

In 1935 when I finished high school, money for my family was almost nonexistent. We survived the great depression by living mostly off the land of a little farm. My parents were willing but not able to raise the \$180 cost of board and tuition of the little junior college where I had applied for admission and a scholarship.

Scholarships were scarce also. We had almost given up when a letter from the college arrived only several days before school opening with word of a scholarship for \$15 a

prepare me for this new insight. One of these was the reply of a dear friend to my expression of commendation for generosity. This friend firmly refuses to be called by name but has turned over nearly \$1,000,000 for God's work. The reply to my commendation was, "Don't praise me, it was always God's and never mine."

The other thing was my own thoughts about what would happen to whatever worldly possessions I have at the end of this life. They won't be many but I do not plan to leave them to my children. They have been cared for until adulthood, they have college training and should be on their own. Whatever might be left over when Christine and I pass on will go to God's work for the rest of time.

This is what gripped me in prayer meeting. God is the creator of everything as well as my maker. Through sin much God made has gotten into Satan's hands. One of God's purposes for me in this life is to rescue what I can of his materials and return them to him.

I am as convinced God gives to some people the gift of gaining wealth as he gives to others the gift of prophecy, teaching, etc. I am also convinced those neglecting this gift or misusing it will answer to God the same as will those called to preach but refusing to do so.

Put it another way. All God's gifts to us are to glorify him and to extend his kingdom. The only justification for our taking up God's space, breathing his air and using his strength is to rescue what is lost and return it to him. This includes materials and to gain them only to give God a pinch here and there and then leave them for children and relatives to fight over is a sin. This is why many otherwise respectable Baptists will be shocked and shamed in the final accounting.

For those reading these words there is still time to prepare for that accounting. Before forgetting these words make an appointment with an attorney or call the Kentucky Baptist Foundation (502) 245-4101 for help in plans for returning to God all the possessions he has provided you in this life.

month. It was one of the critical turning points in my life for without this help I probably would never have gone to college.

Now for the humiliation. With typical immaturity of an 18-year-old college boy I joined some other students one night in waylaying a fellow student between the dining hall and the dormitory. This student was repulsive to us because he was about as feminine as a man could be. His hair was long and wavy before men wore long hair and we identified his femininity with his hair. So we decided to give him a haircut to match our short cuts. We succeeded but it was an expensive haircut for me.

Even though it was dark the victim identified one of us and when the president of the college threatened to expel

him if he did not identify the rest of us, we all confessed with a feeling we would not all be shipped. We weren't expelled but what I suffered was about as painful.

The president had all of us in his office. He went around the room one by one expressing amazement and disappointment in each of us. When he came to me, he told how with many applications and only one scholarship I was chosen. He said one faculty member on the selection committee knew my family and said it was certain I would be found dependable and would live up to expectations. Now I had failed. I learned a lot about prayer between that moment and the announcement several days later that I could stay in school.

As a denominational worker I have some occasions to

Guest Editorial

Carter's Big Mistake

by R. Gene Puckett
Editor, Maryland Baptist

The President of the United States will not be able to plead ignorance in the appointment of his personal representative to the Vatican. Jimmy Carter is a Southern Baptist and as such he knows full well the error of his action with one religious body in the world today.

Mr. Carter's action has to be regarded as purely political. There is no other explanation and the timing of the announcement causes additional concern. It raises unanswered but disturbing questions about motivation in decisions and expediency versus principle.

Three Southern Baptist leaders—Jimmy Allen, Foy Valentine and James E. Wood Jr.—responded quickly, thoroughly and forcefully to the President's action. Each man pointed out a different dimension of the mistake and thus served the cause of Christ, Southern Baptists and all Christians concerned about religious liberty and separation of church and state.

In addition to the basic horrendous error of the action, three other aspects of the decision disturb us:

1. The fact President Carter appoints a Roman Catholic as his personal representative to the Vatican after conferring with Joseph Bernardin, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. What other choices/concessions will be made?

2. The recent statement of the Pope regarding an all out attack on U. S. Constitutional prohibitions against tax money for non-public schools, specifically parochial schools. Jimmy Allen is correct: "It is unbelievable that an Italian churchman, who has never enjoyed the privilege of living under the American system of church-state relations, would use his spiritual authority to instruct American churchmen to seek to destroy the American system."

3. The timing of the appointment of the personal representative to the Vatican versus the highly visible involvement of the President with his own denomination. Were Southern Baptists being softened for what was

recommend pastors to churches and churches to pastors. It's always a good feeling when someone I recommend lives up to the high expectation. This is almost always the case but I have been humiliated on several occasions when someone I commended turned out badly.

It's a sorry person who does not try to live up to the high expectation of others. For them as well as for our sakes, we should be true to the highest standards.

The one person above all others we should not disappoint is Jesus Christ. He has the highest expectation of us. He has a right to expect much of us because of the much he has done for us. He has recommended us to the Father for eternal life. God forbid that we should treat such a recommendation lightly.

coming?

Mr. Carter's meeting with several Southern Baptist leaders on June 7 at the White House and then his video message to the convention in Kansas City raised questions of propriety. Were Southern Baptists violating their much touted belief in separation of church and state by using the prestige of the Oval Office to make an impact for world missions?

We did not think the President was violating his office or the position of Southern Baptists. We applauded what he did; his actions were those of a dedicated churchman who happened to be President of the United States at the same time. Should a President cancel or postpone all involvement with his own church and denomination while in office? Hardly! Not only would such action be displeasing to the majority of Americans, it would be a serious injustice to the individual. A President doesn't have to forego his right relationship to God and the implementation of his Christian commitments while serving the nation, assuming of course that his actions do not violate the rights of others in their religious practices and beliefs.

Enthusiastic Carter fans who complained about the presence of President Ford at the Norfolk convention in 1976 now have to eat a generous portion of crow. Pro-Carterites who praised his churchmanship while protesting the "mixture of secular and spiritual matters" at the annual SBC meeting last year must put the whole matter in a revisionist perspective.

Of course, we didn't see anything wrong with the President of the United States celebrating the Bicentennial with Southern Baptists in Norfolk; we didn't see anything wrong with Mr. Carter's message to the convention in Kansas City. Both helped the cause of Christian Americans.

