

# Baptist And Reflector

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News-Journal Of Tennessee Baptist Convention

## First Lady's Comments Stir Criswell's Ire

DALLAS—The pastor of the Southern Baptist Convention's largest church has sharply criticized First Lady Betty Ford's outlook on premarital sex.

Mrs. Ford expressed her views on the national Columbia Broadcasting System television program, 60 Minutes.

Criswell's comments were given during interviews with the Dallas Morning News and the Dallas Times Herald, and were circulated nationally by wire services.

In the show, she said she would not be surprised if her unmarried daughter, Susan, had an affair. Mrs. Ford also spoke in favor of legalized abortion and said premarital sex might lower the divorce rate.

W. A. Criswell, pastor of 18,000-member First Baptist Church here, said: "I could not believe what I was reading. I thought surely someone was misquoting her. I cannot think that the First Lady of this land would descend to such a gutter type mentality. It is unthinkable."

Criswell, who did not watch the Sunday night presentation, later watched a video replay of the interview. He said: "I didn't expect the leadership of this nation to exhibit before our very eyes this kind of a sewer.

"We try to keep this kind of sewer underground. There is a Mafia, but we go on fighting it. We know there is a great mass who believe in and live this animal way. But for her (Mrs. Ford) to offer her daughter this kind of illicit sexual relationship with a man is unthinkable." Mrs. Ford said of her daughter: "I think she's a perfectly normal human being like all young girls." If Susan had an affair and "wanted to continue . . . I would certainly advise her on the subject. . . ." Criswell called the suggestion that premarital relations might lower divorce rates "animal thinking." (BP)

## Highsmith, State RA Director, Resigns

William E. Highsmith, state Royal Ambassador director and associate in the Brotherhood Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, has resigned. He plans to continue his education, according to Roy Gilleland, director of the state Brotherhood.

Highsmith, a native of Springfield, was employed by the Tennessee Baptist Convention in June 1968. Prior to that time, he was secretary of Royal Ambassador work for the Oregon-Washington Baptist Convention. He is a member of the Belmont Heights Church in Nashville, and is married to the former Peggy Byers, who is employed at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

## Historical Commission Needs Bicentennial Information From Churches

NASHVILLE—The Southern Baptist Historical Commission has a "Bicentennial Events" hunt in progress and wants to hear from local churches across the Southern Baptist Convention.

Pastors or other persons responsible for promoting and publicizing U.S. Bicentennial-related events in local Southern Baptist congregations are urged by Lynn E. May Jr., executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, Nashville, to communicate what your church is doing to observe the Bicentennial.

Write to: Dr. Lynn E. May Jr.  
Historical Commission  
127 Ninth Ave., North  
Nashville, Tenn. 37234

May says the information is needed for a historical record, for a resume of plans to be published in the Historical Commission's journal, **Baptist History and Heritage**, and to share such information with Baptist Press, Southern Baptists' news service, for

its series of Bicentennial news and feature stories.

Much of the information will be used in a special program feature on "Southern Baptists and Bicentennial Celebrations," at the Oct. 1, 1975, meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Inter-Agency Council of the Southern Baptist Convention; hence, the importance of your response as a church to the need for information.

Representatives of local churches should note whether plans/projects are community-wide or statewide and whether or not they are distinctly Baptist-oriented. All church involvement, significant involvement of groups or individuals in Bicentennial activities are worthy of note, May said.

"This is an opportunity for Southern Baptist churches to be individually recorded and recognized in Baptist history," May said. "Surely, every church that has some Bicentennial involvement will want to cooperate with us in providing the information we need," he noted.



The "Buffalo Creek Poke Bonnets," representing the Buffalo Creek Church in Grainger County, offer a musical contribution to America's Bicentennial year. The girls, ranging in age from two through sixteen, offer a repertoire of church music going back to the 1700's. Their musical presentation is enhanced by the long dresses and poke bonnets, made by the mothers and ladies of the church. The group will be singing at various locations throughout the state in the coming year. Grant Bishop is their pastor.

