

# BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR

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News-Journal Of The Tennessee Baptist Convention

## SBC Executive Committee Proposes \$35 Million Budget

**NASHVILLE**—A record Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program budget of \$35 million for 1973-74 cleared the SBC Executive Committee here after brief but spirited discussion.

The recommended budget, which represents an increase of almost \$2 million, or 6.8 per cent over the previous year, will go to the Southern Baptist Convention in Portland, Ore., in June for final consideration.

In other major actions, the 60-member Executive Committee voted to encourage SBC churches to share the expenses of lay persons attending the annual Southern Baptist Convention, authorized a revised timetable for drafting the convention's proposed budget on a trial basis, and paid tribute to a retiring Texas Baptist executive.

### Agencies Make Requests

Most of the three-day session was devoted to budget presentations from 18 agencies of the SBC requesting a total of \$36,371,241.

The \$35 million goal finally approved includes \$34 million for the operating funds of the 18 agencies, plus an additional \$1 million for capital needs.

The recommended budget would grant to the SBC Foreign Mission Board \$17,387,284, an increase of \$1,067,325. The six SBC seminaries would receive \$7,025,402, an increase of \$450,029; the Home Mission Board, \$6,225,915, a jump of \$400,952; and the Radio and Television Commission, \$1,581,098, a hike of \$108,254.

In terms of percentage of increase, the Executive Committee retained for operating purposes \$310,000, an increase of 24 per cent; and the SBC Stewardship Commission got \$163,096, an increase of 19 per cent.

The Executive Committee also voted to recommend a SBC operating budget of \$666,000, an increase of \$68,000 over the 1972-73 budget.

A motion was approved overwhelmingly to recommend to the convention that any funds received about the \$35 million budget be divided in equal parts, one-third to foreign missions, one-third to home missions, and one third to all other agencies at a rate the program subcommittee will determine.

### Record Baptisms

An effort to amend the motion to increase the allocation to the SBC Brotherhood Commission by \$140,000 failed after short, spirited debate. Only about half a dozen committee members voiced approval of the amendment.

Last year, Southern Baptists reported a record 445,725 baptisms (conversions)—the greatest number since 1959. In addition, total church membership passed the 12 million mark for the first time, and total gifts exceeded the \$1 billion milestone.

The statistical report also indicated that enrolments increased for the Sunday School, Brotherhood, and church music organizations; but decreased slightly in Training Union and Women's Missionary Union.

**In response to the news, several SBC leaders rejoiced at the gains, and sought to understand the factors involved in gains and losses.**

"Statistical reports never tell the whole story, but numbers do represent persons and reflect compassion and concern," commented Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee.

Glendon McCullough, executive secretary of the SBC Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, pointed out that Brotherhood enrolment in men's and boys' missions organizations had increased for the second year in a row. The report indicated Brotherhood enrolment reached 454,272, an increase of 2734 or .6 per cent.

### Increases Reflect Involvement

McCullough said the increase was evidence of "an increasing interest of Southern Baptist men and boys in becoming meaningfully involved in missions."

Pointing to the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Program unified budget plan in 1975, Southern Baptist Convention President Owen Cooper issued an impassioned plea for Baptists to renew their commitment to greater gains in the future through greater support of the Cooperative Program.

"I believe in the Cooperative Program as the best means known to Southern Baptists to channel their giving in a worldwide mission program of unprecedented magni-

tude," Cooper declared at a Cooperative Program luncheon held during the SBC Executive Committee meeting here.

He urged pastors in the 12 million member convention to reaffirm their faith in the Cooperative Program, deacons to lead their churches to increase their gifts to missions through the Cooperative Program, laymen to promote the denominations unified budget plan supporting world missions, and all Baptists to more effectively personalize the Cooperative Program.

### Cooperative Program Best Plan

"The Cooperative Program is not perfect," he admitted, "but it is the best plan available to Southern Baptists, and until someone discovers a better idea we should not destroy what we have."

Unfortunately, he said, there are 5100 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention that make no contribution at all through the Cooperative Program, and there are 27,200 churches in the SBC that give 10 per cent or less to the Cooperative Program.

He told how his own church, First Baptist church of Yazoo City, Miss., had increased its Cooperative Program giving by 800 per cent from 1950 to 1972. The church now gives 26.5 per cent of its total budget through the Cooperative Program.

On an average, members of the church gave \$4.44 each to Cooperative Program causes in 1950; whereas in 1972, the per capita giving to the Cooperative Program for the church was \$35.93. In 1972, the SBC-wide average per person for Cooperative Program giving was \$7.58.

**The Executive Committee also recommended the theme, "Let Christ's Freedom Ring," for SBC emphasis promotion during the years 1975-76, pending convention approval.**

A resolution adopted by the Executive Committee expressed gratitude for the 50-year ministry of T. A. Patterson, who retires Dec. 31 as executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the SBC's largest state convention. Patterson has held the position for 13 years, the longest continuous terms of service of any who have filled the Texas position.

Two long-range studies were approved, one authorizing consultants to conduct space utilization studies of agencies requesting capital funds, and another authorizing development of a new formula for allocation and distribution of Cooperative Program funds to the six seminaries. (BP)



# Safeguard Against Fleshly Living

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."—Galatians 5:16

Evidently the Judaizers were saying that the only safeguard against Gentile Christians returning to the sins of paganism was to live by the Mosaic law. But Paul counters this by saying that if they "in the realm of the Spirit keep on walking about," they will "not fulfil the lust of the flesh." In the Greek text Paul used a strong double negative. In English two negatives make a positive. "I do not want no money" means "I want some money." But in Greek a double negative intensifies the negative. So "ye shall most certainly not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

Thus for one who makes it the habit of life to walk in the sphere of the Holy Spirit, therein is his safeguard against living for the lust of the flesh. If one walks otherwise, he is subject to being the prey of every kind of evil.

Flesh and the Spirit are opposed to each other (v. 17). If one gives his body over to fleshly living, as mentioned in verses 19-21, he is incapable of doing the will of God. But if he walks in the Spirit, he is likewise incapable of living for the desires of the flesh. The point to which he does the latter is evidence of the degree to which he is not doing the former. Now

the Christian is still bound by the Ten Commandments. But the Spirit-controlled Christian obeys them, not out of fear of the consequences of disobedience, but out of love for the Lord, His will, and his fellowman (v. 14). Thus he does not need an outward taskmaster, because he has an inward compulsion generated by the indwelling Spirit.

Often one asks if it is right for a Christian to do something, usually some borderline act. The very fact that one asks usually means that the answer is "no". Such an inquiry comes from the Spirit's teaching that such a thing is wrong. A Christian should not ask as to how far he can go in questionable conduct. To the contrary, he should do only those things which without question will please and glorify the Lord.

Verse 18 says that one led by the Spirit is not under "law". There is no definite article in the Greek text. He does not need any legal code to control his conduct. He acts out of the higher law of Christian love.



## BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR

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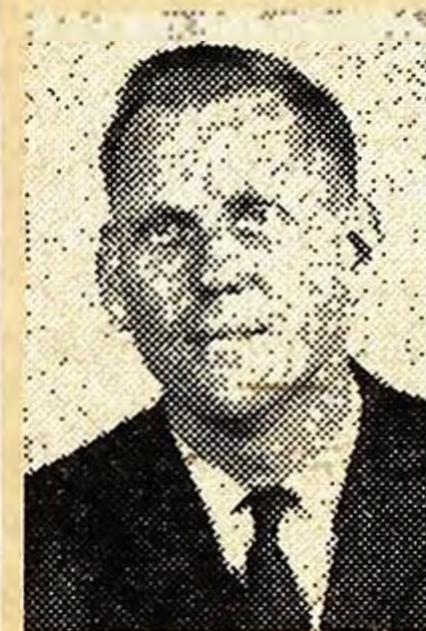
## Devotional

### The Way

By James L. Harney, Pastor  
Immanuel Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg

"Abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good." Romans 12:9

It was said, Barnabas was a good man full of the Holy Spirit and full of faith. Our world needs the influence of good people who are unspoiled by the sins of the world, people who are dependable and adequate for victorious living.



Harney

Have you noticed that man wants everything he buys to be the best and if it isn't he readily blames the buyer or the seller? The Bible teaches that men must give an account of all he is to God. Apart from God no man is good, but in Christ all finds goodness because they share the goodness of Christ.

It seems to me that many people today believe that the proper credentials for Christian leadership is a past filled with immoral sex, alcohol, drugs, thievery, lying and rebellion against parents. Let us thank God for those who have been saved from such a life.

Is it not more glorious when we can give thanks to Christ for the marvelous young people who heed His call, who will not have to bear the scars in their bodies and minds the results of immoral sex, drugs, lying and the hurt of their wonderful parents, because of the influence of the Christian home and the church. "Let us not be deceived God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap."

Jesus said "I am the way," let us major on His way.

### Jett Named To Knox Post

Clarence Jett, associate pastor of the Jefferson Avenue Baptist church in Atlanta, Ga., has been called to serve as superintendent of missions for the Knox County Association, beginning March 4. He will succeed Lawrence Trivette who retired recently.

A recommendation to call Jett was made to the Executive Board of the Association at its regular meeting on Feb. 12.

Jett is a native of Knoxville and a graduate of the University of Tennessee. He served at Lincoln Park church from 1950-55.

## Pulpit To Pew

By Jim Griffith

A group of "fine feathered friends" got together to organize a church.

The duck said, "We should require baptism by immersion—it's the only way we can get their pocket-books wet."

"No," said the rooster, "this would make some of the 'good sisters as mad as wet hens'—I think we ought to sprinkle."

"Well," said the parrot, "the important thing is a good program! But what is a good program?"

The goose said, "I'll tell you—we need a preacher who is good with young people—a preacher under 30, with about 20 years' experience in the ministry!"

Disputes arose over the choir and budget. The mockingbird wanted music—the sparrow said, "We don't need any singing at all." The robin said, "We need a budget"—the crow said, "Let's go on faith—picking up a little here and there."

Finally, the owl said: "All we need is sincerity. We must be sincere—even if we don't mean it."

So they organized a church and, as one would imagine, it was for the birds.

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# Baptist Work Secure In Most Of Vietnam

**RICHMOND**—Southern Baptist missionaries report that the Vietnam cease-fire has stabilized security in most areas where they work, but that Communist violations of truce terms have directly threatened at least one Baptist congregation.

James F. Humphries, missionary associate, says that on the morning the cease-fire was to become effective, Ai Lien Baptist Chapel near Bien Hoa was taken over by the Viet Cong.