We see a lot wrong with an ambassador to the Vatican. And we know who will benefit most!

Baptist News in Brief

FMB Pledges Support To New Mission Corps

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board pledged its "wholehearted commitment" to the denomination's new Mission Service Corps during its August meeting and designated \$1 million in its 1978 budget mainly for additional mission field costs involved in the project.

The board, meeting in connection with the annual Foreign Missions Conference at Glorieta, N. M., lined up solidly behind the plan to enlist 5,000 short-term mission volunteers by 1982 for service both at home and abroad.

The \$1 million earmarked for the new project by the Foreign Mission Board will come from Southern Baptist giving through the Cooperative Program and the 1977 Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missions. This year's Lottie Moon goal has been set at \$34 million, a \$5 million increase over the 1976 goal.

Recommendations worked out at Glorieta will be carried to the special 15-person committee approved by the Southern Baptist Convention which is scheduled to meet again Sept. 1 in Nashville, Tenn. The committee held its first meeting June 30 to initiate plans for the volunteer project, approved earlier at the SBC annual

meeting in Kansas City, Mo. It is expected to take recommendations to the SBC Executive Committee meeting in Nashville Sept. 19-21.

Mrs. Taylor New Intern At Western Recorder

Laurie K. Taylor, a second year M.R.E. student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been named to a journalism internship at Western Recorder.

Announcement of the appointment was made this week by James H. Cox, associate editor of the denominational weekly.

Mrs. Taylor, 24, a native of Louisiana, is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton. She has been a summer day care teacher and youth director at churches in Mississippi for several years and taught at Clarksdale (Miss.) Baptist School before entering seminary. She is currently director of Old Louisville After School Child Care Center.

Married to Johnny Wayne Taylor, also a religious education student at

Southern, she has had experience as college yearbook editor and publications council member.

Western Recorder interns serve alongside staff members in writing, editing, photography, advertising, proofing and layout responsibilities. The program, jointly sponsored by the seminary and paper, permits students called into religious journalism to relate textbook training to on-the-job experience.

The intern program is now in its fourth year.



Mrs. Taylor

ACTION Shows Results

Significant statistical gains in several categories have resulted in churches using the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's ACTION program.

ACTION—the Sunday school enrollment plan to enrol anyone, anywhere, anytime, as long as they consent to being enrolled—was used in 1,666 churches last year. During the first nine months of the 1976-77 church year, 2,729 churches conducted ACTION campaigns, an increase of 64 percent.

In Sunday school enrolment, the surveyed ACTION churches had a percentage increase six times greater than SBC churches in the 1975-76 year.

Western Recorder

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

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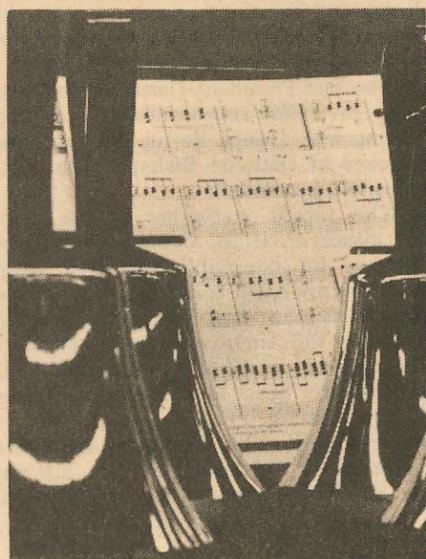
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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.

Double Exposure

Church Music Week has been a calendar emphasis observed by Southern Baptists for many years. It is scheduled this year for next week, Aug. 21-28. According to Eugene F. Quinn, director of Church Music Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown, "Hundreds of volunteer and career music leaders faithfully direct hundreds of graded choirs which are the backbone of the tremendous contribution made by Christian musicians in our Kentucky Baptist churches. This special week emphasizes music witness and growth in every church which observes it in any special way."



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BSSB Staff Changes Told

Two staff changes were announced recently by Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.



Ezell



Whitehouse

Donald S. Whitehouse was named supervisor of communications services section and Mancil Ezell was selected as design and process specialist in the Bible teaching division.

Whitehouse, a Kentucky native, holds degrees from University of Kentucky, Middle Tennessee State University and Southern Seminary. He is former pastor of Shawnee Baptist Church, Louisville, and also former student director for Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Ezell is an Alabama native and holds degrees from Howard College (now Samford University) and Southwestern Seminary. He has been with the Sunday School Board for 13 years.

Brotherhood Taps Childs

Jack Childs, director of the service section at Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, Tenn., will become editor of Crusader Royal Ambassador boys materials Sept. 1.

Childs, a Memphis native who has been with the Brotherhood Commission for 16 years, succeeds Lee Hollaway.



Childs

Carter Prays for Plains Churches to Reconcile

During a visit home, President Jimmy Carter prayed for reconciliation between the split Baptist churches in Plains, Ga.



Congressman Carroll Hubbard [l] is pictured with four Kentucky Baptists who recently joined his Washington staff. Standing next to Hubbard are [l-r]: Becky Barbee, Amanda Stormont, Doris Jean Fendley and Ken Fendley. Miss Barbee is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Barbee of Louisville's Crescent Hill Baptist Church, where he serves as deacon.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Stormont are Amanda's parents. Stormont is pastor of Louisville's Bethany Baptist Church. Ken and D. J. Fendley have lived in Owensboro and Madisonville, where he served on church staffs. He was on the administrative staff at Georgetown College for 18 years and served as music minister at Cynthiana Baptist Church for 13 years of that time.

Christian Life Commission Sets Energy Consultation

The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission will hold a consultation on "The Energy Crisis and the Churches" in Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 22-23.

W. David Sapp, coordinator for the consultation, says this meeting is being held "because we believe in the existence and severity of the energy crisis and because we believe Southern Baptist churches should be speaking intelligently and acting decisively to meet this challenge."

"We hope this small meeting will be the beginning of a larger Baptist effort to provide moral leadership in the use of our God-given energy resources," Sapp added.

Kentucky Baptists at Work

Associational Meetings: Where It's 'At'

If you ever wondered where denominational decisions are made, would you believe a lot of them begin closer to home than you ever thought possible?

