

BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR

Vol. 137 / Thursday, September 2, 1971 / No. 35 News-Journal Of The Tennessee Baptist Convention

**EXPECT....
ATTEMPT...!**

**STATE MISSIONS
DAY OF PRAYER
SEPTEMBER 15, 1971**

**STATE MISSIONS WEEK
SEPT. 12-19, 1971**

**TENNESSEE GOLDEN STATE
MISSIONS OFFERING GOAL:**

\$140,000⁰⁰

Power To Tax Gives Control, Stewart Tells Convention

By Bobbie Durham

"The power to tax a church or any other institution carries with it the corresponding power to control or close that institution!"

So spoke Dr. Jonas Stewart, executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, before 99 delegates to the state Constitutional Convention session in Nashville Aug. 26. The delegates had met to discuss possible revisions of the Tennessee state constitution, relative to classifying all property in the state for tax purposes. The session was called by the state legislature.

Furthermore, Stewart warned, "The taxing of property necessary to promoting church programs is in direct contradiction to the principles of freedom felt so necessary by our founding fathers."

Speaking for all church-related property owned by the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Stewart pointed out that "in practically every (Tennessee) community there is a church that owns assets of some value." And more than one-third of the adult population of this state is affiliated with some autonomous Baptist church, he added.

Stewart listed several types of property to be considered according to use. These included (a) local church buildings, (b) homes for staff members, (c) education and eleemosynary institutions, (d) central housing of coordinated promotional activity, and (e) income-producing property not directly related to the work of the churches.

Pay Taxes On Equal Basis

Regarding the last type of property listed (income-producing), the speaker explained that "we pay taxes on all of this property on exactly the same basis as any other taxpayer in the state, county, and municipality in which such property is located." Educational and eleemosynary institutions should need no defense against being taxed, the speaker maintained.

In addition to three senior colleges and four homes for children, Tennessee Baptists own two hospitals and operate another jointly with Arkansas and Mississippi Baptists. "These hospitals gave more than \$6 million

(Continued on Page 5)

Special State Missions Emphasis

New Books

Theology and Contemporary Art Forms by John P. Newport, Word, 131 pp., \$3.95. The writer contends that both the layman and the professional theologian have a specific responsibility toward the arts, painting, music, architecture, movies, philosophy, literature, drama. The works of the artists provide direct access to the distinctive tone, concerns, and feelings of our late 20th century culture.

The Cross and the Scalpel by James Helfey, Word, 158 pp., \$4.95. More than a book of 14 moving stories, the reader interested in pursuing a career in medical missions will find unusual inspiration, and, as a postscript, helpful information on how to get started in the field.

Ordinary Days with an Extraordinary God by Irene Harrell, Word, 125 pp., \$3.95. A book of prayerables especially for mothers, which is written in the hope that they will begin to make some discoveries—that God is at work in an extraordinary way in their life on the most ordinary of days.

Does the Bible Really Work by David A. Hubbard, Word, 75 pp., \$2.95. Help for getting to know your Bible and making the most of its vital message in coping with today's problems.

Rebel's in the Church by Ben Campbell Johnson, Word, 131 pp., \$3.95. A collection of personal narratives of eight rebelling



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W. FRED KENDALL, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE: Tom Madden, William Harbin, Bruce Coyle, O. Wyndell Jones, Hayward Highfill, Winfield Rich, William E. Crook, Raymond Lloyd, Carl B. Allen, Ralph Norton, Wade Darby, James Jennings, Carroll Owen, and Clarence Stewart.

ministers who tell in frank and startling terms of their tribulations and triumphs in coming to grips with themselves, their churches, and their God.

New Bible Reads Like Daily Newspaper

A paraphrased version of the Bible, understandable to "ordinary people" and to children will be available on bookstore shelves September 1. The name of this contemporary publication is "The Living Bible".

Clergymen, Bible teachers and students have also found helpful the single volumes of portions of the larger work already published. Published by Tyndale House, cloth, \$9.95; leather, \$19.95.

Moral Scene

● **NEW YORK (UPI)**—Americans spend as much for candy and chewing gum as the government spends for research on killing and crippling diseases, Mrs. Albert D. Lasker, a veteran battler for public health, said recently. Mrs. Lasker criticized the "extraordinary priorities" of the people as well as the government. She noted that the \$1.5 billion estimated as the 1968 outlay for candy and chewing gum was the same amount appropriated by the government for health research. "There is something wrong with our national priorities when, in a country, with a Gross National Product of \$860 billion in 1968, we spent an average of only \$7 per person on medical research," Mrs. Lasker said.

(The Atlanta Journal and Constitution, July 18, 1971)

Pulpit To Pew

By Jim Griffith

The coming of Labor Day weekend is a reminder that someone has said, "There is sacredness in work."

Come to think of it, I have noticed that there are some people who have such a reverence for work that they stand as far away from it as possible.

As the saying goes, "work has never killed anyone" unless it could be true that some—who are so afraid of work—have been scared to death by the prospect of a demanding task.

It is a fact that work is fascinating for many people—they can sit and look at it for hours.

However, let everyone be advised that it is the daily grind of work that gives life a polish.

And if, as we have reason to believe, work is a great blessing, then some, by virtue of their diligence, are going to be more blessed than others.

Devotional

Freedom In Christ

Romans 6:17-18

By Hillard H. Goode, Pastor
Northside Baptist Church, Chattanooga

More has been said about freedom in the past few years than any other time in my life. We have watched a people march up



Goode

and down our streets shouting Freedom, Freedom, Freedom. College students have revolted, calling for freedom. Children have rebelled against parents because they want freedom. There has been much discussion about academic freedom. Nations have undergone revolution as people fight for freedom.

Freedom is one of our most cherished blessings. Man will do most anything to obtain freedom. There is a very deep desire in each of us to be free. But I wonder if we have misinterpreted the meaning of freedom.

Most of the time we talk about freedom from something. But real freedom is not just freedom from something, but freedom to something. True freedom is being freed from one way of life to another way of life. Many people have failed to understand that freedom brings great responsibility. Jesus said "and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." He also said "If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." But this freedom was not just from something, but to a new way of life.

Paul describes Christian freedom as coming from one slavery to another. We are freed from the slavery of self, satan, sin to slaves of God. He felt no inhibition about calling himself a slave to Jesus Christ. In the sixth chapter of Romans there is great emphasis on the fact that we are freed from sin. We are freed from the power of sin and the control of sin. We are also told that we are freed from sin that we may serve. Jesus said "take my yoke upon you." He said "take up your cross and follow me." The only way to have freedom indeed is to have a freedom that releases us into the service of Jesus Christ.

FEATURING

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Baptist Leader Warns Against Overplaying Sports, Show Names

DALLAS—Do big names from the sports and show business world get in the way of the Holy Spirit when they address evangelistic rallies? Perhaps they do, says the executive secretary of the two-million member Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"The involvement of public figures in the effort to win people to Christ is a legitimate approach," said Dr. T. A. Patterson of Dallas, "but we need to be on guard at several points."

Writing in the Baptist state newspaper, "The Baptist Standard", Patterson said "the tendency to exclusively use show business or sports personalities could leave the impression on youth that these are only occupations worthy of their consideration. It would be well to use scientists, housewives, farmers and business executives."

He also said that the popular personalities ought not to be used to draw people to services and convert them to Christianity. "Only the Holy Spirit can do that."

The Baptist leader further warned churches to make sure that the lives of the celebrities actually match their profession of faith. "This is not to say that we expect perfection in anybody, but we have a right to expect persons we use in revivals, etc., to live consistent Christian lives," wrote Dr. Patterson.

Texas churches have utilized celebrities increasingly in the past year, and the practice is growing in popularity. (RNS)

Student Summer Missionaries Hold Debriefing Session

A group of 20 Tennessee student summer missionaries held a debriefing on their summer work at the office building of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention last week. The students represented: Sunday School and Missions departments, TBC (seven); Student department, (TBC) (four); Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (seven); and two who served in a prison ministry under the auspices of the State Missions department, the Nashville association and Gary Anderson, chief of chaplains, department of Corrections for Tennessee.

They worked in various areas of Tennessee this summer and related their experiences as they met. At the meeting the students also gave their evaluation of the June orientation and offered suggestions as to future general orientations as well as orientations on the field as to how assignments for 1972 and supervisors could be better prepared and organized.

Seventh Day Baptists Hold World Meeting

WESTERLY, R.I.—Better communication between national conferences in the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation, ways of strengthening Seventh Day Baptist work, and means of providing better service to member conferences were discussed at the federation's first official meeting here.

Organized in 1964, the federation adopted a revised constitution at its meeting in the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist church here; discussed ecumenicity at length but took no official action; and decided to issue its quarterly newsletter more frequently if possible, but indicated no specific frequency. (RNS)

New Sunday School Magazine Will Focus On Today's Teacher

WHEATON, Ill.—The National Sunday School Association (NSSA) here will begin publishing a new periodical, "Concept," which will reach some 100,000 Sunday school workers 10 times yearly beginning this September.

Donald L. Hughes, director of communications for NSSA, will serve as editor. He said the new Sunday school magazine is designed to offer "information, inspiration and encouragement" with "focus on the teacher of today and his needs."

The first issue will reach workers through NSSA and some of the 40 denominations and 40 area Sunday school associations which belong to the national organization. Mr. Hughes said one denomination alone has ordered 15,000 copies of Concept for its members. Subscriptions are \$3 a year. (RNS)

Belgian Baptists Begin Home Mission

The smallest Baptist union in Europe, the Belgian Baptist Union, has established a home mission undertaking with Brussels and Leuze as its first centers of interest and support.

Maurice Entwistle, in Belgium under the auspices of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (US), gave the report of the Belgian Committee of the European Baptist Federation to the Federation's Executive when it met in Töllöse, Denmark, in late July. In the report the committee asked the Federation to participate in the Belgian home mission effort until the Belgian Union is able to take complete responsibility for it or until the mission effort is discontinued.

