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# **BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR**

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News-Journal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention





## The Best Life Possible

John 10:10

By Lewis E. Rhodes

Broadway Baptist Church, Knoxville

Jesus came to give life, not death. His purpose in coming is consistent with man's search for the best life possible. Therefore



Rhodes

it is not sinful to aspire toward the best life possible. What makes for the best life possible is the question. Since life is a network of relationships, about five meaningful relationships are necessary.

One, one needs to be rightly related to God in Christ. The God we trust is Jesus-like. Our trust in Jesus Christ is trust in

God who raised him from the dead. This relationship begins in faith, continues in faith, and endures in faith to the end. Such shall be saved, said Jesus.

Two, one needs to be rightly related to himself. This requires one to know who he is, not who someone tells him he is. It requires self-esteem, self-respect, self-love, and personal dignity. Self-depreciation is not in agreement with Jesus' evaluation of persons. Nobody should view himself as a "nobody."

Three, one needs to be rightly related to other people. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself (Lev. 19:18). Neighbor love is measured by self-love. If one despises himself, loathes himself, runs himself down, he will do this to others. Thus, all prejudice against races, hate, injustice, and discrimination grow in the unhealthy love one has for himself. Genuine love for self frees one to love others. Self-love allows one the right to pursue his justified self-interests. Neighbor love does not allow one to pursue his interests at the expense of his neighbor, nor does it thwart one's neighbor in his justified self-interests.

Four, one needs to be rightly related to society. Jesus never said "love it or leave it," but love it and stay in it. "God so loved the world" and "God was in Christ reconciling the world." One needs to decide whether humanity is friend or enemy, whether to be loved or feared, and whether we open our arms to humanity or clench our fists. Is humanity to be fought or redeemed, killed or given life, condemned or forgiven? Are we to be dividers of men or reconcilers, shall we separate humanity into sheep and goats, wheat and tares, the good guys and the bad and identify them, or shall we let God decide who are the goats and sheep, and even decide which we are?

Five, one needs to be rightly related to creation. The Genesis story talks as if creation is good. Man should view the earth as God's. The earth is not up for "grabs." The creation command in Genesis is not to

## Pulpit To Pew

By Jim Griffith

It is not an easy truth for the preacher to grasp, but the depth of a sermon is still more important than the length.

When a member of a congregation says, "the preacher really extended himself today"—it is hoped that he means something more than "that long-winded preacher went way past 12 o'clock again."

There is the story of the preacher who habitually delivered long sermons that often rambled on for more than an hour.

It so happened that he fired two long and tiresome barrages at his congregation each Sunday, since his church featured two morning services.

One Sunday a blue flag with several stars was hanging behind the pulpit. After the benediction, a man came up and asked the pastor what the stars represented.

"Those are for our men lost in service," the minister explained.

"Oh," asked the man, "were they lost at the 9 o'clock or 11 o'clock service?"

### Court Rules Army Erred On West Point Objector

**NEW YORK**—The U. S. Court of Appeals, Second District, ruled here that the Army violated its own regulations in denying a discharge to a West Point cadet claiming eligibility as a conscientious objector.

An opinion handed down by Judge J. Joseph Smith said the Army must either schedule a rehearing for Cary E. Donham of New Baden, Ill., or appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The appeals court overturned a district court ruling denying Mr. Donham a writ of habeas corpus which could have set aside an Army decision that the 21-year-old youth did not qualify for C.O. status. (RNS)

exploit the earth. Dominion means right use of the earth, not the destruction of it. Poor stewardship roots in a poor theology of creation. The earth is not owned by us; consequently the fruits of the earth are not ours. They belong to the children of men. There is not a one of the 300,000,000 undernourished children in the world who is not entitled to eat of "our" bread. God does not dispense grace or bread on the basis of our earning it.

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On Matters of

## Family Living

By Dr. B. David Edens,  
Director, Marriage and  
Family Program  
Stephens College  
Columbia, Missouri 65201



## Majority of Solvent-Sniffers Are Middle-Class Young

The middle-class suburban white youngster apparently is more likely to sniff chemical solvents for a "high" than less affluent kids are, a medical survey of the bizarre practice indicates.

In the last 10 years, at least 110 U.S. youths have died after sniffing solvents for thrills and 81 of the victims were from middle-class, white suburban homes, Dr. Millard Bass, Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, recently reported in the AMA JOURNAL.

Autopsy findings suggested that the youths, aged 11 to 23, probably died as a result of acute abnormalities of the heart rhythm. "Sudden death was noted to frequently occur following sniffing and some sort of exercise or stressful situation," said Bass.

Some of the youngsters who died had sprayed solvents into plastic bags before inhaling them; others sniffed straight from tubes or aerosol containers.



## BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR

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# Baptist Broadcasts In Arabic Heard Throughout Middle East

**BEIRUT**—Baptist radio program in the Arabic language are now being heard throughout the Middle East, in the Mediterranean areas of North Africa, and as far east as Saudi Arabia, a Southern Baptist missionary here reported.

The programs are being broadcast from the Cyprus Broadcasting Corp., in Nicosia, Cyprus, according to SBC Missionary William T. (Pete) Dunn, director of the Baptist recording studio in Beirut.

Dunn said that new air time has been secured through cooperation with several evangelical groups who joined together to buy 15 minutes every evening this year on the medium wave station.

Baptists are supplying materials for the first 52 broadcasts, which began in late December.

The 52 programs are composed of two series. The first, "Word Pictures of Jesus," includes 26 personality studies of Christ, written by Mrs. J. Wayne Fuller, SBC missionary to Lebanon. The second, "The Man Called Jesus," is a series of 26 plays by J. B. Phillips, famed Bible translator and author of best-selling books.

The programs are broadcast each evening at 10:30 between two sessions of secular music. They were arranged by the efforts of the Middle East Communicators Fellowship, an organization created by several evangelical broadcasters for the purpose of obtaining cheaper rates, sharing research materials and solving problems.

Dunn reported that because of lack of funds, plans have been canceled for Arabic broadcasts over Trans-World Radio, located in Monte Carlo, Monaco and Far East Broadcasting Company transmitters in the Seychelles Islands. (BP)

## American Baptists Select Ten Top Stories For 1970

**VALLEY FORGE, Pa.**—A report of denominational structure, a hopeful financial prospect, the "association" of two Baptist organizations, and the election of an American as president of the Baptist World Alliance were ranked as the top American Baptist Convention news stories of 1970.

A staff panel of American Baptist News Service named the report of the Study Committee on Denominational Structure (SCODS), an 11-month report showing finances ahead of last year, among the top stories.

Receiving an equal number of votes were the decisions by the Progressive and American Baptist Conventions to become "associated" bodies; and the election of Dr. V. Carney Hargroves of Philadelphia to a five-year term as president of the Baptist World Alliance.

Other stories in the top ten were efforts of American Baptist Women to nominate Mrs. Marcus Rohlf of Seattle, as president for the ABC in 1971-72; the resignation of Dr. Edwin H. Tuller as general secretary of the denomination, and a reported decline in the number of women employees in the ABC.

The staff panel also rated the election of Dr. Roger Fredrikson of Sioux Falls, S.D., as president of the ABC, the publication of a Spanish-language magazine, "Avance," and the publication of the denomination's "The American Baptist" which replaced "Crusader" and "Mission," magazines previously published by the ABC, as among the top ten stories of 1970.

## TV 'Spots' Aimed At Children

**NEW YORK**—Four television commercials containing a catchy jingle and influenced by Sesame Street cartoons have been aimed at the sandbox set by three Protestant denominations.

The "Sharing" series was produced by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Episcopal Church, and the United Methodist Church.

Four 30-second spots star children at play—with balloons, a kaleidoscope, a wagon, and a talking chicken. "It's nice to share," say the children in the spots' simple story line.

Hamilton Wright, Jr., is the producer, Ralph Cummings wrote the jingle, and Al Stahl drew the animation for the series.

## Pope's Brother, A Doctor, Dies After Heart Attack

**BRESCIA, Italy**—Dr. Francesco Montini, 70-year-old brother of Pope Paul, died here (Jan. 10) following a heart attack.

The Pope, informed by telephone of his younger brother's death, offered a special Mass for Dr. Montini in his private chapel at the Vatican.

Dr. Montini, a physician, suffered a heart attack in 1962, but continued to work in the laboratory of the Fatebenefratelli clinic in Brescia.

He was the only one of the Pope's brothers still residing in the Montini hometown. The other brother, Ludovico, 74, a former Christian Democrat member of the Italian Senate, lives in Rome.

## Court Rules Amish Children Can't Be Forced To Attend High School

**MADISON, Wis.**—The Wisconsin Supreme Court has ruled that a state law requiring children to be sent to school through age 16 is unconstitutional as applied to members of the Amish sect.

The appeal was filed by the National Committee for Amish Religious Freedom after three members of the Amish community near New Glarus, Wis., had been fined \$5 apiece for failure to send their teen-age children to either public or private school until they were 17.

Writing the 6 to 1 majority opinion, Chief Justice E. Harold Hallows said in part:

"No liberty guaranteed by our Constitution is more important or vital to our free society than is a religious liberty protected by the free exercise clause of the First Amendment. This appeal poses the question of whether the compulsory education law of this state, as applied to Amish, infringes their religious liberty. . .

"We conclude that although education is a subject within the constitutional power of the state to regulate, there is not such a compelling state interest in two years' high school compulsory education as will justify the burden it places upon the appellants' free exercise of their religion." (RNS)

## Carson-Newman Board Names Chiles President

**JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn.**—Henry M. Chiles, pastor of Central Baptist church of Bearden, is the new chairman of the Carson-Newman College Board of Trustees.

Also selected for Board posts were Harry D. McNeely (vice president of Eastman Kodak Company and general manager of Eastman Chemicals Division of Eastman Kodak), vice chairman, and Robert Wise-carver (president of Greene County Bank, Greeneville), secretary.

A graduate of C-N and Southern Baptist Theological seminary, Chiles has been pastor of Central Baptist Church since 1951.



**Adrian Gonzales, left, coordinator for social work** of the Baptist Convention of Costa Rica and pastor, First Baptist church, San Jose, and Southern Baptist missionaries Donald H. Redmon, center, and Jackie B. Cooper inventory relief supplies provided by Costa Rican Baptists for flood victims on the Caribbean coast.



## *What's So Tricky?*

An article in the January, 1971 issue of **Church And State**, under the title "White House Religion: A Tricky Business," provides food for some interesting thought. Written by a Catholic lay theologian, Michael Novak, the article takes note of the assumed fact that "several ministers and laymen in Washington, D. C. are quietly gathering legal materials to bring suit to halt the Sunday morning worship services conducted in the White House under the Nixon regime."

The concluding paragraph of the article notes: "Sunday morning White House religion is not very American, not very Christian. It is private, antiseptic, deodorized religion, full of illusions about God, country and the human heart."