# Warning Against False Teachers

By Herschel H. Hobbs

*"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."—2 Peter 2:1.*

In 2 Peter 1:20-21 Peter spoke of true prophets. Chapter 2 is a warning against and a discussion of false prophets and teachers. As there were false prophets in the Old Testament, so there will be and are false teachers in the Christian era. These were already present when Peter wrote this epistle in the late sixties A.D. and they have plagued the Christian cause down the centuries.

These shall sneak in their "damnable heresies" or heresies which destroy. Such do not build up the body of Christ (church) or edify the individual Christian. They are not evangelistic; they do not seek to win the lost to Christ. They are parasites which feed on Christ's body. They do not raise sheep of their own, but pick off the straying or lagging sheep of the Lord's flock. But they bring upon themselves "swift destruction." The words "damnable," "destruction," and "pernicious" (v. 2) all translate the same Greek word (apoleia) which means "destruction."

tion." It is akin to "Apollyon," destroyer, one name for Satan (Rev. 9:11).

The false teachers evidently were Gnostic philosophers. One group of these denied the deity of Jesus; another denied the humanity of Christ. Hence "denying the Lord that bought them." The word for "bought" is built from the Greek **agora**, marketplace. So bought out of the marketplace.

Verse 3 notes the success of these false teachers. It is still surprising how many Christians follow false teachers. And such cause others to blaspheme "the way of truth" or the true Christian way. "Blas-

pheme" means to speak insultingly against.

Verse 3 speaks of the "covetousness" (desire for more) of these false teachers. In this context it probably refers to gaining power in the Christian fellowship. They "make merchandise" of the Christians who follow them. This verb is one whence comes "emporium." Their stock in trade is "feigned" (counterfeit or delusive) words. They are designed not to edify but to lead astray those who are so deluded. They may prosper for awhile, but judgment and destruction await them. One should be careful what he teaches in the Lord's name.

### Devotional

## I PREFER "MRS."

By Mrs. Robert J. Norman

A current radio commercial comes on with the sweet crying of a newborn baby. The commentator, a woman, breaks in to say that this child is coming into the world handicapped—handicapped because she is female. The feminist campaign has foremost news priority these days. Any woman who has enjoyed happy, positive relationships with all the men in her life—father, brother, husband, and Christian friends—wonders what all the fuss is about.



Jean Norman

Who could ask for anything more fulfilling than the privileges and joys of being a warm, loving homemaker, a responsive and genuine lover, and a mother who inspires her children, both male and female, to reach up and out. I am not a "women's libber." The New English Bible says that after God created man He decided it was not good for man to be alone. So He said, "I will provide a partner for him, a helper suited to his needs"; and in the Living Bible Adam's response at the first sight of the woman was, "This is it, she is part of my own bone and flesh."

Human sexuality—maleness and femaleness—is one of God's good and perfect gifts. Woman is not only suited to a man's needs for the propagation of the race but for companionship. Man and woman supple-

ment each other. To ignore their psychological differences would be to overlook the source of much of the richness of the relationship of husband and wife. Men and women are made to find fulfillment and completion in one another.

The Bible teaches the primacy of the husband in the home—not for dominion but for understanding, guidance, and help. "You husbands must be careful of your wives, being thoughtful of their needs and honoring them as the weaker sex. Remember that you and your wife are partners in receiving God's blessings, and if you don't treat her as you should, your prayers will not get ready answers." (Living Bible I Peter 3:7). In the same paraphrase, Ephesians 5:21-33 speaks of mutual love and responsibility. A woman has nothing to fear from the man who loves her perfectly. "Perfect love casteth out fear."

A man and woman mutually given to Christ with a common understanding of God's presence, the purpose of God's action in history and their part in that great work will have a happy meaningful life together.

