

## Inerrancy charges, sidetracking of missions plan gravely concern six SBC seminary presidents

by Orville Scott

Presidents of the six Southern Baptist seminaries held a joint press conference in Dallas in an effort to put to rest charges of "liberal" teachings levied by a group which says it is contending for biblical inerrancy.

The presidents, in Dallas for an SBC Inter-agency Council meeting, said they were deeply concerned over a "blanket accusation" by some Baptists "regarding the view of the Bible by those who teach at the seminaries."

Western Recorder reported May 16 that Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, and Houston appeals court judge Paul Pressler said alarm over "liberal" teaching in Southern Baptist seminaries had prompted meetings in at least 15 states to encourage messengers to elect a president committed to biblical inerrancy at the SBC annual meeting June 12-14 in Houston.

During the interview with reporters from Baptist and secular media the six seminary presidents said they know of no professors in Southern Baptist seminaries who fail to uphold the principles of the statement of Baptist Faith and Message adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Kansas City, Mo. in 1963.

The seminary presidents said in a joint statement to the media they are committed to helping Southern Baptists continue their tradition as "a Bible-centered people, firmly believing and striving to practice what the Bible teaches . . ."

Russell H. Dilday Jr. said when he became president of Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, last year, he met with each faculty member and they had "an unquestioning and enthusiastic commitment" to the principles that the Bible is divinely inspired . . . They don't deserve this irresponsible blanket accusation," said Dilday.

Dilday said if a member of his faculty were teach-

ing anything contrary to the central doctrine of the New Testament, he would take immediate action.

"If I did not (do the same), our trustees would take action," echoed Landrum Leavell of New Orleans Seminary.

All the presidents denied having any faculty members who would call into question the creation accounts in Genesis or the bodily resurrection of Christ as reported in the New Testament. They challenged those who have made such claims to produce evidence.

Duke K. McCall, president of Southern Seminary, Louisville, said much of the debate is over "the fallibility of human language.

"We are in agreement on the inspiration and authority of the scriptures," he said.

The presidents were asked if there is a problem in the use of the word "inerrant."

McCall said, "Words have different force . . . The original manuscript, which we do not have, is inerrant . . . If you're talking of an existing manuscript, you can't say it's without error. If you're using inerrant to mean the message of God comes through by the Holy Spirit, it's inerrant."

McCall told reported he holds to what he wrote in the Southern Seminary alumni magazine, The Tie: "If God had thought I needed an inerrant, infallible, verbally-inspired copy of the Bible, he would have preserved the original text on a golden tablet."

He had also written, "We may use all of the strong language we want about the original autographs of the Bible, but my faith can survive with the Holy Scripture available to me today."

In the Dallas interview he said, "The Bible doesn't depend on a PhD from Southern Seminary to be able to find truth there, but anyone who can read" (can find truth).

Taking issue with the use of the word "inerrancy" by critics of the seminaries, Randall Lolley of Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., said

"inspired" is a stronger word. "We deal with inerrant documents every day that are not inspired," he said.

President Milton Ferguson said at Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., "We not only believe the Bible is dependable and reliable and has truth for its subject without any mixture of error, we believe the original manuscripts were inspired by God.

"The nature and authority of the Word of God is a mystery and supersedes the capacity of human reason fully to comprehend," he added.

Baptist Standard editor Presnell Wood asked the presidents to respond to statements in a Dallas newspaper that "disillusionment with the seminaries is at a crescendo pitch."

Record enrolments at the seminaries (about 20,000 total) seem to deny the charges, said William Pinson of Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. "Our own applications are up 34 percent," he added.

Dilday said he senses the opposite of disillusionment. "I don't believe we're seeing this drift as you describe . . . The majority of our budgets come from Southern Baptist churches. They trust our seminaries to train the people who are going to be pastors of their churches."

Leavell said, "The bottom line for all six seminaries is our confidence and concern for Bold Mission Thrust (Southern Baptists' campaign to present the gospel of Christ to every person on earth by the end of the century). We don't want anything to get in the way of Bold Mission Thrust," said Leavell. "It's the greatest thing God has given Southern Baptists."

Throughout the interview, the presidents deplored what they called "blanket accusations," "broad-based statements" and "stereotyping." "This is no time to be dividing our convention," said Dilday. "This manipulating, political kind of thing diverts us from our main purpose of evangelism and missions."

## Seminary presidents endorse Criswell-Robinson conferences

by Orville Scott

Six Southern Baptist seminary presidents said they support a plan for a series of nationwide conferences by W. A. Criswell and evangelist James Robison to affirm the Bible as the authoritative word of God.

The seminary presidents said they asked to meet with Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, to talk about mutual concerns.

They said Criswell told them plans are to hold about 15-20 conferences within a year sponsored by the James Robison Evangelistic Association and others involving some of Southern Baptists' leading pastors as speakers. The first is scheduled in St. Louis Aug. 13-15.

William Pinson, chairman for the seminary presidents' and president of Golden Gate Seminary, said of the talk with Criswell: "We talked about different words including 'inerrant' and 'infallible' and tried to decide what words best express our convictions."

"We all felt our hearts beating in harmony," said Russell Dilday Jr., president of Southwestern Seminary. "We were able to correct some things and to help insure that the channels of communication stay clear and open."

"Each president indicated he'd be glad to speak at the conferences (affirming the Bible as the authoritative word of God) provided they weren't political and did not involve attacks on Southern Baptist institutions," said Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Seminary.

Criswell assured the group that the meetings would be devoted strictly to affirming the Bible as the authoritative word of God and to a recommitment to evangelism and missions.

Criswell asked Duke K. McCall, president of Southern Seminary, if his school would host one of the Bible conferences. McCall said Southern Seminary would do so under the conditions expressed by Criswell.

Pinson told the group of his concern that Golden Gate Seminary affirm the Bible by being a vital part of mission strategy in the west. "We need a thousand new churches in California right now and several hundred in the northwest," said Pinson.

## SBC giving up

Southern Baptists contributed \$87,951,588 to national mission causes during the first eight months of the 1978-79 fiscal year, according to the denomination's Executive Committee.

This is 10.01 percent ahead of the same point last year. It includes \$42,024,876 in undesignated contributions to the Cooperative Program and another \$45,926,712 in designated contributions.