Bien Hoa is approximately 20 miles northeast of Saigon in the Southern part of South Vietnam.

## Diplomat from Russia Speaks At Baptist Dialogue Meeting

**WASHINGTON**—A Russian diplomat told a Baptist congregation here that Americans and Russians "must do everything possible to understand each other better and find ways to develop better relations between their two countries."

Alexander P. Eustafiev, press counsellor for the Soviet Embassy here in Washington, spoke at an international fellowship luncheon at the Calvary Baptist church.

The luncheon was the first in a series of conversations with diplomats designed to bring about "understanding and friendship" between members of the church and people from other parts of the world, according to the Calvary pastor, George W. Hill.

Eustafiev, speaking English with complete ease and a great deal of poise and humor, praised the church for its efforts in such a program. He was accompanied to the church by his wife, who is a sculptress and art teacher in Russia, and Mr. and Mrs. Grigori Rapota, also from the Embassy staff.

Elias Golanka, a staff member of the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board, helped arrange the meeting with the Russian diplomat. Golanka, present for the historic occasion, described the meeting as a part of a project to create a number of Christian-Marxist dialogues in the United States.

The Russian diplomat showed special respect for the religious interests of the Baptist congregation. During his speech he referred to the long list of religious groups in Russia, where the Russian Orthodox Church and Islamic religion have the most members. Later, when asked how many Baptists are in Russia, Eustafiev replied with a laugh that "you would know more about that than I do."

In the USSR, Eustafiev explained, it is prohibited by law to ask if a person is religious. However, he estimated that between 10 and 15 per cent of the population attends religious services.

The press officer, a journalist in the Soviet Union before his present assignment at the embassy here, said that under Soviet law "it is illegal to prohibit freedom of conscience and religion." (BP)

The congregation felt that at last, without fear, they could gather in fellowship and love, and they gathered to offer prayers of thanks for a long-awaited peace, Humphries continues. Their peace did not last long if, indeed, it began at all.

Three hours after the 8 a.m. cease-fire, lay pastor Dinh Ngoc Chau, his wife, their seven children, and a group of new converts were startled by Viet Cong soldiers who surrounded the chapel.

The troops ordered the South Vietnamese flag lowered, and in its place the Viet Cong flag raised.

The commander of the VC told the congregation, "We are the new peace team for this area. We have come to live with the people. You will stay here and not leave. From now on you obey us."

The "peace team" blew up the bridge behind them as they left to claim other areas for the VC, hoping to prevent the people from escaping, Humphries says.

Despite threats and orders not to leave, the little group of Christians made their way over rough terrain to South Vietnamese soldiers on a nearby hillside. Once again they had become refugees of war in their country—when war had supposedly ended.

At last report, Humphries says, lay pastor Chau and the pastor of his mother church were on their way back to Ai Lien to see if the VC had vacated the area.

"The chapel was started by the Faith Baptist Church of Gia Dinh near Saigon during a time of war," Humphries reflects. "The question now in the minds of the people is, will it survive the peace?"

### New Openings For Gospel

While Humphries was reporting that the members of Ai Lien were trying to return to their chapel, Lewis Myers of Danang, in the other extreme of Vietnam was reporting optimism about peace.

"The cease-fire is beginning to take hold in almost every province. Inspection teams are on the spot now. We will just trust the Lord and wait and see," Myers says. "One thing for sure is that we will have two or three months of spreading the gospel to many areas where we have not been before."

Myers relates that the cease-fire has already allowed him to travel to two villages in Quang Tin Province. His first stop was at a village just south of Danang.

"We have had no witness there, but about a year ago I went for a one-shot Bible study with relatives and friends of Danang Christians. We left them with gospels of John thinking we would return in a few weeks."

When recent conditions finally made it possible for Myers to return, 20 family heads there told him: "We have already believed; help us grow."

On the same day, Myers continues, he had the opportunity to visit a village at the invitation of its chief and to meet with 500 of its residents. The chief had been exposed

## Loyed Simmons Named To Head New Institute

**EL PASO, Tex.**—A new Baptist school called the International Baptist Bible Institute here has named Loyed R. Simmons, former president of Baptist colleges in Arizona and California, as its president.

Simmons, a strong advocate of separation of church and state, is former president of Grand Canyon College in Phoenix, and immediate past president of California Baptist College, Riverside, Calif.

The new institute he will head was described as a regional school for training church and denominational leaders and Christian workers in the Southwest.

The International Baptist Bible Institute, which will meet for classes temporarily in the education buildings of Immanuel Baptist Church here, is owned and operated by a private corporation of Southern Baptist individuals in several Southwestern states.

The corporation is headed by Sam Borsberry, a paving and construction contractor in El Paso. Other officers of the corporation include Virgil Maye, associate pastor of Chaparral Baptist Church, Chaparral, N.M. as secretary; and Dr. Tom Linder, an El Paso dentist, treasurer.

According to a news release from the new institute, there will be no age, racial, national or academic requirements for entrance. Both day and night classes will be provided for both church vocational students and lay church workers. Courses may be taken for credit or by audit. (BP)

## Foreign Mission News Briefs

**LOBITO, Angola**—The Angolan Baptist Convention, meeting here recently, reported that over the past year membership in Angolan Baptist churches has nearly doubled. A year ago membership was 774; now it is 1450. Of the increase, 249 came by baptism. The majority are from Baptist groups active in Angola before the revolt and terrorism of 1961.

**ASHKELON, Israel**—The Fellowship, an interfaith group originating here, has celebrated its first anniversary with an exhibit of Arab arts and handicrafts at a cultural hall provided by the municipality of Ashkelon. According to Southern Baptist missionary James W. Smith and Rabbi Philip Spectre of the Conservative Synagogue, the purpose of the group is to bring together area Muslims, Jews, and Christians in friendship and peace.

**BEIRUT, Lebanon**—University Baptist church here has renovated a bar and discotheque and dedicated it as a church. The new meeting place, located in the city's business district, was filled to capacity for the Sunday evening dedication service.

to the gospel at Love Baptist church in Danang. (BP)



# EDITORIALS

## ANNIE ARMSTRONG

Tennesseans in the 2700 churches in fellowship with the Tennessee Baptist Convention are paying special emphasis this week to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, and the Week of Prayer for Home Missions March 4-11.

Goal for the Southern Baptist Convention in this emphasis is \$6,600,000. Goal for Tennessee churches is \$375,000. There is every reason to believe that this worth-while goal may be obtained.

Sponsored by the Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the state convention, the offering, as is the case with Foreign and State Missions, has come to be church-wide. Quoting from a cut appearing in the last issue of **Baptist And Reflector**: "The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board confronts a nation of diversity with diversified programs—evangelism, Christian social ministries, language work, military chaplaincy, special missions projects, church extensions, interfaith witness. The goal of \$6,600,000 is composed of allocations for all these approaches and others.

We hope and pray that Tennessee Baptists will respond generously to this Home Mission Board emphasis, from which the Board obtains a substantial share of its income.

## BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR POLICIES

From time to time, some individual or group requests a position statement concerning policies of **Baptist And Reflector** with regard to coverage of news.

First, **Baptist And Reflector** is the news-journal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, owned by the Convention's Executive Board, and operated through the Administrative Committee of that Board by an editor-manager. Your state paper operates on an annual budget of approximately \$220,000. Of this amount, \$35,000 is allocated through the Cooperative Program—and for this we are grateful. The remainder of this amount is provided through subscriptions and advertising. Of the amount derived from subscriptions, most of this is required for mailing, address changes, and some promotion. The burden of the major expense of the contract printing of the paper therefore comes from advertising.

Our first, and primary desire, is to provide Tennessee Baptists with news of our denomination at the state level, then at the Southern Baptist Convention level, and of the world of religion in general. This, we believe, provides a broad background which enables Tennessee Baptists, by information and comparison to determine how they, as individual members of the churches, might best support Our Lord's work on a cooperative basis.

What is, perhaps, not taken into consideration sufficiently by some, is the multiplicity of ministries in

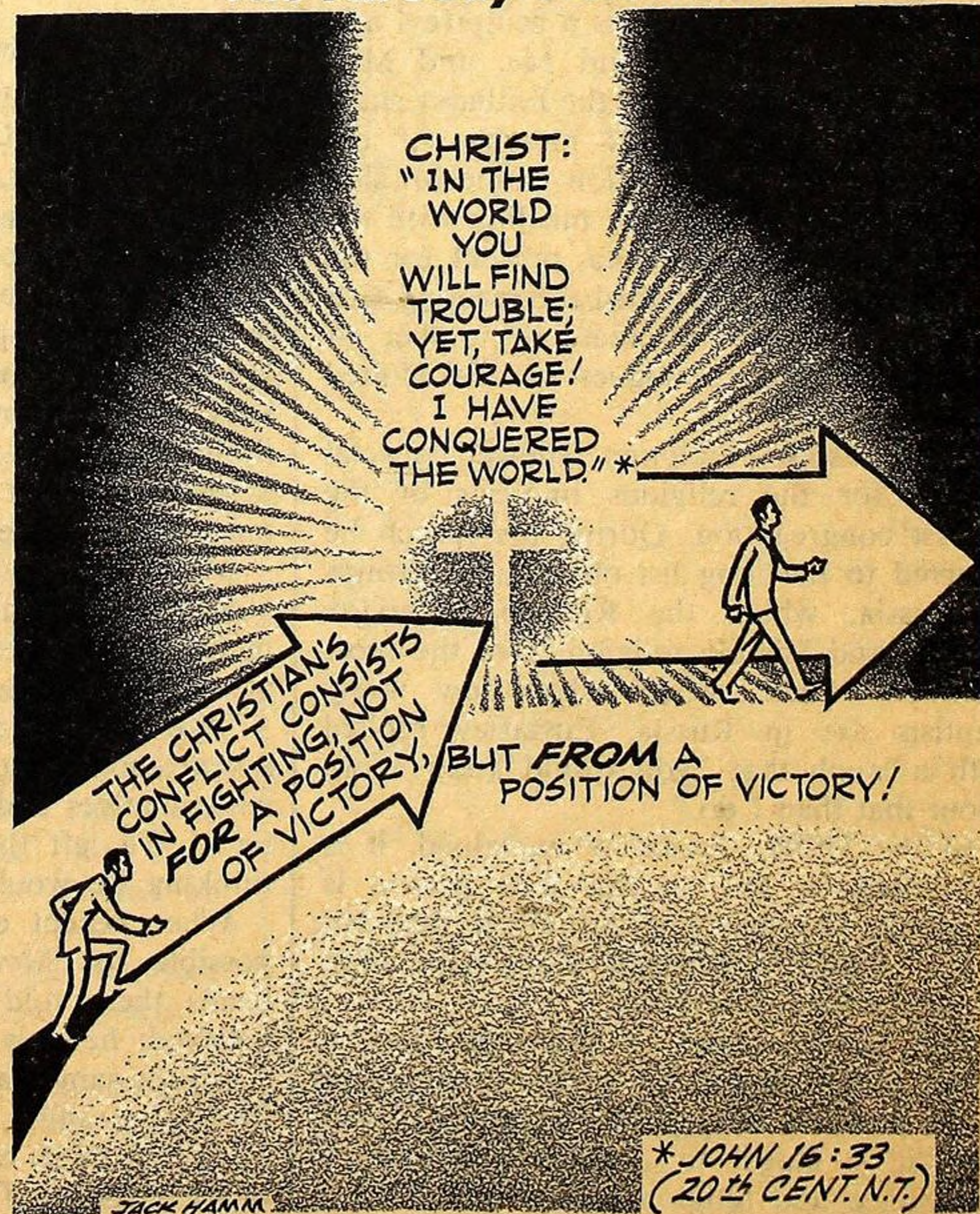
which we are engaged. Each of these ministries, operated by the Convention, is entitled to a fair hearing, and adequate presentation through the pages of **Baptist And Reflector**. To do this, with an average 16-page paper, on a limited budget, is difficult, if not impossible at times. One must remember that we operate a rather large and effective program of State Missions—really a home base for all other mission emphases. Beyond that, we have a responsibility to our academy, three colleges, three hospitals, a children's home, and the Foundation.