There are some legitimate needs expressed by the feminist movement. I only wish every woman could be so blessed as to enjoy the sharing of life and its opportunities with a man who loved her completely. My husband I share a commitment to something that is "bigger than both of us"—beyond our own egos. We have a fellowship of the Spirit in which love is fully realized in doing something with God for others. Proverbs 12:4 says "A worthy wife is her husband's joy and crown; the other kind corrodes his strength and tears down everything he does." I enjoy being a wife.

*Note: Mrs. Norman is the wife of Robert J. Norman, pastor of the Belmont Heights Church in Nashville.*



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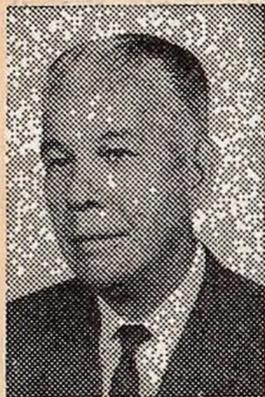
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# Baptist Laymen Contribute To Tennessee Baptist Life

*This article is the third in a series of personality features to be published in your BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR. All feature articles in this series will focus on representative Tennessee laymen who have made outstanding contributions through TBC institutions to Baptist life in the state. They are, in a real sense, both faithful and effective—but too often are the "unsung heroes" of our denominational life.*

M. Mahan Siler is called "the man who is constantly concerned about his fellow man" by his friends, associates, and family.



Siler

His concern and compassion have caused him to reach out in service through the East Tennessee Baptist Hospital and the Blount Professional Building to help benefit those in need of help in East Tennessee.

Siler was born in Jellico on Jan. 14, 1899. A graduate of Vanderbilt University, he moved to Knoxville to begin his own business, Siler Brokerage Co., in 1925. The business has grown today to include Siler Bean Co. and Knox Storage Co.

In 1927, Siler met and married wife, Bess. The couple has two children, Mahan Siler Jr., Pastoral Care Department of North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, and Caroline Siler Hill, the wife of Robert E. Hill, president of Siler Brokerage Co., Knox Storage Co., and vice-president of Siler Bean Co.

A Baptist since 1926, he was ordained a deacon in 1942. Presently he is a member of Knoxville First Church where he has served as a Sunday School teacher and chairman of the board of deacons.

Referring to his interest in East Tennessee Baptist Hospital, Earl Skogman, president of the institution said, "From its earliest beginnings, Mr. Siler has been keenly interested in East Tennessee Baptist Hospital. Always volunteering for any project needing his help, he kept himself continually informed on every aspect of our hospital. All of us have sought his counsel in every major decision. He continues to lend his support and advice to our hospital."

Siler's driving inspiration and determination helped in the building of the hospital. In 1943 he was charged with chairing the finance committee whose task was to raise the necessary funds for the building. Under his leadership, the committee was successful. He was then elected to serve as the second chairman of the Board of Trustees of the hospital in 1949 and he continued in this capacity until 1958. Either as a member of

the Board of Trustees or the Executive Board, Siler has actively served East Tennessee. He presently is a member of the Board of Trustees and is chairman of the East Tennessee Baptist Hospital Foundation.

For 27 years, Siler was a member of the Board of Trustees of Blue Cross, and from 1947-74 served as a member of that board's executive committee. When he left the Blue Cross Board in 1974, he was presented a plaque in appreciation for his many years of service. In part, the inscription reads: "For his valuable contribution to the success of the company almost since its conception, at great personal sacrifice and whereas he contributed time and talent to the development of this organization for the benefit of the people of Tennessee without monetary compensation . . ."

In the 1950's Siler was asked to chair another development committee to obtain funds for the Blount Professional Building which opened in 1956. His contributions and interest are evident in plaques of appreciation which are scattered throughout the hospital. When the Blount Building was completed, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to name the new building in honor of Siler as a tribute to his continued interest and effort on its behalf. Siler refused vehemently to accept this honor, stating that the new building belonged to the patients of East Tennessee and to the employees of Baptist Hospital. In a closed meeting, the other Board members decided to erect a plaque of dedication to Siler, and this was accomplished without his knowledge.