When August comes . . . can associational meetings in Kentucky be far behind? Hardly.

In fact, as you read this, at least 19 of the 80 local Baptist associational meetings scheduled to meet across the Bluegrass State in 1977 have already been held.

Monroe and Russell County associations traditionally are the first to convene in the state each year, being scheduled the third week in July.

In August, however, the annual resumption of fiery evangelistic preach-

ing, hymn singing, local business and fried chicken dinners springs to life all over the state. Staff members from the state convention in Middletown and representatives of other agencies and institutions operated by the convention begin making the trek around the state to speak in behalf of their favorite employer while consuming untold pounds of local poultry. Never do so few consume so much in such a short span of time!

Western Recorder visited Bracken Association in northeastern Kentucky during its meeting earlier this month and found things typical of most associations.

Reports of progress throughout the year were shared during the day. Charles Hedrick, pastor of Central

by Jim Cox, Associate Editor

Baptist Church, gave the associational evangelism report, announcing an increase of 66 additions in Bracken Association churches over the previous year (total for 1976-77 was 367). While joyous over the increase, he regretted that the association experienced two fewer baptisms than in the previous year.

That report soon turned to jubilation, too, when new associational missionary W. Ken Forman broke in with an updated statistic. He had just been handed figures from one more church which had experienced three baptisms last year. That put the association one ahead of the previous year, for a total of 180 baptisms association-wide.

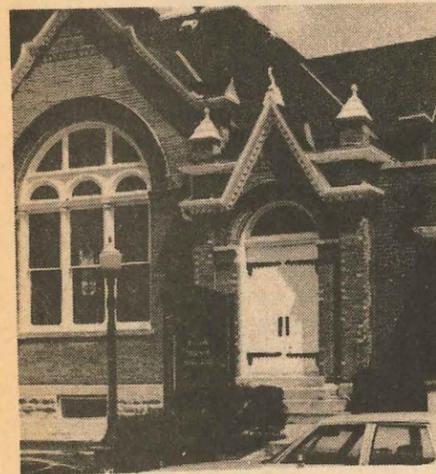
Does all of this sound unimportant? It may to you. But to the committed and concerned members of the 25 churches comprising Bracken Baptist Association reports such as these are vital. Your own association's may mean

as much to you.

If ever you are to be at the grass-roots of Baptist polity and denominational structure one gets the distinct impression that this is it. In fact, were it not for these cooperating associations doing their jobs much of the success of the state convention and its related institutions could never be termed successful. Here in the autonomy of local bodies the people meet to deliberate, rededicate themselves and fellowship with "neighborhood" Baptists.

Much of what transpires here is preliminary to the annual statewide Kentucky Baptist Convention conclave. Much of it is foundational to all of the purposes and programs of the convention itself.

Speaking as one Baptist who frequents the associational meeting circuit, we enjoy singing those old hymns, meeting the brethren, experiencing their preaching, listening to their debates and rubbing elbows with them over potato salad and deviled eggs. Indeed, the associational meeting may be unique to Baptists. But then, Baptists are a unique breed in themselves.



Carlisle [Ky.] Baptist Church hosted sessions of Bracken Baptist Association earlier this month.



Tom Moore of the Kentucky Baptist Board of Child Care staff addresses Bracken Association messengers.

1977 Associational Meeting Dates, Places

	M—Morning	A—Afternoon	N—Night
Aug. 18-19	Shelby	Finchville M A Finchville N	Sept. 30-Oct. 1 Whites Run Mt. Hermon N Mt. Hermon M
Aug. 18-19	Crittenden	Turner Ridge N Turner Ridge M A	Oct. 1-2 Edmonson Liberty Hill M Smith Grove A
Aug. 19-20	Pine Mountain	Blackey N Blackey M A	Oct. 3-4 Little River Oct. 3-4 Sulphur Fork East Cadiz Crestwood M Crestwood N
Aug. 25-26	Greenup	Central Central N	Oct. 3-4 Bethel Russellville, 1st A Trenton N
Aug. 31-Sept. 1	Muhlenberg	New Cypress M Cherry Hill A Phelps N	Oct. 7-8 Laurel River Lick Fork N Liberty M
Sept. 5-6	Pike	Forest Hills A Lake Spring N	Oct. 7-8 Henry County Smithfield N Smithfield N
Sept. 8-9	Simpson	Black Jack N	Oct. 10-11 Daviess-McLean Owensboro, 3rd N Sacramento
Sept. 8-9	Booneville	New Home	Oct. 10-11 Central Stewart's Creek A Mount Freedom A
Sept. 9-10	Lynn Camp	Merrimac N Merrimac A	Oct. 10-11 Logan Oct. 11 Mercer Oct. 11-12 Rockcastle Center Eilers A N
Sept. 9-11	Middle Fork	Gays Creek A Gays Creek M	Oct. 11-12 Scaffold Cane M Maretburg A Emmanuel
Sept. 12-13	Taylor County	Fairview N Palestine N	Oct. 13 Graves Oct. 13-14 Little Bethel Madisonville, 1st N
Sept. 12-13	Northern Ky.	Walton, 1st Walton, 1st	Oct. 13-14 Pulaski Lakeview N High Street N
Sept. 12-13	Grayson Co.	New Hope N New Hope N	Oct. 13-14 Lincoln Drakes Creek N Hustonville A
Sept. 12-13	Boones Creek	Ephesus A Boones Creek Camp M A	Oct. 13-14 West Union West End N Bellview N
Sept. 13	Warren	Eastwood N	Oct. 13-15 Bell Binghamtown N Bennetts Fork
Sept. 14-15	Mt. Zion	Central A N Corbin, 1st M A	Oct. 17 Nelson Oct. 17 (Sept. 19) Green Valley Oct. 17-18 Long Run Advance Shively M Shively N
Sept. 14-15	Lynn	Boiling Springs M A Boiling Springs A N	Oct. 17-18 Elkhorn Rosemont N Georgetown N
Sept. 15-16	Wayne County	Mt. Zion N Mt. Zion M	Oct. 17-18 Salem West Point M West Point N
Sept. 15-16	Upper Cumberland	Calvary Ages	Oct. 17-18 Fulton Crutchfield N Crutchfield N
Sept. 17-18	Jackson	Owsley Fork M Owsley Fork A Bellfield N	Oct. 17-18 South District Perryville N Buck Grove N
Sept. 19 (Oct. 17)	Green Valley	New Hopewell N	Oct. 17-18 Severns Valley Blood River West Kentucky
Sept. 19-20	Ohio Valley	Grangertown N Henderson Mem. A	Oct. 17-18 Franklin North Fork N Whitley City, 1st M A N
Sept. 19-20	Christian	Trinity N Wooton, 1st N	Oct. 20 McCreary Oct. 20-21 Ohio River Emmanuel M A
Sept. 22-23	Three Forks	Montgomery M A Old Flat Lick	
Sept. 22-23-24	N. Concord	Crouches Creek N	
Sept. 23-24	South Union	Black Oak A McKee M	
Sept. 23-24	Irvine	McKee M Jackson, 1st	
Sept. 24	Red River	Walnut Grove M	
Sept. 26-27	Caldwell-Lyon	Suwanee Furnace White Sulphur N	
Sept. 29-30	Freedom	Albany	