Therefore, in presenting news from week to week, in a limited space, coverage and emphasis must be weighed in the light of the immediate developments from each area of work operated by the Convention, and news developments from each area as they arise.

This effort to provide consistent and fair coverage poses each week problems of how best to present news—received in quantity sufficient to print a 20- or 24-page paper each week, with financial resources to print only 16 pages for the most part.

We cannot neglect, nor do we wish to, the news from the churches, and news about people in Baptist life throughout the state. This must be printed. In summary, therefore, our policies are to present the most news possible, about the most people, and programs, to the best of our ability, as quickly as the news develops, and seek to be fair to all interests in the presentation of this news. (JAL)

## The Already Victorious





## Baptist Editors Protest Restrictions On Press Freedom

**BILOXI, Miss.**—The Southern Baptist Press Association meeting here adopted a resolution protesting any restrictions regarding freedom of the press, declaring that "the full and free sharing of information is essential for any self-governing society."

The editors of Baptist state papers across the country noted that "there are warnings on the national horizon that restrict free flow of information."

The resolution came in a business session after which the editors selected L. H. Moore, editor of the "Ohio Baptist Messenger", as their new president and named O. L. Bayless, editor of the "Rocky Mountain Baptist", as president-elect. Al Shackelford of the "Indiana Baptist" was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

During their three-day annual session at the Sheraton Hotel here, the editors took a look at a wide range of issues and problems facing the SBC, including Christian education, denominational structures, social issues, theological education and world missions.

The editors' meeting opened with a banquet in joint session with the executive secretaries of state conventions across the SBC, featuring an after-dinner address by

### Dennis Suits Receives Fourth Service Aide Award



Dennis Suits, Smyrna, completed his fourth Ambassador Service Aide Award recently as a part of the Royal Ambassador program in Tennessee.

Suits was awarded a scholarship which may be used for any of the three Baptist colleges in the state. The award required 600 hours of service work.

He has served for the past three summers on the Royal Ambassador Camp staff, and will be a counselor again this year. He was vice-president of the Royal Ambassadors in 1971-72. He is a member of First church, Smyrna.

J. D. Grey, recently retired pastor of First Baptist church, New Orleans, and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"If we didn't have a free and unfettered press among us, I shudder to think of the mess the SBC would be in," Grey told the group.

"Most of you could have written on your epitaphs, 'He prodded at lot.'" Grey said. "I didn't say, 'plodded,' I said 'prodded,'" he quipped.

A former editor of the "California Southern Baptist", J. Terry Young, identified three major roles for the Baptist state paper editor—the role of the prophet, the role of the minister, and the role of the catalyst.

Urging the editors to deal with the issues of the "rough and tumble world," Young said he was tired of letting the pendulum be swung by radical groups. "It is time we Christians took a more positive, militant stand in trying to influence society and reaching those people who live out there on the ragged edges."

Young, now professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological seminary, added that in addition to urging people to action on issues, the state paper should play a "healing role," drawing the denomination together in times of conflict and polarization.

"Sometimes you need to weep over an editorial," he counseled. "Bombastic words may gain you plaudits from some, but carefully tailored words may get you more success in the goals you hope to achieve."

The editors voted to change the place of the Feb. 25-28, 1974 meeting from Washington, D.C., to Honolulu, Hawaii in order to meet with the state executive secretaries; and to meet in Mobile, Ala., Feb. 20-22, 1975. (BP)

### Spring Bible Conference At Union Next Week

A wide variety of religious emphases will highlight the Spring Bible Conference to be held at Union university in Jackson March 5-7, according to Lewis Sewell, dean of religious affairs and co-ordinator for the annual event.

The conference will feature Baptist preachers, scholars, and musicians including J. D. Grey, pastor emeritus, First Baptist church, New Orleans; Robert G. Lee, pastor emeritus, Bellevue Baptist church, Memphis; H. Leo Eddleman, president, Criswell Bible Institute, Dallas; Wayne E. Ward, professor of theology, Southern Baptist Theological seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Miss Joe Ann Shelton, recording artist, and Carlys Scates, minister of music, First Baptist church, Jackson.

Pastors, church workers and laymen from throughout West Tennessee are expected to attend this second annual Bible Conference at Union university.

## Starkes Answers Jewish Criticism

**ATLANTA**—As criticism of Key 73 by the American Jews mounts, Southern Baptist interfaith leader M. Thomas Starkes of Atlanta issued a statement saying at no place are Jews singled out as special targets of evangelism.

"Key 73 can be a process of learning for both Christians and Jews for mutual social service for the kingdom of God. It must be experienced in an atmosphere of keen understanding," said Starkes, who heads the Home Mission Board's department of interfaith witness here.

Starkes said that witnessing is an integral part of the Christian essence and Key 73, the combined evangelistic effort of more than 140 Christian denominations to "bring our continent to Christ", is a part of a continuing emphasis of Christian life.

However, "care should be taken by Christians to witness with caring love, being careful not to exploit or manipulate any person simply because he has a Jewish-sounding name," Starkes said. "Choice for or against Jesus as Messiah is an individual matter, involving the free exercise of conscience. Any attempt to limit this freedom, either by representative or recipient is to dehumanize the process of exchange."

Criticism of Key 73 by the Jews has come since the announcement of the evangelistic effort.

**Rabbi Solomon Bernards, a director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and one of the leaders with Starkes of the nation's first Jewish-Christian dialogue held last summer, was among the first to express doubts about Key 73.**

"I affirm the right of all Christians and other individuals and groups to proclaim their witness as vigorously and forthrightly as they are able," Bernards said. "But the apparent monolithic, triumphalist tone and approach of the Key 73 outreach disturbs me. The campaign may result in a backlash or resentment against the religious enterprise as a whole."

More recently Rabbi Jacob Rothschild of Atlanta's reform Jewish Temple, said that Key 73's "efforts to make a Christian country of America defy and defeat the very essence of American democracy—the pluralistic nature of our land."

**"The goal of creating a Christian America frightens me," the Atlanta Jewish leader said, "The return to an America in which one religion sees itself as having an exclusive patent on spiritual truth brings us back to the climate in colonial America and earlier in other lands."**

In contrast, Rabbi Henry Siegman of the Synagogue Council of America, charged that criticism by some Jewish leaders was "alarmist" and "harmful to Jewish interests." (BP)



# Devaluation Elicits Executive's Concern

**RICHMOND**—The announcement of U.S. dollar devaluation immediately presents serious financial problems for missionaries overseas, members of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board were told here by their executive secretary.

Reporting to the board, Baker J. Cauthen emphasized that "as American citizens we support the steps which have been taken to meet the financial crisis. However," he said, "severe financial pressures on missionaries as a result of those steps lay before Southern Baptists the challenge to reinforce the cause of foreign missions."

Cauthen said that with an overseas budget of approximately \$35 million, a possible loss in buying power of more than 3 million dollars could result from dollar devaluation.

He explained that the amount of local currency exchanged for dollars in many foreign lands will be immediately reduced by 10 per cent. In other words, the cost of all the goods and services purchased by missionaries in those countries will rise by 10 per cent because they have less currency to use.

He added that, if continued, the current inflationary spiral being experienced in many parts of the world will compound the problem.

"We are fully confident that Southern Baptists will respond to this situation," Cauthen said, "through intercessory prayer, increased giving through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and deeper determination to press forward in a worldwide task."

Cauthen assured board members that "very careful administrative measures will be taken to meet future realities," and that all aspects will be scrutinized to "give full consideration to situations which must have emergency attention."

## Letter

Dear Editor:

I want to thank the Tennessee Baptist people for a fine school like Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy. I graduated in 1968. I am working for the Home Mission Board, and attend Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri. I can look back and see how very important those years were in my life. I owe a lot to Chilhowee Academy; they placed the foundation for my academic and spiritual life. One of the teachers, Mr. Jackson, started me in the inner city work which I am now doing for the Home Mission Board. All the teachers gave a lot of time to me, and it was the first time somebody thought that I was important. It is a good feeling at the age of sixteen for people to think of you as being somebody and not just another student in the classroom.

My goal in life is to have commitment to the cause of Christ as the men and women at Chilhowee Academy have to their student and God.

Thank you, Baptist people for your love toward me, and thank you Chilhowee Academy for supreme love that you gave unselfishly to me.

Love in Christ,

Maurice Graham

Box 116, 5001 North Oak Street  
Kansas City, Missouri

He reminded board members that there had been calls for 800 new missionaries in 75 foreign fields and an upsurge in mission volunteers.

Previously he had reported a projected increase in missionary appointments for 1973 with expectations of processing well over 200 missionary candidates. "These anticipated appointments will require additional resources at a time in world history when advance in foreign missions is so urgently necessary," he added.

**Dollar devaluation was President Nixon's second attempt to quell an international monetary crisis. The last such move, 14 months ago, prompted the SBC Foreign Mission Board to make extensive adjustments in missionary support.**

Board members elected to missionary service Mrs. Charles P. Cowherd and reappointed her husband who has 26 years' tenure as a Southern Baptist Missionary. The Cowherds, currently of Louisville, Ky., expect to be assigned to Hong Kong.