So deep is Siler's interest in the hospital, he gives rather unique Christmas gifts which reflect his interest. Each year, a contribution to the hospital is made by him in honor of each of his business friends. This gift is made in lieu of the traditional Christmas gift.

With East Tennessee now on its feet, Siler has momentarily turned his attention and emphasis to another worthwhile cause. As Siler answered the call for help from East Tennessee Baptists, he is now looking on down the road, attempting to "help his fellow man."

## NOTICE!

No pictures are being returned unless a self-addressed stamped envelope is sent with the picture. This is due to the increase in postal rates.

## Mars Hill College Awarded \$157,250 From Kellogg

MARS HILL, N.C.—Mars Hill College, a Baptist school, has received a \$157,250 grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich., to continue work on the college's competence-based curriculum.

Mars Hill President Fred B. Bentley said the grant is the largest program grant in the school's 119-year history. It follows a \$100,000 grant made by Kellogg to the college in 1973.

The grant will be used to implement a faculty development program over a two-year period which will be directly related to the college's new academic program. According to academic vice-president, Richard Hoffman, who guided the faculty team which formulated the original proposal. Since the Kellogg Foundation rarely makes a follow-up award, this grant is highly significant."

The competence-based curriculum was introduced on an experimental basis during the 1973-74 school year and on a curriculum-wide basis this past year. In establishing the competence-based program, the college has identified certain educational and skill competencies which represent full emotional, intellectual, and psychological development of the student. In contrast to traditional approaches, the new curriculum emphasizes the accountability of the college in the progress of its students. (BP)

## Pulpit To Pew

By Jim Griffith

A minister in Milwaukee skipped rope for five hours and completed 43,473 jumps, or 145 per minute to capture the rope jumping title.

What with all of the present-day problems and anxieties, many clergymen are a little jumpy—but nothing like this.

Why, it's enough to make a kangaroo envious!

And no wonder. This minister's congregation knows that his hobby, as well as his work, keeps him jumping.

Furthermore, he has rewritten the old axiom to wit: give him enough rope and he won't hang himself—he will jump it.

Anyway, you have to admire the minister's resourcefulness. He has discovered a way of making fun out of all of his ups and downs.

But one word of caution is in order—just in case he spends too much time at his avocation. When his anniversary recognition service comes around, his congregation may decide to give him a rope and tell him to skip it.

# How Chuck Found Christ

By Eura Lannom

When Chuck Wiggins left Harriman as a lad with his parents to go to Cincinnati, he never dreamed that in five years he would come back to East Tennessee to work as a summer missionary.

He and five other Carson-Newman College students have been serving as summer missionaries in tourist areas around Pigeon Forge and in Sevier County Baptist Association. Under the name "Somethin' Special," the group is singing and giving Christian testimonies and doing campground ministries at Smoky Shadows Conference Center and appearing at Camp Smoky and local churches.

When Branson Wiggins, Chuck's father, left Trenton Street Church, Harriman, to become pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Cincinnati, the young boy looked forward to making the change. He knew he would miss his friends, having lived in Harriman all his life. But the big city enticed him, and he planned to do things in a bigger way. According to Chuck, he found dope and alcohol in the city because it was prevalent among the kids.

"I never really liked to drink. It was just something to do. Everyone else was doing it, and the city was oriented toward drinking," he stated.

But something good came out of the big city too. Chuck became a Christian at the end of his freshman year in high school. "I had been baptized at a younger age, but I was completely off the track by the time I was a freshman in high school. I even confessed to being an atheist. Through a Jesus rock and roll festival, however, I accepted the Lord as my Saviour," Chuck said as he shared his Christian experience.

"Who was really directly responsible for your accepting Christ?"

"I can't say any one person. I would say several people—the young people of my church and the people sponsoring the music festival I attended.