Missions & Ministries

On the Road to Nairobi . . .

Two Journeymen Begin a Journey

by Nick Nixon, Staff Writer

It's nice to know you fit in—especially when the in where you fit is God's plan for your life.

Gordon and Mindy Smith possessed that special sense of "in" as they left Louisville last week beginning their two-year adventure as missionary journeymen ministering in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board sponsors the missionary journeyman program. Journeymen are college graduates (nursing diplomas are accepted), age 27 or below.

Journeymen minister in overseas areas as short-term missionaries working alongside career missionaries. They utilize their particular training and skills to minister to the people but, as Gordon points out, the journeyman's primary purpose in being overseas is "to share the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Gordon and Mindy are a wholesome Christian couple. They radiate a warmth that is genuine, not plastic. One gets the impression they have a maturity beyond their years (Gordon is 25, Mindy, 23).

Gordon, a Louisville native, is a graduate of University of Louisville and is nine hours short of his master of divinity degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mindy (her real name is Minda but "nobody calls me that but my best childhood friend") is originally from Ashland. She has her nursing diploma from Kentucky Baptist Hospital School of Nursing and worked as a nurse at Louisville Baptist East Hospital while Gordon attended seminary. She and Gordon have been married about a year-and-a-half.

Security . . . at \$90?

Why would Gordon and Mindy give up the security and stability of Louisville for the uncertainty of earning \$90 each per month in a strange country? For these two dedicated young people the answer is simple:

"We know that this is what the Lord wants us to do."

But the road to Nairobi hasn't been all that smooth. Gordon and Mindy

have had their share of worries, doubts, frustrations and disappointments. But even though they could have backed out at any time (there's no coercion by the FMB according to the Smiths), Gordon and Mindy knew the Lord had placed them where they could best serve.

How did they get there? Gordon and



Mindy explain it well:

"I began to seriously consider missions through my contact with professors and friends at seminary," Gordon said. "I had spent a summer in Germany and had seen how God works in another culture. It seemed that God really put missions on my heart."

"I had taken care of a returned journeyman in the hospital," Mindy explained. "What he had to say about the journeyman program really got me interested."

"Gordon and I talked about it," she added. "Then we read about it and

prayed about it. Pretty soon we knew this was the right thing to do.

"We got the forms in early January," Mindy continued. "We each had to prepare a seven-page autobiography and submit a list of 11 personal references. We finally completed all this and sent the forms off with a lot of prayer."

A few weeks later the Smiths had passed the initial screening and were invited along with about 100 other prospective journeymen to attend a regional conference at FMB headquar-

are not going to place you somewhere and make you fit. They have no qualms about saying 'no' if they feel a person is not qualified for the journeyman program for any reason. There was never any pressure placed on us at any time," he emphasized.

Mindy explained that when it came time to list their three preferences for place of service, they were looking for situations where she could utilize her nurse's training and Gordon could work in the community.

This seemed their best possibility of being accepted since the journeyman program requires both members of a married couple to be accepted for service in a particular location on their own merit. "If one fails," Mindy noted, "both don't go."

A Disappointing 'Yes'

In early spring the Smiths got the word—they were accepted for journeyman service in Nairobi, Kenya, not one of their three original preferences.

"Our initial reaction was one of disappointment," Mindy reflected. "Nairobi had not been one of our choices because it was not a nursing position."

"But," Gordon remembered, "Mindy and I had decided a long time ago that if we were accepted we were going regardless of the location. We had a real peace about it."

"The more we found out about the position in Nairobi, the more we see how it fits our gifts," he concluded.

In Nairobi Gordon will be a "jack-of-all-trades" at Parklands Baptist Church, working alongside Southern Baptist missionary Jim Hooten. Gordon will direct the Sunday school, teach the men's Sunday school class, conduct the music program, lead Royal Ambassadors and oversee Parklands' community center ministry.

Mindy will teach the woman's Sunday school class, work with the Girls Auxiliary and teach conversational English to a group of Hindu women who migrated to Nairobi from India. She also has the option to work in her spare time with a Southern Baptist medical missionary at a clinic in a Nairobi ghetto.

Once the telegram of acceptance had been sent to the FMB, Gordon and Mindy began tackling the mountains of paperwork required before their journey. There were physical papers and

exams, passport and visa applications, work permits for Kenya and much other assorted correspondence.

Finally, they were ready to embark on their six-week training at Meredith College, Raleigh, N. C.

Run . . . Run . . . Run . . .

"The first week there threw us for a loop," Gordon recalled. "It was really tough."

Gordon and Mindy then clicked off a typical day's schedule reminiscent of military boot camp:

- Up by 6:15 a. m. six days a week for aerobics training—that means running and lots of it.

- Classes from 8-12:30 in the morning and 2-4 each afternoon.

- Organized sports (volleyball, tennis, swimming and soccer) from 4:20-5:30.

- Time at the library from 7:30-9:30 each evening spent developing a notebook on the country of assignment (culture, religion, political situation, etc.)

- Restriction (voluntary) to the Meredith campus until noon on Saturday.

- An 11 p. m. curfew on Saturday night.

- No personal automobiles.