The article, critical in nature, asserts that the services are "not just worshipful in nature; they involve politics, prestige and an indication of intimacy with the people at the center of power . . ." Another statement: "All in all, many Americans find the combination of religion and private presidential politics somehow repugnant . . ."

The organization, Americans United For Separation Of Church And State, publishes the monthly magazine. The group used to be called Protestants And Other Americans United For the Separation of Church And State. Glenn L. Archer, Executive Director, is esteemed highly by this editor and thousands of Southern Baptists, who have over the years provided operational monies and moral support for this organization and its purposes.

This editor believes strongly in the principle of separation of church and state. He always has upheld, and will continue to uphold basic principles of this separation.

We wonder, however, what makes Sunday services in the White House so wrong—such an alleged "antiseptic, deodorized religion full of illusions about God . . .?" Surely there must be room for God in the White House too. Even at services on Sunday! The White House is a national symbol; it also is the residence of the President of the United States. One could even argue that if it is wrong there, then fellowship worship services in many homes (by invitation of one sort or another also) also must be wrong?

Conditions in America being what they are—security wise—the appearance of the President of the United States at a service of public worship not only poses grave security problems, but of itself, provides a distraction from worship.

Without wishing to ride a tired horse to death before he can get to a watering trough, we rather think the President is to be commended for enough concern for public worship to have these services. We believe they say much

to many Americans and to people throughout the world. Freedom of religion and divorce from religion still are two different things.

The writer of the article says: "To link God and Country too closely is to make an idol out of a finite, perhaps sinful, way of life." Yes, we agree we are not perfect. But we much prefer reading about a worship service in the White House than reading about some of the rather cavalier "bashes" reported in the press during the tenure of other Presidents in the White House.

We don't expect to be invited. But we are glad that there are some who gather—even if by invitation—with the President for public worship. And without seeking to be critical of **Church And State**, we really wonder why they printed this particular article in the first place.

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## *Better Use Of Opportunities:*

The communications world—primarily the newspapers and the radios—still offer exciting and profitable channels for witnessing by Baptist churches in Tennessee. Newspapers—daily and weekly—still print **news** from and about local churches if they can get it while it is still **news**, and in some semblance of order. Radio stations will broadcast **news** in their local newscasts, and in "community bulletin boards" if given to them while it still is **news**. In each instance, it has to be **news**. But, there are many ways to present **news**.

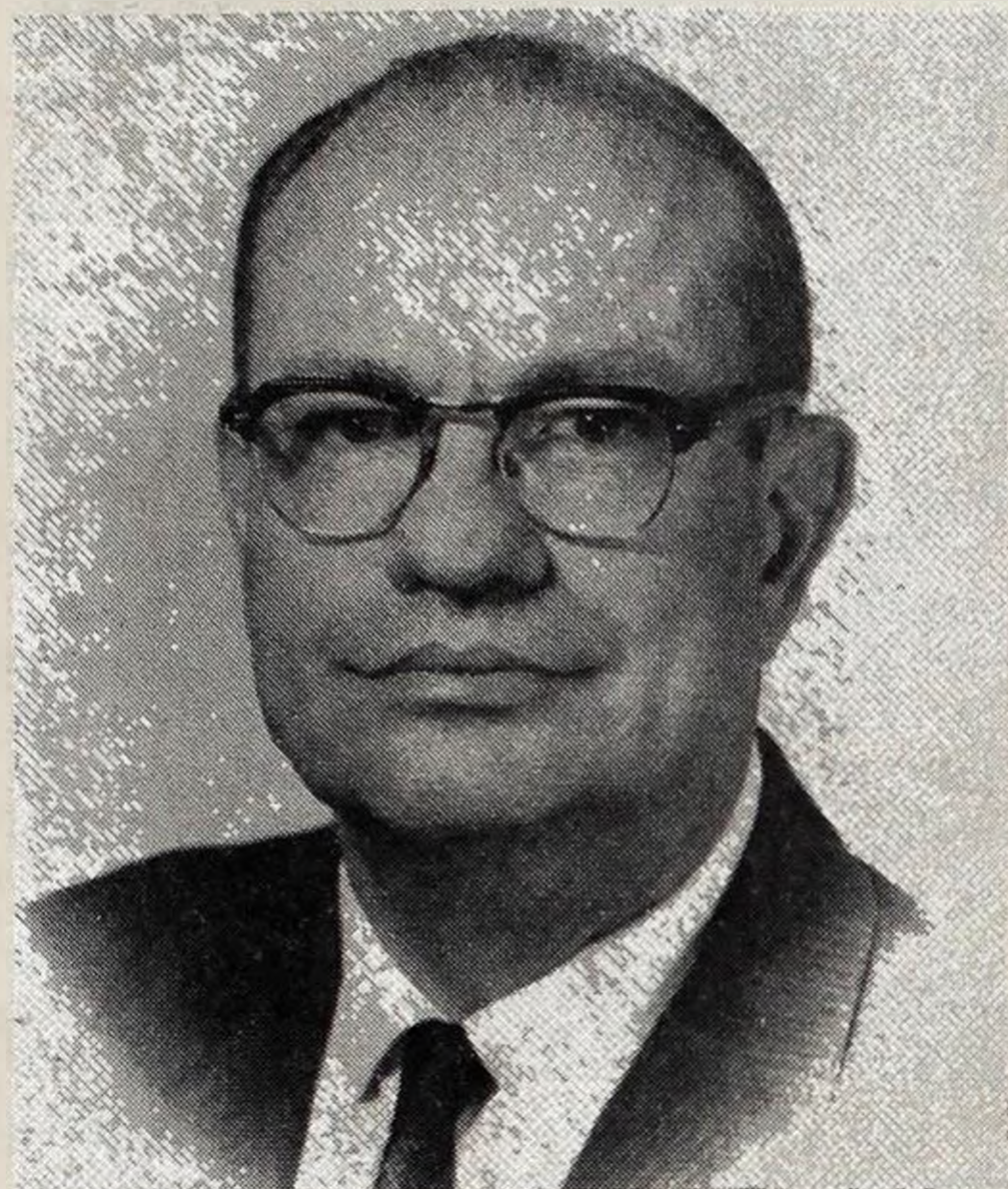
We know of many radio stations which used to give some time for devotionals to Baptist churches and associations; usually 15-minute segments. Then they quit. The reason? Too frequently the pastor, missionary, or other speaker didn't "show" at the last minute, leaving some announcer with the burden of filling 13 minutes of dead time and nothing to fill it with. We know of newspapers which used to carry articles by Baptist pastors. They quit. The reason? The articles began to arrive too late to use, and often became "rehashed sermons."

This is a challenge to pastors and their staffs to explore anew the possibilities of an extended ministry by cooperating with local news media. Some churches we know even sponsor high school football games, with religious "commercials."

A Baptist pastor still can do just about anything he wishes in terms of a growing witness; taking the necessary time, and making adequate preparation to do so. The values are too great to be overlooked. And it wouldn't hurt some churches to purchase time for 30-second, one-minute or longer "commercials" for the Lord.



# Davis C. Woolley Dies Was SBC Historical Commission Head



Davis C. Woolley

Memorial services were held in Nashville Sunday, afternoon, Jan. 17, for Dr. Davis C. Woolley, 62, executive secretary of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention for the past 11 years. Richard Smith, pastor, Glendale church, Nashville, and Albert McClellan, Program Planning secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention, conducted the special services.

Woolley died on Friday, Jan. 15, at Mediscenter in Nashville after an extended illness. Private burial took place in Woodlawn Memorial Park, Nashville on Saturday, Jan. 16.

Dr. Lynn E. May, Jr., research director for the Commission, has served as coordinator during Woolley's illness.

A native of Alabama and the son of a Baptist minister, Woolley served formerly as director of the Howard Extension department, Howard college (now Samford university), Birmingham, Ala.

Previous service included pastor, First Baptist church, Palatka, Fla., as well as serving as pastor of several churches in Kentucky.

He was a graduate of Draughton's Business college, Montgomery, Ala., Howard college, Birmingham, Ala., and Southern Baptist Theological seminary, Louisville,

About the cover: From the negative files of years past, the cover picture was reprinted for use this week as a reminder of some of our early beginnings in Theological Education. Located in the heart of New Orleans' Garden District, and known in early years as "The House That Robb Built," the building was a part of what became the Sophie Newcomb college; later a part of Tulane university.

Ky., with the master of theology and doctor of theology degrees.

Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, said that Woolley's death was the first time in more than a decade that a top SBC agency executive had died while serving in his position. Routh praised Woolley's contribution not only as a historian, but as chairman of the convention's Inter Agency Council, pastor, teacher, administrator, and churchman.

In addition to his widow, Woolley's survivors include: Two sons, James David, Chicago, Ill., and John, Nashville; three daughters, Mrs. Larry Crawford, Winston-Salem, N.C., and Mary and Nancy Woolley, both of Nashville; two brothers, Clifton Ward, Memphis, and Thomas Andrew, West Orange, Texas; and three sisters, Mrs. J. T. Weldon, Mobile, Ala., Mrs. J. E. Gooch, Columbus, Miss., and Mrs. E. D. Johnston, Macon, Ga.

Commenting on Woolley's death, Dr. Morgan Patterson, chairman of the Historical Commission, and a member of the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological seminary, Louisville, Ky., said, "Friends and colleagues of Dr. Davis C. Woolley were deeply saddened to learn of his death on Friday, Jan. 15. He served the Historical Commission diligently, competently, and imaginatively for nearly 12 years as executive secretary-treasurer. Several of his contributions and achievements in particular should be noted. First, his publishing projects, including a revision of the book, **Champions of Religious Freedom** (1963); editing **Baptist Advance**, a volume marking the 150th anniversary of organized Baptist work and issued in connection with the Jubilee Celebration in 1964; and authoring in 1969 a helpful work entitled, **Guide for Writing a History of a Church**. The journal **Baptist History and Heritage** was launched in 1965 under his supervision."

Patterson continued, "He also lead in sponsoring 'Great Moments in Baptist History.' This project was composed of a number of beautiful paintings on themes from Baptist history done by Erwin Hearne, Jr. These scenes have appeared as covers for numerous Baptist periodicals and quarterlies. In the preservation of church minutes and historical records Dr. Woolley intensified and enlarged the efforts of the Historical Commission. He also served well the Inter Agency Council as chairman of the coordinating committee. In this role his equanimity and wisdom became a stabilizing influence.

"During the last year and one half, he has been the main force in the preparation of the third volume of the En-

## Personally

By James A. Lester

The tongue is a mighty weapon. In a humorous vein, I recall the story of a person who came forward during an invitation,



Lester

and told the pastor: "I want to dedicate my whole life—every part of my body, including my tongue, to the Lord." To which the pastor is alleged to have replied: "Well\_\_\_\_\_, we'll do the best we can about your tongue, but the altar is only 13 feet long!"