## A Slow Process

"Also about a week before I went to the festival I heard a message from an evangelist. At that time I had a metamorphic change in my life. It was a change of not completely accepting Christ, but of entertaining the thought that God did exist. It was a slow process which came about through faith, acceptance, and digging my Bible out from under the bed again."

Chuck recalled that he was six or seven years old when he first joined the church and was baptized. When he looks back on that experience, however, he feels that it wasn't the real thing.

"I looked up to some of the older guys who had done the same thing, and I just followed in their footsteps."

Being a preacher's kid and having to at-

tend church every time the doors opened seemed to have affected Chuck. He was very rebellious against the church and his parents. Even though he was a member of the church, Chuck confessed that the young people knew he wasn't a Christian.

"I don't enjoy thinking back on my life and all the stuff I went through between the time I joined the church earlier and when I really became a Christian," he related. "I can look back now and say that where many people can't put their finger on the point in their life where they made a turnaround, I can. Something really happened to me, and I can't forget it.

## They Saw The Difference

"That experience was very dramatic in my life. Every one in school knew it . . . every one in church knew it; and it wasn't something I really had to tell any one. They saw the difference . . . there was a change in me."

Chuck was exposed to music at an early age, but eventually lost interest completely. When he started to junior high school, he began playing the piano by ear, and picked on the guitar some. But the groups he played with were not mature, and he dropped out because of lack of interest. Then, when he found Christ, music just seemed to fall into place. He learned more about music and harmony.

"I think the Lord injected some creativity into me when He injected my soul," said Chuck.

During those rebellious years his parents were very patient with him and tried to be available to help him find himself without nagging. They took him to a number of Jesus Movement meetings he wanted to attend.

His last year in high school, (1973-74), he was thinking seriously about college and where to attend.

"Why did you decide to attend Carson-Newman?"

"I was looking for a good Christian school. The name Carson-Newman kept coming up. Several of my Ohio friends were here, and I came and visited. I wasn't super-impressed, but something just said, 'Go to C-N.' They had several scholarships, and I was fortunate to receive one."

## Revival Plans

While a freshman at C-N this past year, Chuck was a member of the A Cappella Choir and the Renaissance Singers, a group from the A Cappella Choir, until he accepted the position of minister of music at First Baptist Church, Dandridge. He resigned that position to work in the summer missions program. He plans to be on revival teams during his sophomore year and try to broaden his experience in the music field.

## New Faculty Added At Boyce Bible School

Boyce Bible School, a program of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has completed its first full year of class work and will add several new faculty members to the staff this month, according to Allen W. Graves, executive director.

The school was approved by the Southern Baptist Convention in June 1974 as a program of the seminary which offers preparation for Baptist ministers who have not completed college. Enrollment has climbed from the 48 original students of over 100, Graves stated. During the regular school year, most classes are offered in eight-week terms, during the day or night. Courses are offered on four-week terms during January and July.

The diploma from Boyce Bible School requires 60 units or semester hours of course work which can be completed in two years or less.

The faculty members will include: Raymond Coppenger, offering courses in church history, Old Testament and Bible doctrines; Raymond Bailey, offering courses in speech improvement and preparation and delivery of sermons; William Hancock, offering a course on contemporary evangelism; and Eugene Sutherland offering a course on the total music program of the church. Ronald Turner will organize and direct the Boyce Bible School Choir, and Mrs. Robert A. Proctor will teach courses in English grammar. Joining the night schedule of courses will be Elvis Marcum and Clara McCartt.

Carson-Newman BSU director Jerry Brittingham got the group together and worked out their summer schedule.

Serving with Chuck are Lynn Sutter, Salem, Va.; David Cook, Strawberry Plains; Mary Beth Benson, Concord; Mary McBee, Knoxville; and Jane Gibson, Morristown.