"The entire program was structured to place us under some of the similar pressures we will face while overseas," Gordon observed. "It was tough, but it was very beneficial."

Of the 98 prospective journeymen who began training, 94, were commissioned for overseas service six weeks later. All the dropouts were voluntary with no stigma attached.

"We became a real family during training," Mindy noted. "I think the one thing I will remember more than anything else is the great sense of spiritual closeness that we experienced. Everybody was pulling together."

Gordon and Mindy's first few weeks in Kenya promise to be as hectic as their training. Just after their arrival in Nairobi they will take a crash course in Swahili (not required but helpful in dickering in the marketplace). Next they go to the Baptist assembly at Limuru for a missions conference. After that the Smiths should be able to settle into some sort of routine. And are they ever glad!

"We lived in a dorm in Raleigh so I couldn't do any cooking there," Mindy lamented. "And since commissioning we have been visiting with family. I can hardly wait until we're settled in our own apartment living a normal life again."

It's hard to imagine anything being normal for an American couple living in Africa. But even the unusual can become normal if you have a clear calling from God.

And Gordon and Mindy Smith have just that. They fit in!

Missions People

Mr. and Mrs. William D. Bender, missionaries to Nigeria, will be living in Lawrenceburg while on furlough. She is the former Novella Chism who was born in Bagdad and grew up on a farm near Frankfort.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Franklin Baugh Jr., missionaries to Tanzania, are spending their furlough in Lexington. He is originally from Pineville and she was born in Himyar and lived in several Kentucky communities during childhood.

Mr. and Mrs. James F. McKinley Jr., missionaries in Bangladesh, will be living in Louisville during their furlough. She is the former Betty Cecil of Louisville and he is a native of Nora.

He formerly pastored Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Mt. Eden.

Owensboro will be the furlough home for Mr. and Mrs. Jim C. Dillard who serve in Kenya. She is the former Janet Davis of Owensboro.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene A. Clark, missionaries to Japan, will spend their furlough in DeLand, Fla. He is former pastor of Rolling Fork Baptist Church, Nelsonville.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Jackson Glaze Jr. have completed furlough and returned to their missionary duties in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Glaze, a Mississippi native, is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He taught Old Testament there during this leave.

Graham Answers Critics on Finances

by Billy Graham

Since the beginning of our evangelistic ministry we have been concerned about the financial integrity of our work. We believe we are accountable to God for all money entrusted to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA).

When we began almost all evangelists were supported by voluntary "love offerings." Occasionally this led to financial abuses, and in the minds of many people mass evangelism came to be associated with an "Elmer Gantry" image of financial irresponsibility.

We set out to change this image by forming in 1950 a small board and setting up a nonprofit religious organization. We stopped receiving "love offerings" shortly thereafter and put every member of our staff, including myself, on a fixed salary.

All finances of BGEA are under the supervision of a board of directors. Our board has 26 members and meets three times a year. The executive committee made up of seven men meets approximately every six weeks. No paid employee, including myself, is on the executive committee.

High Ethical Standards

We have insisted on the highest possible standards of financial ethics, business procedures and spiritual principles in business affairs. I can assure you that your contributions are handled legally and with the highest sense of Christian ethics and spiritual concern. If you designate any gift, we guarantee it will go 100% where you want it.

When BGEA was founded we prayed that God would entrust us with enough financial resources to help missions and other evangelical projects throughout the world. We determined to attempt to tithe all funds given to us for evangelism and dedicate this tithe to help other ministries which supported evangelism, missions and Christian education.

God has honored this commitment for more than a quarter century. We have been able to help seminaries, Bible schools, mission hospitals, scholarships for overseas students, relief work, missionaries, evangelists and evangelical periodicals throughout the world.

We have never sought to draw attention to this side of our work, believing that this might be mistaken for boasting and pride.

As the years passed we began to see

the tremendous need for a special fund to help undergird evangelical ministries throughout the world. Our board of directors also felt that we should take steps to insure the wise long range investment of gifts which came to BGEA in the form of stocks, trusts, estates, foundation grants and a certain amount of undesignated funds.

WECEF Facts

So in 1970 we formed a foundation which now is called the World Evangelism and Christian Education Fund (WECEF). There are several facts I would like you to know about WECEF.

1. It is a legally incorporated nonprofit foundation registered with the Internal Revenue Service.

2. It is administered by a board of trustees made up of some of America's most outstanding Christian businessmen.

3. There are no full time employees of WECEF. No board member receives any financial benefit from it.

4. The money given to WECEF (as to BGEA) is committed to benefit projects in missions, evangelism and Christian education.

5. The trustees of WECEF have directed the investment of the funds in a prudent manner until distribution.

6. The WECEF Fund is audited annually by a nationally recognized auditing firm, and an official "990" IRS report is filed with the federal government.

7. WECEF has been on the public record since its inception—open for all to inspect—but it has not been publicized. For one thing, we felt it was scriptural. For another, extensive publicity, we knew, would mean we would be inundated with requests for help which we could not begin to meet. We already knew of far more projects than we could support and we did not want to have to divert money from worthy projects to employ a staff to handle such requests.

8. WECEF is the only foundation or fund with which BGEA is affiliated.

There has recently been some misunderstanding about the World Evangelism and Christian Education Fund. God has greatly used WECEF, and we have a responsibility to tell you the facts about it.

In recent years we have thought and prayed frequently about the future of our ministry. God has given us an

increasing burden for training other men and women who will do the work of evangelism in the decades ahead. I believe God is leading us in two major projects to fulfill this vision.

Two Projects

First, we are helping to build at Wheaton College in Illinois what I believe is destined to become one of the world's unique training centers in missions and evangelism. It will draw students and laymen from around the world for intensive courses in training for evangelism. In it will be one of the finest libraries on evangelism and missions in the world. It will house Wheaton's growing graduate school in Biblical studies and communications. It will also house the records and memorabilia of our ministry. Construction will begin this fall. This institution will be owned, operated and directed by the board of trustees of Wheaton College.

Second, tentative plans are underway for a center specifically designed to train laymen in the Bible. It will not be a Bible school in the traditional sense, for there will be no academic credit or graduation diplomas. It would bring outstanding Bible teachers from many denominations and other parts of the world for short periods of teaching. A layman or student, or even a clergyman, could go there for a month, or three months, or even a year, and study the Bible in depth. As far as I know, this would not be in competition with any denominational effort anywhere in the world.