A real pitfall for the Christian is gossip. It damages both the speaker and the person spoken about—or against—as the case may be. We don't rate sins, as our Catholic brethren do in terms of mortal and venial sins. If we were to make out a rating chart on sins which damage Christian character and Christian witness, however, I would place gossip just about at the top of the list.

How often I have heard a statement which directly, or by innuendo, amounted to nothing more than character assassination. Surely God is not pleased with this. The tenor of the world is one of criticism. It is very easy to talk about Brother\_\_\_\_\_ or Sister\_\_\_\_\_ and their alleged deeds or misdeeds, never fully realizing that the talk probably is a worse sin than the deeds discussed.

The Bible says the tongue is a mighty weapon. Wise people use powerful weapons wisely. I am almost tempted to equate gossip with a definition of harangue as quoted in "The Devil's Dictionary." It is there defined as: "A speech by an opponent, who is known as harangue-outang."

### Southern Presbyterian College Gets Duke Endowment Grant

DAVIDSON, N.C.—Davidson college, which is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church, U.S. (Southern), has received a \$220,000 specific educational purposes grant from the Duke Endowment.

The grant for fiscal year 1971-72 provides \$125,000 for faculty and staff salaries. Other allocations were \$65,000 for library operations, \$20,000 for the new Honors College program and \$10,000 for a new Career-Service program. (RNS)

cyclopedia of Southern Baptists which will be released in May, 1971. Dr. Woolley guided this significant project as managing editor," Patterson said.

Patterson concluded his remarks by saying that "Dr. Woolley was dearly loved and appreciated by all who knew him. But more than that, his energies and gifts were devoted to Southern Baptists in an effort to remind them of the importance of their history and the need to preserve it for future generations."



# Seminary's New Dean Calls For Rethinking Seminary Aims

**MILL VALLEY, Calif.**—In his inaugural address, the new academic dean of Golden Gate Baptist Theological seminary here called for rethinking of the aims of seminaries through increasing the role of field education in the curriculum.

Elmer L. Gray, who assumed duties as academic dean in August and was inaugurated in January, said current criticisms that ministers are being inadequately trained "implies that the nature of theological education is not sufficiently professional."

Gray answered the charge by saying that "the seminary" needs to reexamine what it is doing.

He proposed a wide expansion of a field education program begun at Golden Gate seminary in September "to better orient students to the seminary, community, and to help in defining the students role."

## Field Education

Gray further advocated the inclusion of field education in the seminary curriculum on a part with studies for which credit is given.

The seminary should stress competence in the ministry, rather than overemphasize scholastic excellence, he said. Gray added that excellence should certainly not go unrecognized, but said an increased stress on competence is needed to qualify students for the Christian ministry.

The demands of the practical and ideal make it difficult to define the seminary's approach to education, Gray continued. On one hand education is expected to prepare persons for participation in the groups with which they are related. On the other, education hopes to "develop persons toward the fulfillment of their life capacities."

"It is something of the case of which do you want?—Good grammar or good taste? Gray suggested that the best education for the minister would be both professional and academic and recommended that the academic approach be continued in the seminary, with an upgrading of the professional approach.

## Face Problems Alone

"It is no wonder that ministers are confused today," Gray continued. The minister of today "is under pressure to respond to the world at large, the community with its varied interests, persons in need and facing crises, the denomination, his peers, his congregation and even his family."

The minister often faces his complex circumstances and problems alone and unsupported, Gray said.

"He may feel that his seminary training didn't adequately prepare him for the response(s) he must try to make." Small incomes, obligations to church policies he may feel aren't right or worthwhile—all of these contribute to a confused state among many

ministers today concerning their role, he said.

It is the seminary's responsibility to clarify its understanding of the minister's role and the work of the ministry, and the curriculum should reflect these concepts, Gray argued.

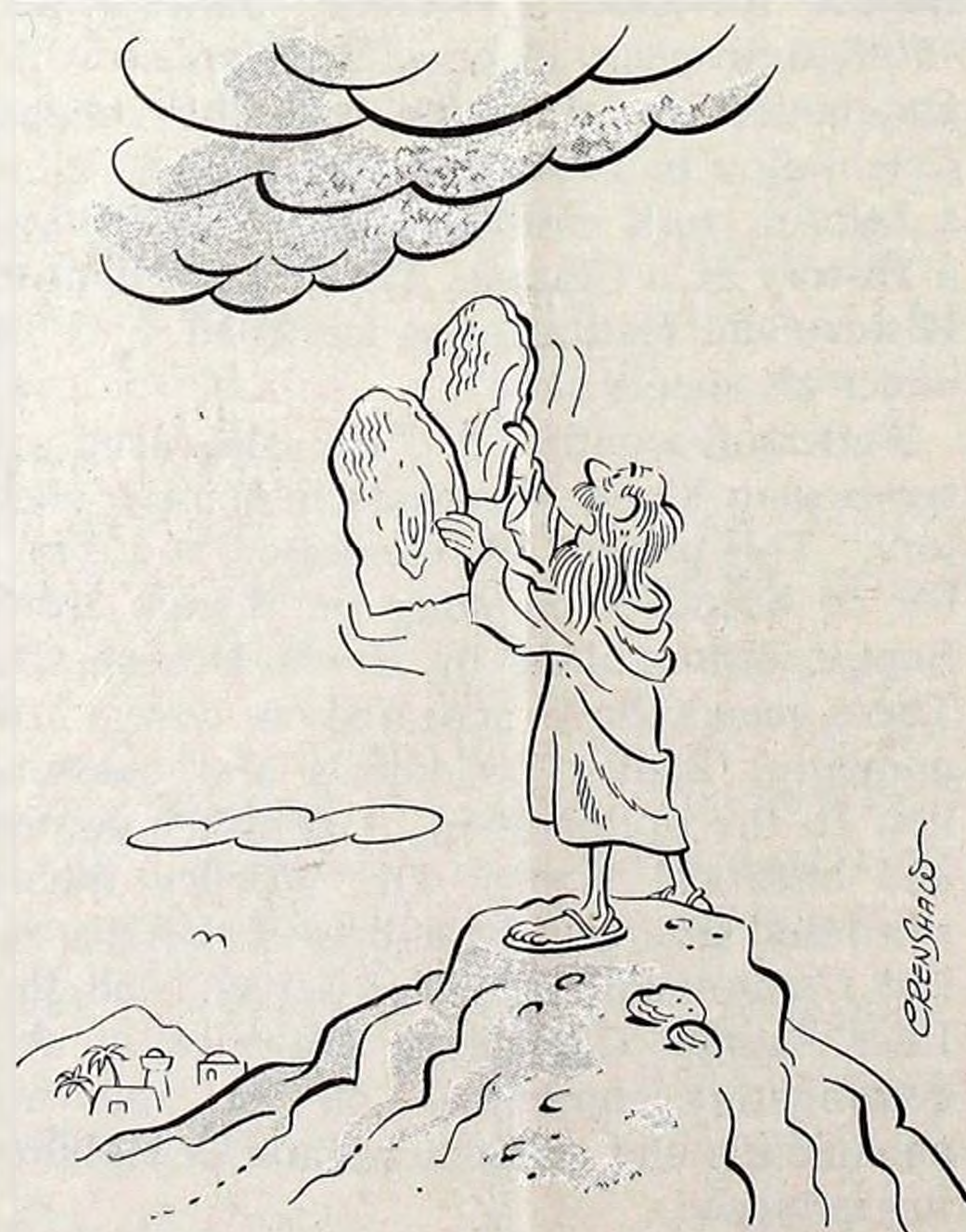
He then outlined some personal qualities that he said must be developed by the modern minister, adding that in no way "do they rule out the working of God. By becoming competent the minister will not rely less on God but rather be available to him for greater service."

Gray said the minister of today is a "generalist in the day of specialization." He must be able to identify with his own situation and be able to analyze its objectively. He should be able to appreciate his physical and social environment and feel comfortable in it. A minister particularly needs to be a "thinking person," Gray said.

Numerous representatives of the Southern Baptist Convention, theological seminaries, and colleges and universities attended the inaugural ceremonies, a reception, and a luncheon honoring the new dean.

Gray, who is also professor of religious education at Golden Gate, was formerly Sunday School department manager of the SBC Sunday School Board and taught at Golden Gate from 1959-1967. During his previous years at the seminary, he served as head of the division of Religious Education and professor of church administration.

He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist university, Shawnee, and received the master and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological seminary, Fort Worth. (BP)



"Just in case of breakage, could I have a duplicate copy?"

## Korean Clergyman Heads Mennonite Congregation

**PHILADELPHIA, Pa.**—The oldest Mennonite church in the country, with a solidly German background, is now being served by a man who is the world's first Korean Mennonite clergyman.

The Rev. Heyoung Whang, 33, a doctoral student at Dropsie university, was once a Methodist. He is currently pastor at Germantown Mennonite church, a congregation founded in 1683 by German immigrants.

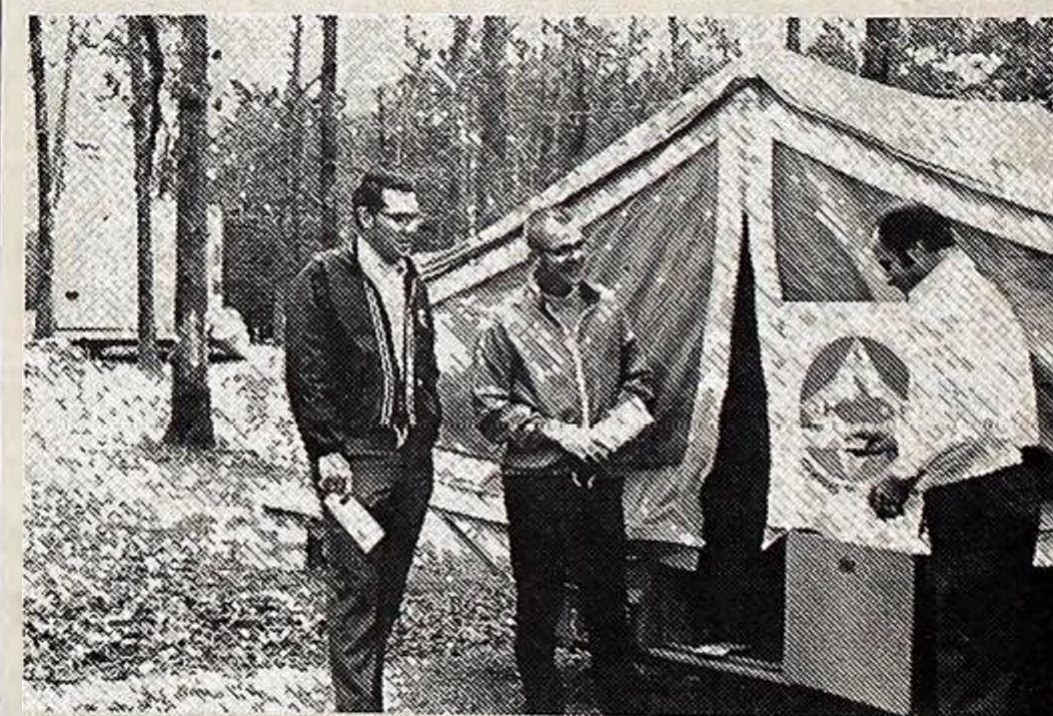
When Mr. Whang came to study at Dropsie, he struck up a friendship with the pastor of the Mennonite church. Then the Mennonite minister went to Israel on an archeological expedition, and Mr. Whang assumed the pastorate of the church. (RNS)

## Fellowship Begun For Christian Campers

**ATLANTA**—Initial announcement of formation of a fellowship of Christian campers, Campers On Mission (COM) was made here recently. Sponsors of the new organization are the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Church Recreation Department of the Sunday School Board.