In other actions, the board extended an invitation to Ernest Loessner of Southern Baptist Theological seminary, Louisville, to serve for one year as professor at Hong Kong Baptist Theological seminary, following his retirement in Louisville next summer. (BP)

## Three Carson-Newman Students Receive Music Scholarships

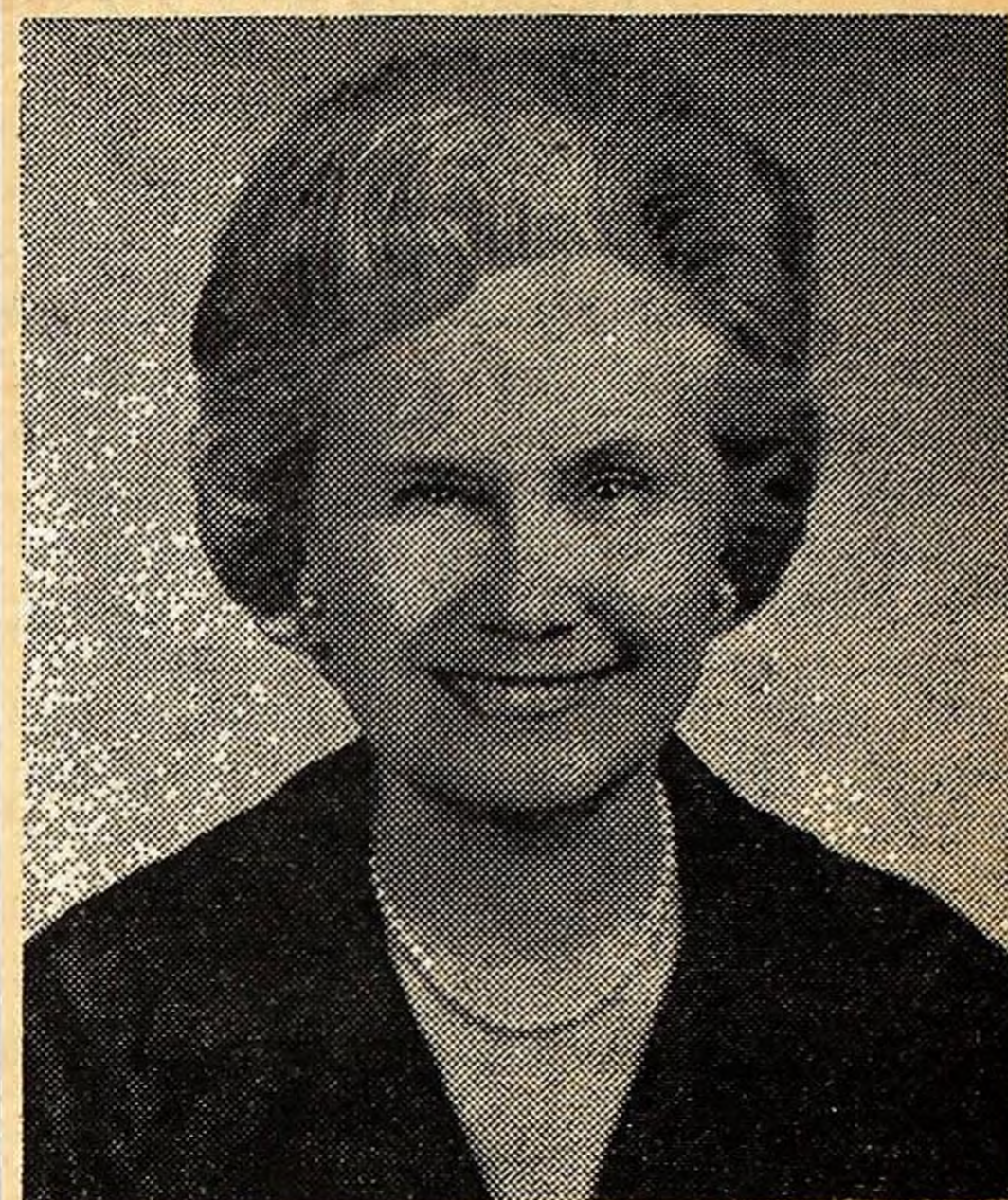
**JEFFERSON CITY**—Three outstanding Carson-Newman students have been named as recipients of music scholarships by the C-N music faculty. The students are Joy Blake, David Chambless, and Sue Stewart.

Joy Blake, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rennie Blake, Strawberry Plains, was chosen for the Theodore Presser Scholarship. Miss Blake compiled a 3.24 grade point average while participating in numerous college activities. Last year she was winner of the instrumental division of the C-N Performers' Contest. Currently she is teaching the flute in the college preparatory department.

Sue Stewart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William G. Stewart, Kingston, is the recipient of the Paul McClellan Memorial Scholarship. She has a 3.01 grade point average. She also won the instrumental division of the C-N Performers' Contest her sophomore year. She is serving as music director of Russellville Baptist church, Russellville.

Davie Chambless, son of Mr. and Mrs. York Chambless, Smyrna, Ga., was chosen to receive the William Priest Memorial Scholarship. He has compiled a 3.67 grade point average and is majoring in church music. David travels with the Radiant Tidings Evangelistic Team during the summer.

## Miss Bruce Retiring From WMU Post



Miss Margaret Bruce

Miss Margaret Bruce, former Tennessee WMU young people's secretary, has retired from the WMU national headquarters staff in Birmingham and will enter into freelance missions work.

She joined the Birmingham office in 1948 as secretary of young people's work, and has directed Sunbeam Band, Girls' Auxiliary, Royal Ambassador, and Young Woman's Auxiliary. In 1957 she was appointed leader of women's work, first as director of the Woman's Missionary Society Department and later as Baptist Women director.

She is a native of Tennessee and attended Union university. She is a graduate of the Woman's Missionary Union Training School, now a part of Southern Baptist Theological seminary, and Georgetown college.

## Pennsylvania Private-Parochial Busing To Require Some Legal Rulings

**HARRISBURG, Pa.** — Pennsylvania's new parochial school student transportation law will require legal rulings and numerous administrative decisions before it can become operative, according to Dr. Harry Gerlach, deputy commissioner of the State Department of Education.

Under provisions of the law signed by Gov. Milton J. Shapp on Dec. 29, local school districts must provide transportation for parochial and other non-public students on the same basis as public school pupils. Previously, parochial students could use established public school bus routes and local districts were not required to divert buses from normal routes to pick up the students.

It is estimated that the new program, which was opposed by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, will cost \$30 million a year, half of which would come from local school districts. (RNS)



# THIS IS GOD'S WORLD

By Wade E. Darby, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Jefferson City

**BACKGROUND PASSAGES:** Genesis 1:1-26; Psalms 24:1-2; 104:24-30

**FOCAL PASSAGES:** Genesis 1:1, 26, 31; Psalms 24:1-2; 104:24-30

## The Purpose of the Creation Account

The purpose of the creation account in the book of Genesis is closely related to the fact that Genesis is one of five books of the Old Testament called the Pentateuch. These first five books of the Old Testament must be viewed as a whole and each individual book interpreted in the light of its relation to the whole. These five books—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy—constitute the basic Hebrew Bible and tell the story of the Hebrews from creation to entrance into Palestine.

We must remember that most of the historical narratives in the Old Testament are not firsthand eye witness accounts. Rather they are compilations of oral traditions, written fragments, and sources unknown to us. For example, the **Book of Jasher** mentioned in Josh. 10:13; **The Book of the Wars of Yahweh** cited in Num. 21:4; **The Book of the Acts of Solomon** noted in I Kings 14:29; and the **Chronicles of the Kings of Israel** referred to in I Kings 14:19, are all lost to us.

In addition to lost books which are cited there are evidences of other sources which the Old Testament compilers used. In the Pentateuch there are at least five different sources which are discernible because of the use of a certain name for God, because of a particular viewpoint, or other noticeable characteristics.

Hebrew life and culture almost vanished. The destruction of the ten tribes called Israel by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. was so complete that almost all traces of that civilization perished. The exile of the two tribes composing Judah in 587 B.C. by Babylon destroyed much of their culture. When the Persians conquered Babylon and allowed the exiles to return to Palestine they had little of the old life and civilization to bring with them. Their country had been sacked, their city and temple burned, and such things as records and national literature had little chance of survival.

But while in exile the Hebrews came to a new appreciation of themselves, their faith, and their heritage. Upon their return they sought to reconstruct, put into permanent form, and preserve their national literature and heritage. Their heritage and literature were both religious in nature. The Old Testament record which we have appears to have resulted from these efforts. It was about one hundred years after the birth of Christ at the Synod of Jamnia that the Hebrews finally decided which books should be in the Old Testament.

The purpose of those who compiled our Old Testament was to preserve their national heritage, and to relate their history to God and His acts in human history. The Hebrews, unlike their pagan neighbors, believed in one God. They believed that the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the covenant was that one God. They believed that this same God was the God of creation. That is primarily what the Genesis account of creation was intended to convey.

## The Nature of the Creation Account

The creation account in Genesis is not a scientific treatise. Neither is it pure history. It is theological in nature. By this we mean that it is an interpretation of history. In this case it is an interpretation of history from the standpoint of one who believes in the God of the Hebrews. The writers and compilers were not attempting to tell us "how" the world was created. They were telling us "who" created it.

Most civilizations have a creation story in their heritage. The Egyptian and Babylonian stories of creation have much in common with the Hebrew account. It appears that the Hebrew account took note of the prevailing ideas about the beginning of things, cited them, and then declared that it was the God of the Hebrews who did it all. This was the Hebrew interpretation of history. Yahweh is creator!

I doubt is the original writer would be disturbed one bit if he were told that later scientific facts had shed more light on the subject. He would reply, "How things began does not concern me. No matter how it was done, however, I want it understood that Yahweh did it!" The discovery of new information, the formulation of new scientific theories, or the conflicting scientific ideas should not disturb the faith of the religious man. He is like the Hebrew of old. He is convinced that whenever and however creation occurred, that it was Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who did it.

This is one of the reasons most serious Biblical students do not insist that the first eleven chapters of Genesis be regarded as pure history. To many people these chapters do not give purely historical answers for many of the great questions of life. On the other hand they are seen as presenting the understanding of ancient men of religious faith regarding such questions as why pain accompanies childbirth, why weeds grow, why snakes crawl, why the differences between the sexes, and how the varied races

## Bill Would List 'Volunteer Time' As A Federal Tax Deduction

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Persons doing volunteer work for public or private (including church-related) non-profit groups would be able to deduct up to 1000 hours—or \$2000—on their income tax under a bill introduced in Congress.