A beautiful location in western North Carolina has been purchased and preliminary studies have already been completed. However, since we will not begin this project until the Wheaton center is finished, it may be at least three or more years away.

The World Evangelism and Christian Education Fund is committed to help fund both these projects.

We are living in a very ominous, critical and serious moment in history. Doors are open right now as perhaps never before! I am told that as many as 50,000 people a day are becoming Christians. This is an age of unprecedented harvest!

We are ready to spend our strength and our energy, if you will stand behind us with your prayers and your financial support. God bless you.

This is an abridged version of a statement which will appear in the Aug. 26 issue of Christianity Today.

Personnel Changes

Ralph Ave. Calls Smith

Jim R. Smith resigned effective Aug. 14 as pastor of Campbellsburg Baptist Church to accept a call to pastor Ralph Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville. Smith had been at Campbellsburg for over five years.

Smith, an Alabama native, is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., and Southern Seminary.

Burke Takes Education Position in Memphis

John D. Burke has resigned as pastor of Nolynn Baptist Church, Sevens Valley Association, to accept a call as minister of education at Germantown Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.

Burke, who will receive his master of religious education degree from Southern Seminary in December, has worked for the past two years as an intern with Kentucky Baptist Sunday School Department.

Jackson Pastor Named



Stephens

during the past year.

Jack E. Stephens has been called as pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson. Stephens served as pastor of Immanuel Baptist Mission, Pikeville, for 10 years and as interim pastor at First Baptist Church, Martin,

Sullivan Chosen Pastor At Louisville Farmdale

William J. Sullivan has been called as pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church, Louisville. He will assume his duties there Aug. 28.

Sullivan comes to Farmdale from First Baptist Church, Benton, where he had pastored for 11 years.

A graduate of Murray State University and Southern Seminary, Sullivan is

married to the former Doris Nance and they have one married daughter.

Flener Becomes Chaplain

Charles Flener, pastor for over six years at New Salem Baptist Church, Valley Station, resigned effective Aug. 1 to become a full time chaplain with the Jefferson County Police Department. Flener had served for four years as a volunteer



Flener

police chaplain.

Walton Selects Minch

Charles W. Minch has been called as pastor of First Baptist Church, Walton. Minch has been pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church, West Palm Beach, Fla., and before that was pastor of Highland Heights (Ky.) Baptist Church.

Minch will begin his services at Walton Aug. 28. He is a native of Owen County and a graduate of Georgetown College.

Ordinations

Jim McGee Set Aside

Jim McGee has been named director of education and evangelism at Rosemont Baptist Church, Lexington, effective Aug. 1.

McGee was ordained to the gospel ministry at Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, July 31 in services attended by members of both Immanuel and Rosemont. Immanuel pastor Ted Sisk gave the ordination charge and Rosemont pastor Jerome Browne preached the sermon.



McGee

Slaughter Ordained

Hudson Slaughter was ordained to the gospel ministry July 3 in services at Sand Spring Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg. Slaughter, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is minister of youth at Sand Spring.



Slaughter

Revivals

10 Decisions Reported

Sulphur Spring Baptist Church, Simpson Association, held revival services recently which resulted in four professions of faith and six other public decisions. Jimmy Mayes, who was reared in Sulphur Spring, was evangelist. Clayton Rock is the Sulphur Spring pastor.

Deaths

Mrs. Smith Succumbs

Isabella Walton Smith, wife of William Smith, Burlington, died recently. Besides her husband she is survived by one son and two daughters. Memorial services were conducted in Florence by her pastor, Paul Godsey, and her nephew, James Wilson.

Mrs. Puckett Passes

Mrs. Ada Vance Puckett of Hart County died June 14. She was the widow of H. S. Puckett who served as missionary to Lynn Association for 20 years prior to his death in 1956. He also pastored several Baptist churches in Kentucky.

Mrs. Estes Dies

Mrs. Addie Potts Estes died July 4 in Shelbyville. She was a member of First Baptist Church, Shelbyville, and had taught Sunday school there for 35 years.

Mountains to the Mississippi



Edgewood Baptist Church, Nicholasville, celebrated its seventh anniversary with special services June 26. Highlighting the day was a noteburning marking payment of over \$330,000 in debts. Shown here disposing of the note are [l-r, front]: Henry Thompson, Elmo Allender, Cleveland Thompson, Hugh Henkle, Cecil Rhorer and Howard Fain. Looking on from the back are [l-r]: Franklin Owen, executive secretary of Kentucky Baptists and guest speaker for the day; Gayle Toole, Edgewood pastor; and associate pastor Larry Cook.

Miss Harris Begins Work At Missouri Child Care

Debbie Harris has begun her work as communications specialist for Baptist Children's Homes, Bridgeton, Mo.

Miss Harris, a native of Owensboro, is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and Southern Seminary.

She served two years as a journalism intern with Western Recorder.



Miss Harris

Library Retreat Slated

A library study retreat will be held at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly Sept. 23-24.

Glynn Hill, staff consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Library Department, will lead the conference which is sponsored by Long Run Church Media Center Organi-

zation. All state church librarians and other interested persons are invited to attend.

Reservations may be made by sending a \$5 deposit to Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Route 1, Bagdad, Ky. 40003.

Ohio Co. May Ban Porno

Ohio County Judge C. B. Embry has proposed an ordinance for Ohio County Fiscal Court which will ban display and sale of pornographic materials and pornographic movies.

The action is in response to concerned citizens who have discovered pornographic material being sold and pornographic movies being shown in the county.

The movement was set off by pastor Eugene Loy of Green River Baptist Church. Loy requested action by Fiscal Court members after discovering the pornographic material.

Green River Church has passed resolutions and disapproval of the pornographic materials and other churches in the county are expected to adopt similar resolutions.

Lake Dreamland to Hold Homecoming and Revival

Lake Dreamland Baptist Church, Louisville, will hold its annual homecoming Aug. 21 and annual revival Aug. 22-28.

Ken Griffin, director of church development for Long Run Association will be the featured homecoming speaker. A dinner on the grounds will follow the morning service with music and singing in the afternoon.