"It has been apparent for a long time that new centers of work in Belgium can only be approached responsibly on a long-term basis," Entwistle reported. (EBPS)

Baptist VIEWpoll

Baptists Want Stronger Treatment For Criminals

NASHVILLE—The overwhelming majority of Southern Baptist pastors and Sunday School teachers polled in a recent survey feel that the courts are "not harsh enough" with criminals.

The Baptist VIEWpoll's national sample of pastors and Sunday School teachers was asked this question: "In general, do you think the courts in your area deal too harshly, or not harshly enough with criminals?"

"Not harsh enough" was the response of 80.6 per cent of the pastors and 80.8 per cent of the Sunday School teachers.

There were those on the panel (14.8 per cent of the pastors and 16.2 per cent of the teachers) who feel that the courts in their area deal "about right" with criminals.

Only a few, 3.6 per cent of the pastors and 2.2 per cent of the teachers, had "no opinion" on this current social issue.

The Gallup Poll reports that three fourths of the United States adult population agrees with the VIEWpoll panel that the courts in their area do not deal harshly enough with criminals.

Findings for this report are based on 91 per cent response from the Baptist VIEWpoll panel, composed of approximately 300 pastors and 300 Sunday School teachers selected to represent a cross section of persons holding those leadership positions in the Southern Baptist Convention. (BP)

Experimental Mini-Term Set At Carson-Newman

JEFFERSON CITY—The Executive Council of Carson-Newman college has adopted the Mini-Term on an experimental basis for the Spring of 1972. The term will be scheduled between the regular spring semester and the 1972 summer school sessions.

Focus of the Mini-Term will be upon the individual—the student and the professor working, experimenting and learning together in a unique new program.

Walter R. Guyton, academic dean at Carson-Newman college, stated, "The Mini-Term will give students an opportunity to pursue single-mindedly and uninterruptedly an in-depth study of a particular area of interest."

The first phase of the new Mini-Term will begin May 15, 1972, and end on June 2. Registration will be held on the first day that the term is scheduled to begin. The Mini-Term will be financially self-supporting and financially independent of the regular academic year and summer sessions.

Courses will carry either three or four semesters hours' credit. The maximum student load will be one course. Courses offered will apply toward the student's major and/or toward meeting the basic requirements. The current Pass-No Pass policy will apply during the term.

EDITORIALS

A Worthy Emphasis

Tennessee Baptists are asked to give this month \$140,000 through the Golden State Missions Offering. The offering, promoted primarily by Woman's Missionary Union provides assistance in many areas of the state missions program.

Churches are being asked to respond generously to this offering to promote the work of State Missions in Tennessee.

The pages of this issue of **Baptist And Reflector** this week feature many ministries in the program of State Missions operated under the leadership of Dr. W. Fred

Kendall, executive secretary-treasurer, Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Goals for the special offering, and allocations are set by Woman's Missionary Union, and are not reflected in budgeted amounts for the program of state missions in the Convention's Cooperative Program budget.

As we express an interest in, and provide support for state missions ministries, it is our sincere wish and hope that increasingly this offering might become an integral part of the convention's program of state missions, with all funds obtained being channeled into specific and direct state missions ministries operated as a part of the Executive Board's program in this area.

The Validity Of A State Missions Program

By **W. Fred Kendall**
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

State Missions is so vital because it is the continuous process of evangelizing and Christianizing a given area. Someone has said that we are always just one generation away from paganism. This can be demonstrated from history. State Missions seeks to penetrate every area of the state with the Gospel and to work toward Christianizing the social order in its daily living.

It is comprehensive in that its imperative is the Great Commission. The churches have accepted the fact that Christ is the answer to men's needs. It is the outreach to bring all men to Christ that impels them. It is said that the purpose of Southern Baptists is set forth in their primary documents to be "the propagation of the Gospel," "the furtherance of the Kingdom of God," and "bringing men to God through Jesus Christ." That ably states the purpose of the State Mission program.

State Missions is always centered in evangelism and the winning of the lost to Christ. We have many programs designed to motivate the churches and implement the programs of soul winning. Starting new churches is also a vital part of our basic work. We believe that Christ's promise to His churches are vital and the church will always be primary in His Kingdom's work.

Several programs seek to aid the churches in all of their work. Church training of leadership, uniting in cooperative work, work through the associations, development of the churches in their life and work are all vital parts of the State Mission work. We work with all of the associations and aid them in securing able superintendents of missions and also in training able associational leadership.

The work is growing much more complex as the social order in which we work becomes more complex. The population has grown, but it has also moved. More and more, State Missions will be concerned with the metropolitan areas and the great

concentration of population in the cities.

Social problems will continue to provide a great challenge. Juvenile delinquency, the drug problem, the alcohol problem, broken homes, poverty in both the cities and in some rural areas, the race problem, and many others already call for much planning and for programs of work.

There is much more coordination in our work than in years gone by. The Southern Baptist Convention is giving more emphasis to cooperation and coordinated effort in so many areas of the work. The departments are now planning much work together and are studying ways of doing the most effective job possible in meeting the great needs.

There is great need for greater financial support for State Missions. The Cooperative

Program is the budget lifeline and the chief support of all of our work. The demands and needs of our schools have required so much of the Cooperative Program dollar that it has placed some severe limits on the State Missions work. The Golden State Missions Offering is a fine supplement and provides for many needs. It is an extra and over and above offering of love.

Above all, the work of Christ must always move forward on the wings of prayer. We urge the churches to pray for all of our State Mission work and for the thousands of people with whom we are working and to whom we are ministering. Pray for the many workers who are involved and who need your prayers. Pray for the lost multitudes who need Christ. Pray for the mission stations and the new churches which need to grow. Pray for pastors who are facing great opportunities and great needs.

GAINING MOMENTUM



Tennessee Baptists Schedule 97th Convention At Gatlinburg, Nov. 9-11

"Living the Spirit of Christ in Expectancy and Creativity," this year's SBC theme, will be carried out as Baptists throughout Tennessee meet in the 97th annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Nov. 9-11.

The seven sessions will convene at Gatlinburg's Civic Auditorium, with First church serving as host. William Dodson, pastor of First church, Martin, is chairman of committee on arrangements.

Haywood Highfill, pastor of First church, Clinton, is Convention president. The convention sermon will be given by E. B. Bowen, First church, Bolivar. Alternate is W. Fred Kendall, First church, Union City.

Other special speakers include Dr. Carl Bates, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and Dr. Grady Cothen, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Reports to be given during the sessions include those on Stewardship by W. C. Summar; on Evangelism by F. M. Dowell; **Baptist And Reflector** by James Lester; a report on Executive Board by Bruce Coyle; Children's Home report, James Gregg; Music Department report, Frank Charton; Sunday School report, Wendell Price; and the

Woodfin Named Liquidator Of SBC Hospital Agency

PONTE VEDRA, Fla.—R. Lamar Woodfin of New Orleans, vice president of Avondale Shipyards, was named here as liquidator of the Hospital Agency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The agency is an interim counseling body formed after the Southern Baptist Convention voted in 1970 to discontinue Southern Baptist Hospitals, Inc., as a denominational agency, and to release for private operation the Southern Baptist hospitals at New Orleans and Jacksonville, Fla.

Woodfin, a Baptist layman and a director of the hospital agency, will supervise the legal and financial aspects involved in dissolving the agency at the convention's request.

In its 1971 annual meeting in St. Louis, the convention asked that the charter, files and assets of the agency be transferred to the denomination's Executive Committee on Sept. 1, 1971.

Although it is no longer affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, Southern Baptist Hospital Inc., continues to operate Baptist Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville, and Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans as private institutions. (BP)

Much of the copy prepared for this State Missions emphasis was written by Bill Sorrell, who served as summer intern in BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR.

Church Training report by Charles Norton. Reports of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society and TBC Hospital will also be heard. A Brotherhood report by Roy Gilleland; a Camp report by Glenn Jenkins; a Student report by Glenn Yarbrough; and a Missions report by Leslie Baumgartner will conclude the reporting session.

Walter Shurden, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, will lead the devotional beginning each session of the convention.

A special program will be presented Wednesday evening, Nov. 10, on the needs of Christian education.

Closing session of the Convention is slated for Thursday, Nov. 11 at 1:45 p.m.

Power To Tax

(Continued from Page 1)

in free service last year." Taxing these hospitals might make it necessary to dump more than 400 homeless children on the streets or rush them into welfare offices across the state, the foundation executive warned.

Two additional factors would make such a tax inadvisable he explained. Putting tax dollars into the state treasury at the expense of leaving an indigent widow without hospital care, or failing to feed a homeless child because the state needs the money for other purposes would be difficult to explain to the citizens of this state, Stewart protested.

Business Of Church Is To Give

Generous congregations dedicated to sacrificial giving and service to God and to their fellow man, demonstrate that the business of churches is to give, and not to receive or make a profit, the guest speaker insisted. Such congregations have "no consumers to whom the cost of taxes can be passed on by increased prices," he contended. Paying taxes on the services of these institutions would require a reduction in charitable programs, he felt. "Those who give have already paid tax on the property that produced their gifts."

Homes for pastors and staff members are provided, for the most part, as a result of the fact that many churches are unable to pay such church leaders adequate salaries, Stewart contended. He added that many churches are now providing "a housing allowance" for their pastor. With this, he can buy his own home and pay taxes on it just as anyone else.

Taxing the service facilities of Tennessee Baptist churches would weaken these churches and "to that extent weaken the moral climate of the country—and, gentlemen, we can't stand any further weakening of our morality!" These Baptist institutions operate to the very limit of their financial ability and never for a profit, since all finances are used either for free services or to

build additional facilities to serve the community, he added.

Questions Answered

Following the end of his address-testimony, Stewart answered several questions directed to him by convention delegates.

Question: Does the group that you represent favor the taxing of income-producing property owned by church groups?

Answer: I think, first of all, that it needs to be understood that I can speak only for myself. No one person ever represents the thinking of the total Baptist constituency. I present only personal opinions. In regard to income-producing property, we already pay tax on such property owned by the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Question: We understand that you own several hospitals. The private sector is in the hospital business and produces considerable income. Does this not constitute income-producing property?