On submitting the bill, Rep. Ella T. Grasso (D.-Conn.) told her House colleagues the legislation "would prove a boon for volunteer work in America . . .

"At this time, many public and private non-profit organizations must continue their operations with small, overworked staffs," she said. "Passage of this bill would establish an appropriate way to thank and encourage these dedicated individuals."

Under the bill, a person contributing at least 50 hours of uncompensated volunteer work during the year would be eligible for the special tax deduction. The amount would equal the number of hours multiplied by the federal minimum wage of \$2, whichever is greater, with a maximum deduction of \$2000.

Mrs. Grasso, a Roman Catholic, specifically mentioned "church groups" among recognized public and private non-profit organizations which use volunteer help that would be approved under the measure.

and languages of the earth came to be.

The Hebrew understanding of the world was much the same as other peoples with one exception. That exception was the conviction that Yahweh, the God of Abraham, created, owned, and operated the universe.

## The Main Thrust of the Creation Account

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Gen. 1:1) "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Psalm 24:1-2)

God created the world. The world belongs to God. Humanity is a part of creation. God created man, too. God owns mankind just as He owns the world. As the apostle Paul was to say later, ". . . ye are not your own. . . ." (I Cor. 6:19) Everyone, whether or not he knows it, whether or not he acknowledges it, whether he lives like it or not, belongs to God. Knowing of God's ownership and yielding to it is salvation. Not knowing or knowing and failing to yield to God's ownership is lostness.

The church shares the Hebrew conviction that God created the heaven and the earth. The most common confession of the Christian community is probably the Apostles Creed. The first sentence begins, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth." Later lessons will deal with some of the demands this confession places upon us.

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# Tennessee News Briefs

Belmont Heights church in Knoxville ordained **Harold Daniel** and **Norman Walker** as deacons last month. The church's pastor, **Arthur B. Griffin**, will observe his 17th anniversary as pastor this Sunday.

**Will Day**, a member of First church, Greenfield, and father of **Kenneth Day**, secretary of promotion at the Home Mission Board died Feb. 10. He is survived by his widow, seven children, 12 grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. **J. D. May** was his pastor.

**Ronnie Owens** was ordained to the gospel ministry by First church, Jamestown. The request for his ordination was made by the Fairmount church in Fern Creek, Ky., where he serves as pastor. Owens is attending Southern Baptist Theological seminary.

First church, Huntingdon, ordained **Don Edwards** to the gospel ministry last month. Participating in the service were **Willis Henson**, **Bill Bouchillon**, and the church's pastor, **George Hill**.

**Miss Phyllis George**, Miss America for 1971, will serve as mistress of ceremonies at the Miss Union University pageant, March 3. Ceremonies will be held in the Jackson Junior high auditorium at 8:00 p.m.

**Jeff Clark** was ordained to the gospel ministry at Park Avenue church in Nashville recently. The ordination was at the request of the Grace Baptist church in Nashville where Clark has been called to serve on the staff. **Bob Mowrey** is pastor of the Park Avenue church. **Fred Johnson** serves as pastor of Grace.

## LEADERSHIP CHANGES

**Ken Morris**, associate pastor at Robertsville church in Oak Ridge, has resigned to accept the call as pastor of First church, West Jefferson, North Carolina. He will begin his new work March 1.

**James H. Powers** has resigned as pastor of Feathers Chapel church, Fayette Association to become pastor of Pinson church, Madison-Chester Association. **E. C. McCord** will serve Feathers Chapel church as interim pastor.

**R. G. Huff** has accepted the position of minister of music and youth at First church, Kingston. He comes to this position from the First Baptist church of Seymour where he has served in this capacity for three and a half years. **David Sharp** is pastor of the Kingston church.

In the Carroll-Benton Association, **Buck Morton** has accepted the call as pastor of the Camden church. He served formerly as pastor of the West Paris church in Paris.

Indiana Avenue church, LaFollette, ordained **Hobert McCreary** to the gospel ministry. He was called as pastor of the Alder Springs church in the Campbell County Association.

In the Feb. 7 business session of the Deaderick Avenue church in Knoxville, church members voted to change the name of the church to Third Baptist church. All other data regarding address, staff, location, and account numbers will remain the same. **Glenn Brooks** is pastor.

## Baylor University Med Center Revises Policy On Abortions

**DALLAS**—Baylor University Medical Center here, the second largest of the Southern Baptist-owned hospitals, has revised its policy to permit carefully screened pregnancy terminations during the first three months for reasons other than danger to the mother's life.

The decision, following the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling said the policy revision would be "accompanied by intense emphasis on counseling and related activities."

Previously, Baylor had allowed only therapeutic pregnancy termination where the mother's life was in danger.

## Bruce Whitfield Takes New Book Store Position

**NASHVILLE**—Bruce K. Whitfield, manager of the Baptist Book Store at Greenville, S.C., has been named direct sales promotion specialist for the book store division of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

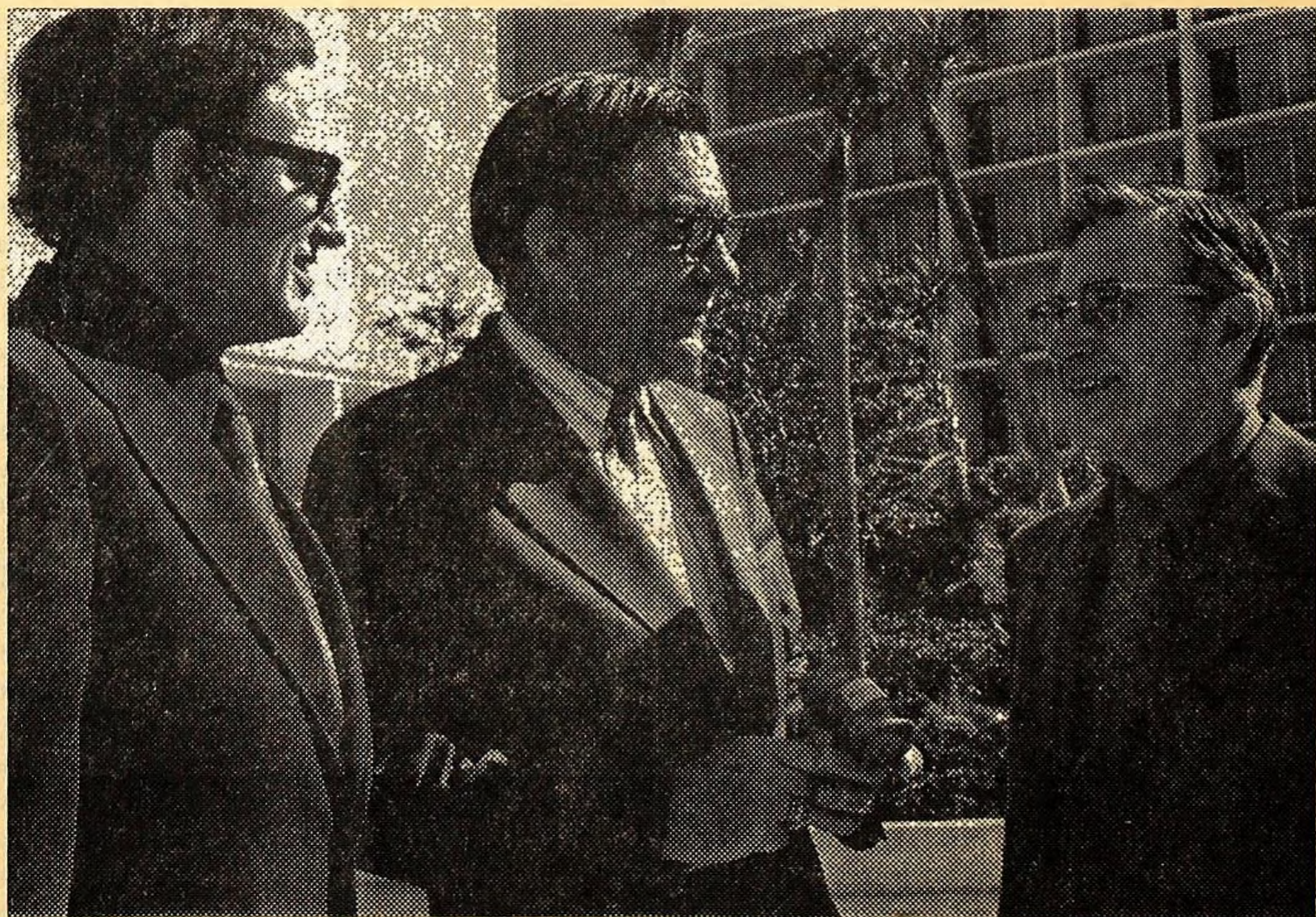
Whitfield will be responsible for developing and implementing merchandise plans for direct sales and will also coordinate the development of advertising pieces, book store officials said.

A native of Homer, Ga., Whitfield was graduated from Mercer university, Macon, Ga., and Southwestern Baptist Theological seminary, Fort Worth.

During his 21 years with the Sunday School Board, Whitfield has served as an audiovisual aids worker and office supervisor at the Atlanta Baptist Book Store and as manager of the Greenville store. (Prepared by BSSB bureau) (BP)

Under the new policy, the patient's physician and another Baylor staff physician, must approve the procedure and determine that it is "medically advisable."

After the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, previous rules will apply at Baylor. They basically state that a committee of at least three physicians must determine that continued pregnancy would endanger a mother's life. (BP)



(BP) Photo

**NEW PRESS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS:** L. H. Moore (right) editor of the "Ohio Baptist Messenger", and newly elected president of the Southern Baptist Press Association, congratulations editor O. L. Bayless (center) of the "Rocky Mountain Baptist" (Colorado), on his being named president-elect of the editors' organization. At left is Alvin Shackleford, editor of the "Indiana Baptist," re-elected as secretary. The Press Association held its annual session in Biloxi, Miss., at the Sheraton Hotel.



# Belmont Experiences Spirit Of Unity

Tennessee Baptists are truly bringing "beauty out of ashes" for Belmont college in Nashville.

"The expressions on the part of so many have been touching and moving experiences for us," Herbert Gabhart, president, related. "Something great is happening on this campus."

The school is in the process of raising \$750,000 for the construction of two new buildings to replace Blanton Hall, which was destroyed completely by fire recently. And Tennessee Baptists have responded.