The undesignated Cooperative Program portion is 11.05 percent ahead of the same point last year and the designated portion is 9.08 percent ahead. The Cooperative Program portion is about one-third of the contributions of SBC churches received by state Baptist conventions.

## Southern Baptist Convention on TV

The telecast via satellite of the Wednesday, June 13 missionary commissioning service from Houston during the Southern Baptist Convention will be shown on several television stations in Kentucky. The service will be telecast live at 8 p.m. EDT.

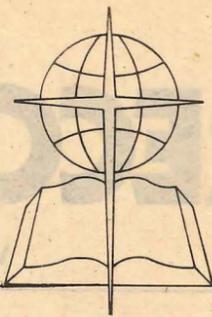
Western Kentucky can view the program on channel 9 in Paducah. Churches in the area unable to receive channel 9 can go to First Baptist Church, Paducah, where the service will be projected on a large screen.

Glasgow Cablevision System will transmit the program on channels 14 and 20. This system will also carry the service over its cables in Barbourville and Campbellsville, and Lafayette, Tenn.

According to Jesse Stricker, director of the Stewardship and Promotion Department for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, a station in Lexington is being consulted about telecasting the service. Also, channel 41 (WDRB) in Louisville may carry the program from the Astrodome. Stricker encourages residents in eastern Kentucky and Louisville to consult local papers for possible broadcast of the program.

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

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C. R. Daley Jr., Editor  
James H. Cox, Associate Editor  
Paul Whittler Jr., Business Manager



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C. R. Daley

## Daley Observations

### The supply of pastors exceeds demand

It's graduation time and more than 900 Baptist young men and women are finishing their seminary training this year. Upon completion of their training the next concern for these young people is where will the opportunities to use their training be found.

This has become a serious problem and it will intensify over the next several years. There are simply not enough pastorless churches strong enough to support a full time pastor to absorb the growing number of seminary graduates. Actually our success in training ministers has brought on the problem. The phenomenal increase in seminary enrolment in recent years has resulted in a supply larger than the demand.

The current Southwestern Seminary monthly publication gives indication the problem is acute for Southwestern graduates. Both a front page article and President Dilday's personal column are devoted to this concern. Southwestern had more than 800 graduates during 1977-78 and graduated another 331 this spring. When the graduates of the other five Southern Baptist seminaries are added to these, it's easy to understand why some seminary graduates will not find a church to serve.

What will happen to these graduates? Most will eventually find a place. In some instances they will remain in student pastorates they are now serving. A few will give up and take a secular position never to return to full time professional ministry. Some women graduates, of whom there is a growing number, will marry and end up using their talents and training voluntarily. Women graduates will be harder to place than men.

The outlook for a quick solution to this problem is not bright. Seminary graduating classes the next two years will be larger than ever. During the same period Southern Baptists' rate of growth will likely be declining.

There are two current developments that are encouraging as far as places for services of seminary graduates are concerned. One is Bold Mission Thrust and the other is recognition and emphasis upon bivocational pastors and staff members. Bold Mission Thrust with its emphasis upon starting new chapels, missions and churches will absorb some of the growing number of seminary graduates.

In this connection I met an admirable young woman recently while visiting a small church in a remote area of Kentucky. Failing to find a full time place of service after seminary training, she took a job teaching public school and works without salary in music and education in this small church. She is an excellent example of bivocational ministry and Mission Service Corps.

But not many of these new places will afford

an adequate income for a seminary graduate and his or her family. Many of those filling these places and other openings will have to have supplementary income from other sources.

This means we must begin an educational process which in time would change the traditional concept of Southern Baptist professional ministry from assuming all seminary graduates will be called by a church providing an adequate salary to the concept of a bivocational ministry. This concept is already accepted by some seminary graduates and by even more non-seminary trained pastors but now it must be taught to all seminary students.

This problem deserves serious study by a committee of the Southern Baptist Convention with a report and possible recommendations to the convention. The appropriate procedure for this would be to ask the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee to make such a study in conjunction with the seminaries.

### Tax law changes hurt foreign missionaries

A change in the law regarding taxing income of United States citizens working in foreign countries is costing Southern Baptist foreign missionaries more than a million dollars this year. Up until this year United States citizens working outside the country had up to \$20,000 income excluded from income tax. (WR page 3)

The officials of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board are understandably concerned. If the law stands, at least one million dollars of salaries now being paid to missionaries will go to the United States government for taxes. With limited salaries and worldwide inflation, missionaries will be more hard put than ever.

One way of relief would be to restore the previous exclusion for workers in public charities and religious organizations. Those who feel this should be done should write their United States congressmen and senators.

I have mixed feelings on this matter. I believe funds contributed through churches to evangelize the world ought to be used exclusively for that purpose. At the same time I believe every United States citizen should pay a fair share of taxes for maintaining government and public services. Even though a foreign missionary may not be regularly receiving public services in the United States, they do while on furlough and their children who often return to the states for education do.

## Baptist Forum

### Abuse of presidency suggests concern

I am opposed to the office of president of the Southern Baptist Convention being occupied by a representative of a particular theological position. To allow this to happen would divide the Southern Baptist Convention into various power groups, each vying with the other for the election of their representative for this important post in Southern Baptist life. While I do not agree with the "biblical inerrancy campaign" or with the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, my objections to the election of a convention president to represent this group is not theological alone. For purely practical reasons, we must not allow this office

to become an expression of the numerous differences which admittedly are present within Southern Baptist ranks. We Southern Baptists must continually strive to express our unity under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Billy G. Hurt, Frankfort

### What nominee's church does speaks so loudly . . .

In recent weeks there has been much said and written about the qualifications of persons who are potential nominees for president of the Southern Baptist Convention. I would like to offer one myself.

What is the giving record through the Cooperative Program of the church in which the nominee holds membership? I believe this is a most vital question! In the answer to this question we will find indications of the nominee's submission to the "Great Commission" of our Lord, the missionary concern and compassion and the spirit and attitude of cooperativeness.

The president of so diverse a group as Southern Baptists must be exemplary in the one thing that brought us together and keeps us together in spite of our differences: our commitment to missions.

I hope anyone making a nomination will provide this information.

A. R. Fagan, Nashville

### Could the batteries be burned out?

What has happened to Baptist evangelistic genius? Records show we are winning fewer converts than we were winning several years ago. When this writer retired from the pastorate a few years ago we settled in Lexington. During these retirement years, more or less regularly someone knocks on our door and wants to hand us tracts and literature of a religious nature or wants to discuss our religious views with us. But none of them are Baptists and the literature they have to distribute is not written by responsible Bible scholars.