Carl Miller, an evangelist from Bowling Green, will lead in the weeklong revival effort. Services will be at 7:30 p.m. each evening.

Day Camp Conducted

Franklin Baptist Association had its first Mission Friends day camp July 30. Purpose of the camp was to let four- and five-year-old Mission Friends get involved in their own mission action program.

A total of 88 children and workers were involved. Mrs. William Hartung, associational director for Mission Friends, directed the day camp.



New Salem Baptist Church, Frazer, honored Homer L. Williams with a special anniversary service July 24. Williams has served as a full time pastor in Wayne County for 50 years.

Two on Crestridge Staff

Two Kentuckians are working this summer on the staff of Camp Crestridge for girls, Ridgecrest, N. C. The two are Lynette Coleman from Louisville and Mrs. Mary Anne Kell, Bowling Green.

Monticello Church Breaks Ground for New Building

Elk Spring Valley Baptist Church, Monticello, has broken ground for a new addition to the present church building.

The new construction will contain three floors and provide 16 new classrooms in addition to church offices, church library, a new baptistry, dressing rooms and a new choir loft. The new facility will also provide complete dining room and kitchen facilities to accommodate 120 people. Construction

cost estimate is \$194,000.

Thomas D. Hill is the Elk Spring Valley pastor and Donald Gehring is chairman of the building committee.

Hildabrand Appointed

J. P. Hildabrand, missionary for Union Association for the past two years, has resigned to accept an appointment from the Home Mission Board in Oregon. Hildabrand said goodbye to Union Baptists at the annual associational meeting Aug. 4.

Highview Work Reported

Jack Mercer, a student at Southern Seminary, has been working this summer as a missionary with Highview Baptist Church, Louisville.

Mercer, a native of Whitesburg, organized Bible schools and backyard Bible clubs that have touched over 1,100 children thus far this summer.

In another Highview appointment, Barbara Crawford has been named children's coordinator. Included in her responsibilities will be serving as principal of Highview Baptist Christian School.

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For
You

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The Billy Graham Center for Evangelism at Southern Seminary, through its student teams, research facilities and other resources, constantly seeks to find new ways to assist churches in their God-given task of communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

If you would like more information or would like to schedule a team to come to your church, contact Dr. Lewis Drummond, director of the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism; by writing him at the seminary address or calling (502) 897-4011.

So whatever your need in the area of evangelism, let us give you a hand. After all, we're here for you.

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Frank Owen



QUESTION, PLEASE?

Our new day declares that women have the same rights to the same careers that men have, that no role of life belongs to either sex alone. This is a "hot potato" issue that most of us are scared to discuss. So am I. I'd like to raise a secondary question (of primary importance) entirely overlooked in the discussions that I hear and read—a side effect. If all (or most) of the ladies become engaged in full time business and professional careers, what is going to become of the Christian family?

Take my profession, for instance. I served in pastoral ministries for 38 years. Such ministry (like medical people and others) is on call around the clock. The members of a minister's congregation, as well as people far out from the church often expect and demand that their calls receive first priority—not family, nothing else.

I had three children at home during heavy load professional years. I don't know what might have become of them if Mrs. Owen hadn't placed her parental role above all else. I couldn't. Some other professions and businesses can't. People won't allow it. Idealistic discussions to the contrary are a waste of breath.

I have heard each of our three children as they hit the door, safe home from school, "Mommy, I'm home." How marvelous the sound to a mother's ear! How reassuring the sound of the mother's response to the listening child! (Hats off to all women whose circumstances indicate the feasibility of professional or business careers; and even more so to those for whom livelihood work is a necessity. But I plead for the highest possible priority for motherhood that individual situations permit.)

So, I am raising a side effect question—what will become of the Christian family if the women move en masse into full service professional and business careers? Maybe my question is, which women in business and professions, including ministry? Maybe as celibacy declines in Catholicism, it will rise in Protestantism, among the women.

"Mommy, I'm home."

Sunday School Lessons

by H. C. Chiles, Murray, Ky.

International Series

Prologue to Nationhood

I Samuel 8:1-9; 10:1

During the administration of Samuel, the 15th and last judge of Israel, he did his best to get his people to be aware of their covenant relationship with God. Samuel contrasted God's faithfulness to the people with their unfaithfulness to him and urged them to be obedient to God.

Samuel had been a splendid judge. He had settled numerous quarrels, and had successfully guided his people in times of peace and war. Knowing that his administration would soon end due to his advancing years, Samuel appointed his sons, Joel and Abiah, as judges over Israel. That action proved unwise. It would have been far better had he let God choose the next judge. Samuel's sons failed to follow in the steps of their noble father. Samuel's sons accepted bribes and perverted justice.

The elders of the tribes of Israel approached Samuel at Ramah and expressed their disappointment and displeasure at his appointment of his unworthy and greedy sons to the position of judge. Even though they had great respect and love for Samuel they told him they would not accept his wicked sons as their judges.

Life and Work Series

Murder—Act or Attitude?

Exodus 20:13

This commandment may be rendered more clearly, "Thou shalt not commit murder." Murder, the taking of human life for malice or revenge, is wrong. It is not only a sin against one's fellow man, but it is also an affront to God. God has forbidden hatred and revenge which issue in murder.

This commandment refers only to human beings, who have been made in the image of God. In it there is no application whatever to the killing of animals for food. In order to support their "eat no meat" program, there are those who go so far as to say that we have here a prohibition against the taking of all animal life. That their conclusion is unwarranted is clearly evident from the fact that God told the people what animals they could eat (Lev. 11).

Accidental killings are not murders. This writer knew a Christian locomotive engineer who was unable to stop his train in time to avoid killing a tramp who was walking on the tracks. But such a regrettable incident was not murder, for murder implies malice. Murder is the taking of human life on one's own initiative for revenge or for some other evil motive.

Genesis 4:8-10

Cain was displeased because Abel's offering of "the firstling of his flock" had been acceptable and pleasing to God, while his own bloodless offering from "the fruit of the field" had failed to please God.