A Springfield widow wrote: "After this month my heat bill won't be as much, and I am going to help all I can beginning next month." A letter to the president from a student expressed love for the school when

he said: "I am enclosing \$100 to be used toward the replacing of Blanton Hall. Although I am only a second semester freshman here at Belmont, I have fallen in love with the school and the people who make it what it is . . . . . I thank God for giving me this opportunity to show my love for a great school."

An out-of-state church sent a gift of \$300 and said, "If we can, we'll send more." A very small middle Tennessee church sent \$160 as a special offering to the college.

Gabhart stressed the fact that because of other commitments, the college must enter the two new facilities now being constructed debt-free.

Besides monetary aid, the school is experiencing a "spirit of unity." In the first issue of the student newspaper following the fire, editor Barbara Nelson of Shelbyville, said, "Surely the Lord must be looking after Belmont College because even a disastrous fire has become a blessing for us. There's a spirit of unity as students, faculty, and administration try to reach the goal of replacing Blanton with two new buildings by next fall . . . . . Faculty and administration can be proud of Belmont students for their individual and group efforts to make the best of scattered classrooms and an ugly scar in the middle of the campus."

## Bible Nuggets

### Pleasures Of Sin

By T. B. Maston

Professor of Christian Ethics, Retired  
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

By faith Moses . . . refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season (Heb. 11:24-25, KJV).

These verses are in the great chapter that calls the roll of the faithful: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and then Moses. Moses made a decision that changed the whole direction of his life. It must have been a difficult decision but it brought him into line with the purposes of God for his life.

There are two things suggested concerning sin in these verses from Hebrews. First, sin may be, and frequently is, enjoyable. This may not be true of all forms of sin but if sin did not give pleasure it would not appeal so strongly to Christians as well as non-Christians.

The second thing suggested concerning sin is that the pleasures of sin are "for a season" or "fleeting" (RSV), "for a while" (TEV), or "transient" (NEB). Sooner or later the pleasure is gone.

Sometimes the pleasure derived from sin is extremely short lived. Many a person has thought he had a "great time" but by the time he got alone in his room he hated himself for what he had done. Or, he may awaken the next morning wondering how he could have done what he did the night before.

In contrast to the preceding, the pleasures of sin may linger for a considerable period of time. We can be sure, however, that sooner or later there will be either inner regret or judgment will come upon us for what we have done. One way or another we pay a price for every sin we commit. What little pleasure there is in sin will be limited to "a season."

### Holston Association Participating In Sunday Morning Radio Program

The Holston Baptist Association and its churches are participating in a 30-minute Sunday morning radio program featuring associational and church news, programs, and state and Southern Baptist Convention news.

The program, aired Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:30 on WETB, Johnson City, can reach listeners identified with 27 Baptist churches in the area, according to James Harris, superintendent of missions. Harris said that the cost of the program will be shared by the association and the participating church.

The first ten minutes of the broadcast are used by Harris to promote associational level activities. The remaining 20 minutes includes programs from one of the local Southern Baptist churches with the pastor presenting the music and message for his church.

### Baptists Of Spain Create Press Service

Release of the first issue of a news and information exchange among Spanish Baptists is scheduled for February.

Juan Torras, pastor in Valencia, has been named by the Spanish Baptist Union to be in charge of its new *Servicio de Prensa Bautista*. (EPBS)

## Special Graduation Held For Cancer Victim's Husband

By Robert Meade

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—As a desperately ill young woman sat watching, her husband received his master of divinity degree with honors during the first special commencement program ever held at Midwestern Baptist Theological seminary here.

The special graduation program was called by a vote of the faculty to allow David A. Murray, 25, to receive his degree early so his wife, Kathy, could be present.

Kathy has terminal cancer. Doctors are not certain how long she will live, but since she learned last October of the seriousness of her illness, David's graduation has been a major goal for the couple.

David, a native of Mobile, Ala., had completed all his degree requirements and would have graduated in the spring. Some were afraid Kathy would not live that long.

For two years, Kathy has worked to help her husband make it through seminary, and the seminary faculty and administration felt she should see him graduate. It was the first time in the school's 15-year history that a special graduation ceremony had been called other than the annual commencement in May.

Around 300 students, friends, seminary faculty and staff, and members of the family witnessed the ceremony in the seminary auditorium here.

Millard J. Berquist, in his last official function as acting president of the seminary, delivered the commencement address, praising the couple as "two very special people."

Berquist, who had been elected president-emeritus of the seminary last August and was continuing until newly-elected president Milton Ferguson took the post, spoke of the courage and hope Kathy demonstrated in her desire to see David graduate.

"I remember so clearly what this beautiful young girl said to my wife when she was in her sick room at the hospital," Berquist recalled.

"We just have to hold on to our dreams," Berquist quoted Kathy as saying. "We can't let our dreams go."

"For two and one-half years," he continued, "she has held onto her dreams of seeing David graduate to become a military chaplain."

The couple met while both were students at Arkansas State University and married two days after their graduation there in 1970. David entered Midwestern seminary the following fall. (BP)

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## Americans United Granted Trial On Tax Exemption Status

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Americans United for Separation of Church and State has been granted a trial in federal District Court on its appeal to regain its tax-exempt status.

In April 1969, the Internal Revenue Service revoked the organization's tax exemption on the ground that it had violated Paragraph 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. That section defines a tax-exempt organization as one "no substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation . . ."

Americans United brought suit against the IRS on July 30, 1970, charging that the Commissioner of Internal Revenue permits

"larger, richer organizations (to have) more 'dollar punch' in terms of 'propagandizing' and 'influencing legislation' before their respective activities are considered 'substantial,' . . . and treating identical activity differently, solely on the basis of the size, or wealth, of the acting party."

The District Court rejected the suit at the time, and Americans United subsequently appealed to the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia. That court has now remanded the suit to the lower court for trial on its merits.

Dr. Glenn L. Archer, executive director of Americans United, commented on the appeals court's decision: "We have contended all along that Americans United has been unjustly deprived of its tax exemption by the Internal Revenue Service and that we were entitled to our day in court. Now we are to have that day."

He added, "There is something radically wrong with a system that deprives a small organization like Americans United (annual budget of \$700,000) for its legislative activity while refusing even to investigate the vast lobbying program of the nation's largest Church. We appreciate the loyal support of our members across the nation who have stood by us through this difficult period. We are very hopeful for the future." (RNS)

## CHURCHES INCLUDE BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR

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Rev. Wayne Perkins, Pastor

**Lamar Heights Baptist Church**  
2639 Lamar Ave.

Memphis, Tennessee 38114  
Rev. Bob Carpenter, Pastor

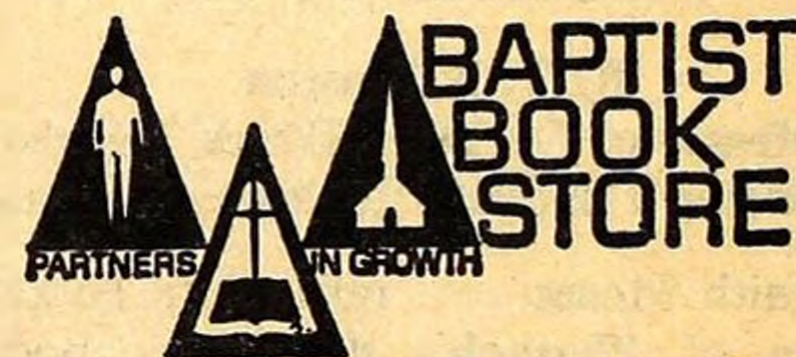
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## Religion Around the World

**CHESAPEAKE, Va.**—Funeral services were held here for J. Manning Potts, evangelist and former editor of "The Upper Room", the world's most widely-used devotional magazine. Potts died in Tampa, Fla. following a heart attack recently. He was 77. He edited "The Upper Room" for 18 years.

**DALLAS, Tex.**—James Louis Harrell has been appointed associate secretary for the Church Stewardship Department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The former pastor has served in the Mississippi Baptist State Stewardship Department since 1968. He will serve under state secretary Doug Brown.

**BOWLING GREEN, Ky.**—Francis R. Tallant, director of the Religious Education Division for the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, has resigned to become executive director of the Warren Baptist Association in Bowling Green. Tallant had helped establish the West Virginia Convention, coming to the state in 1964 from Kentucky.

**PHOENIX, Ariz.**—Macon Delavan, chairman of the Department of Music at Grand Canyon college in Phoenix, and his wife, assistant professor of music and consulting editor, are producing a program of voice study on cassette tapes which will enable students to study voice privately in their own homes. The study course, developed with the cooperation of the Baptist college, may be started at any time of the year, and a piano and music reading ability are not necessary. The course includes lessons in voice production and projection, breath control, reduction of stage fright, etc. Grand Canyon is including the Singing Success course in its extension offerings, granting one hour of college credit upon completion of the course.

## Ed Hurt Jr. Accepts Oklahoma Baptist Position

Edward Hurt Jr., former Brotherhood Commission employee, has accepted a position as assistant director of development at Oklahoma Baptist university in Shawnee.

Hurt was a graduate and former athletic director at OBU, and had served 17 years with the Brotherhood Commission before retiring recently. At the time of his retirement, he was the general administrative consultant. He has also served as interim church program administrator for the Second Baptist church in Memphis.

In the new position he will be working with several areas of development, including endowments, deferred giving, and serving as administrative director of the athletic association.

## Johnny Cash Premieres Film On Christ for Baptist School

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.**—Country and western superstar Johnny Cash premiered his new movie, "The Gospel Road," on the life of Christ before a packed theater here, donating proceeds of the premiere to a North Carolina Baptist school that earlier had given him an honorary doctorate degree.