During our pastoral years some of the finest friends we ever made and some of the best church officers, workers and teachers we ever knew were people we met when we were out making contacts and doing personal work.

The following is a story which could be repeated many times over. In one of our southern cities some years ago a church was organized under a tent on a vacant lot. Their first pastor stayed with them 15 years and built a large church building. In that 15 years the church became one of the top 10 in a city of a quarter million people. He became known as the "flashlight preacher." About sundown when people had come home for the day he would begin knocking on doors, handing out tracts, doing personal witnessing and inviting people to the church.

What has happened to Baptist evangelistic genius?  
W. M. Averett, Lexington

### A naval way of doing things

July 6 approximately 1300 young men and women will start Plebe Summer at the U. S. Naval Academy. The members of Heritage Baptist Church (College Avenue Baptist Church until 1972) want to minister to all of them we can. It would mean a lot to us to learn the names and addresses of those who are coming, in order that a written contact may be made with them before they arrive. And if it would be helpful, someone will be glad to meet an incoming midshipman at the Washington or Baltimore airport and bring him or her to Annapolis—no strings attached!

If you, a friend or a relative will be coming to the academy, please send me the needed information should you care to do so. Thank you.

Fred T. Moffatt, Jr., Pastor  
Heritage Baptist Church  
1740 Forest Drive  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
Telephone 301/263-6680

# Baptist News in Brief



Members of the Kentucky Baptist Chorale pause in front of Oaklands Baptist Church, London, England, one of the churches where it presented a concert while on a 15-day

European Bold Mission tour of Europe last month. An estimated 1800 people heard the singing.

## Chorale witnesses via music in May tour across Europe

The Kentucky Baptist Chorale sang virtually everywhere it went during a 15-day Bold Mission tour of Europe.

The Baptist musicians presented full and partial concerts in various worship services, and sang in hospitals, hotel dining rooms, palaces and castles in which it toured and at the gravesides of famous composers.

The chorale sang to an estimated 1800 people.

Pastors of the host churches were enthusiastic about the group's ministry.

"We know what a great part music plays in your churches in America and we're glad to have just a taste," the pastor of a church in Scotland said.

A pastor in Germany, Bill Clark Thomas, who is supported by the For-

eign Mission Board, saw in the group a "manifestation of Southern Baptist presence in ministry in an area where the Foreign Mission Board is engaged in work."

While in Germany the chorale was filmed by the FMB and is to appear in a movie about short-term Bold Mission opportunities.

"The Kentucky Baptist Chorale went to Europe to present the gospel of Jesus Christ through song and to declare the message to our Christian brothers in Europe that we are 'One in the Bond of Love,'" Donald A. Spencer, associate director of the KBC Church Music Department, said.

"As the chorale returned to America, it came back with the confidence that the message of salvation through Jesus Christ had been shared and that lives had been touched through the singing. But the members of the chorale also came back with a greater understanding and emotional feeling that they and other Christians around the world truly are 'One in the Bond of Love,'" he added.

### 10 to hear resolutions

Ten persons will serve on the resolutions committee appointed by SBC president Jimmy Allen for the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston June 12-14.

They are Charles Myers, chairman, pastor of Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.; Daniel Rivera, president, Mexican Baptist Bible Institute, San Antonio, Tex.; C. Welton Gaddy, pastor, Broadway Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Tex.; Marguerite Woodruff, professor, Mercer University, Macon, Ga.; Charlotte (Mrs. Weston) Ware, Dallas, Tex.; Edgar Cooper, editor, Florida Baptist Witness, Jacksonville, Fla.; John Lewis, pastor, First Baptist Church, Raleigh, N. C.; E. Stanley Branch, pastor, Fourth Missionary Baptist Church, Houston, Tex.; Paul Craven, pastor, First Baptist Church, Charleston, S. C.; and William Hillis, physician, Baltimore, Md.

### Linger on, sweet June

No wonder poets sing of June. It is the keystone month of the year, the month of long days and gentle winds, of heavy shade and the fragrance of roses and honeysuckle, the month when the whole earth pauses before it begins the long, slow swing back towards mid-winter and long, dark nights. No wonder the world loves June, the month of ripe berries and bird song and long evenings, of butterflies and fireflies and high clouds in deep blue skies. There is universal agreement with the singer who wrote, "Slower, sweet June, each step more slow; linger and loiter as you go."

### Annuity medical benefits improving

A \$1 million lifetime maximum benefit is the biggest of five improvements announced by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board in its church medical insurance system.

Darold H. Morgan, board president, said the benefit now provides a maximum amount in line with rising medical costs. It was raised from \$250,000.

To speed underwriting for new member enrolment applications are being sent directly to Aetna Life & Casualty Co. in Hartford, Conn.

For information on other improvements, contact the Annuity Board in Dallas, Tex., or the state annuity office in Middletown.

### Taxation...representation?

A 1978 Congressional act that may cost Southern Baptist missionaries as much as \$1 million annually in federal income taxes is causing concern at the Foreign Mission Board.

The Foreign Earned Income Act of 1978 eliminates a provision which previously excluded income up to \$20,000 for U. S. citizens working for charitable and religious organizations and living in foreign countries.

But starting with the 1979 taxable year, missionaries' income will be subject to taxation, according to Sidney C. Reber, director of the board's management services division. Even with

new deductions which would be allowed under the act Reber estimates several hundred thousand dollars (perhaps approaching \$1 million) in additional tax will be imposed on the missionaries' 1979 income.

Because missionary salaries are based on a minimum support figure, the board has appointed a special subcommittee to study the situation and determine if the board can help missionaries with the taxes. But with budget figures already tight, additional expenses of this possible magnitude could force some overseas programs to be reduced or eliminated.

The board committee has urged Southern Baptists to ask their congressmen to support legislation that would restore the previous income exclusion provisions for employees of public charities and religious organizations.

### Mrs. Cowley WMU staffer

Audrey E. Cowley has been elected to succeed La Venia Neal as treasurer of the Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, effective June 8.

Miss Neal retired Apr. 30 after 26 years in the position.