Campers On Mission hopes to motivate Christian campers to seek out each other and join to minister to the needs of other campers on the grounds.

The organization is the brain child of the Board's Department of Rural Urban Missions which specializes in resort ministries. "We desire that this operation will have a definite contribution in winning people to Christ and in lifting the moral and spiritual atmosphere of camp grounds," John McBride, assistant secretary of the Department said. "We know how important this can be because of past experiences."



Larry Haslam, left, a member of the staff of the Church Recreation department, Baptist Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Don Hammonds, center, secretary of the department of Special Mission Ministries, and John McBride, associate director of Associational Services, both with the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Atlanta, Ga., examine the emblem for "Campers on Mission," a new fellowship for Christian campers.



## Critical Issues Booklets Available For Conferences

**NASHVILLE**—Five booklets on critical issues which will serve as background materials for study in Leadership Readiness Conferences this spring have been released by church literature department.

The issues—evangelism, the cooperative program, moral issues, vocational guidance and family ministries—will be discussed in the conferences and definite plans of action for churches formulated.

The issues or areas of concern were voted by the Southern Baptist Convention as emphases to be stressed in 1971-72. The issues were set forth by 43 study groups of church members and leaders.

"Moral Issues 1971-72" deals with alcoholism, racism, delinquency, political corruption, poverty and church-society relationships.

"Evangelism 1971-72" covers the topics "Why A Church Must Act Now," "Getting Ready" and "Plan of Action."

Practical approaches to assist church leaders in their understanding of occupational choices as spiritual decisions will be covered in "Vocational Guidance 1971-72."

"Family Ministry 1971-72" is aimed at assisting church councils in discovering needs in the area of family ministries.

"Cooperative Program 1971-72" deals with helping churches plan and promote the cooperative program.

All of the booklets also contain resource lists, guidance materials and plans for effective use of the materials.

The five booklets will be available at most Leadership Readiness Conferences. They may be ordered now from Church Literature Department, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville Tenn. 37203.



**Dr. Ramsey Pollard, pastor, Bellevue church, Memphis, and Mrs. Pollard, observed their 45th year in the gospel ministry on Dec. 16. R. G. Lee, right, pastor emeritus of Bellevue, presents Pollard a Bible given by the Bellevue staff.**

## Scrolls Found In Jordan Held Forerunner of Alphabet

**ANN ARBOR, Mich.**—The discovery of eight ancient scrolls, dating from about the time of the prophet Elijah and perhaps containing the forerunner of the modern alphabet, was disclosed here by Dr. George F. Mendenhall, former director of the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem.

Now a professor at the University of Michigan, the scholar and Lutheran minister said eight manuscripts were purchased four years ago by Dr. William Brownless of Claremont (Calif.) Graduate School through the Department of Antiquities of Jordan.

The scrolls are believed to have come from an ancient site in the district of Hebron and to date between 1000 and 850 B.C. Dr. Mendenhall, called in to work with Dr. Brownlee, thinks they may be Philistine in origin.

Philistine civilization flourished in Palestine before, and for a time concurrent with, the conquest of the area by Hebrew tribes and the early kingdom of Israel.

Dr. Mendenhall believes the scrolls came from the period of Elijah, a prophet who chastized the kings of Israel for their tendency to assimilate the religious practices of the Philistines and Canaanites.

The documents, the professor said, all seem to be funeral books. The code of the alphabet has not been deciphered. Mendenhall said there appear to be more than 40 symbols and the documents may well represent the earliest known example of the alphabet borrowed by Greeks and Etruscans (a people in Italy) and the one which is used today.

"A surprising number of the characters—like A,D,E,F,H,I,J,K,O,T,X, and Z—are virtually identical to our modern capital letters," he said.

If the scrolls are Philistine, deciphering will help to show links in ancient thought and civilization, Mendenhall feels. (RNS)

## Baptist Scout Sponsorship In Spain Is Questioned

A Roman Catholic parish newspaper has attacked the right of the Baptist church in La Corunna, Spain, to sponsor a Boy Scout troop.

It charged that there are not enough Protestant youth in the city to make such a Scout troop possible. It claimed, therefore, that this was just a Baptist effort to "proselytize." It warned parishioners that only a Catholic Scout troop has the right to exist.

Baptist pastor Vicente Tafalla said the parish paper was wrong. There are at least 100 Protestant youth in La Corunna who are of Scouting age. The group established by the Baptist church is non-denominational, although several Scouts belong to the Baptist congregation. (EBPS)

## Air Force Cadets Make Up "God Squad"

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.**—Four cadets of the Air Force Academy here are teaching Sunday School students about God with their guitars and voices in folk ballad tempo.

The group formed only a few months ago, already has such an appeal that the young men cannot meet all the requests for appearances.

Nicknamed the "God Squad" by their enthusiastic audiences, Fourth Class (freshman) Cadets Ronald L. Crenshaw, Indianapolis; Mike Cutbirth, Anaheim, Calif.; Gordon H. Quanbeck, Commack, N.Y., and Earl W. Matlock, Godfrey, Ill., sing for various Sunday School classes at the Academy housing area each week. They also perform for church banquets and other meetings.

Ronald Crenshaw says, "Our method to teach children about God has proved to be a wonderful way. It reaches them without boring them. I've found that kids become restless listening to talk. Our music relaxes them. It's soft sell through singing and playing. The hymns tell the story." (RNS)

## Seminary Launches 'Prayer Partner' Drive For Release Of War Prisoners

**WILMORE, Ky.**—A program of prayers aimed at securing the release of American servicemen imprisoned in North Vietnam prison camps has been launched by Asbury Theological Seminary, an interdenominational school here.

The school's Department of Prayer and Spiritual Life, headed by Dr. Thomas A. Carruth, is issuing "Prisoners Prayer Partner Program" cards to people throughout the county, encouraging prayer and publicity aimed at securing the release of imprisoned servicemen.

Carruth said that a great outpouring of public sentiment may hasten a prisoner exchange. "I think North Vietnam is defeating itself in world opinion," he said, "To release them (the prisoners) would gain North Vietnam a measure of goodwill." (RNS)

## Divorces Up Sharply Under New California Law

**BERKELEY, Calif.**—Divorces in California rose 39.02 per cent in 1970—the first year of the state's new liberal divorce law.

The State Department of Health reported 114,000 divorces in 1970, up sharply from the 82,000 recorded in the previous year.

California's liberalized law, which became effective Jan. 1, 1970, eliminated traditional grounds for divorce (notably adultery and cruelty) and substituted "irreconcilable differences" or insanity as the only reasons for dissolving a marriage. (RNS)



# Tennessee News Briefs

First church, Bells, has ordained **Dr. C. N. Hickman** and **Hinton Climer** as deacons. The church recently paid off a \$90,000 indebtedness on their educational unit, and has begun a remodeling program for the sanctuary. **Jim R. Osborne** is pastor.

**Robert Lowry** and **M. H. G. Ford** have been elected Life Deacons by the deacon board of Island Home church, Knoxville.

**Charles L. Norton**, secretary, Church Training department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, was guest speaker at the Jan. 19 meeting of the Religious Education-Music Association of Shelby County association. The meeting was held at Highland Heights church. **Norton** spoke on the "Whys" and "What-fors" of the Leadership Readiness Conferences to be held in February.

**J. O. Carter**, pastor, Miracle church, Concord association, is at home recuperating from surgery.

Balmoral church, Memphis, **Ernest S. Owens, Jr.**, pastor, has begun construction on the first unit of their building program. Estimated cost of the building is \$115,000. **Owens** spent two weeks in evangelistic work with missionary **Richard Walker** in Brazil recently. He also served as "M" Night speaker in Moline, Ill., recently.

A Literacy Clinic was held at First church, Memphis, Jan. 18-21 with **Mildred Blankenship** in charge.

**Dr. Edwin Cocke, Jr.**, an otolaryngologist on the staff of Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, was elected president of the staff at a recent meeting of the general medical staff. **Dr. Cocke** is a graduate of the University of Tennessee Medical school. **Dr. Russell Patterson**, a general surgeon on the staff, was named president-elect, to take office Jan. 1, 1972. **Dr. Patterson** is also a graduate of the University of Tennessee Medical school.

**Sidney Waits**, pastor, Hickory Hills church, Shelby County association, observed his 25th anniversary in the ministry recently. On that day, there were 508 persons in Sunday School, a record for Hickory Hills.

**D. M. Renick**, pastor, LaBelle Haven church, Memphis, has been elected the new president of the Baptist Pastors' Conference of Shelby County association. Elected to serve with **Renick** are: **Ira Cole**, pastor, Broadmoor church, vice president; **Sam Parks**, pastor, Second church, Millington, secretary-treasurer; **Sidney Waits**, pastor, Hickory Hills church, program chairman; and **Darryl Pursley**, minister of music, Broadway church, music chairman.

**Lewis Moore**, a member of Park Avenue church, Nashville, is retiring as Postmaster of the Nashville Post Office after 22 years in that position. **Bob Mowrey** is pastor at Park Avenue.

Georgian Hills church, Memphis, has purchased a new pastorium. **Lloyd Lawrence** is pastor.

Robertsville church, Oak Ridge, plans to observe its 25th anniversary on Sunday, Jan. 31. A special invitation is extended to former members, especially charter members, to attend the special services.

Fairview church, Nashville, has honored pastor and **Mrs. Marion E. Smith** with a trip to the Holy Land. **Smith** has been at Fairview for the past four years.

The Woman's Missionary Union of Chilhowee association has contributed more than \$1000 in food, clothing and cash to assist the families of married ministerial students attending Harrison-Chilhowee academy in Seymour. **Mrs. Andy M. LeLozier**, chairman of the WMU committee responsible for this effort, is a member of the academy's graduation class of 1918.

**Milton A. Webb**, executive director of the Mid-South Christian Counseling Center in Memphis, will teach New Testament during the Spring semester at the Baptist Student Union center on the campus of Memphis State university.