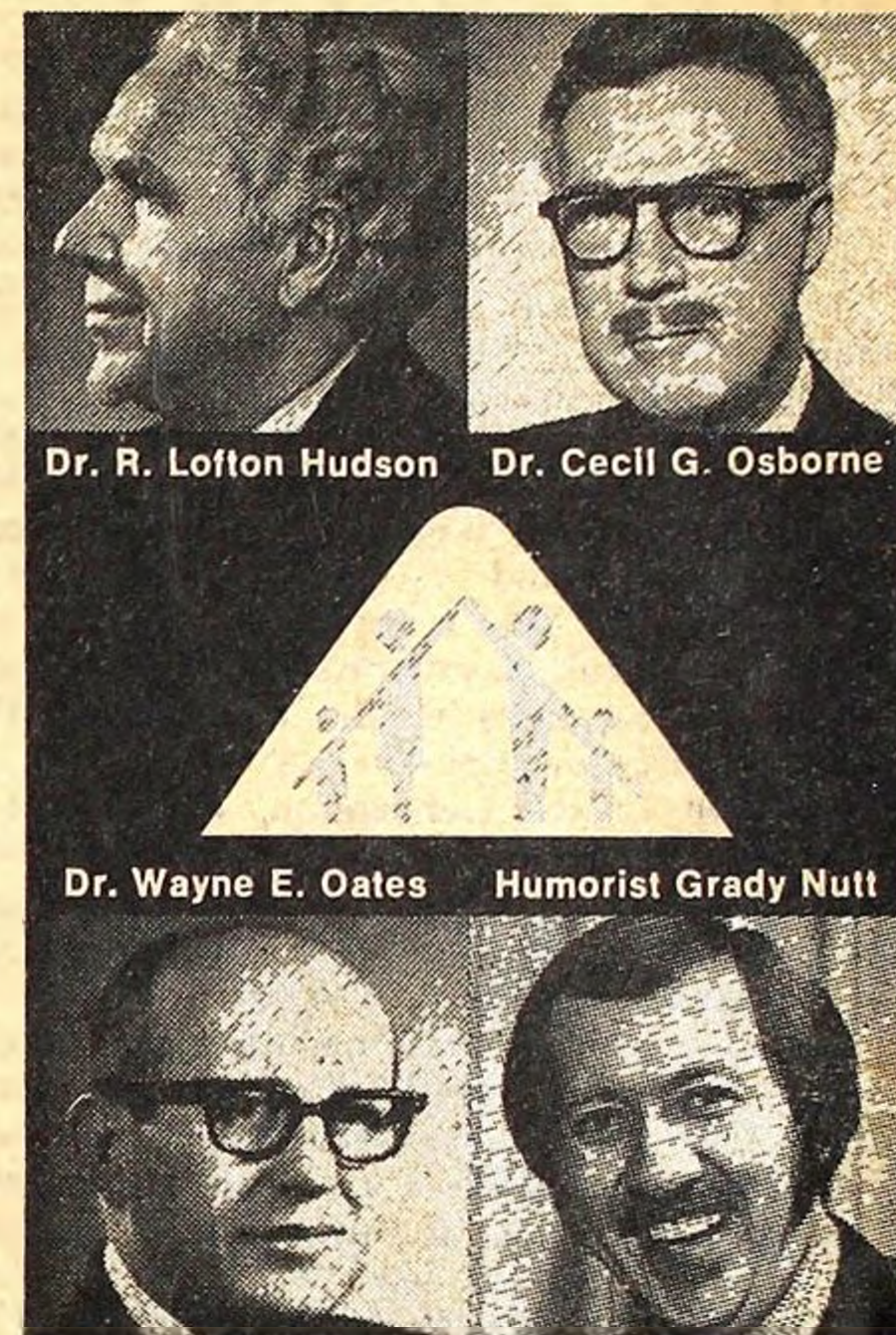
About \$7000 received through the film premiere was given to Gardner-Webb college in Boiling Springs, N.C., which awarded Cash the doctor of humanities degree in September of 1971 because of Cash's humanitarian work with prison inmates.

"Why? Because they did so much for me it made me feel at home," Cash responded when asked his motivations for giving proceeds to Gardner-Webb.

Cash, dressed in his traditional black, called the premiere of the film "the highlight of my life," adding it was a "real thrill to me" to see the marquee.

"It was an even bigger thrill when I saw that big 'G' rating," Cash added. "I just hope that this will be the first of many films which are fit for our children as well as ourselves." (BP)

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## Open Letter

February 10, 1973

Dr. Frank Stanton, President  
CBS  
51 West 52nd Street  
New York, New York 10010  
Dear Dr. Stanton:

This letter is being written to you because word has come to me that CBS has announced that they will present X-rated movies on their network unless a great number of viewers protest. I am not sure that the information I have received is correct, but I am writing to you in the event that the word which has come to me is accurate.

Dr. Stanton, it is my privilege to be President of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. This group represents 2709 Baptist churches and 902,841 church members. Each Baptist church is a local, autonomous body, and each individual Baptist speaks for himself. Yet, I am confident that my feeling on this matter is supported by a large percentage of the members in the churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

As President of the Convention, I feel that I should write and express my personal feeling with reference to your proposed intention to present X-rated movies on your network. It is true we live in a pluralistic society. Yet, there are some basic laws of morality that are written into the very structure of the universe. History has shown repeatedly that every civilization which has perished, suffered, first of all, a moral decay. People, such as you, who are in possession of unique power in communication have a tremendous responsibility. To make the showing of these movies a regular feature of American life can only further corrupt our nation's morals and hasten the deterioration that is taking place among our people.

With all my heart, may I urge you to refrain from showing X-rated movies. Regardless of the hour at which they are shown, impressionable youth and adults alike will yield to the temptation of seeing them and will be affected by the permissiveness which the movies encourage. Television is a great instrument. Much good is done through it. May I respectfully urge you to cancel any plans for showing these movies. They can only have harmful effects which will far offset any redeeming social values which may be present in them.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

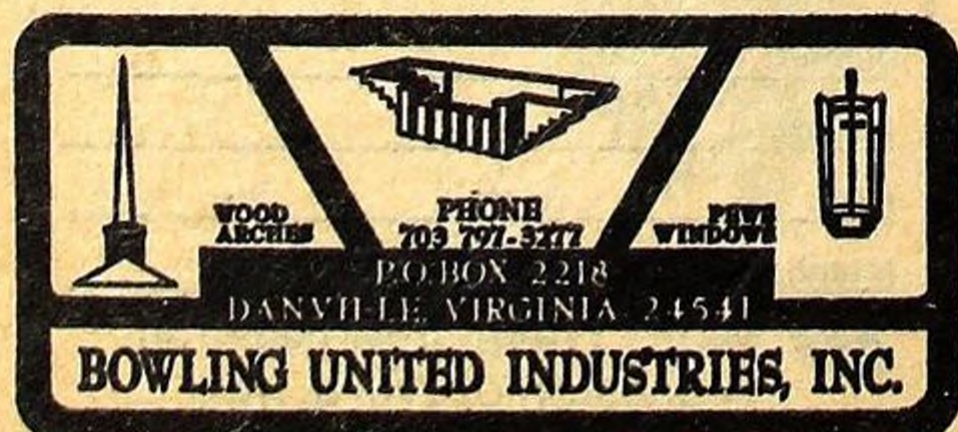
Sincerely,  
Fred M. Wood, President  
Tennessee Baptist Convention

FMW:rf

Over 100 men attended the state Brotherhood Officers' meeting held February 23-24, in Brentwood. Thirty-six associations were represented.

Virgil Allison, Clarksville, was elected Pastor-Advisor for the South Central Region. He succeeds M. L. Arbuckle, who has moved to Cleveland. John R. Myers, Jackson, was elected recording secretary to fill the unexpired term of John Lewelling.

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## Executive Secretaries Elect George Bagley As President

**BILOXI, Miss.**—Executive secretaries of 33 Baptist state conventions, meeting here for their annual session, elected George Bagley as president of the Association of Baptist State Executive Secretaries.

Bagley, executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, succeeds as president W. Douglas Hudgins, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and host for the annual meeting.

Other officers elected by the secretaries include vice president, W. Perry Crouch of North Carolina; secretary Richard Stevens of Virginia; and Inter-Agency Council Representative Searcy Garrison of Georgia. (BP)

## New Books

**Studying Adult Life and Work Lessons**, April-June, 1973, by Herschel H. Hobbs, Convention, paper. The approach to each study contains an examination of background materials, and an exposition of the focal Scripture passage. Greek and Hebrew words are explained, the central teaching of the passage is clarified, and its truth applied to life.

**Stan on the Loose** by Nicky Cruz, Revell, 158 pp., \$3.95. The author relates his own terrifying experiences with the devil . . . tells why he believes that Satan is on the loose in our society . . . offers practical advice for resisting Satan's attacks.

**Luke** by Gerald N. Battle, Word, 144 pp., \$3.95. The boy who wanted to make people well.

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## Former Astronaut Plans Retreat For Vietnam POWs

**COLORADO SPRINGS**—Apollo 15 Astronaut James B. Irwin, working through his High Flight religious foundation, plans to schedule a renewal retreat program for American prisoners of war returning from Vietnam in an effort to help them readjust to life in America.

Irwin, a Baptist layman who has traveled throughout the world telling others he felt God's presence when he walked on the moon, said in announcing the plans that some of the returning prisoners of war did not even know man had been to the moon while they were in prison.

Exact time and place for the retreat program he hopes to sponsor has not been set, although tentative plans call for the retreat some time in June after the former prisoners have had some time with their families and have gone through official debriefings, High Flight officials said.

To coordinate plans and handle details for the retreat, Irwin has set up a separate office in High Flight. Charles Farr, minister of education at First Southern Baptist church in Colorado Springs, will be "on loan" to help coordinate the POW program, Irwin said.

Farr spent 20 years in the Air Force and is well qualified in the field of retreat ministries, Irwin said.

Irwin, a retired Air Force Colonel, said

there has always been a desire to establish a retreat ministry by High Flight, the religious foundation he established last August when he resigned from the space program. The retreat program he wants to share with the returning POWs cannot wait on construction of permanent facilities, Irwin added.

"We have already been in touch with some of the personnel in the Pentagon who are involved in the work with returning men, and they have expressed their delight with the idea of this way of sharing with these men we have in mind," Irwin said.

William H. Rittenhouse, vice president and executive director of High Flight, knows first hand the trauma of readjustment that will face these men since he was a prisoner of war in Rumania during World War II, Irwin pointed out.

Rittenhouse said he and Irwin were deeply concerned about the problems of readjustment the returning Vietnam POW's. "We want to provide these men and their families with a retreat that will let them have recreation, information and inspiration," he added.

Irwin said that High Flight will seek to underwrite all expenses so there will be no charge to the former prisoners or their families.

Rittenhouse said the program would be non-denominational in approach, with a person-to-person emphasis. Personalities, including astronauts and religious leaders across the country, will be enlisted who can share what their faith has meant to them in times of stress, trauma and readjustment.

Rittenhouse is author of a book entitled "God's POW," telling how his faith was a source of strength during his imprisonment in Rumania during World War II. (BP)

## Church Vocation Emphasis Slated For April

"Life Commitment Month" and "Church Vocations Sunday" will be observed in Southern Baptist churches in April, according to an announcement from the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

The observance of Church Vocations Sunday on April 22, and the emphasis on life commitment will enable churches to provide guidance for young people and young adults in finding areas of service through church vocations. The 1973 theme will be "Equipping for Ministry in the World."