Answer: In my formal presentation, I said that these hospitals owned by the Tennessee Baptist Convention gave \$6 million in free services last year. In the case of private enterprise, this would have been profit for the owners. In our case, if there is a profit to be made, it is turned back into the operation of the hospital to provide further services. No individual makes a profit from this income.

Taxes Paid On Rental Property

Question: Do you not consider Baptist Book Stores to be profit making?

Answer: They do produce income and we pay property tax on Baptist Book Stores in Tennessee on the same basis as all other taxpayers. All of that which has been declared to be income producing (not directly related to our purposes) will be, and is, taxed. We pay these taxes believing that it is legitimate for us to do so.

Question: Do you not own considerable rental-housing property? Is this property taxed?

Answer: All of the rental property which is owned by the Tennessee Baptist Convention is taxed on the same basis as any other property.

Question: Would you say that property owned by other denominations should be taxed on the same basis?

Answer: I am not qualified to answer concerning other denominations, nor do I think it wise for me to discuss their interests before this convention.

Question: Do you pay taxes on homes for church-staff members?

Answer: We do not pay taxes on this property. We consider this a subsidy to staff members which is necessary. There is no income from this property, and the only way we could pay taxes on it would be to cut down on charitable services which we presently support.

(Editor's note: The story is considered of sufficient importance to Tennessee Baptists to be presented in this rather unusual form this week. Dr. Stewart, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, spoke to the Constitutional Convention at the request of Dr. W. Fred Kendall, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention.)

THINKING ABOUT GOD

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

Bible Study Passages: Psalms 42:1-3; 53:1-2; 139:7; Acts 17:22-23

For the months of September, October, and November, we will study lessons centering around the theme: The Doctrine of God. The quarter's lessons are grouped into three units: Learning About God, What God Does, and How God Works. The first unit, Learning About God, covers two lessons: Thinking About God and God Transcends Our Understanding.

The Bible does not argue the existence of God. The Bible begins on the assumption that God is. The very first words of the Bible are: "In the beginning God" (Gen. 1:1). The existence of God and the works of God are everywhere evident in the pages of the Bible.

Dr. W. T. Conner said: "The fundamental conception in any religion is its conception of God." What a man believes about God will determine in a large measure what a man believes.

Our lesson this week is entitled: Thinking About God. No greater thought could occupy the human mind than that of God. The greatest quest of man and the deepest longing of man are for a knowledge of God. Let us see what our lesson this week teaches us about God.

I. Some Men Long For God (Ps. 42:1-3).

When David wrote this Psalm he was in exile because of his son Absalom's rebellion (II Sam. 15-17). His absence from the house of God and worship bothered him. As he thought about God, God's house, and worship he thought of the hart, a type of deer, panting for cool water in the heat of day. He likened his own experience to that of a thirsty hart. David said: "My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God" (Ps. 42:2). By soul David meant that his innermost being longed for God. The designation, "the living God," suggests that David was among idolators whose dead images could bring him no comfort.

In the midst of his trouble David's enemies taunted him with the question, "Where is thy God?" (Ps. 42:3). These words, like the words "God is dead" form the cry of unbelief. Instead of eating, David wept (Ps. 42:3). He longed to engage in worship in God's house (Ps. 42:2).

II. Some Men Deny That God Is (Ps. 53:1-2).

The Psalmist says "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Ps. 53:1). This Psalm is very much like Psalm 14 in that they both put emphasis on the folly of atheism and the lostness of mankind.

Fools deny the existence of God and they are sinful, corrupt, and lost (Ps. 53:

1b). In fact, the Psalmist saw all men included in this practice of lawlessness (Ps. 53:1b). Men banish God from their thoughts and live in a realm of permissiveness in which everything goes. The language of verse one sounds very much like that of the Apostle Paul in Romans (Rom. 3:10-12).

God looks down from heaven upon man to see if there are those who understand, who seek God. The outcome of God's inspection of mankind is found in verse three in the words: "There is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Ps. 53:3).

Yes, some men deny that God is!

III. Some Men Try To Escape From God (Ps. 139:7).

The Psalmist raises the questions, "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?" (Ps. 139:7). The answer to these questions is found in the remainder of the Psalm. You can't flee God's presence because God is omnipresent. God's presence is not to be escaped!

The Psalmist, the writer, didn't want to escape from God's presence. Rather, he took comfort in the fact that God was ever with him. God who knows us is ever with us. In fact, "in Him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

IV. Some Men Proclaim God (Acts 17:22-23).

When Paul arrived in Athens he found the city "wholly given to idolatry" (Acts 17:16). Athens was a pagan city. Some writers estimate that the people of Athens had as many as thirty thousand gods. Paul must have been shocked to find so many pagan gods in Athens. As he read the inscriptions he found one "TO THE UNKNOWN GOD" (Acts 17:23). This in-

17 Evening Courses Set By Union For This Fall

Seventeen evening courses are being offered this fall at Union University, Jackson, it was announced by Wayne Brown, Union dean.

Included in the evening schedule are courses in accounting, education, psychology, library sciences, English, health and physical education, population problems, history of social thought, speech, and art.

September 6 is the deadline for registration and entering classes according to Brown.

Texas Church Calls Claypool

FORT WORTH—John R. Claypool, pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville for the past 11 years, has been called as pastor of the 5000-member Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, effective Oct. 1.

Claypool, who preached the annual convention sermon at the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, will succeed J. P. Allen, who joined the staff of the SBC Radio-Television Commission here. (BP)

scription served as a means by which Paul declared the one and true God to them.

Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle had made their impact on Athens before Paul. Philosophy wasn't what the people in Athens needed. They didn't need another theory, nor another god. They needed to hear about the one true God.

Paul on Mars Hill, the Areopagus, declared God as Creator (Acts 17:24). He pointed out that God is not to be worshipped in the form of images made by man (Acts 17:25). Paul said God is the source of life (Acts 17:29). Paul preached that God had borne patiently with human ignorance (Acts 17:30). He went on to proclaim that God had raised Jesus from the dead (Acts 17:30) and He would save those who believe (Acts 17:34).

Men in Athens not only needed to think about God, they needed God in Christ for salvation and life.

WOODMONT



BAPTIST CHURCH

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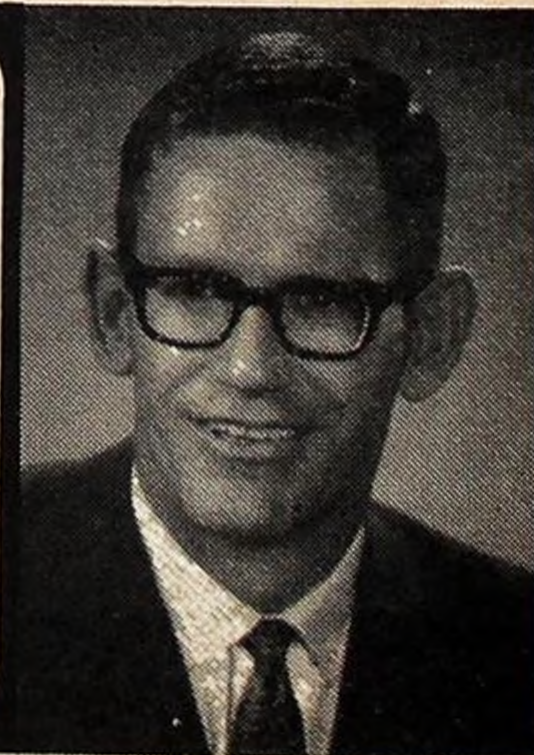
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US ON

TELEVISION

SUNDAYS 10:30 AM



Pastor: DR. BILL SHERMAN

Loan Service Of Mission Agency Expands Nationally

GLORIETA, N. M.—The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board voted here to expand the work of its Division of Church loans by eliminating limitations for its work only to "new territory" areas and expanding its activities to the entire nation.

Since 1959, operating on the basis of limited funds and resources, the division had confined its work to those state conventions (organized since 1940) where most new churches were being started and where local financing was hard to find because Southern Baptists were not well known, board officials said.

Robert H. Kilgore of Atlanta, director of the division, said needs in the states where Southern Baptists are well established are greater now than in 1959.

He said weekly requests from these areas have been far between 10 to 20 loans. The division has made arrangements for expanded borrowing of funds to be used for these loans. However, Kilgore does not expect money to be the major assistance.

"Counseling to correlate the purchase of land and erection of buildings as it relates to the financial program of the church will be our major commodity," he said.

He cited an increasing number of churches which have been abused because of unwise financial planning, excessive building, and even erecting the wrong type of building.

"Quite often the location of the facilities in the community are not planned in relationship to the changing complex of the community or the growing edge of the community," he said.

Financial assistance may run second to counseling but funds will go for two purposes: (1) the purchase of church sites where new churches are being organized, and (2) where local financing cannot be obtained

Woman Named Temporary Head Of California Council Of Churches

LOS ANGELES—A woman has been named temporary administrative director of the Southern California Council of Churches.

She is the Rev. Priscilla A. Chaplin, 50, who was ordained in 1957, one year after the United Presbyterian Church's General Assembly voted to ordain women into the ministry. For eight years she was parish minister of a small Presbyterian church in Sauquoit, N.Y.

From 1965 to 1967 she was administrative assistant to the denomination's stated clerk, or chief executive. That was during the last year of the administration of Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, who became head of the World Council of Churches, and the first year of the current stated clerk, Dr. William Thompson. (RNS)

reasonably, the division will make loans as it is able.

The loans will not exceed \$1,000,000 for 20 years, and they are made for the "going rate" of interest based on current economic conditions and sound business principles.

"Mostly our rate of interest is determined by the rate we are required to pay for funds we borrow," Kilgore said. Currently that rate is 8½ per cent, but the division does not charge for its services.