**Herman Green, Jr.**, has been named consultant in family ministries in the program of family ministry, Church Training department of the Baptist Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. **Green** is a graduate of Union university, Jackson and Southern Baptist Theological seminary, Louisville, Ky.

## Leadership Changes

Poplar Creek church, Clinton association, has called **Walter E. Hare** as pastor. He comes to Poplar Creek from Asheville, N.C., where he served as pastor of Christian Creek Baptist church.

Westhaven church, Memphis, has called **Lyn Claybrook** as interim pastor.

**John Goforth**, pastor, Ewtonville church, Ewtonville, has resigned to become pastor of Oakwood Baptist church in Chickamauga, Ga.

Ramer church, Ramer, has called **William Copeland** as pastor. He served formerly as pastor of First church, Clifton.

Gibson church, Gibson, has called **William T. Spencer, Jr.**, as pastor. He served formerly as pastor of Nashway church, Jackson.

## Religion Around the World

**Ernest A. Mehaffey**, pastor, First Baptist church, Chesnee, S.C., has been named associate in the Missions department of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, Columbia. Mehaffey will work chiefly with the Baptist Education and Missionary Convention, a Negro Baptist group and with leadership groups "seeking to promote Christian understanding among all Baptists in South Carolina," according to **A. Harold Cole**, chief executive of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Miss **Nannie Bland David**, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Nigeria, died at her home in Meridian, Miss. on Jan. 10, just five days after her 84th birthday. Services were held Jan. 12 in Meridian, with burial in Glenwood cemetery, Houston, Texas.

The Southern Baptists' Radio and Television Commission annual program honoring broadcasters, the Abe Lincoln Awards, will be held Feb. 12, Lincoln's birthday, and will be accompanied this year by a benefit entertainment program featuring folk baladeer **Burl Ives** and the Centurymen choir. The event will draw top men in broadcasting from across the nation to Fort Worth, Texas, the home of the Commission.

**Mrs. Barbara L. Nelson**, principal of Hawaii Baptist academy, Honolulu, has been chosen as Hawaii's Outstanding Young Woman for 1970 by the General Federation of Women's Clubs. This award is given for outstanding achievement in the areas of betterment of community, country, and profession. **Mrs. Nelson** is recognized for her achievements in bringing the Baptist academy to its high level of academic excellence. She is also responsible for the evangelistic and missionary zeal of the school.



Nelson

The academy is a college preparatory school, started by Southern Baptist missionaries, and is one of the prime missionary outreaches of Southern Baptists in Hawaii.

## Revival Results

Shawnee church, Cumberland Gap association, reports two professions of faith and several rededications during their recent revival. During the revival a new Training Union class for young adults was started. **Boyd M. Roberts**, pastor, Blackberry Hollow Baptist church, Rose Hill, Va., was the evangelist. **Clyde Bollinger** is pastor.



# Federal Agencies Launch Major Drive Against Drunken Driving

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. government has launched, for the first time, a concerted, coordinated attack on the massive problem of drunken driving on U.S. highways.

Most recent studies show that each year social and problem drinkers kill more than 25,000 persons, cause 800,000 accidents, and account for economic losses estimated at between 7 and 8 billion dollars.

On Jan. 11, two federal agencies concerned with alcoholism and highway safety joined forces to stem the highway carnage.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe and Elliot L. Richardson, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) signed an agreement coordinating alcoholism programs of the National Institute of Mental Health with those of the Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

## Drunken Driving

The agreement calls for expanding and accelerating the activities of the two agencies, with a major focus on the problem of drunken driving.

Announcement of the agreement came on the heels of the \$300-million Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act signed by President Nixon on Jan. 2.

The bill was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Harold E. Hughes (D.-Iowa), a recovered alcoholic. It was co-sponsored by Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R.-N.Y.) and Sen. Frank E. Moss (D.-Utah).

HEW secretary Richardson said the Alcohol-Alcoholism Act, along with interagency collaboration provided in the new agreement, "gives us for the first time the tools we need to fight alcohol abuse and alcoholism on a nationwide scale."

The agreement calls for a huge education program, including public service messages on radio and television, in newspapers and magazines to demonstrate that "reasonable" drinking is not incompatible with modern living.

More communities will be brought into the program of the Highway Traffic Safety Administration to bring local action to bear on "undisciplined drinking-driving."

## Guidelines To Be Issued

Secretary Volpe said the program of information and education would be directed as much to state and local authorities as to the general public. Guidelines will be issued on identification and discipline for alcoholics, he said, based on the concept that "alcoholism is a disease."

Alcoholism has been denied and swept under the rug for so long that estimates of the number of alcoholics in the U.S. are among the most challenged of statistics, but many authorities agree with the plausi-

bility of the figures given by Mark Keller, editor of the Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol. Mr. Keller has estimated that—conservatively—there are between 4 and 5 million alcoholics in the U.S., or about 4 per cent of the total adult population.

Other sources give higher estimates. An October 1970 report to the Special Subcommittee on Alcoholism and Narcotics of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare of the U.S. Senate, said:

## Over 9 Million Alcoholics

"According to one authority on alcoholism who testified at a Congressional hearing in May, 1970, on the problem of alcoholism, there were over 9 million alcoholics in the United States."

Secretary Richardson asserted that according to "our most recent estimates," there are "some 10 million Americans" who are "dependent on alcohol."

"This is a shocking figure," he said, "that yet does not begin to reveal the damage to the nation in terms of alcohol-related diseases, broken families, economic ruin and death."

Volpe cited an estimate of the Highway Traffic Safety Administration that at least one-half of the 55,000 annual traffic fatalities are caused by drunken driving. He said, "It appears that problem drinkers—not social drinkers—are most to blame."

Dr. Bertram S. Brown, director of the National Institute of Mental Health, said that great care would be needed in the planned information-education program, "lest the federal government be accused of teaching people how to drink."

"In a sense that would be true," he said, but added, "A responsible citizen who drinks must know the properties of alcohol—how it affects the body, mind and behavior; what are the effects of various quantities; what restraints a drinker should observe if he is operating a motor vehicle." (RNS)

## Presbyterians In Kentucky Complete Presbytery Unions

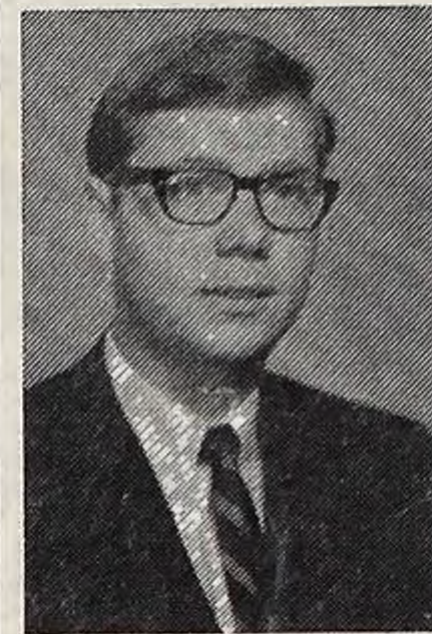
LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Of 17 Southern and border states and territories whose Presbyterians split according to Civil War sympathies more than a century ago, Kentucky is the first to have its Presbyterians completely reunited.

Some 50,000 members of 222 Presbyterian congregations across the state now are constituents of both the United Presbyterian Church (Northern) and the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (Southern).

The reunion was accomplished through the merger of each of the United Presbyterians' three presbyteries, or regional governing units, with its counterpart Southern presbytery. (RNS)

## Dan Aleshire Named Peabody BSU Director

Dan Aleshire has been named part-time Baptist Student Union director at Peabody college, Nashville, according to W. Fred Kendall, executive secretary-treasurer, Tennessee Baptist Convention. Aleshire is presently serving as youth director at Immanuel church, Nashville.



Aleshire

A recent graduate of Belmont college, Nashville, Aleshire has completed one year of study at Southern Baptist Theological seminary, Louisville, Ky., and is enrolled as a graduate student at Peabody, working toward a Ph.D. in Psychology.

Mrs. Aleshire is the former Jo Ellen Gabhart, of Nashville.

## Enrolment Gaining At Harrison-Chilhowee

The Spring semester at Harrison-Chilhowee academy, Seymour, began Jan. 18 with approximately 18 new students, new staff members, and new additions to the curriculum, according to Hubert Smothers, academy president.

This year the school is making a special effort to bring student enrolment to the exact level provided for by classrooms and dormitory space, according to Smothers.

New staff members include: Miss Andrea Webster, dean of girls of Atchley Girls' dormitory and teaching beginning Art, formerly a staff member of Arlington Baptist church, Knoxville; and Miss Linda Bonaventure, native of Pennsylvania, assistant dean of girls, working with Miss Webster, as well as coaching the girls' basketball team and directing the girls' physical education program.

Driver education, taught by coach Lester McCarter, and golf instruction, given by Jerry Breedlove, dean of boys at Schubert Boys' dormitory, are new additions to the curriculum.

## Mary Lou Hobart Dies; Former Missionary

Miss Mary Lou Hobart, 38, missionary to East Africa for 10 years, died Jan. 12 in Memphis, Tenn., following a prolonged illness. A funeral service was to be held Jan. 14 in Second Baptist Church, Memphis, with burial in Greenville, Miss., her hometown.

Miss Hobart was appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1959. She worked at a Baptist community center in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, directing a kindergarten, training kindergarten teachers, and working with young people and parents in the community.



# Too Many Preachers Play Golf

By Duke McCall, President  
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

The essence of golf is to do the thing unnaturally. This principle of success gets fixed in the preacher's mind so that he tries to swim upstream, cut across the grain, construct the kingdom of God contrary to human nature.

When Peale proves that the vacuum in the human spirit can be met and filled by showing the affirmative approach of the biblical faith, the mass of ministers make fun of the power of positive thinking. When people respond to a revival focused at the cultural level of their musical tastes, their intellectual apprehension of reality, their capacity for emotion involvement, then the "prophetic" preachers from Mount Olympus announce that the only effective evangelism is a dull lecture on obtruse theological subjects in which even theologians are not interested.

The past strength of the Southern Baptist Convention grew from the fact that they were led by pragmatists. They did whatever worked. A J. N. Barnette could figure out the predictable ratio between the number of classes (that is, Sunday school teachers) and the size of the Sunday school. He never did explain that the pride of the Sunday school teacher required him to go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in so that he might have someone to teach. We learned to break down class size by all of the available categories, age, sex, and marital status. That produced a lot of units requiring a teacher. The quality of teaching was not always so good, but the enlistment dynamics were tremendous. And some who came to fill a quota remained to pray and found peace with God.

I always thought paper banners strung around the balcony of the church was a silly form of revival promotion; yet somehow the people who signed their name on a paper banana and got it hung in the sanctuary felt obligated to participate in the revival activities. Now during a revival we have neither the bananas nor the people in the balcony. Childish as the gimmick was, it worked. And the people who came to be

counted were convicted, confessed their sins, and were converted to Christ.