Mrs. Cowley is a former Southern Baptist foreign missionary to Nigeria. She and her husband, William A. Cowley, established the Baptist High School in Jos, Nigeria, in 1959. She was bookkeeper, librarian and mathematics teacher at the school until 1973.

Then she taught mathematics and bookkeeping at Hillcrest School in Jos. Hillcrest School is operated by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and several other evangelical missions for internationals desiring an America-style education.

Mrs. Cowley has been campus minister at Jefferson State Junior College in Birmingham. Prior to going to Nigeria, she was campus minister at the University of Florida and at Georgetown (Ky.) College.

Her husband is assistant professor in the departments of religion and speech at Samford University in Birmingham.

### Still room at Ridgecrest

There is limited space available for youth and adults at several conference center weeks at Glorieta and Ridgecrest.

Youth may still participate in foreign mission week, Aug. 4-10 at Glorieta and during church recreation week, June 2-8, and foreign mission week, June 23-29, at Ridgecrest.

There are rooms available for adults during several weeks at Glorieta. These are: WMU/Brotherhood June 30-July 6; home mission, July 14-20; Bible preaching, July 21-27; church training leadership, July 28-Aug. 3; and small church Sunday school, Aug. 20-24.

Similar accommodations are also available during several weeks at Ridgecrest. These weeks include: foreign mission, June 23-29; Bible preaching, June 30-July 6; church training leadership, July 7-13; home mission, Aug. 11-17; national student ministries, Aug. 17-23; and small church Sunday school, Aug. 27-31.

For information write Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Box 8, Glorieta, NM 87535; or to Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, NC 28770.

### SBC registration: here's what you have to do

Messengers registering for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Houston are urged to bring properly filled out and signed registration cards to the convention to speed the registration process.

SBC registration secretary Lee Porter said, "Last year in Atlanta registration moved so well no one stood in line more than five minutes. We hope to do as well in Houston.

For the second year, Porter said, registration will open on the Sunday preceding the convention. "To facilitate registration of convention messengers who also attend the Woman's Missionary Union sessions at the Civic Center and the Pastors' Conference at the Houston Coliseum, registration booths will open in the Coliseum from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m., Sunday, June 10. They will also be open Monday from 8:30 a.m. until 10 p.m. in the Coliseum. Registration will move to the Summit, site of the SBC, on Tuesday morning.

Porter said registration cards are available from state Baptist convention offices. He urged messengers to fill them out carefully in advance because "they become a part of the permanent historical record of the convention.

# Bus ministries: coping with the gas hassle

*Or can anything good come out of a shipwreck?*

Transportation has always played an important role in the spread of the gospel.

First century Christians often depended on roads and seaways to bring them into contact with communities that needed to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

Travel was hardly easy, however. Bandits made road travel hazardous. And a traveler might have to wait months to catch a ride on a ship. Paul, after his shipwreck en route to Rome, could attest that travel by sea was not always safe.

Transportation is just as important today to the ministries of local churches. The church bus has become one of the more prominent symbols of a church's serious attempts at outreach in the community.

Bus ministries consume a good share of church budgets. They are expensive from several standpoints: purchase, insurance, storage, routine maintenance and repairs. But an increasingly dominant expense is fuel.

In these times churches must contend with the certainty of skyrocketing gas prices and at least the possibility of gasoline rationing.

Western Recorder contacted four Kentucky churches to get their thoughts on how the fuel situation might affect their bus ministries.

They were First Baptist Church, Whitesburg; Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington; Crabtree Avenue Baptist Church, Owensboro; and Ninth & O Baptist Church, Louisville.

Bill Mackey, pastor of First, Whitesburg, believes rising fuel prices could have some very positive effects.

"The higher the prices the greater the value of our buses," he said. "One vehicle could transport a host of people." By using buses and fewer cars, he explained, the church would really be helping the energy situation.

Higher gas prices and/or shortages could mean that families would cut down on vacations and outings thus amplifying the importance of church activities for the family, Mackey added.

Whitesburg's fleet of four buses and four vans is vital to the outreach ministry of this eastern Kentucky church ministering in mountain communities.

"Our bus ministry is essential to the ongoing ministry of our missions (at Colson, Eolia and Premium)," Mackey said, "especially since we have a large constituency of children."

Bus routes extend from Whitesburg 17 miles south

for Eolia Mission, 17 miles north for Colson Mission and 10 miles west for Premium.

In addition to regular routes on Sundays, buses are used for visitation, revivals, six weeks of vacation Bible school and various trips, including Ridgecrest.

The church has budgeted \$4700 for fuel for the vehicles in 1979—up \$500 from the previous year.

If the cost got unreasonably high, "we would have to be frugal," Mackey said. But he feels his church would do whatever necessary to keep the bus ministry rolling.

At Porter Memorial Church in Lexington, five buses and a van burn about \$1800 in fuel per year while running for outreach, senior citizens events, deaf ministries, recreation and group trips.

Robert Justice, minister of outreach and education, said the church would probably scrutinize trips more closely if gasoline prices became excessive.



Already, choir groups on tours and groups that use the bus for their own activities pay for their own gasoline.

Justice has no doubts as to the top priority for the buses: "We would want to make sure our ministry as far as outreach went on." He said his church would use "common sense" as far as fuel conservation is concerned.

How would Porter Memorial cope with rationing? "Tell the people; they'll meet the need. If families didn't use all their rationing coupons, they could give them (to buy gas for the buses)," he suggested.

As for a gasoline shortage, Justice said the management of the service station where the buses are filled has been promised all the gasoline it needs by the supplier.

The largest bus ministry of the four churches is at Ninth & O, which operates 13 buses and two vans carrying an average of 330 persons each Sunday and as many as 500 during special promotions.

The vehicles are used for outreach and activities at the church and eight of the buses transport students to and from Ninth & O's Christian school.

The total cost of fuel per year is \$21,000 though part of that is absorbed by the school.

Terry Herald, Ninth & O's minister of education, is firmly committed to his church's bus ministry. "I really feel like we would cut out a lot of other things before the bus ministry (if costs became prohibitive)," he said.

"I would hope that if gasoline were rationed, we would be able to continue to operate," he added. "Hopefully the government would see it that way."

The church's ministry is in an urban area. At least 25 percent of the riders are adults—many of whom are retired or live alone.

The fourth church, Crabtree Avenue in Owensboro, spent around \$800 on gas and oil last year for three buses. A van is also in use this year.