Kilgore stressed the fact that the present action will not alter the division's ability to serve the churches in the newer areas. (BP)

Pentecostal Movement Seen Answer To 'Drab' Rationalism

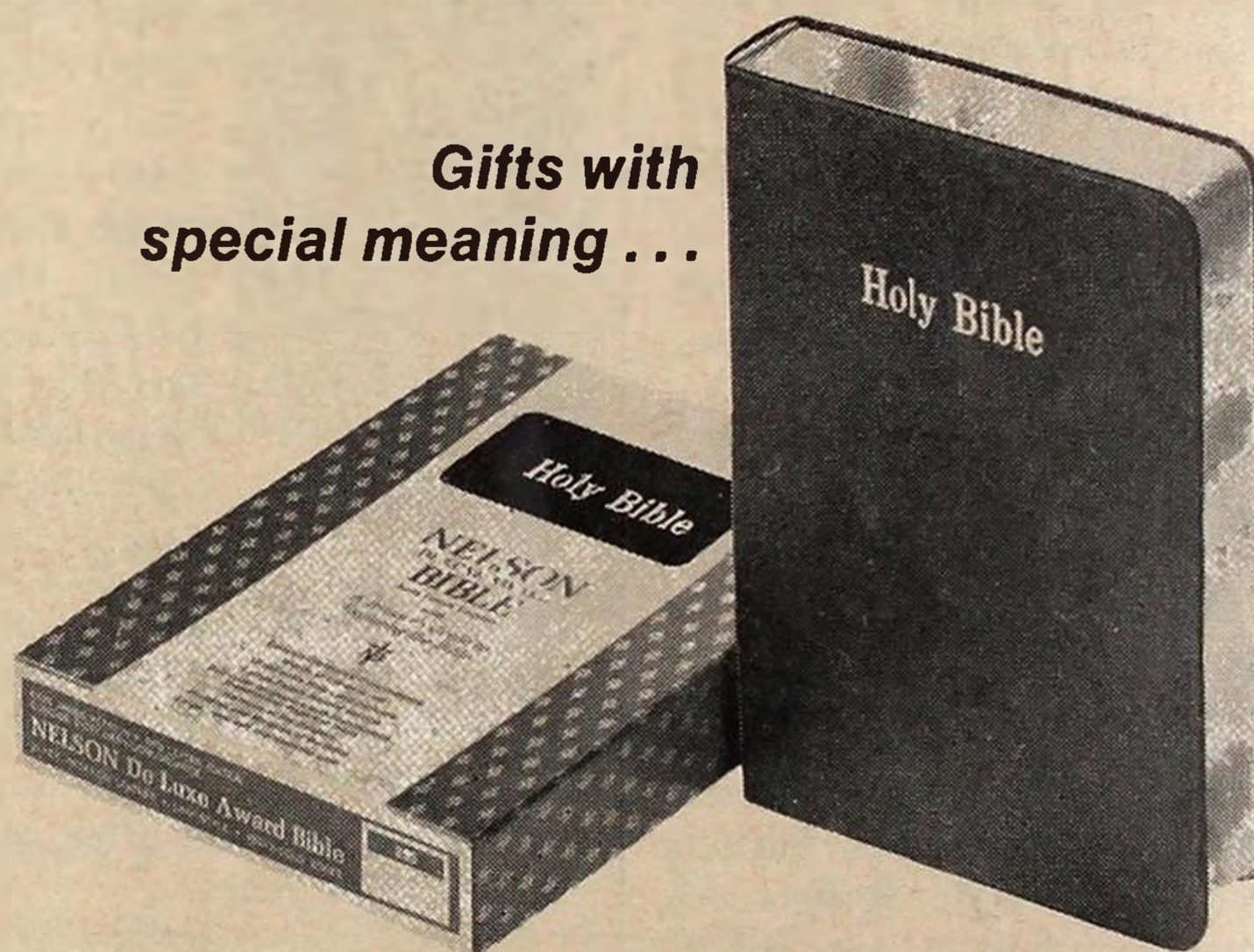
MINNEAPOLIS—A prominent United Church of Christ minister says he believes the Pentecostal movement may help U.S. churches fight rationalism which he says is killing Protestantism in Europe.

Dr. Harold King, minister of the suburban Wayzata Community church, expressed the view after returning from a seven-week tour of Europe.

According to Dr. King, church services in Europe are about as "drab and unappealing to the eyes" as many of the church buildings themselves.

He thinks that emphasis on the Holy Spirit, or "divine creative force" can bring "spontaneity and freshness" into what has been overly "scholarly or intellectual." (RNS)

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12 And they sought to lay hold him, but feared the people: for t knew that he had spoken the para against them: and they left him, a went their way.

13 ¶And they send unto him cert of the Pharisees and of the He-rō ans, to catch him in his words.

14 And when they were come, t say unto him, Master, we know t



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Tennessee News Briefs

Mill Creek church, Stone association, has installed carpeting in the aisles and across the front of the church.

Verble church, Stone association, has ordained **Bobby Pharris** into the gospel ministry. He is now pastor of the church.

H. Bert Coble, a graduate of Belmont college, Nashville, and Southwestern Baptist Theological seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, has received the master of music in choral literature and conducting degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder. A native of Jackson, he served as minister of music at First church, Lebanon, while in Nashville.

Barfield church, Concord association, has begun construction on a new educational building as well as enlargement of the existing auditorium, including a new roof, redecoration, carpeting, and new pews. **Greely W. Davenport** is pastor.

Frank Garlock, minister of music, Southside Baptist church, Greenville, S.C., and chairman of the music theory department and director of brass ensembles at Bob Jones university, presented an illustrated message on "The Big Beat" or "Is Anything Wrong with Rock and Roll Music?" at Brainerd church, Chattanooga, recently. **J. Ralph McIntyre** is pastor.

The Youth Choir of First Baptist church, Dawson, Ga., presented a concert recently at First church, Rockwood. **Robert W. Campbell**, pastor. The choir is directed by **Dr. Charles D. Kirby**, former minister of music at the Rockwood church.

Dr. Samuel Kamaleson, of Madras, India, a minister of the Church of South India, was pulpit guest recently at Calvary church, Knoxville. **J. R. Covington**, pastor. He has been doing post-graduate work in the United States and is finishing work toward the doctor of sacred theology degree.

The Youth Choir of First church, Clarksville, has returned from a missionary tour which included Washington, D.C., Hampton Beach, Billerica, Mass., Skaneateles, N. Y., and Greenwich, Conn. Some 3500 persons attended a concert at Hampton Beach. **John Laida** is pastor at Clarksville.

Smith Fork church, Wilson County association, has purchased an organ. **O. L. Lasater** is pastor.

Gibson County association, **O. Wyndell Jones**, moderator, is sponsoring the **James Robison** Evangelistic Crusade on Sept. 12-19 at the Milan Football Stadium. **John McKay** will be in charge of the music.

John Short Jordan and **David Wrather** were ordained as deacons recently by the Powell's Chapel church, Murfreesboro. **F. Murray Mathis** is pastor.

Hayward Highfill, pastor, First church, Clinton, and president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, brought the commencement address to the graduating class at Carson-Newman college, Jefferson City, at which time 61 students received degrees.

Mr. and Mrs. James Pyland, members of Ward's Grove church, Murfreesboro, are furnishing the nursery in memory of their daughter, **Debra**, who died in 1966 at the age of seven weeks. **J. H. Harvey** is pastor.

A Union University freshman, **Mike McBride**, has become the first recipient of the



McBride

Royal Ambassador Service-Aide Scholarship at the school. **McBride** was awarded an \$800 scholarship for the completion of 450 hours of work experience through the program. He is a member of First church, Parsons, and has served on the State Royal Ambassador staff for the past three years.

Robert L. Snead, minister of music at First church, Nashville, will resume graduate studies at Florida State University, Tallahassee this fall. He has resigned from the church position after serving there for the past eight years.

Robertson Creek church, Nolachucky association, Bulls Gap, has organized a church library. **Miss Mary Ellen Horner** will serve as librarian.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Shirley DeBell is the new superintendent of missions for McNairy County association.

Harsh Chapel church, Nashville, has called **Sam P. Hardy** as pastor. He is a graduate of Belmont college, Nashville. The **Hardys** have one son, **Chris**, two and one-half.

Nancy McBee has resigned as youth director, Immanuel church, Knoxville, to return to Carson-Newman college, Jefferson City.

Steven Street church, Cookeville, has called **J. B. Allen** as pastor.

REVIVAL RESULTS

Poplar Springs church, Stone association, received three on profession of faith and a number of rededications during their recent revival. **Randell Joins**, of Newport, served as evangelist.

Paul Bruce Grubbs, pastor, Donelson View church, Nashville, association, was the evangelist for revival services held recently at West Nashville church, same association. There were seven professions of faith, five for baptism, and several rededications. **Oscar T. Nelson** is pastor.

New Friendship church, Cleveland, held a revival and Vacation Bible School combined recently, resulting in 12 professions of faith, six for baptism, and 15 rededications. **Robert Peek**, pastor, East Athens church, Athens, was the evangelist. **Ted Wood** is pastor.

Alpha association sponsored an area-wide Youth Crusade with **Tom Billings**, pastor, Brookside church, Nashville, serving as evangelist. There were five professions of faith and 12 rededications. Music for the tent meeting was under the direction of **Jim Troutner**.

Smith Fork church, Wilson County association, reports 17 professions of faith and several rededications during their recent revival. **Philip Dougan**, pastor, First church, Alexandria, was evangelist. **O. L. Lasater** is pastor.

The Youth Mission Group of Germantown church, Germantown, led a mission Vacation Bible School at Mercer church, Mercer, recently. There were 12 professions of faith and several rededications. **Kenneth Story** is pastor at Germantown.

Gary Allen is the new minister of Music at First church, Cookeville. **George Capps**, pastor.

Philip Dougan has resigned as pastor of First church, Alexandria, to become pastor of Franklin Street Baptist church, Centerville, Ohio. During **Dougan's** four-year ministry at Alexandria there have been 90 additions and two educational buildings have been built. He is also moderator of Wilson County association Executive Board.

Steve Atwood has accepted the position of youth director at First church, McKenzie. He has served on a temporary basis since June 1.