Now the problems are tougher because we do not have a homogenized heritage. The urban flow of populations across the nation, the diversity of educational experiences, and different levels of sophistication, make it hard to say what the average Baptist or prospective church attender is like. So, we put together the most exotic set of human characteristics possible and tailor our religious activities to that myth. A few South-

ern Baptists have just acquired a taste for liturgical worship, so every discussion of worship insists that you must keep your left arm straight on the backswing. Fortunately, a few of our church members have acquired a taste for genuine Bible study, so everybody has to grab hold with the overlapping grip and look only at the ball while knocking it over the pond. All emotional lunges have got to be turned into a smooth, flowing swing.

Well, doing it this unnatural way is great for golf, and maybe it will work in religion, but I doubt it.

I notice that in the New Testament Jesus met people where they were and talked to them in terms of their interest. He seemed indifferent to the style but always controlled the subject—the kingdom of God.

Reprinted from *The Tie*, January, 1971

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### Mennonite Board Income Rises

**SALUNGA, Pa.**—The Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities, which has its headquarters here, went over its 1970 income budget goal, receiving \$1.5 million in the fiscal year, according to figures released here.

The total reflects income for home and foreign missions, relief and voluntary service. Mission expenses exceeded the budget by \$5500 but contributions went over the goal by \$8100, according to retiring treasurer Ira J. Buckwalter. (RNS)

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70 Scholars Contribute To Methodist Commentary

NASHVILLE—The work of 70 Protestants, Roman Catholic and Jewish scholars will be included in the Interpreter's One-Volume Commentary on the Bible, announced here by Abingdon Press, a United Methodist agency.

Scheduled for publication Sept. 7, the 1408-page work is the first such commentary prepared by Abingdon since 1929. In recent years, the Methodist Publishing House unit issued the now standard 12-volume Interpreter's Bible and the four-volume Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible.

Dr. Charles Laymon, chairman of the department of religion at Florida College, Lakeland, is general editor of the Commentary. It will sell for \$14.95 (plain) and \$16.95 in thumb-indexed editions before Dec. 31. Prices will go up \$3 on each edition in 1972.

The book will contain commentaries on Old and New Testament books, and the Apocrypha, plus general articles. It will also feature 171 photographs, indexes of Scripture and subjects and tables on chronology, measures and money. (RNS)

From Pastor, To Barber, To Pastor; Shelton's Story

Louis Shelton has been called as pastor of First Baptist church, Ridgetop. Since July of 1968 Shelton has been a barber in the Medical Center Plaza Barber Shop, Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis. He served formerly as pastor of Baptist churches in Tennessee, Texas, Arkansas, and Ohio. Shelton's story is one of going from the ministry (after 23 years) to barbering and back to the ministry.

When he came to Memphis he was to fill a position as associate pastor of a Baptist church but due to unusual circumstances the vacancy was not open. Without a church and job, he fell back on the experience he had gained as a barber while in the Navy. He attended barber college in Memphis and was employed at the hospital barber shop upon graduation.

A graduate of Union university, Jackson, Shelton attended Southwestern Baptist Theological seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Shelton and his wife, Shirley, have two children, Charlotte Ann and Louis, Jr.

First Woman Receives Doctorate At Southern

Mrs. Fay Woody Leach received the doctor of education degree during graduation exercises in Dec., 1970 at Southern Baptist Theological seminary, Louisville, Ky. Mrs. Leach is the first woman to receive a doctor's degree at the seminary.

Mrs. Leach was among 111 other students who received degrees during exercises held in the school's Alumni Memorial Chapel.

Congressional Commission Would End Death Penalty

WASHINGTON, D.C.—An end to the imposition of the death penalty for any federal crime was advocated by a special Congressional commission charged with formulating a new and concise code of federal law.

Among the group's other radical recommendations was a complete ban on private ownership of handguns, and the reduction

of penalties for possession of marijuana to fines in lieu of prison terms.

At the same time, the commission recommended the retention of present federal statutes forbidding the sale or transportation of obscene and pornographic materials.

The 12-member body, dubbed the National Commission of Reform of Federal Criminal Laws, included the recommendations in its final report to President Nixon and to Congress. (RNS)

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# GOD'S SEEKING LOVE

By Howard S. Kolb, Pastor  
Audubon Park Baptist Church, Memphis

**Bible Study Passage: Luke 15:11-24**  
**Biblical Background: Luke 15:1-32**



Kolb

The fifteenth chapter of the Gospel of Luke is one of the greatest and grandest chapters in the entire Bible. It is one of the best known and best loved chapters in the Bible. In it are found three great parables: the parable of the Shepherd or the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:3-7); the parable of the Diligent Woman or the Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10); and the parable of the loving Father or the Two Sons, or the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32).

The parable of the loving Father, or the Prodigal Son, is the most famous of all the parables of Jesus. It is unique to the gospel of Luke. It has been called the best short story in literature, the world's most inspiring story, the most priceless chapter in the Bible. The parable is great in its simplicity, rich in its content, and glorious in its message.

Why was the parable spoken by Jesus? The answer lies in verses one and two of chapter fifteen of Luke: "Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them" (Luke 15:1,2). Dr. H. H. Hobbs points out that "the primary lesson in the parable is to show in a real life situation the attitude of the self-righteous Pharisees toward publicans and sinners. The contrast between the attitude of the elder brother and that of the father is an exact parallel to the attitude of the

Pharisees and that of God toward publicans and sinners."

God loves publicans, sinners, self-righteous Pharisees, scribes, all men everywhere! God's love is a seeking love. Consider God's seeking love as manifested in the parable of the Prodigal Son:

## I. GOD'S SEEKING LOVE IS SEEN IN HIS REGARD FOR SINNERS (LUKE 15:1-2, 11-16).

Jesus tells us a man had two sons both of whom are sinners. One represents the publicans and the sinners; the other represents the Pharisees and the scribes. The younger of the two wanted to be free and try life on his own. He asked his father to give him the "portion" of his inheritance. Jewish law allotted one half as much to the younger son as to the elder (Deut. 12:17).

The young son "gathered all he had" and "took his journey" into the "far country" and "wasted his substance with riotous living." He wanted his freedom and consequently he left nothing behind to indicate he would ever return home. The "far country" may have been a Gentile area. Augustine said: "the far country is where God is not." He got as far away from home as possible. There he "wasted his substance with riotous living." The word "riotous" means lawless, disorderly. He lived without self-control, without restraint. He had no thought of the future. A "mighty famine" arose and "he began to be in want," to fall behind in the necessities of life. God, in His seeking love, often sends summons to sinners to seek the Saviour.

This young man, a Jew, went to work for a Gentile as a swineherd, a most degrading occupation for a Jew. He could sink no lower in his pursuit of freedom. He was so desirous to quench the gnawing pains of hunger that he would have eaten "the husks that the swine did eat." The word for "husks" is used variously but here refers to the pods of the carob tree or locust tree. Inside the little pods was a sweet gelatinous substance used for feeding swine and even for food for the lower classes of people.

What a tragic picture! It is a picture of man as a sinner. God loves Him even though others do not.

## II. GOD'S SEEKING LOVE IS SEEN IN HIS RECEPTION OF REPENTANT SINNERS (LUKE 15:17-21).

On the bottom rung of the ladder and in the depths of degradation the Prodigal Son, "came to himself" and said: "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and

## New Books

**Music Making with Younger Children** by Martha Ellen Stilwell, Roy T. Scoggins, Jr., Ruth Eaton Williams and J. Kenneth Robinson; Convention; 152 pp.; paper.

**Family Ministry in Today's Church** edited by B. A. Clendinning, Jr.; Convention; 139 pp.; paper.

**Set the Church Afire!** by Wayne Dehoney; Broadman; 156 pp.; \$4.50.

**Leadership Roles for Youth** by Temp Sparkman; Convention; 96 pp.; paper.

**The Scarlet Thread Through the Bible** by W. A. Criswell; Broadman; 80 pp.

before thee" (Luke 15:18). Sin renders a man mad. All the time the Prodigal Son was flinging away his substance he was not himself. Man wasn't made to wallow in the muck and mire of life; he was made for fellowship with God. It is a glorious day when a man exercises his will and decides to go to the seeking Father. He spoke the hardest words, "I have sinned." He feels he is no longer worthy of the love of the Father. The Prodigal Son desires to be an "hired servant." He didn't ask for the best; he asked for the least. An "hired servant" is less than a son, less than a slave. An "hired servant" is a day laborer.

In verse twenty the father sees his son "a great way off" and runs to greet him with "compassion," "kisses," and love. What a graphic picture of the seeking love of God. When sinners turn to God they find a loving Father waiting for them.

## III. GOD'S SEEKING LOVE IS SEEN IN HIS RECONCILIATION WITH SINNERS (LUKE 15:22-23).

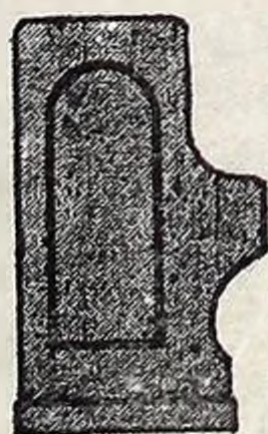
In verses 22,23 the Prodigal Son is reconciled to his father. The father issues three commands concerning his son: "Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him"; "put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet"; and "bring the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry." The son was fully reconciled to the father. What a grand and glorious thing it is for sinners to be reconciled to God. You would think all men would rejoice when this happens but they do not!

## IV. GOD'S SEEKING LOVE IS SEEN IN HIS REJOICING OVER THE RETURN OF SINNERS (LUKE 15:7, 10, 24).

The Prodigal Son who was dead came back to life. He was lost but is found and returns to the Father. The God who loves us and seeks us raises us from death to life. Paul said: "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins . . . "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:1,5).

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## State Brotherhood Meet Feb. 26-27, Brentwood

A State and Associational Brotherhood Officers Meeting will be held Fri., Feb. 26-Sat., Feb. 27, at the Executive Board Building of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood, according to Roy J. Gilleland, State Brotherhood secretary. The meeting will begin Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. and will close Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m. James B. Nugent, Brentwood, State Brotherhood president, will preside over the sessions, assisted by G. Leon Brown, of Union City, and Paul R. Cates, a member of the faculty, Carson-Newman college, Jefferson City.

According to Gilleland, approximately 80 men representing 30 associations will attend the two-day meeting, held for the purpose of training associational and state Brotherhood leaders in Witness Involvement, sponsored by the Evangelism department of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

F. W. Dowell, secretary, Evangelism department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, will speak to the group on Friday evening on the subject, "Making Your Organization an Outreach Organization through WIN."

Other program personalities include: Gilleland; William E. Highsmith, Royal Ambassador secretary, Brotherhood department, Tennessee Baptist Convention; John Myers, associational Brotherhood director, Clinton association, Clinton; Ray Sadler, associate pastor, Park Avenue church, Nashville; and Norman Godfrey, assistant to the executive secretary, Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Memphis.