Pastor Bob Durham said his church hasn't contemplated any changes in the bus ministry because of the gas situation but would consider any government recommendation.

"If it became necessary to conserve fuel 'we'd cut out trips and pull back on our routes so we could stay closer to home," he said.

"If the churches have to do some pulling back, you'll put a lot of responsibility on Sunday school teachers. But that would be good," he added.

"We'd cut it (bus ministry) before cutting some other programs," Durham admitted. Church members could pick up the riders in cars if necessary, he explained.

"But rather than all the cars, the church could provide a very fine ministry (with buses) to get people to church.

"I think the question we need to be asking is 'How are we going to make something good come out of all of it?'"

Paul might have said the same thing at the time of his shipwreck.

After he was washed ashore there at Malta, God provided opportunities for healing and undoubtedly witnessing before sending him on to Rome.

Stories by Bill Webb, Staff Writer

# Owen: face, voice, handshake are important

Rapidly rising gasoline costs and the authentic or fabricated threat of fuel shortages worries Franklin Owen, Kentucky Baptist Convention executive director.

The situation threatens travel by KBC personnel and that means a threat to the "eyeball to eyeball" relationship that Owen feels is so important between workers in local churches and state leadership.

"Our people tend to be church program coaches for music, Sunday school and vacation Bible school church training for various church officers; evangelism WIN schools; etc.

"As Southern Baptists we hang together through these people out conducting coaching sessions.

"We've got people whose worth is primarily what they do out in the churches rather than in their offices. Nothing will take the place of the face, the voice and the handshake."

For Owen, there is the immediate problem of the cost of travel—purchase of a car, insurance, maintenance, gasoline, etc.—and what may be the imminent problem of a shortage of available fuel.

The former problem directly affects KBC personnel, who travel in their own cars and are re-

imbursed at the rate of 17 cents a mile while on convention business.

"The brethren (KBC personnel) have been quoting figures of 21 to 23 cents a mile for operating a car," Owen said.

"But IRS still has the figure at 17 cents a mile. I asked the (executive) board at this last meeting to give me standby authority to increase our mileage to whatever the IRS changes its figure to next. That's our intention."

(The mileage rate for employees of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's executive board was raised three weeks ago from 17 to 19 cents and will go to 20 cents in November.)

Owen said he is always looking for a viable alternative for funding travel but always seems to come back to the straight per mile reimbursement system.

He can list alternatives.

The Florida state convention owns the automobiles, buys the insurance and gas, and gives the cars to staffers for unlimited use.

Illinois leases cars for its employees.

Ohio pays staffers \$160 per month plus four cents a mile for driving their own cars.

"I've given a lot of thought to the establishment of a motor pool where we own the cars and check them out. I'm thinking of us maybe buying three vehicles."

Under that experimental plan, persons who wanted could try the motor pool while others could go ahead and drive their own cars under the 17-cents-per-mile reimbursement plan.

"This would give us a way to feel this through our system," Owen said.

The executive secretary is confident staffers "are trying to conserve travel reasonably."

When possible, they travel together to central meetings but even that isn't always possible, Owen explained.

Staff members often come from different places to get to a meeting, have plans to go elsewhere after a meeting or must make side trips to churches or associations sometime during the course of a central meeting. Thus they need their own cars.

Owen is not sure about the ultimate solution but he insists on one thing: "We depend on travel and there is a minimum below which we cannot fall."

# Mountains to the Mississippi

## Personnel

**Shelton accepts Bandana pastorate**  
Thomas L. Shelton recently assumed the pastorate of Bandana Baptist Church, near Paducah.

A June graduate of Southern Seminary, Shelton also graduated from Campbellsville College.

He has previously pastored Grassy Run Baptist Church, Williamstown, Union Baptist Church, Cynthiana and Piner Baptist Church.

Shelton is the son of R. G. Shelton, director of missions, Green Valley Association, and the nephew of T. Hicks Shelton, retired state director of evangelism and current KBC president.



Shelton



Lord

### Lord called to Eastwood

Gerald H. Lord, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church, Frankfort, since 1976, has resigned to accept the pastorate of Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green July 1. Lord is a native of Alabama and a graduate of Southern Seminary, having received his DMin degree last year. He is married to the former Jolene Thompson of Mt. Washington. The couple has two sons, Mark and David, and one daughter, Julie.

### Joyce to Illinois church

Ron Joyce has resigned as minister of music and youth, Bellview Baptist Church, West Union Association. He has accepted a similar position at First Baptist Church, Litchfield, Ill.

### Hawthorne to Princeton Second

David Hawthorne is the new pastor at Princeton (Ky.) Second Baptist Church in Lyon-Caldwell Association. He began May 13.

Hawthorne holds a certificate of Bible study from Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College.

He is married to the former Sandra

Conway of Jeffersontown. They have three children: Daniel, 9; Tracy, 8; and Crystal, 3.

### Day joins Nashville staff

Michael Day, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Shepherdsville, has accepted the position of associate pastor and minister of youth at Haywood Hills Baptist Church, Nashville.

Day is a recent graduate of Southern Seminary.

Charles Holland, Louisville, has been called as interim pastor at Immanuel.

## Congregations

### Sherman Baptist to build

Sherman Baptist Church, Dry Ridge, Crittenden Association, has voted to construct a new sanctuary and education building.

The structure will be located a mile north of the present building on Hwy. 25.

When complete, the new facilities will accommodate 500 to 700 people.

"This necessary action was taken due to the increased growth of our church and because our people support the Southern Baptist Convention's Bold Mission Thrust," said pastor James M. Blackerby. "We are trying to proclaim the gospel to the whole earth by the year 2000 A.D. and we are starting with our association and our county."

### Hickory Grove honors Hooten

Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Independence, honored pastor Colburn Hooten on his 25th anniversary.

A. B. Colvin, assistant to the KBC executive secretary-treasurer, led in the morning worship.

After dinner at the church, the congregation paid tribute to Hooten and his family. Special music was provided by the Sunday night choir from Highland Heights Baptist Church, Louisville, and Pat Foley, pianist from Hickory Grove.

The Hootens were presented a \$750 love gift.

Under Hooten's leadership, 1167 members have been added to the church, including 687 by baptism. A total \$1.3 million was given to the church for all causes and a sanctuary seating 650 was built in 1965.