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WMU Leads In Promotion Of State Missions Emphasis

By Bill Sorrell

As a flower unfolding, the State Woman's Missionary Union, has blossomed from existences begun as early as 1872 when H. A. Tupper of the Foreign Mission Board cited the need for a "spiritual sisterhood in the Southland."

Ten years later in 1882 a Central WMU committee was started in Nashville and developed into a state WMU organization in 1888 with societies in 24 towns and villages across Tennessee.

From the leadership of the WMU's first president in 1889, Mrs. G. A. Lofton, of Nashville, to the present state Executive Secretary, Miss Mary Jane Nethery, the WMU has strived to teach, study, and pray for missions throughout the world. Missionary to China, Lottie Moon requested help Christmas of 1888, and the WMU, by 1889, had begun an offering to be used for work on all foreign fields.

With this spreading of information about mission fields and work of world evangelization, the WMU has imprinted its goals of personal, spiritual, and mental enrichment of the individual and the world's needs.



Miss Nethery

In today's WMU, original names have been changed but the purpose of educating and involving the church through membership in missions, assisting students with scholarships, teaching leadership through conferences, Mission-Friends, Girls In Action, Acteens, and Baptist Women—Baptist Young Women, the WMU has carried on in a tradition which H. A. Tupper would have been proud.

Working with Miss Nethery, executive secretary-treasurer of the state WMU for four years, is Miss Beulah Peoples, Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women director, Mrs. Sara Oakey, Mission-Friends director, and secretaries, Mrs. James W. Rogers, Miss Donna Peoples, Mrs. Bill Johnson, Mrs. Vern B. Powers, and Mrs. Robert Baker. Directors of the Acteens and GA have not been filled.

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State Missions

WMU "Golden" Offering

A happy little tune goes, "You've come a long way to get where you're at today." Such lyrics could be applied to the progress the state Woman's Missionary Union has made in its sponsorship of the Golden State Missions offering, a supplement offering to the cooperative program.

From an offering that began in 1901 with \$800 to the \$140,000 goal this year the WMU has come a long way in striving to meet mission needs of Tennessee through the state convention-local church sponsored offering.

A 1901 brainchild of Mrs. W. C. Golden, the corresponding secretary of the Central committee (then the name of the state WMU, Ex. Bd.) the Golden State Mission offering will be used to support a variety of mission activities. It will provide scholarships funds for ministries to the deaf, help support the United Tennessee League, a Protestant-supported organization designed

ALLOCATIONS FOR THE 1971 GOLDEN STATE MISSIONS OFFERING

Program of Work

Burney Love Gifts (Aid to children of missionaries)	\$ 1,750.00
Camps (Capital Needs—New buildings, permanent improvement of existing buildings)	30,000.00
Church Lot Fund	10,000.00
Gifts to Missionaries (\$10.00 for each native Tennessee missionary at Christmas)	1,850.00
Graduate Loan Fund	1,000.00
International Student Retreat	4,000.00
Student Scholarships	9,500.00
Mary Northington Scholarships	4,500.00
Medical Scholarships	2,000.00
Harrison-Chilhowee	3,000.00
Ministry to the Deaf	4,500.00
Mission Center Ministries	2,000.00
Negro Work:	
Baptist Student Center, Nashville (Program)	1,300.00
Baptist Student Center, Nashville (Operations)	1,200.00
Baptist Student Center, Nashville (Building)	7,500.00*
Special Rural and Mountain Missions	15,000.00
Student Summer Missions	11,500.00
Missions Department	6,500.00
Woman's Missionary Union	5,000.00
Summer Preachers Schools	6,000.00
United Tennessee League	20,000.00**
Site Fund for Proposed Assembly	7,900.00
Miscellaneous (Promotional Materials, etc.)	5,000.00

ALLOCATIONS For 1971

\$140,000.00***

*By special arrangement with the Home Mission Board, which holds mortgage on the building, \$7,500 from the 1970 offering and \$7,500 from the 1971 offering, with the HMB assuming an equal amount, will retire the indebtedness and eliminate this item from the allocations after 1971.

**\$5,000 to come from last receipts on the \$140,000 goal.

***All receipts above the \$140,000 goal to go into the site fund for the proposed all-season assembly in the central part of the state.

Catholic College Seeks License to Sell Liquor

WINOOSKI, Vt.—St. Michael's college is considering proposals to open a pub, which would offer beer and wine, at the campus student center.

A first-class liquor license is currently being sought for the Roman Catholic school. If the license is approved, a catering service which operates dining facilities on campus, will open the pub.

St. Michael's could become the first college in Vermont to sell alcoholic beverages on campus if plans for the pub are carried out. The move is being taken under the state's new law lowering the drinking age to 18. (RNS)

to help drug addicts, and provide ground-work-funds to be used in future construction of a new all-season Baptist assembly in Tennessee.

Tennessee will observe State Missions week, Sept. 12-19. The theme, "Expect and Attempt" will parallel this year's convention theme of "Living the Spirit of Christ in Expectancy and Creativity."

The Golden State missions offering, named after Mrs. Golden in 1943, will be allocated to the 17 different mission causes listed below:

BROTHERHOOD

By Roy J. Gilleland Jr.

We are a fellowship of Tennessee Baptist Men committed to reaching people for Jesus Christ—a Christian revolution—Now.



Gilleland

We will use every means available to bring this about in God's time. Yes—this is to attempt the impossible but to quote the words of Robert Browning, "A man's reach should exceed his grasp—or what is heaven for." Also we read in Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me."

What are our plans for Christian Revolution—Now? To work through the finest outreach organization in any church—the Royal Ambassador organization for boys 6 through 17 years. We are also organizing and training our men for Christian witness and growth using the Home Mission Board Lay Witnessing plan named WIN. We are also a support service organization whose purpose is to carry out any mission task assigned us by our local church.

Christian Revolution—Now—Let's Go!

State Missions

Brotherhood

From the mountains, to the rivers, to the fields of harvest, the State Brotherhood department has been involved in educating and leading Baptist mission-minded men for 64 years.

Created for a greater missionary interest and more liberal support of the missionary movement, the Brotherhood department became the successor of the Layman's Missionary Movement of the Southern Baptist Convention which was created in 1907.

That movement sought the enlistment of men for inspiration and instruction of the world mission task of the convention. It was headquartered in Knoxville from 1907 until 1926.

In 1926 a new emphasis on the whole church program developed along with the changing of its name to the Baptist Brotherhood of the South, with its headquarters in Memphis in 1938. In 1950 it became the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Brotherhood begins its work with young minds, looking to the Royal Ambassador organization in leading boys aged 9-17. It was established in 1908, two years before the Boy Scouts of America was founded.

Through the local church, the Brotherhood, now renamed Baptist Men, makes a systematic effort for enlisting men in co-operating and in the promotion of all the tasks of the church and a continuation for the young church man interested in the

STUDENT DEPARTMENT

In 1907 when college coeds wore long, hoop skirts and college men wore starched, white collars and suits to class, the first Baptist ministry to students was begun in Tennessee.

Student work then was known as BYPU, (Baptist Young People's Union), and was administered under the State Sunday School department.

In 1931, the initials were changed to BSU and 12 years later, in 1943, the Student Department was organized into a separate department by the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

In Tennessee today, Baptist student ministry is expanding to meet the needs of the 29,365 Baptist students attending colleges in the state. Through the 31 active BSUs, that include 26 directors and 13 building complexes, at least 3705 students are involved actively in BSU work.

Through this ministry to students, the BSU provides devotional, social, church, and enlistment activities in leading students toward spiritual growth during their college life.

The 26 campus directors, 11 full-time, nine part-time, and four volunteer, serve as ministers to students. In addition to planning BSU campus activities, they also emphasize Bible study, campus evangelism, and participation in local church programs.

Tennessee BSU work is organized and promoted through the state student department. The student department sponsors the state BSU convention, this year to be held Oct. 29-31 at Austin Peay State university, Clarksville; two international student conferences a year, and two spring retreats, held at Camp Carson and Camp Linden.

This year the student department sponsored 22 student missionaries.

Glenn Yarbrough has served as Secretary of the Convention's student department two years. Bill Henry is associate secretary of the department with Mrs. V. L. McGlocklin and Mrs. Charles Dibrell, secretaries.

goals of Brotherhood work.

Working through state, regional, associational, and local representatives, the Brotherhood department sponsors meetings, tours, congresses, camps, conventions, retreats, and literature.

Roy J. Gilleland, Secretary of the State Brotherhood department since 1956, has been involved in Baptist Men's Work since 1947. Prior to this work Gilleland was an electrical engineer for Seaboard Railroad, a dealer in a wholesale oil and gas plant, and owned a heating installation plant and a recapping dealership before he sold his business to go into Baptist work.

Bill Highsmith is State Royal Ambassador secretary and began his duties in 1968. Secretaries in the Brotherhood department are Mrs. Wilbert Kerr, Mrs. Charles Sipe, and Mrs. John Alden.

STUDENT WORK

By Glenn Yarbrough

State Missions means Baptists of this state witnessing together about the kingdom of God and extending their love and ministry to all people in Christ's name. It means Baptist churches and concerned Christians working together to develop programs of ministry and service, primarily (but not exclusively) within the borders of the state.



Yarbrough

State Missions means a fellowship of Baptist believers. As they work together for mission

causes, choosing various methods and stating different opinions, they demonstrate their freedom, diversity, and solidarity in Christian love and purpose.

State Missions means a method of focusing attention and support to those areas of ministry and service which are of vital concern to Baptists. For example: It is likely and logical that Tennessee Baptists will be the persons who are most concerned about ministering to college students within our borders. Most of the students here are our own. Their needs are apparent to us. We speak with them often in our homes and churches. We share their joys and sorrows. We want them to experience the love of God and to know the joy which they can find in Christian service. And so, through State Missions, we provide Baptist Student Unions, directors, and student centers as an expression of our concern for our sons and daughters.