H. Cornell Goerner, left, secretary for Africa for the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, points to one of 741 books he donated recently to the Board library in Richmond, Va. Miss Nell Stanley, librarian, and G. Norman Price, associate secretary for publications, received the volumes which are seen in the background.

## Textbook Upholding The Biblical Story Of Creation Published In Michigan

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.**—A biology textbook which upholds the Biblical story of Creation and defends the theory of evolution has been published by Zondervan Publishing House here.

"Biology—A Search for Order in Complexity" was prepared by the Creation Research Society of Ann Arbor, Mich. The society numbering 300 voting members—all with graduate degrees—is "committed to full belief in the Biblical record of creation and early history."

The society's motto is "Haec credimus (we believe this): For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth . . . (Exodus 20: 11)."

The 548-page book is aimed at both public and non-public schools. A spokesman for the publisher said "we fully expect to sell 30,000." (RNS)

## Walton Urged To Resign By Americans United

**WASHINGTON, D. C.**—Dr. Clarence E. Walton, chairman of President Nixon's Panel on Nonpublic Education, was called upon today to resign his post. Glenn L. Archer, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, made the suggestion in a telegram to Dr. Walton.

The telegram stated that Dr. Walton's public statements ever since his appointment have indicated that he has not approached his assignment with an open mind but has "prejudged the case in favor of government aid to church institutions. The only proper course for you to follow under the circumstances you have created," the message continued, "is to submit your resignation to the President forthwith." (C/SNS)

## On The Moral Scene

● U. S. Surgeon General Jesse L. Steinfeld expressed new concern recently about the effect of maternal cigarette smoking on unborn children.

"One study shows that women smokers have 20% more unsuccessful pregnancies than they would have if they had not smoked," he said.

"In a 1969 report to Congress on health hazards of smoking," Steinfeld added, "it was suggested there was a relationship between smoking during pregnancy and spontaneous abortion, stillbirth, and neonatal death (death of a newborn)."

"Now there is a substantial body of evidence which clearly supports the earlier view that maternal smoking during pregnancy harms the unborn child by exerting a retarding influence on fetal growth," he said.

Steinfeld commented that in the past seven years there has been an appreciable drop in smoking among men but no comparable drop among women. (From "Smoking Called Peril to Unborn," *The Nashville Tennessean*, 1/12/71)

## McIntire Buys Major Hotel, Other Property In Florida

**CAPE KENNEDY, Fla.**—Radio evangelist Dr. Carl McIntire has purchased the Cape Kennedy Hilton, its convention center and three other buildings here for a proposed religious, educational and retirement development.

The controversial, ultra-fundamentalist clergyman, who lives in Collingswood, N.J., plans a four-year liberal arts college, a "Freedom Center and Christian Conference," and a retirement facility. Local sources say a "Jerusalem Museum" may be developed.

Dr. McIntire did not reveal the purchase of the buildings, obtained from Shuford Mills, Inc., and Cevesco, Inc. A local newspaper said reliable sources placed the figure as high as \$25 million.

Included in the purchase are buildings formerly used by the Chrysler Corp., and Boeing Aircraft. In addition to the 200-room Hilton hotel, built in 1967, the purchases include the Palms East, a motel facility which the McIntire organization will develop as apartments for the "Freedom Center and Bible Conference."

Dr. McIntire is a clergyman of the Bible Presbyterian Church. He was ousted from the now United Presbyterian Church many years ago. He is best known for his 20th Century Reformation Hour radio program and for Vietnam "victory marches" in 1970.

Cape May, N.J., is already a center for McIntire activities. He is president of Shelton College there and operates a series of conferences, utilizing five hotels in Cape May. The most recent addition is the Windsor Hotel, a Victorian structure bought recently for \$230,000. Another \$40,000 was spent on furnishings, according to "Christian Beacon," Dr. McIntire's weekly newspaper. (RNS)

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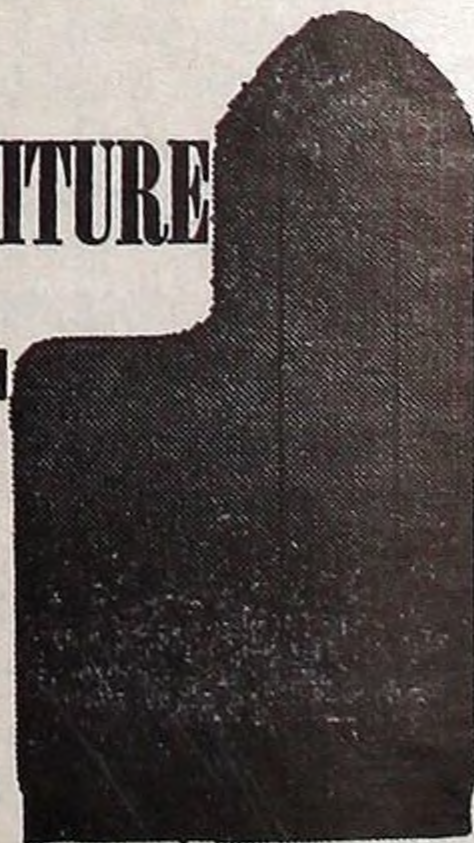
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# CONVERSATION AT A WELL

**Basic Passage: John 4:1-42**

**Focal Passages: John 4:9-19, 28-29**

In our last letter we discussed a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. It was with a man of honored station and of outstanding leadership ability. In our present lesson we study a conversation of Jesus with a Samaritan woman of lowly status and questionable character. In each case He seeks to win to the blessings of salvation and discipleship. The approach is very different but the end in view is the same.

Jews and Samaritans had no dealings with each other. Later on a Samaritan village refused overnight hospitality to Jesus and His disciples, since they were headed toward Jerusalem. Many Jews evaded Samaria on their journeys between Jerusalem and Galilee.

Wells were very popular in the days of Jesus and still are over the area once known as Palestine. Many people went to Jacob's well where Jesus stopped to wait while His disciples went into the village to purchase some food.

Samaritan women regularly carried water into Sychar. This particular woman came to perform her routine duty. She had no idea that she would meet the Messiah or would come into the greatest experience of her life.

Jesus did not miss an opportunity to share the good news He came to give to a famishing world.

## **BARRIERS OF PREJUDICE** **John 4:9**

Prejudice is a divisive barrier to human wellbeing. There was a bitter hostility as well as prejudice between Jews and Samaritans.

For Jesus to ask a Samaritan woman, not only to give Him a drink but also to share her drinking vessel with Him was a revolutionary and shocking act. It was a good way to smash a stubborn barrier.

For the proper realization of right relationships, all prejudice must be removed. A new heart given by our Lord and The Spirit of Christ must be experienced and exemplified. A continuous program of enlightenment must follow.

## **GETTING TO THE HEART OF THINGS** **John 4:10-15**

Christ let her know at once that she was not aware of the identity of the one to whom she was speaking. Else she would have asked Him for living water.

The poor woman was so secular and materialistic that she raised a problem of a physical difficulty such as His having nothing with which to serve the water out

of Jacob's well. It was similar, in a sense, to the problem which Nicodemus had posed.

Jesus made it clear that He and she were talking about two very different types of water. She was referring to material water that met only a temporary physical need. Its use had to be repeated periodically. On the other hand, He was referring to a living, spiritual water which satisfied the basic spiritual need once for all. It would become an inner reservoir bubbling up to meet other spiritual needs as they arose.

For the water she made a strong request but not discerning as yet its deeper spiritual nature.

Jesus had to put His finger on her profound spiritual need. He asked her to go and bring her husband. This laid bare her desperate spiritual plight which the cleansing, satisfying, spiritual water only could provide the proper salvation. She raised the old question as to where God should be worshipped after seeing that He was a prophet.

## **THE TRUE NATURE OF WORSHIP** **John 4:20-26**

Jesus was very explicit as to the nature of true worship. It was not a matter of place but of spirit. God is everywhere or He is nowhere, if He is Spirit. With absolute sincerity and spiritual insight the worshipper must come to Him. That is, he must be in tune if he is to "tune in".

The Master frankly told her that the Jews had the revelation of God disclosing the way to know God in redemption. He let her know that the Samaritan did not have that information in accurate form.

She replied that all things would be clear when the Messiah should come. He informed her that she was talking to the promised and expected Messiah in person.

## **CONVERT BECOMES WITNESS** **John 4:28-29**

The woman left her water pot and ran back into the city and related her exciting experience. Many of the Samaritans believed on account of her testimony.

Evidently the great revival that was led by Philip after Pentecost in Samaria was a reaping from the seed sown by this woman.

### **"Baptists Who Know, Care"**

**Church members will support Baptist work in Tennessee and around the world if they are informed of the needs by reading the BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR.**

## **Foundation**

### **I'm Worried**

**By Jonas L. Stewart**  
**Executive Secretary-Treasurer**

I'm worried about how unconcerned our people seem to be over the financial needs of our Tennessee Baptist schools. My worry is not so much over the gifts that are being made out of their current income but rather over what they could do and are not doing about gifts for the future. Most of our people are not wealthy. We will never operate on the income of the rich. Thousands of people with modest means could remember one or more of our institutions in their wills with no sacrifice involved.

I'm worried about the waste of money needed for the Lord's work but lost because so many people haven't made a will. Administrative cost and estate tax will get much that could be saved by a properly prepared will. Without a will not one cent of one's estate can be left for the Lord's work supported so long by Christian stewards.

I'm worried because many people are preparing "home made" wills or are using "will forms" to distribute their estate. These may be legal and they may not. Only an attorney can give dependable assurance that a will is properly prepared.

I'm worried because the resources of our office are not being used by nearly enough churches, pastors and other individuals. We want to come to your church or supply you with materials or advise with you about how to put the Lord in your will along with others whom you love.

I'm worried because I want it all done now but I know much must wait upon a long range response from many people. Let's unite our efforts and see that the next generation has a strong financial base from which to operate our Tennessee Baptist institutions.

Write or call for information about preparing a Christian will or setting up a living trust fund—Tennessee Baptist Foundation, P. O. Box 647, Brentwood, Tennessee 37027—Phone 833-4220.

## **Adventist Radio Reading Of Bible** **Completed In 84 Hours, 20 Minutes**

**GLENDAL, Cal.**—The second annual continuous reading of the entire Bible, sponsored by the Voice of Prophecy, broadcasting arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, required 84 hours and 20 minutes to complete.

Dr. Harold M. S. Richards, founder of the Voice of Prophecy, read the last verse of the book of Revelation at 12:20 p.m., Jan. 4, to end the marathon which began at the stroke of Midnight, New Year's Eve.

The broadcast of the reading was made available to radio stations throughout the country. (RNS)



# From the Executive Secretary

By W. Fred Kendall



Kendall

It is interesting to study about the earth's rainfall. Nashville has an annual rainfall of 45.14 inches and that is about the state average. About one third of the rain which falls runs back into the oceans through the rivers and streams and about two thirds of it evaporates back into the air or is used by the plant and vegetation or remains in lakes. The water in the rivers at any given time would only be sufficient to continue their flow for approximately two weeks.