Miss Mary Allen, Church Training Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, serves as the Tennessee Vocational Guidance Consultant.

## Moni Named Manager Of San Antonio Book Store

Donald L. Moni, former shipping and receiving clerk at the Baptist Book Store in San Antonio, Tex., has recently been named manager of that store.

Moni has served as acting manager of the San Antonio store since Charles Lanningham, former store manager, was transferred to the Houston Baptist Book Store as manager in July, 1972.

A retired Air Force sergeant, Moni is presently working toward a degree in business administration at San Antonio Junior College. (Prepared by BSSB Bureau) (BP)

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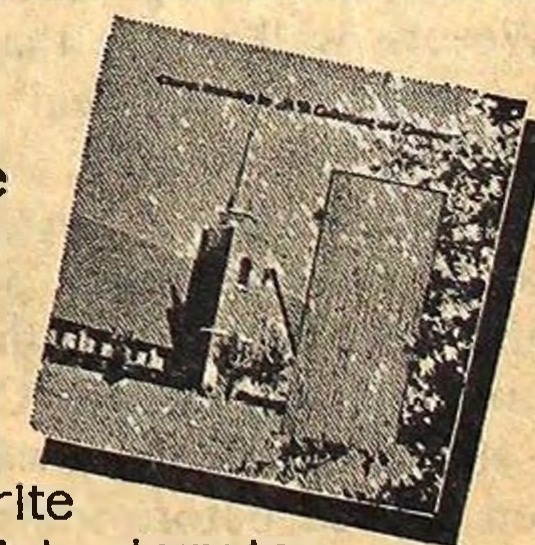
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# Responsible For Fellow Christians

By W. R. White

Baylor University, Waco, Texas

**Basic Passage: 1 Corinthians 8**

**Focal Passage: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

The eating of meat which had been offered to idols of false gods was a serious problem among early Christians, particularly in the Gentile world. We face no such problem today but we do face the principle involved.



White

A weaker and less enlightened brother may be offended at practices that more sophisticated and more mature brethren would not notice. There are some things that some of us are certain would not hurt us but an indulgence might offend the conscience of a weaker and less knowledgeable person.

Dr. George W. Truett refrained from some things he would have enjoyed very much but he refrained completely lest someone might be confused and hurt by misunderstanding the situation. To a less degree, this is true of others.

The inescapable responsibility of stronger and more sophisticated Christians to those less fortunate is a solemn and sacred one. We do not live in a hidden corner but out in the open where many see us.

**Sophisticated Strength Unequal To Love 1 Cor. 8:1-3**

No doubt this forms more mature Christians. We are well aware that neither idols nor false gods had any real significance or impact with reference to sacrificial meat offered to them. They ate the meat with no qualms of conscience whatever. Perhaps they were amused or disgusted at the immature and unlearned Christians who had a strong aversion toward meat that had been offered before idols of false gods.

Paul agreed that this meat had not been influenced in any way because it had been offered to gods who did not actually exist. However, he did not agree that the sensitive conscience of the less enlightened and less mature disciple could be disregarded. In any case he believed that loving consideration as to the reaction of a less fortunate disciple was superior to boasted knowledge and strength.

**Fuller Knowledge Dispels Ignorance 1 Cor. 8:4-6**

Paul is fully aware that the many idols and the multitude of gods are just superstition and the creation of man's imagination.

tion. He is certain that the one Triune God is the only living God.

Evidently he feels that the weaker and less sophisticated converts that have accepted this belief will see the logic of meats offered to idols not being contaminated because that to which the meats are offered has no real existence in fact. He is obviously willing to let patience prevail.

**Liberty Entails Responsibility 1 Cor. 8:7-9**

Christian liberty means not only freedom from the curse of the law through redemption but freedom from the exacting demands of non-essential ritual, ceremonies and inhibitions. Yet we are responsible for the effect our choices have on our brethren.

There may be several things in which we might participate or not participate without injury to ourselves. Yet our participating or refraining might have offended another. An older brother could with safety cross a dangerous stream on a crooked tree with hindering limbs but his very small brother who was following him would most likely fall off and into the swirling stream. Therefore the older brother went downstream to cross on a safe concrete bridge. We are to use our liberty, not to pamper our selfish preferences but by love we are to serve one another.

**We Must Prefer Others 1 Cor. 8:10-13**

There are a number of things we can refrain from without injuring ourselves. We may not only understand better but we will have better self-control. Moderate drinking is one. Cigarette smoking is another. We knew a man who quit cocktails be-

## Foundation

### Your Friend, The Lawyer

By Jonas L. Stewart

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

There are some things that only a lawyer should do. One of those things is the preparation of legal documents. A will is such a document. Words, phrases, punctuations and their legal application can be properly arranged only by those knowledgeable in legal technicalities. Your lawyer can be your best friend in matters of estate planning. Only when a lawyer prepares a will can you know that it is done right.

The Foundation personnel is interested only in helping the Lord's servants understand estate planning as an extension of their testimony for Christ. This includes the making of a Christian Will. Our office provides information for this purpose which one may take to his own attorney. We often have a client's attorney call our office for information on how certain matters relating to our programs should be stated. We welcome such inquiries. Legal service through the Foundation is available only upon written request.

There is no charge for any services provided through the Foundation. For information on preparing a Christian Will write Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Dr. Jonas L. Stewart, executive secretary-treasurer, P.O. Box 647, Brentwood, Tennessee 37027. No one will call upon you without an invitation.

cause his example had caused a weaker man to become an alcoholic. A Sunday School teacher quit cigarettes because of the junior boys in his class.

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# From the Executive Secretary

By Ralph E. Norton

The week of prayer for Home Missions and emphasis for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering deserves the cooperation of every Baptist in our state. As we look about us and consider the needs that are to be met by the gifts toward this offering, we realize more fully that our homeland is indeed a vital mission field.



Norton

At the recent meeting of the Executive Secretaries in Biloxi, Miss., it was enlightening to hear of some of the work being carried on in some of the states of our convention. It was encouraging to know that strong efforts are being made in many of the areas where there is no witness to establish missions and churches and to provide pastoral services in these locations.

Home Missions is truly a tremendous challenge, and when we fully realize the depth of the needs and are made aware of the efforts of those who serve so faithfully in these pioneer areas, we will be challenged to pray more earnestly and give more sacrificially that the work involved in our total home mission program may continue to advance and even the most remote areas be confronted with the Gospel of Christ.

May the week of March 4 through March 11 be a time of concerned effort and prayer for each of us as we turn our thoughts to the very vital needs of our homeland and the challenge awaiting Baptists to win America for Christ.

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## Historically:

### From the files

#### 50 YEARS AGO

Baptists in Nashville announced that John D. Freeman of Springfield, Ky. had accepted the call as pastor of the Belmont Heights church in Nashville, and he expected to begin his service on May 1.

Six deacons were ordained at the Puryear church with Pastor C. J. Hamilton officiating. Other pastors from the area including Earl Gooch, H. F. Robins, and Terry Martin participated in the service.

#### 20 YEARS AGO

Belmont college announced plans to offer a new course in religious education. R. Kelly White, president, stated that the Baptist Sunday School Board was working with Belmont to create an improved Religion Department.

First church, Jacksboro, had begun construction on a new church building to include an auditorium and 24 classrooms. J. S. Aiken was pastor.

#### 10 YEARS AGO

In Nashville, James L. Sullivan predicted that the Southern Baptist Convention was "on the verge of its greatest growth and prosperity in its history." Executive Board members heard the executive secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Board say that Baptists would preserve their fellowship through "absolute honesty."

Tennessee Baptist women were preparing for the 75th anniversary celebration of the Woman's Missionary Union. First church, Chattanooga, was chosen to be the site of the occasion. A Tennessee WMU history was scheduled to be presented.

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### Respect Child's Privacy—Until Suspicious Conduct

Children's privacy should be scrupulously respected—until a youngster begins to act suspiciously, a Virginia Beach psychiatrist told a Virginia Council on Social Welfare workshop here. Once parents have reason to believe that a child may be headed for trouble, it is more important for them to protect the child than the privacy, said Dr. William Lamb.

"One thing that scares an adolescent to death is the feeling that no one can control him," reminded the specialist. "He's already running scared because of his bodily changes. If he feels that his parents don't care what he does, it puts him in a threatening situation."

Parents must accept that it is normal for adolescent youngsters to reject them—even though they continue to need them. "It's just their way of separating themselves and exercising independence." Hopefully, they'll find some healthy adult to talk to during this period.

Conflicts may be fewer if parents have a general set of principles they operate by, rather than an endless series of rigid rules.

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## New Southern Presbyterian Synod Is Organized

NASHVILLE—Some 700 persons, representing 900 local churches gathered at the Tennessee State Fair Grounds here for the first meeting of Synod "C-F" of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (Southern).

They organized a unit with a combined constituency of \$164,000 members as part of the restructuring now underway in the denomination, which will reduce the former 15 synods to seven.

Dr. L. Nelson Bell, moderator of the General Assembly, challenged the audience to "spiritual battle." Such things as poverty, the Vietnam war, race, drugs, housing, and gun control are symptoms of the disease of "sin in the human heart," he said, adding that the offer of salvation through Christ is the cure and the work of the Holy Spirit is the treatment.

At one point, the Rev. Morton Smith of Jackson, representing the Central Mississippi Presbytery, questioned the seating of delegates from union presbyteries who had not taken ordination vows of the PCUS.

This referred to some ministers from Kentucky presbyteries, who were ordained by the United Presbyterian Church.

In response to the challenge, the Rev. Albert Freundt, Jr., of Jackson, clerk of the synod, said that "General Assembly had determined Synod C-F's membership, and the synod is powerless to question it."

Officers of the synod, elected by acclamation, are Ralph C. Caldwell of Knoxville, Tenn., chairman; Freundt, clerk; and Mac W. Freeman of Nashville, assistant clerk.

Synod committees that were set up include a Committee on Mission and organization to determine program priorities, and Interim Executive Committee to select staff personnel, and a special committee to study how to achieve equitable representation of different viewpoints on synod committees.

## Loss Of Priests From Ministry Reported Highest In The U.S.

VATICAN CITY—A check of the data in the Vatican's annual yearbook has revealed that the loss of priestly vocations was higher in the United States than in any other country in the world.

It reported that 636 priests resigned their ministry during 1970.

In Italy, as an example, only 109 priests resigned.

During 1970, the yearbook noted, worldwide totals disclosed that 6839 priests had died and 7697 had been ordained. (RNS)

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