Hypocritical Cain deliberately led his brother out into a field and killed him. God immediately brought Cain to task

The elders of Israel said to the aged Samuel: "Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations." Their desire to be as the nations that surrounded them was contrary to the expressed purpose of God that Israel should be separate and unlike other nations. Although God warned them against such a move, nothing else would satisfy them.

Samuel was displeased because their request was prompted by the wrong motive. Nevertheless, God instructed Samuel to accede to their expressed wish; but, before doing what they requested, he was to warn them of the consequences. Samuel was informed that the demand of the people for a king was a rejection of God. Consequently, they would have to learn the hard way.

Saul was chosen as their king. He was a man of splendid physique and kingly in appearance. He commanded the admiration and respect of a nation that was fond of pomp and grandeur. Marking an epoch in the history of Israel, Saul's coronation was a brilliant affair. Bound together by the ties of brotherhood, the people joined their hearts, hands and lives to encourage, support and assist their new king.

for slaying his brother, and he denied any knowledge of the murder. Thus Cain's sin of murder was followed by that of lying to God. God confronted Cain with the direct question, "What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground." God informed him that he was his brother's keeper, and he could not escape the responsibility for what had happened to Abel.

Matthew 5:21-24

Christ traced the sin of murder to its very root. In doing so, he made the person who thinks murderous thoughts or possesses murderous wrath as guilty as one who commits a murderous deed. He cut through the outward aspects of the matter and pointed out that an angry hatred in the heart is the root of all murder.

Since murder is the result of anger, Christ warned that to let anger have a place in the life is simply paving the way for murder. He said that to keep from killing is obedience to the letter of the law, but to keep from hating is obedience to the spirit of the law. Anger not only causes one to harm others, but it has a very injurious effect upon one's own life.

Romans 12:17-21

Sometimes God's children are subjected to unjust treatment at the hands of others. When it comes, the most natural thing is to resent it and to retaliate. The Christlike thing to do is to forgive, love and pray for the one who has treated you unjustly. "Live peaceably with all men." If there is any quarreling, be sure that none of it comes from you and react to it in the spirit of Christ which is love.

Carter's Envoy to the Vatican

by James E. Wood Jr.

The announcement by the White House on July 6, 1977, of President Jimmy Carter's appointment of an envoy to the Vatican is a profound disappointment.

Earlier in his campaign last fall, the President had indicated in an interview with C. L. Sulzberger of the New York Times that he had "no objection" to an exchange of ambassadors between the United States and the Vatican. That position provoked vigorous opposition from various responsible Baptist leaders, among others.

The White House would neither confirm nor deny rumors of the appointment of David M. Walters, a Miami, Fla., attorney, until late afternoon on July 6. Meanwhile, National Catholic News Service, which had been waiting for a week to release the story, disclosed in their announcement that the President's appointment of Walters had been cleared with the President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Joseph Bernardin of Cincinnati, Ohio.

It was also revealed that Walters was recommended for the Vatican post by Terrence Cardinal Cooke of New York and Archbishop Coleman Carroll of Miami. These disclosures confirmed the ecclesiastical nature of the appointment and the concern of the President for ecclesiastical approval of the first Roman Catholic to serve as an envoy to the Vatican.

President Carter's appointment of an envoy to the Vatican revives a church-state issue which intermittently has had a divisive effect on American religious communities for almost four decades. Furthermore, there is less justification today for the appointment than in any of the three previous administrations since 1939 which initiated such moves.

With the outbreak of World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt named Myron C. Taylor as the first U.S. envoy to the Vatican. Relations between the

U.S. and Italy were strained and war between the two nations was eminent.

President Harry Truman's proposal to name an ambassador to the Vatican, which was vigorously opposed by non-Catholics and leading members of Congress, including the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee, came during the "cold war" with the USSR and its satellites.

The appointment of Henry Cabot Lodge by President Richard Nixon was made during the Vietnam war in which the Roman Catholic church was deeply involved because of its important role in Vietnam.

In the absence of any international crisis such as was encountered by previous administrations in initiating formal diplomatic relations with the Vatican, the action of President Carter appears all the more surprising and lacking even the rationale of political expediency on behalf of American national interest.

No justification has apparently been offered by the White House for the appointment. Presently, the State Department maintains a Vatican desk in Rome, separate from the U.S. embassy, staffed by one foreign service officer and secretary. The creation of this desk resulted from pressure from the Vatican that a country not accredited to the Vatican make its representation from an office physically separate from its Rome embassy. This, of course, is in line with the official position of the Vatican which strongly favors full diplomatic relations with sovereign states. Vatican sources have therefore recently indicated that the Vatican would welcome full diplomatic relations with the United States.

Opposition to the President's appointment of an envoy to the Vatican has been expressed in telegrams from the executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Jimmy Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Andrew L. Gunn executive director of Americans United, among others.

From its beginning in 1939, the Baptist Joint Committee has expressed its opposition to U.S. diplomatic relations with the Vatican. Repeatedly,

the committee has unanimously voiced its "unalterable opposition" to such a move for a variety of reasons, which are no less valid today than in previous decades:

(1) The appointment of a presidential envoy raises serious constitutional questions which involve diplomatic recognition and entanglement of the executive branch of the federal government with a particular church.

(2) Such action officially underscores the special concern of this government, to the point of giving preferential treatment to one religious body not accorded any other religious group anywhere in the world. Even if the issue of preferential treatment were not involved, however, we would still be opposed to the appointment of presidential envoys to religious bodies.

(3) While technically Vatican City, with its 100 acres and a population of 1,000, is a sovereign state, an envoy to the Vatican is an envoy to the Catholic church and papal nuncios are envoys of the Roman See.

(4) The use of the Vatican for political purposes, whether based upon the listening post theory for obtaining valuable information or as a channel for U.S. government relations, must be opposed for the same reason we have opposed the CIA involvement with Christian missionaries and churches overseas.

(5) The appointment of a presidential envoy to the Vatican is unnecessary and serves no purpose other than to establish official diplomatic relations between the U.S. government and the Roman Catholic church.

Whatever the merits of the appointment, including any marginal political gains for the President among Catholics, the losses to both church and state far outweigh the gains.

James E. Wood Jr. is executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. This is an edited version of his full article to appear in the publication, "Report from the Capitol."

Viewpoint

16 AUGUST 17, 1977
WESTERN RECORDER