State Missions means a primary channel for the support of all missionary causes. Many of the programs and projects which are sustained through State Missions could be financed only in this manner. Only nominal support for Home and Foreign Missions could be expected if State Missions failed to be concerned about all people, everywhere.

U.T. Martin Student Director Is Elected

Adam Reid Hall Jr., Memphis native, has been appointed director of Baptist Student Work at the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Dr. Fred Kendall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Hall, a U.T. Martin alumnus, has been director of Food Services at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth for the past five years.

He succeeds Robert Glasgow who is now pastor of First church, Walnut Grove, North Carolina.

Sunday School

When church bells ring and Sunday breakfasts are finished, thousands of Tennessee Baptists begin hastening to get ready for the first item of the Lord's Day business, Sunday School.



Price

Ninety-eight per cent of the 2698 Baptist churches in Tennessee have a Sunday School program, a program that was instituted in 1908, when William Douglas Hudgins of Nashville was elected to head the education department of the state convention.

In 1934 the education department was divided with Sunday School and Brotherhood in one department and Training Union in the other.

Besides being the church's teaching agency, Sunday School is designed to reach people. Reaching people by bringing the lost to an acceptance of Christ, and then enlisting the saved in a program of self-development and challenge have been anchors of Sunday School life over the years.

Magnifying the church and Bible while centralizing evangelism and missions have been other objectives carried out by the Sunday School department, the oldest of the organized convention departments.

Through the state convention, State Sunday School workers teach Sunday School teachers, associational officers, and church leaders through conferences, programs, state clinics, and local Vacation Bible Schools.

Tennessee Baptist Convention workers include Wendell Price, secretary of the Sunday School department since 1969, Doyle Oliver, director of Preschool work, and Lyn Brasfield, Young People and Intermediate director.

Office secretaries are Mrs. Sharon Copenberger, Mrs. Carol Simmons, and Mrs. Mary Sherrill.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

By Wendell Price

From the Bible, churches are commissioned to share the whole Gospel truth to every person of every generation in this world until Jesus returns. This is Missions.

State Missions is doing the same, usually within the state geographical boundaries.

Some churches are weak. Some areas do not have a church. The stronger churches pool their resources of prayer, materials, and personnel (Romans 15:1) to (1) establish churches where they are needed, and (2) strengthen those which are weaker.

This may mean supplying money, training potential leaders, preaching, teaching, reaching and winning persons to Jesus and church membership, all in deep consecration and prayer.

State Missions

Many Areas Of Work

From a ministry that can teach a deaf girl a Bible story to providing food for a needy mountain family or supplying the materials for a rural pastor's new home, all phases of State Missions are carried out by the Missions department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The Missions department, organized in 1953 by the Tennessee Baptist Convention, encompasses a variety of ministries, with work ranging from pastoral missions to juvenile rehabilitation.

This summer, the department and the Home Mission Board have provided the funds necessary for the 11 summer missionaries working in Tennessee at resort areas, inner-city mission and community centers, churches, and Tennessee's state penitentiary in Nashville.

Ministries to the deaf at Camp Carson and Camp Linden and the sponsorship of Preachers schools at Union university, Carson-Newman, and Belmont college are other projects promoted through the department.

The missions department also provides church site grants and funds for construction of new missions and churches.

Through work with local churches, the department seeks to improve efficiency in its ministry to the total church membership through preaching, teaching, training, and the establishment of new missions.

While promoting the whole denominational work, the department also supports world missions through contributions to the Cooperative Program.

Providing the manpower behind the state missions organization is Leslie Baumgartner, who is in his 11th year as convention secretary of the Missions department, and W. Paul Hall, associate secretary. Miss Elizabeth Stiles and Mrs. Harris D. Kemp are office secretaries.



Dr. and Mrs. C. Penrose St. Amant

St. Amant is the newly-elected president of the Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon, Switzerland. Mrs. St. Amant is the former Jessie Davis of Brownsville.

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Music Department

The box is changing. The old radio box is not the same and the sounds that it projects today range from country and western to classical and popular. Even religious songs, the new ones or the old with new notes, are a part of radio's new sound and in churches, groups are using drums and guitars now to produce religious folk musicals like "Tell It Like It Is," "Purpose," and "Natural High."

Keeping up with the times and sounds is the Church music department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention as it continues to spread the sound of Christian music throughout the state of Tennessee.

The Department has grown from a Hymn Festival, a mission program sponsored by the State Training Union department from 1946-51, to today's ever-expanding musical ministry that included 75,000 people in 1114 churches participating in music ministries in 1970. By the end of 1971, the goal of 78,750 participants in 1170 churches is hoped to be met.

Fostering the education program in the field of church music, leading Tennessee Baptists to a greater understanding and fellowship through singing, and working personally with ministers of music, have been goals strived for by the Music department.

Statistical goals for 1971 Tennessee music ministries include two All-state instrumental groups, 90 associational officers, 60 summer church schools, 2400 total music course credit awards, 500 attendance at music camps and the addition of a retreat for ministers of music, and 14,000 participants in music festivals.

The music department has added another note to its cap, as Tennessee led the Southern Baptist convention in 1970 in total church music study course awards in the Christian development and Christian leadership courses with 1919 credits.

The department, established as a full-time department in 1955, has tried consistently to improve music in evangelism and worship in Tennessee through participation, appreciation, and training by sponsoring music festivals, schools, camps, and eight summer specialists working with music programs in small churches across Tennessee.

Frank G. Charton has been secretary of the State music department since 1955. Other workers in the Convention's music department are office secretaries Mrs. T. A. Robinson and Mrs. J. M. Galloway.

"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.

MUSIC

By Frank G. Charton

A simple statement of tasks assigned to the State Music Department falls somewhat short of the ideal concept. Some of the



Charton

intangibles may be as important as "teaching music; training persons to lead, sing, and play music; and providing music in the church, community, and denomination."

Assistance to smaller churches should always be a matter of primary concern. **Fellowship** among Ministers of Music and other music leaders must be carefully nurtured and encouraged. **Leadership** should be evident not only in plans and programs but in the establishment and maintenance of quality of music. The Department, however, must be willing to experiment and be open to new possibilities for artistic expression in worship.

Personal taste in music cannot be the only criteria for music selection, but neither can shoddy music with inferior texts be recommended simply because of its appeal to a particular group. We still must use music which ministers to the needs of our people without sacrificing truth in text and quality in music.

State Missions

STEWARDSHIP

By W. C. Summar

In the giving of the Great Commission, Jesus spoke of geographical and political entities for the purpose of emphasizing its extent and the fixing of responsibility. Thus, Tennessee Baptists have the responsibility of implementing the Great Commission within Tennessee, and must not leave the work undone or to be done by any other group. At the same time, they are to cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention in preaching the same gospel and performing the same ministries in all nations.

The very nature of Christian missions makes it imperative for state missions to provide a broad and strong base for world missions. For Tennessee Baptists, state missions is basic; because missionary personnel and financial support have their origin within the scope of state missions.

A healthy and vigorous state mission program will always generate deep interest, vital participation, and liberal support for world missions.

Stewardship Department

Expectations ran high the year before a vast financial campaign began across the South in 1919. Southern Baptists began to dig their pockets in an effort to raise \$75 million in five years to finance denominational work in progress and work planned for the future.



Summar

From this five-year financial campaign, millions were accumulated, but the \$75 million goal was never reached. Promoters learned from this experience of economic unsoundness and over-expanded programs fi-

nanced with borrowed funds that a co-operative system of finance was needed to finance all denominational causes.

In 1925 the Cooperative Program provided an answer.

This year, the Cooperative Program goal for Tennessee is \$5,675,000. The money obtained through this program will go to missionary, educational, and benevolent causes across the state.

Promoting and publicizing the Cooperative Program and the Christian Stewardship program and other financial work in Tennessee in the responsibility of the State Stewardship department.

Through this department, which was organized in 1960, budgets are promoted for churches, tithe enrollment week is supported and always there is the stress on stewardship in the Christian family.

Its programs are geared to offer counsel, advice, and promotion to Tennessee Baptists.

Summar is beginning his third year as State Stewardship secretary. Mrs. John Estey is office secretary in the department.

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A Cooperative Effort

By Leslie Baumgartner

State Missions may be defined simply as world missions in Tennessee, seeking to discover mission needs and to help the churches in every way possible in meeting those needs. The concern of State Missions is for people and their continuing need for the full ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Baumgartner

State Missions by nature is cooperative missions. The combined forces of the Tennessee Baptist Convention—its institutions and agencies, its executive and administrative offices, its staff departments and Woman's Missionary Union, its boards and committees—cooperate in assisting the churches as the churches perform the missions task which Christ committed to them.

State Missions, through the Missions Department, cooperates with associations in the call and support of superintendents of missions and associates and with the Home Mission Board and associations and churches in the call and support of special missions workers.

State Missions is caring and sharing in our state in the name of Christ.

Street Preaching Ordinance To Get Further Legal Review

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.—After questions were raised about its Constitutionality, the City Board of Aldermen here sent a proposed ordinance which would regulate street preaching back to a committee for further legal review.

The ordinance was specifically designed to curtail preaching on the Trade Street Mall, where preachers have been congregating daily and drawing large crowds, prompting complaints from merchants in the area. However, the legislation would apply to the entire city. (RNS)

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Editorial Assistant Joins Baptist And Reflector Staff

Mrs. Bobbie Durham is the new editorial assistant on the staff of the **Baptist And Reflector**.

She will serve as a feature writer, rewrite person and reporter on assignment.

In addition she will assist the editor in week-by-week layout and make-up of the paper.

Mrs. Durham is a graduate of the University of Texas, El Paso, with a bachelor of arts degree in journalism and public relations and a minor in English.

A native of Denver, Col., Mrs. Durham is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. H. L. Bagley. Bagley is head of the journalism department at Metropolitan State college, Denver. She is married to David L. Durham of Phoenix, Ariz., a teacher in the Nashville Metro School System. They have one son, David, age two.

Before joining the **Baptist And Reflector** staff, Mrs. Durham was employed by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville. Prior to that she worked for the **Cervis Rocky Mountain Journal** in Denver.