**Bedford Baptist Church held a day of special recognition May 20 for those who have been members 50 years or more. The church had a day of special services and dinner on the grounds. Those honored were [l-r]: J. C. Hancock, Laura Craig, Hubert Stark, Marjorie Craig, C. A. Hollowell, Lizzie Morgan, William Berry Welty, Mae Alexander, Alma Moore, Lloyd Green and Mabel Wright. Not present for the photo were: Walter Craig, Hallie Davis, Rena Egerton, Kizzie Handlon, Bertha McManis, Helen Moore, John Shepherd, Stella Staples, Albert Stark and Louise Wimberly. David V. Faulkner is pastor at Bedford.**

Hooten, currently moderator of Northern Kentucky Association, has held several KBC and associational posts.

Associate pastor James Morrison coordinated the special program.

### Post Oak honors pastor Carrico

Members of Post Oak Baptist Church, Russellville, surprised pastor Joe Carrico with a "This is Your Life" program on his 25th anniversary as pastor.

The affair was planned without any knowledge of Carrico.

News director Don Neagle of radio station WRUS was master of ceremonies. Complete with a multimedia presentation showing Carrico's life from high school to the present, the program featured out-of-town friends as well as local friends and church members.

The recognition was climaxed with a presentation of gifts from the congregation and friends and a reception for the Carricos.

Carrico is known throughout Kentucky. He has served on several statewide committees including the Kentucky Baptist Convention executive board.

### Missions in Madisonville

First Baptist Church, Madisonville, recently hosted a WMU missions banquet.

Cloys Bruce told the 162 present of his experiences during an evangelism campaign in Guatemala.

Ladies from Second Baptist, Madisonville, provided special music. Serving as waitresses were Acteens from both churches.

## Revivals

### Stanford emphasizes Sunday school

Stanford Baptist Church experienced revival May 13-18 with several decisions resulting. C. R. Daley, editor of Western Recorder, was evangelist and Bill Williams, minister of music at Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, was revival musician.

An unusual aspect was the programming of four age group seminars for Sunday school leadership and members to help revival be experienced more fully. Conference leaders developed sessions around a suggested theme for six evenings. Participation averaged 125-150 persons each night in the 45-minute seminars preceding the preaching service.

Seminar leaders included Sandra Bushey, Lexington, private school teacher; James H. Cox, associate editor, Western Recorder; Skip Fendley, minister of education and youth, Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, Danville; and Terry R. Ham-

rick, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Somerset. All are approved workers of the Kentucky Baptist Sunday School Department.

Gregory L. Hancock is pastor at Stanford and Bobby Kirkpatrick is Sunday school director.

### Mt. Tabor baptizes four

Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, Lynn Association, baptized four and received one by letter during a recent revival.

### Sherman reports 138 decisions

Sherman Baptist Church, Dry Ridge, reported 138 decisions in spring revival services.

Don Boone, pastor from Saraland, Ala., was evangelist. Twenty-five were received by baptism and several others by letter.

James M. Blackerby is pastor.

Two professions at Swiss Colony Swiss Colony Baptist Church, London, recently conducted revival services.

According to James E. Casey Jr., pastor, there were two professions of faith.

### Milton reports additions

Milton Baptist Church, Sulphur Fork Association, reports three additions and a good spirit in a recent revival.

### Revival at Huff Settlement

Huff Settlement Baptist Church, Upper Cumberland Association, conducted revival services May 6-12.

Earl J. Hopkins, pastor, reports 11 professions of faith, three transfers by letter and 21 rededications.

18 dedications at Beechwood revival  
Beechwood Baptist Church, Louisville, reported a successful May revival with Richard Allison, pastor, Georgetown Baptist Church.

The Sunday following the revival there were eight rededications, eight additions by letter, one profession of faith and one surrendered to the gospel ministry.

The theme for the revival was the church as vehicle for glorifying God through evangelism, discipleship, worship, fellowship and ministry.

Joseph R. Estes is pastor at Beechwood.

### Plum Point hosts youth revival

Plum Point Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association, had a May youth revival with a team from Campbellsville College.

Tommie Wright, pastor, reported one profession of faith.

### Meadow Hill reports 21 decisions

Joe Hampton, pastor, Meadow Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, reports 21 decisions in a recent revival.

Charles W. Holland, Louisville, was evangelist.



**Highland Baptist Church, Shelbyville, conducted a note burning service May 13. Over 250 attended the service signifying the closing of a \$115,000 bond program on the church building. William George, pastor, was in charge of burning the note. Assisting were Russell Eades, church treasurer, and Jesse Baxter, chairman of deacons. Marshall Phillips, pastor at Highland from 1954-1961, was speaker at the worship service. Russell Eades, church treasurer, holds the bond and Jesse Baxter, chairman of deacons, holds the plate as pastor Bill George lights the note during note burning services at Highland Baptist, Shelbyville.**

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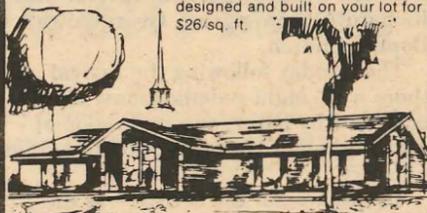
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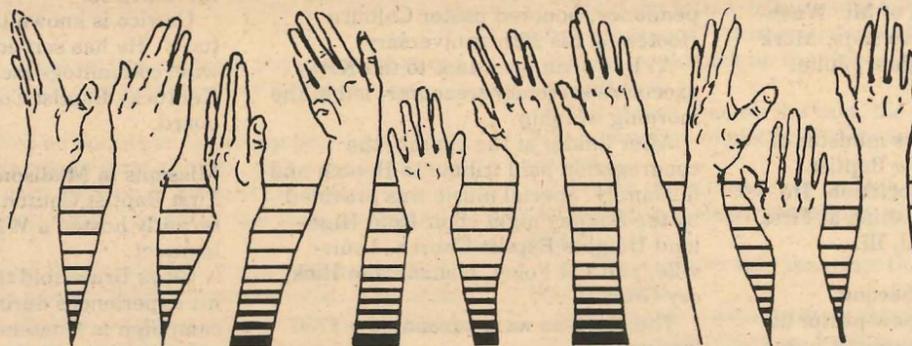


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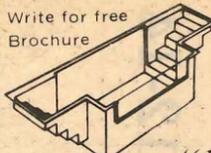
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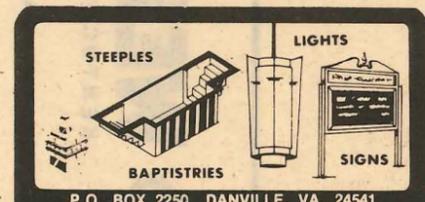
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## David's undisciplined sons

In the Old Testament era polygamy was permitted and was practiced by many, but it never was a part of God's plan for his people. Polygamy produced unhappiness, heartache, misery, contention and strife within the families where it was practiced. **2 Samuel 14:21-28** A prominent family which experienced great sorrows because polygamy was practiced was that of David. Having had children by various wives and concubines it is not surprising that David was overindulgent with his children. He neglected to teach and to discipline them as he should and for his negligence he reaped the same sorrowful results that others did.