My reason for discussing this is to note the wisdom of God in the way He provides for the needs of the earth. The distribution of the needed sunlight is also distributed through 365 days and is not given at one time or it would destroy the earth. The regularity of the sun and the rain is of tremendous importance.

This leads to the importance of the continuous work for the Lord and the regularity of working for Him. We often forget that the spiritual world is just as real as the material world. It is the one supreme value and will transcend and continue beyond the days of the material things. Yet even born again Christians so often forget the great necessity for the putting forth of our best efforts every day for the work of the Lord. This is the reason the churches have had to have revivals through the centuries. People have to be called back to the work and to the serious tasks of the white harvest fields of spiritual need all about us.

Stewardship and giving is one of the areas where this neglect and irregularity in response is so often seen. In one of my pastorates there was a man who refused to use church envelopes. He refused to give weekly or even monthly. He insisted in coming the last week in the year and making one offering for the whole year. If everyone did that, the church would have to borrow money to pay its bills and pay out much interest, and then pay them all off during that last week in the year and start all over in January.

How thankful we are for the thousands of dedicated and fully committed Christians who do respond in regular fellowship with the living Christ as a daily and continuing relationship. Bible reading, prayer, witnessing through living and service, sharing through regular giving all show the response of a vital love for one's Lord and Saviour. It is through these who obey the Master and "take up the cross daily" and

## Alliance Sunday, Feb. 7

WASHINGTON—The President of the Baptist World Alliance says that the strength of the organization lies "in both the unity and the diversity" of the world's more than 31 million Baptists.

"No caricaturist could picture a greater variety of human beings," the president, Rev. Dr. V. Carney Hargroves of Philadelphia said. "We are of a variety of skin colors, living and working in 129 countries, speaking a variety of languages, saluting a variety of flags, wearing a variety of clothing styles, and eating a variety of foods."

Hargroves, pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Germantown (Philadelphia) for 38 years, reflected on these attributes of the worldwide Baptist family as world Baptist look to observance of Baptist World Alliance Sunday, Feb. 7.

The BWA headquarters office in Washington, where Robert S. Denny is general secretary, has issued a new statistical summary of Baptist membership by countries, reporting a grand total of 31,041,337 in 129 countries. The great majority of them are in North America where the United States reports a total of 27,238,826. The second largest group from any one country is—surprising to many—a total of 570,000 in USSR.

"Each unit in these tables," says an additional note, "represents a man or woman who has personally professed faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and has followed him in believer's baptism. As a follower of Christ he is dedicated to the fellowship and service of his church and to the witness of his Lord to the uttermost part of the earth."

The Baptist World Alliance is a voluntary and fraternal association founded in London in 1905, and now has headquarters in Washington, D.C. Some leaders prefer the term "fellowship" to the name "alliance," but others say that the association or fellowship is really a banding together of "allies" in a world battle for propagation of the Christian gospel.

Hargroves was elected president of the Baptist alliance when the congress met in Tokyo, and will serve until 1975. His immediate predecessor is Rev. William R. Tolbert, Jr. of Monrovia, Liberia, vice president of the Republic of Liberia.

follow Him that the church marches on and the souls of lost multitudes are brought to the Lord for salvation and life.

Returning to our illustration from the rainfall, the earth's 66 principal rivers discharge about 3720 cubic miles per year. The estimated total of all rivers, large and small, measured and unmeasured, is about 9200 cubic miles per year. Can you imagine a cubic mile of water? This is the mighty co-operation of nature and the regularity with which God distributes His blessings. Should our response in Love for Him not be with

## Historically:

### From the files

#### 50 YEARS AGO

Advances in Southern Baptist educational institutions were noted. Information furnished by 38 academies, colleges and seminaries in the South revealed that improvements valued at \$1,838,500 were completed during the preceding year. Other improvements valued at \$1,404,000 were under way, \$360,000 was added to endowment funds, \$55,000 in debts were paid, and a total of \$3,500,000 in increased assets accrued. Nearly 30,000 pupils were enrolled in these educational institutions.

Dr. Harry Clark, a member of the faculty of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, was called as educational secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

#### 20 YEARS AGO

By a vote of 87 to 36, employees in the reproduction, typographic, warehousing, and shipping departments of the Baptist Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention turned down a proposition of unionization. The Sunday School Board opposed the union on the grounds that neither the National Labor Relations Board or any other governmental agency has the constitutional right to direct the affairs of a religious body.

Dr. William L. Wallace, a native of Knoxville, Southern Baptist missionary in Wuchow, China, and head of the Stout Memorial Hospital, was arrested by the Communists on charges of spying. With the arrest of Wallace, 16 missionaries were left to serve in China.

#### 10 YEARS AGO

Clifton J. Allen, editorial secretary, Baptist Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, received a citation from the Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention for "distinguished service rendered during 1959-60."

Bellevue church, Memphis, Ramsey Pollard, pastor, reported 226 baptisms for the preceding year, and attained first recognition among the seven churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention having more than 3000 members.

the same regularity, and it would total up the same tremendous results if every person would respond with his life and his all. What will be your response in 1971?



# The Evangelist And The False Prophet

By Gordon E. Hunter

In a day of such notable uncertainties about the future of our society, it is remarkable that our populace does not recognize the possibility of impending national and global disaster. Recently, when I asked the Sunday School class which I teach to list some possible catastrophes facing our nation which might parallel the great calamity which befell the Jewish nation in the time of Habakkuk, they were at a loss to identify any. In 587 B.C. Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and the temple was burned. Hardly any community in Judah was left untouched by the heavy hand of the Babylonian empire. Judah was turned into a virtual wilderness.

Habakkuk was just one of the numerous prophets who warned of the inevitable wasting of their nation. These men prophesied in a time of relative prosperity when the nations around Judah and Israel were rather unstable politically, beset with internal problems or bigger problems than the small Jewish nations. Israel and Judah, thus, were enjoying a period free from intrusion by their neighbors. Jews were thronging to the shrines of worship and making magnificent sacrifices and offerings. Not since the time of Solomon's reign had the people displayed such loyalty to their God. It is no wonder that they reacted negatively to the theme of the prophets that these pious displays did not hide their lack of social responsibility from God. God abhorred this superficial kind of worship and would punish His people for it.

Are there prophets today, warning of impending national disaster? The answer is emphatically YES! A growing number of scientists, largely experts in a branch of science known as ecology, are becoming increasingly concerned that in the very near future we are facing an age of global famine, pestilence, and deprivation. More and more, they are taking the role of evangelistic prophets trying to convince us of imminent danger. "Catastrophe is coming in the form of global disorder stemming not only from wars, riots and anarchy but also from famine and pestilence" they warn.

## Replenish—Not Overcrowd

"How can this be?" cries today's false prophet. "Our people are more responsible than they have ever been in their history. They throng to church every Sunday. More money is given to the church than ever before. More money is given to charity

than ever before. We support through our taxes the most extensive welfare program ever undertaken. Our young people are dedicating some of the best years of their lives to VISTA and the Peace Corps. Where have we sinned."

The false prophet, unable to deny the truth of any except the last sin, focuses on it. "Did not God say to Adam, himself, 'Be fruitful and multiply'."

"In the same verse He said 'Replenish the earth'. He did not say 'Overcrowd it'. You are crowding your excess babies into the concrete and steel zoos you call cities. Life in the monotonous, under-stimulating environment of the broken down tenements or the high rise ghettos you are replacing with, leads your children to seek stimulation in the form of lawlessness and riots. Man does not riot in nature surrounded by trees, clear air, and sparkling waters, stimulated by the sounds of frogs and crickets, of birds and squirrels, of wind and water, and the ever changing panorama of his natural heritage. You cannot continue to annihilate this heritage with concrete and reservoirs without dire consequence to yourself, your children and your children's children."

"But didn't God say to subdue the earth," retorts the false prophet.

## Didn't Say "Poison It"

His indignation flaring, the evangelist cries "Yes, He said subdue it, but He did

not say poison it with your industrial effluents, your garbage, your raw sewage and your automobile exhausts. He gave man dominion over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, and then over every living thing that moves upon the earth. He gave him dominion over these things to care for as a good steward. The good steward does not keep so many cattle that there is not enough for them to graze on and thus ends up with scrawny cattle and overgrazed pasture which is no longer any good for cattle. Neither does he have so many children that he cannot support them with the resources he has available. Mark my words, we may already be overgrazing the pasture and it may be no good for tomorrow's children.

"Hearken unto the word of the Lord. Woe unto you, sinners, hypocrites, bearers of many children. I have given you control over many things. Still, you are far from me. You have learned well how to prolong life with medicines I put into your hands, and you should have. Just as I have given you means to control death, I have given you means to control birth, but you are reluctant to use them. If you continue to sin in this way, famine, pestilence, and war will come upon you. None shall escape."

"You're just a pessimist".

## Interpretation

# A DOCTRINAL CRISIS

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved"—Acts 15:1.

These men were the circumcision party mentioned in Acts 11:2. They had acquiesced in the case of Cornelius, and had overlooked the events in Antioch which involved uncircumcised Gentiles being saved. But when word reached Jerusalem about mission work in Asia Minor, that was too much. Since this involved the church in Antioch, not Jerusalem, they did not summons Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem. They went to Antioch. They went on their own with no authority from the Jerusalem church (Acts 15:24).

The circumcision party insisted that to be saved Gentiles must become Jewish proselytes and then believe in Jesus. Hence they were called Judaizers, or those wanting to make Jews out of Gentiles. To become such, a Gentile must be circumcised, make certain sacrifices, and live by the Mosaic law. Then they could be saved through

faith in Jesus.

Obviously this was in direct contrast to the gospel of salvation by grace through faith as preached by Paul and Barnabas. So there was a heated difference between them and the Judaizers. It finally resulted in the Jerusalem Conference recorded in Acts 15 and Galatians 2. Here were two independent churches cooperating in solving a doctrinal problem. An analysis of Acts 15 shows a general church meeting (vv. 4-5), a private committee meeting (vv. 6-11), and another general meeting to act on the committee's report (vv. 12 ff.). This is good democratic and New Testament procedure.

This crisis involved the very heart of the gospel. Is salvation by grace through faith or by works plus faith? Though the Conference sided with the former, the Judaizers did not quit. They were constantly a thorn in Paul's side. Error dies a hard, lingering death. For that reason the Judaizers are still with us in those who insist upon anything other than salvation by grace through faith in Jesus.

Editor's Note: Dr. Gordon E. Hunter is chairman of the Biology Department at Tennessee Technological university. He is a deacon in the First Baptist Church of Cookeville, and teaches a class in the Young Married Department of the Sunday School. He is a graduate of Mississippi college and received his Ph.D. at St. Louis university.