State Missions

Evangelism Department

On a cold January night in 1971, 12,000 young people gathered in Vanderbilt's Memorial gymnasium to have their fires lit for Jesus in a weekend session of the state Youth Evangelistic conference, sponsored by the Evangelism department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



Dowell

Thousands of young people from across Tennessee came to hear the testimonies of three University of Tennessee football players, all-pro guard and evangelist Bill Glass, and Arthur Blessitt, a crusader from California in the Jesus movement; a movement that conference sponsors said became real to thousands of young Tennesseans that weekend.

Evangelistic fires, a unifying program for soul winning, have been fueled through statewide conferences, associational and church programs, retreats, and literature.

Over 22,000 people have attended the three Evangelistic conferences—the State, the Youth, and the Associational—in Tennessee this year. In 1970, over 9000 attended Associational conferences in 64 associations.

Witnessing, visitation, and magnifying the church and church-centered evangelism in the New Testament method have been goals aimed for by the Evangelism Department.

The fruits of this labor have been shown through the 28,089 baptisms reported in Tennessee in 1970, an increase of 2178 in

Church Training

During this past summer, a motorized Tide soap box, that has a tendency to run in circles, was the promotional mascot of the one phase of state church training department's work.



Norton

Publicizing and promoting church training weeks at Camp Linden and Camp Carson through a "clean commercial" was the brainchild of Mary Allen, State youth director.

Besides the work the Church Training department does at camps, the department has sought to develop the "Three Cs" of church life since the state training union became a department in 1934. They are Christian ethics, Christian history, and Church policy, and have been formulated into an organized program designed to provide better trained leadership in churches and prepare Baptists for more effective Christian services.

Church training encompasses studies of the Bible, church and home life, denominational doctrines, and missions as it provides a place for each church member.

Study courses and an emphasis on daily Bible reading and prayer are also oriented through church training.

Through the Tennessee Baptist convention, a force of six workers organize, publicize, and lead church training work throughout the state.

These workers assist churches and associations in establishing, enlarging, conducting, and improving the training programs in Tennessee. The department sponsors Youth Week, Christian Home Week, workshops, associational "M" nights, career conferences along with the summer retreats at Camp Linden and Camp Carson.

The department also sponsors associational, regional, and state sword drills.

Dr. Charles Norton has served Tennessee Baptists as department secretary since 1941. Other workers include Johnnie Hall, Adult work director; Miss Mary Anderson, director of Library services and projects; Mrs. Edward Kennedy, director of children's work; Mrs. Jessie Meek, preschool work director; Miss Allen; and office secretary, Elaine Matthews.

1969. Last year churches reported 31,395 additions.

The Evangelism and Missions organization was begun in 1945 by Norris Gilliam, and continued through work by L. G. Frey who became superintendent of missions in 1947. The Evangelism department was established in 1948.

In 1956, F. M. Dowell became Secretary of the Evangelistic department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Office workers are Miss Nelle Elder and Miss Betty Miles.

Wars And Rumors Of Wars

By W. R. White

Baylor University, Waco, Texas

Basic Passages: Matthew 24:6; James 4:1-2; Habakkuk 1:5-11; Judges 6-7

Focal Passages: Matthew 24:6; James 4:1-2; Habakkuk 1:5-6; Judges 7:19-22

Jesus predicted wars and rumors of wars in the future. In other words, there would be hot and cold wars.

He warned His disciples not to let themselves be deceived into great excitement about the end being just around the corner because of this fact.

We have had a whole rash of wars and rumors of war nearly every generation since then. The end has not come as yet.

Both the causes and the occasions of war have been with us and are still with us. We need not be surprised by such events.

This does not prevent us from seeking to eliminate the causes and occasions for wars. Neither does it forbid our setting up organizations and machinery for arbitration and negotiation.

We know that human government has accomplished much in establishing law and order in spite of its losses and gains through the ages. These fluctuations are discouraging but anarchy would be much worse. We must keep striving for high ideals and better conditions.

We should not trust too implicitly in the peace gestures and so-called just and durable peace movements. Neither are we to be unduly impressed with the appearance of wars and rumors of war. We are to make no predictions by pointing to dates on the calendar but we are to keep our hearts in readiness at all time.

We are to regulate our lives and activities with sane, sober expectancy of our Lord's glorious return. This should not change the practical activities and the normal relationships of life except to vitalize and intensify that which is wholesome. This attitude should stimulate our best.

DISCIPLES MUST MAINTAIN PERSPECTIVE Matthew 24:6

From time to time there will be great excitement and commotion among nations. The Christian is to keep his "cool". This he can do if he maintains the proper perspective as given him by Jesus and the Bible.

Contrary to the warning and plain teachings of the Bible groups of people have been highly excited and have made themselves ridiculous over the end of time because of striking events on the horizon of the world scene. This has occurred periodically in history since the ascension of Christ.

The coming of our Lord is our blessed hope and if kept in proper perspective can be a powerful force for edification and

sanctification. It should not be discounted or obscured by unscriptural fanaticism.

THE PROLIFIC CAUSE OF WAR IN MAN James 4:1-2

In fallen human nature in the alien sinner and in the carnal nature or old man of the Christian, there are powerful lusts. They often spill over into contentious conflicts and wars.

Our human race is so sharply and deeply divided. The material necessities and luxuries of life are so poorly distributed, partly because of the fault of the victims and partly due to greed and exploitation. In any case, such a situation exists.

In some parts of the world there is little opportunity to right the situation peacefully. In other parts, some people could remedy their own situation with sufficient energy and determination. But unfortunately they have sufficient ambition to envy others but not adequate passion to work out their own problems. In other parts of the world there are inexcusable injustices and oppression. Sooner or later there will be an explosion.

WAR IS SOMETIMES THE SURGERY OF JUDGMENT Habakkuk 1:5-6, Judges 7:19-22

An amazing and astounding plan was announced by Jehovah. He would use the vicious and ugly people, the Chaldeans to conquer and chastise His chosen people. So great and so incorrigible was their rebellion.

It was a work of ghastly surgery. It became the only alternative left to Jehovah whereby He could demonstrate His sovereignty and purge His people. It was severe but was imperative.

On the other hand we have an explosion due to unbearable tyranny and oppression. He enabled Gideon, through a unique strategy and divine favor to throw off the terrible yoke of injustice which His people were suffering. It was done with a tiny band of men.

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Judson Memorial, Nashville, Calls H. Raymond Langlois

Judson Memorial church, Nashville, has called H. Raymond Langlois as pastor, effective Sept. 12. Langlois is a native of Nashville and is currently pastor of First church, Greeneville, where he has served for approximately three years.

Langlois has served as pastor of Calvary chapel, a mission of First church, Murfreesboro, Westgate Baptist church, Columbus, Ohio, area missionary, Cleveland, Ohio, and State Student Union and Training Union director for the Ohio Baptist Convention.

He attended Peabody college, Nashville and graduated from Belmont college, Nashville with the bachelor of science degree, as well as Southern Baptist Theological seminary, Louisville, Ky. with the bachelor of divinity degree. He has done further work at Southern seminary toward the doctor of ministries degree. While attending college in Nashville, he was employed by Genesco.

The Langlois' have two children, Mark, 17, and Joel, nine.

Portuguese Assembly Approves Religious Freedom Bill

The Portuguese Assembly has approved a draft bill guaranteeing religious freedom to all "state-recognized" religions in Portugal.

For a religious denomination to qualify for recognition by the state its leader must be able to furnish proof that it has at least 500 adherents, resident in the country.

The measure, sponsored by the government, is designed to end reported "deficiencies in treatment" for religions other than Roman Catholicism which, since establishment of the Portuguese-Vatican Concordat of 1940, has been the official religion.

For decades, Protestants and other non-Catholic groups have complained of discrimination in Portugal and its overseas territories.

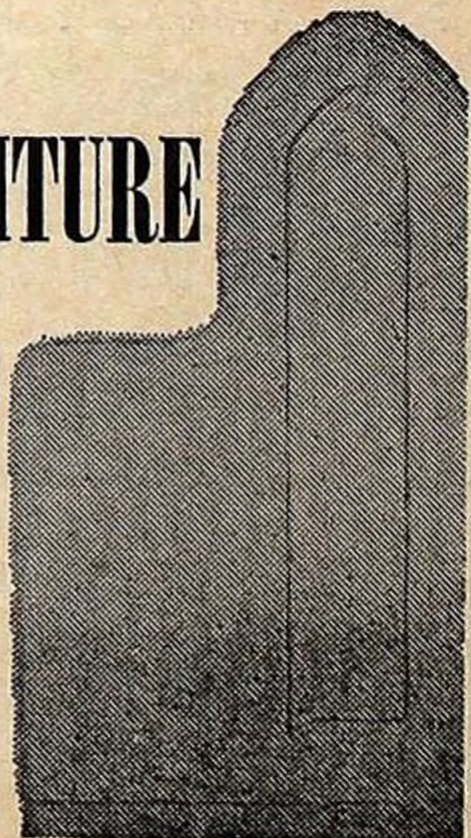
Alleged abuses included the inability of non-Catholics to qualify for official positions in the government, forced religious training of their children in Catholic doctrine, and restrictions on missionary activities. (EBPS)

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From the Executive Secretary

By W. Fred Kendall

State Missions is basic and undergirds all of the other mission programs. This issue of the **Baptist And Reflector** will present our programs as clearly and thoroughly as possible in order that all of the churches may know what work is being done. These programs are the work of the churches and affect many thousands of people.



Kendall

In a sense all of our work is State Missions. Today we are thinking of those programs which are most vitally related

to direct mission action. Missionary education is a vital part since it builds missionary vision and concern for all of the mission work of Southern Baptists. Baptist Men with Royal Ambassador and Woman's Missionary Union with their youth organizations promote the task of education as well as sponsor vital programs of work.

Our State Missions department administers many programs. The joint work with the Home Missions Board is administered by this department. All of the work the Home Mission Board does in Tennessee is carried on in this manner. They pay 30 per cent of the cost and Tennessee Baptists pay 70 per cent. The work is planned jointly and agreed upon before each budget year.