When Amnon defiled or raped his half-sister, Tamar, the only recorded reaction of David was that he was "wroth." There is no record of David saying or doing anything to reprimand Amnon. When David shut his eyes to Amnon's sinful and inexcusable crime, Absalom decided he would take things into his own hands and have Amnon slain. If David had been a good disciplinarian and punished Amnon, his murder might have been avoided. While nurturing murderous designs on his half-brother, Amnon, enraged Absalom waited two years before executing his plan. Absalom invited all the sons of David to a feast. His servants were instructed to wait until Amnon got sufficiently drunk to be unaware of what was taking place and then kill him. Following the murder of Amnon, Absalom fled to the home of his grandfather for protection. Three years later David granted permission to Joab, the captain of his forces, to bring Absalom to Jerusalem. When Joab returned, David refused to admit him into his presence and had him banished to his quarters. What rankled Absalom was the fact that two years passed without the slightest indication that David had an interest in a reconciliation of the two.

**1 Kings 1:5-6** Some time after the death of Absalom, Adonijah decided since David had grown old he should make a bid for the throne to which he considered himself the heir. God had chosen Solomon for the position but Adonijah was not interested in God's will about this matter. David never questioned Adonijah about his intentions, words or actions. Consequently, he and his cohorts concluded they had the approval of David.

## LIFE AND WORK SERIES

## Is belief in God enough?

Conditions in Israel were grievous. The nation was on the brink of disaster. The people broke their covenant with God. When God saw those he had delivered from bondage, whom he had given the law and whom he had shown remarkable love and favor, steadily drifting into ease, extravagance and debauchery, he knew that a calamity was inevitable.

**Hosea 4:1-3a, 6, 12-13a** Because of violations of God's law, inexcusable idolatry and incorrigibility, the proud and corrupt people closed their eyes and minds to the truth and refused to be taught. Moreover, the time-serving priests were so unfaithful to their trust they allowed the people to perish for lack of knowledge. They connived or directly fostered the sinfulness of the people. A spiritual leadership will develop a spiritual people, and a spiritual people will aid in the development of a spiritual leadership. With those undesirable conditions prevailing it is not surprising that Hosea summoned the people to appear at God's tribunal to account for their stewardship. As certainly as Gomer deserted Hosea and played the harlot so the Israelites had gone away from God and plunged into the depths of sin. How tragic it was that the people forgot their responsibility to keep their covenant with God and turned to the worst pagan practices known to men.

**Hosea 5:3-4, 6, 14** Having been blessed in an exceptional manner, Ephraim became influential to a remarkable degree, as well as in the numerical growth of the tribe. So great was the influence of Ephraim the name became synonymous with Israel. Israel's sins had separated her from God and made her incapable of acceptable service for him. She had become so defiled that she did not have any inclination to repent and to be restored to fellowship with God.

## Convention memories

## Frank Owen

Last week, in observing that we don't need a one-issue ("inerrancy") SBC president, editor Daley cited the 1961 election of pastor K. Owen White of Texas amidst charges of heresy in our schools. I agree that such reactionary elections usually do not result in many radical changes. Leaders whose elections mandate them to hunt faults usually find internal denominational matters far better than previously represented and don't wish to stir up trouble. My own memories and observations from the above wild days are perhaps relevant.

I had met Dr. White, who had held revival at Cape Girardeau, Mo., with my then pastor, Dr. H. H. McGinty, later editor of the Word and Way in Missouri. However, I knew the man mostly years later through his prior work in Gainesville, Ga. where I also was later to serve and where his aged father still lived.

Many angry super-conservatives of our convention felt that they were the force that swept Dr. White into office and had thus mandated him to "clean out" some of our institutions. This writer thinks that they erred in judgment. White was not the mean, angry type. He was ultra-conservative but a gentle spirit. He refused the traditional honor of a second elected year in office.

During his one year presidency I met his plane in Lexington where he came on a close schedule to speak at our Kentucky Baptist Convention. I saw some of the pressure he must have regularly endured. Some waiting news people pressed into the same car with us to interview him as we drove to the church. They besieged him with hard questions calculated to magnify the current controversy about which they knew little and cared less. All his answers showed care and concern for our Baptist agencies. He appeared too gentle and kind to relish being looked to as leader and spokesman for an angry movement. I was not at all surprised when he announced his non-interest in a second term.

I pray in Houston this year we won't pass any proposals or elect any officers from a base of anger and suspicion. "Let your moderation be known to all men. The Lord is at hand" (Phil. 4:5).

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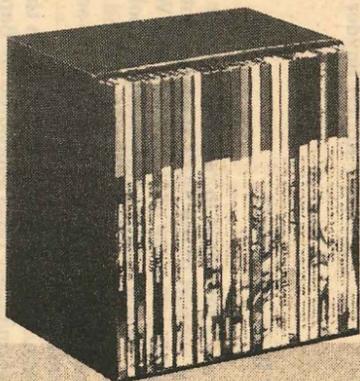
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## Baptist Forum: on SALT II

Peppering a letter writer

After reading a letter in your May 23 issue critical of your editorial on the SALT issue, I felt compelled to say something on the issue. I hardly think you demeaned the paper by debating an issue involving the future of mankind.

The critical letter also raised some popular misconceptions about SALT and dealing with the Russians in general. Here I must qualify my remarks by saying that I, too, am a veteran, and I have tried to study defense issues all my life objectively in addition to visiting Nagasaki and Hiroshima, Japan, where atomic weapons were first used against civilians not by the Russians but by the Americans in 1945.

The letter writer talked of respect but he could not even spell Krushchev's name right; Krushchev's remarks about burying the Americans were made 25 years ago in haste. Realistically, one should study the life and work of the present Russian Ambassador to the U. S. who helped negotiate SALT II, Mr. Dobrynin, as more representative of the Russian leadership today.

Americans should also study their history books more carefully and be aware of the legitimate security needs that motivate the Russians whether they are communists or czars. They have been horribly mangled by invasions from both east and west; their greatest danger today is from the Chinese who are also armed with nuclear weapons, not the Americans.

All this is not to say that we should not have a strong nuclear deterrent to counteract the radicals in the Russian leadership both now and in the future. But it is in the best interest of both sides to take carefully measured steps to slow down the arms race. It is impossible to stop it in the near future but significant steps have been taken since 1963. SALT II is but another small move: it does not disarm the American or the Russians. It continues to fashion a cap on new weaponry.

Robert Snyder, Georgetown

**SALT II: ill conceived?**

Here are a few ideas in response to your editorial urging support of the SALT II agreements.

The May 28 issue of U. S. News and World Report states "at last count, administration spokesmen had made 1600 speeches on 400 trips around the country—at taxpayer expense—in an effort to sell SALT II to the public."

Obviously, the recent conference on the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks sponsored by Baptists in the Louisville area was one of those used by these same spokesmen, promoting "peace" at the expense of the United States. As you reported, no opportunity was

available for any other point of view to be expressed. Certainly, the concept of "peace" appeals to all of us, but we need to examine the terms of such an important agreement.

A 62 page study has been made by the Coalition for Peace Through Strength, a private organization with more than 190 members of the Congress included in its membership. It states that the SALT II treaty is "ill conceived and places in jeopardy the security of the United States. It is not a genuine arms control agreement. It restricts the United States while permitting the Soviets to do what they had planned anyway. An arms control agreement, to have any value, must be comprehensive, truly balanced, verifiable and enforceable. SALT II meets none of these tests."

The study goes on to show the accord would give the Soviet Union "nearly a 2-to-1 advantage in strategic offensive weapons; a 47-to-1 advantage in strategic defensive weapons; a 6-to-1 advantage in missile megatonnage."

Questions are almost irrelevant as to whether the Soviets can be trusted, or whether the loss of observation posts in Iran weakens U. S. ability to monitor military activity within the U. S. S. R.

The real question is whether the SALT agreement will help or hinder the atheistic communists in their long announced strategy for world domination, "first by seizing the masses of Europe and Asia, then Africa and South America, and then that last bastion of capitalism, the United States, will fall like an over-ripe fruit into our hands."

With about two-thirds of the people on this earth now living under communist control, we need to be aware of the consequences. As nation after nation has fallen to communist domination, we have seen personal freedom disappear, human rights denied, and religious liberty outlawed. Doors have been slammed shut on missionary activity in country after country throughout the world as communists have taken over.

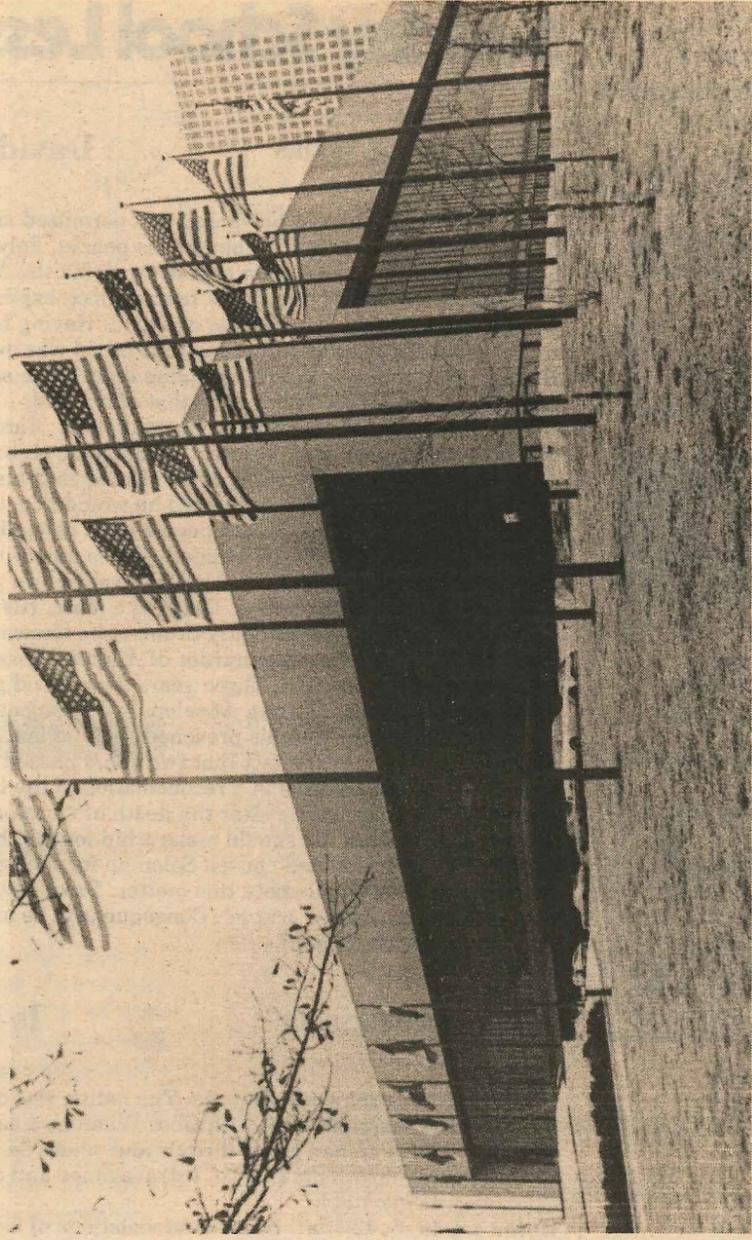
I have not been convinced that the kingdom of Christ is served by yielding to those who work against him and his teachings.

Whether we admit it or not, the unparalleled personal freedom and religious liberty we still enjoy and take so much for granted, comes to us through the grace of God and the sacrifices of those who have shared the idea of Patrick Henry: "Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"

Unless some attitude is developed to resist and reverse the present pace of the advance of atheistic communism, the "chains and slavery" may not be as remote as we like to think.

John V. Barnett, Bagdad

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