We have work with the deaf, with one Indian congregation in West Tennessee, and work with National Baptists. Several programs are carried on in the large urban areas.

Cooperative work is carried on with all of the associations. Emphases are given to evangelism, stewardship development, Bible teaching, church training, and the camping programs, and church music. There are programs which deal with social ministries and with special problems such as the drug problem and the alcohol problem.

You are urged to read carefully and to use the material presented in this issue of our paper. Help your church to really know and to understand our State Mission program. Enlist them in supporting it with their gifts and their prayers.

Pastor Niemoeller, 79, Takes 48-Year-Old Bride

WEST BERLIN—The marriage of the 79-year-old Pastor Martin Niemoeller to Sibylle von Sell, 48, is the conversation piece of Berlin this Summer.

Pastor Niemoeller was married on August 12 to Miss von Sell, who was once his confirmation student. His first wife, Else, was killed a decade ago in an automobile accident in Denmark. (RNS)

Nixon Pledges To Support Aid For Parochial Schools

NEW YORK—President Nixon, in an unprecedented appearance before a major Knights of Columbus gathering here, made a strong personal commitment to aid non-public schools, declaring he would do all in his power to "stop the trend" which is closing parochial schools at an ever-increasing rate.

At the same time, Mr. Nixon called for a rekindling of the nation's "moral strength" and urged all Americans to oppose "the apostles of defeatism and self-doubt" that would disrupt the nation's world leadership role.

Speaking at the States Dinner of the 89th annual convention of the K of C Supreme Council (Aug. 17), the President said that "in the home, churches, and schools of this nation, the character of the coming generation is being forged."

In a specific reference to the problems of non-public education, the chief executive said: "We must see to it that these children are provided with the moral, spiritual and religious values so necessary to a great people in great times."

"As we see those private and parochial schools, which lay such great stress on those values, as we see them closing at a rate of one a day, we must resolve to stop that trend and turn it around," he said.

The more than 1,200 persons attending the gala, black-tie dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel rose to their feet, applauded and cheered when the President added: "... and you may count on my help." (RNS)

Americans United Scores Nixon's Stand On Parochial School Aid

WASHINGTON, D.C.—President Nixon was charged here with "open scoffing" at the U.S. Constitution and the Supreme Court and with unleashing an "unworthy political ploy" by pledging to the Knights of Columbus in New York that he would support aid to parochial schools.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State declared in a statement that the President "is asking that the foundations of the American way of life be eroded. He seems unaware that his suggestions could bring the strife of Northern Ireland to this country."

Issued by Glenn L. Archer, executive secretary of Americans United, the statement described parochial schools as "inherently and pervasively sectarian . . . , sharply segregated by denomination." It charged that government aid of any form for them "would violate every citizen's right to support only the religious institutions of his free choice."

Americans United said such public aid would also threaten the existence of the country's public schools and the independence of the private schools, and "destroy

Historically:

From the files

50 YEARS AGO

Dr. and Mrs. Roscoe Etter, both natives of Tennessee, were under appointment of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to do medical work among the Hakkas in South China.

Educational institutions operated under the auspices of the Tennessee Baptist Convention were: Carson-Newman college, Jefferson City; Tennessee college, Murfreesboro; Union university, Jackson; Hall-Moody Normal, Martin; Watauga academy, Butler; Chilhowee Institute, Seymour; Doyle Institute, Doyle; Smoky Mountains academy, Sevierville; Stockton's Valley academy, Helena; and Cosby academy, Cosby.

20 YEARS AGO

W. Fred Kendall observed his sixth anniversary as pastor of First church, Jackson.

Edwin E. Deusner began his seventh year as pastor of First church, Lexington.

O. E. Turner, pastor, First church, Paris, represented the Education Commission of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist assembly, attending a southwide meeting of the College Association of Baptist Teachers of Religion.

10 YEARS AGO

Arrangements were made by Carson-Newman college, Jefferson City, and First church there to use the church's new 1700-seat auditorium for chapel programs and graduation exercises.

The new \$257,000 building of the Sellers Baptist Home and Adoption Center, New Orleans, La., was dedicated formerly. Arthur Rutledge, director of the division of Missions, Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Atlanta, Ga., was dedicatory speaker. The institution was the only home for unwed mothers operated by the Mission Board.

interfaith harmony."

The church-state separation organization charged that Mr. Nixon, "apparently believing that Catholic votes can be bought by ignoring the wishes of the vast majority of the American people," is following a "dubious strategy which, if successful, will mean untold damage to basic American institutions and principles." (RNS)

New Orleans Baptist Board Calls For Church Apology

NEW ORLEANS—The Executive Board of the New Orleans Baptist Association adopted here a resolution calling for Mid-City Baptist Church and its pastor to issue a public apology for involvement in a church bond scandal that caused bondholders to lose "hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars."

The pastor of the church, J. Paul Driscoll, said in response that the church was planning to issue some statement in reaction to the association's action, but could not say when such a statement would be forthcoming.

Driscoll, had pleaded "nolo contendere" (no contest) to one of 13 counts charging mail fraud in the sale of securities totalling nearly \$12 million during the period of 1961-66. He was given a suspended sentence and placed on probation for three years by U. S. District Judge Lansing W. Mitchell here on May 19.

The resolution adopted by the New Orleans Baptist Association stated that Driscoll's conviction and a public rebuke by the judge for his involvement in the bond sales had done "great harm" to the proclamation of the gospel and had "scandalized" Baptist work in the New Orleans area.

No Disciplinary Action Taken

The resolution pointed out that the pastor had not issued "a public statement of regret, remorse or repentance for the tragedy for which he has been judged responsible." It added that the church had taken no disciplinary action against the pastor or issued no public apology for complicity.

The association resolved to "sternly reprimand the Reverend J. Paul Driscoll and the Mid-City Baptist Church for their nefarious activities:

The action stated further "that we call upon this pastor and this church to make public apologies expressing regret and remorse for the unhappiness they have caused, with repentance for their actions,

"That we call upon this pastor and this church to put forth every effort to make restitution to the many people who have suffered financial loss,

"And that we publicly declare that the illegal actions of the Reverend J. Paul Driscoll and the Mid-City Baptist Church are not representative of our ministers and our churches."

The resolution also pointed out that each Baptist church is an independent entity "responsible to no ecclesiastical officer or organization and the New Orleans Baptist Association therefore had no power or authority to prevent the events which have taken place."

The statement added that "it is the desire of this board to take action which would be

redemptive and would avoid the possibility of a breach in fellowship between the New Orleans Baptist Association and the Mid-City Baptist Church."

Apology Requested

An official of the association said in a telephone interview that before it had adopted the resolution calling for a statement of repentance from the pastor and the church, there had been discussion by board members of possible moves at the association's annual meeting on Oct. 11 to withdraw fellowship from the church.

The spokesman added that the adoption of the resolution was an effort to bring reconciliation between the association and the church and to prevent possible action in October to withdraw fellowship.

Though deacons at the church reportedly had attempted to frame a statement in response to the association's action, there had been no official response from the church as of 10 days following the action of the association board.

Driscoll, in a lengthy telephone interview with **Baptist Press**, asked that he not be quoted. He did indicate in a later conversation that the church would probably have some statement in response to the association's resolution in the future.

The church is in a Chapter 10 bankruptcy, with a court-appointed trustee managing the financial affairs of the church and its elementary school. Warren Simmon, a New Orleans attorney who is the court-appointed receiver, said he was willing to issue a statement in defense of the church with the approval of the judge.

Seven New Faculty Members Join Union University Staff

Seven new faculty members have joined the staff of Union University, Jackson, this fall, according to Robert E. Craig, Union president.

Miss Mary Lois Summers, a graduate of Baylor University, has been named assistant professor of voice. Max W. Pugh will also join the music department. He was previously with Southern Louisiana College.

Other faculty members named were M. W. McBroom, head baseball coach and health and physical education instructor; Miss Patricia E. Palmer, nursing; Grove Robinson, art department; William Hedsbeth, education department; and Miss Carol Anne Breneman, foreign language department.

Moral Scene

● Twenty-five million job holders in the United States do not read well enough to progress beyond their present levels of unskilled work. Five million young adults seeking employment for the first time will be denied jobs requiring even limited knowledge because they cannot read properly. Some 18.5 million adults cannot read well enough to fill out "survival forms"—applications for Social Security, drivers' licenses, Medicare, bank loans and the like. Inadequacy in reading is a costly affair. More than six million functionally illiterate persons account for an aggregate annual personal income deficit in the U.S. of \$25 billion, the National Reading Council estimates. It costs taxpayers \$1.7 billion a year for the children (one in 20) who have to repeat a grade because of poor reading skills. And businessmen pay an incalculable price for their employees' lack of ability to follow simple written instructions.

(*Nation's Business*, July 1971)

Pastor Of Church For 49 Years Plans Retirement

ATLANTA—T. B. Thrailkill, holder of what is believed to be the longest currently active pastorate in the Southern Baptist Convention, has announced plans to retire, effective Oct. 1.

Thrailkill has been pastor of Custer Avenue Baptist church in Atlanta for almost 49 years. He is 79 years old.

When he became pastor of the church in 1922, it was called Southside Baptist church. In 1954 it moved to Custer Avenue and changed its name.

Thrailkill has survived several major physical problems including muscular atrophy and cancer and has kept on preaching. "God has been better to me than anyone I know," he said.

In an interview in 1969 with the "Christian Index" on his 47th anniversary as pastor, Thrailkill said that the SBC Annuity Board "sends me a letter periodically which broadly hints that my retirement is all ready. But there are things yet to do. I can't retire. I still have a stack of prepared sermons I haven't preached."

A former education director and pastor of three churches in Atlanta, Thrailkill had earned two doctoral degrees, studying at Eastern Baptist seminary in Philadelphia and at a congregational seminary in Atlanta.

Only 25 of the 550 members of Custer Avenue Baptist Church were members when he became pastor in 1922. (BP)