Since the last of June "Somethin' Special" has presented concerts four nights a week, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. The first half of the program is mostly secular type music and the second half secular and gospel. Four afternoons a week, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday they work in the campground behind the conference center with the young children and do campground ministry. They have sung in many of the local churches on Sunday and appeared on the program at Student Week at Ridgecrest and at Camp Crestridge this summer.

"Somethin' Special" will conclude their work at Smoky Shadows after Labor Day. Then they will return to the campus to further their education.

The Missions and Student departments of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, a Special Ministries department of the Home Missions Board, and the Sevier County Baptist Association promoted the pilot project with an assist from the Connor Corp. of Pigeon Forge, which owns the conference center.

# Board Names Personnel; Allots \$195,000 Relief

**GLORIETA, N.M.**—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, at its August meeting here appointed 41 missionaries, appropriated \$195,000 for world relief and elected three staff members to fill home office posts.

R. Keith Parks, the board's secretary for Southeast Asia since 1968 and formerly a missionary in Indonesia for 14 years, was named director of the mission support division, replacing Jesse C. Fletcher, who resigned in May to accept the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn.

"Dr. Parks has served with distinction both as a missionary and as area secretary," said Baker James Cauthen, the board's executive secretary. "His election has occasioned great joy and enthusiasm both among board members and the staff. We anticipate for him outstanding work in this new responsibility."

The new secretary for East Asia will be George H. Hays, currently East Asia's field representative and a missionary since 1948. He succeeds James D. Belote who died in Richmond, Va., March 4, of a heart attack.

Don A. Reavis, a regional personnel representative for the board, was elected as an associate secretary for missionary personnel, replacing W. L. (Wimpey) Smith who now serves as the board's associate consultant on laymen overseas and associate disaster response coordinator.

## Relief Allocations

Of the \$195,000 appropriated for relief, \$150,000 is for relief and rehabilitation projects in hunger-plagued Bangladesh; and \$30,000 for flood relief in Recife, Brazil; \$10,000 to provide water supplies in Tonga areas of Rhodesia; and \$5,000 to assist refugees from Africa who are now in Portugal.

In addition, another \$2,006 was appropriated for work with Vietnamese refugees at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. The Foreign Mission Board earlier made appropriations in May for refugee work at Camp Chaffee, Ark.

Southern Baptist missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Myers of the Vietnam mission were authorized by the board to continue working with the resettlement of Vietnamese refugees and to serve as a liaison between the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board concerning refugees assistance.

The board also appropriated \$102,746 to cover personal losses and outfit allowances for several missionaries who recently fled Vietnam and Laos due to the fall of those two countries to Communist control. The board also redesignated \$69,172, previously

designated to Vietnam, to be used in Indonesia.

## New Appointees

The appointment of 41 missionaries brings to 200 the total additions to the missionary force in 1975. More than 2,600 missionaries now serve over 80 countries.

Appointed were Mr. and Mrs. Leslie W. Davis from Oklahoma and Texas, assigned to Middle America and the Caribbean; Mr. and Mrs. Deral E. Dockins, Missouri, to Ecuador; Mr. and Mrs. E. Gary Harthcock, Mississippi and North Carolina, to Leeward Islands; Mr. and Mrs. David A. Helton, Missouri, to Mexico; Mr. and Mrs. Larry W. Henry, Colorado and New Mexico, to Spain; Mr. and Mrs. William L. Hitt, Texas, to Thailand.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. W. Rex Holt, Arkansas, to Togo; Mr. and Mrs. F. Mitchell Land, Texas, to Togo; Mr. and Mrs. Roger A. Lewis, Texas to Colombia; Mr. and Mrs.

Elliott (Manny) Manferd, Alabama and Texas, to Chile; Mr. and Mrs. Billy L. Montgomery, Texas and Arkansas, to Ghana; Mr. and Mrs. Billy L. Oliver, Texas, to Yemen.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. David M. Park, Texas, to the Philippines; Annette Perry, Arkansas, to Senegal; Mr. and Mrs. Larry D. Phillips, Texas and Illinois, to Hong Kong; Linda Phillips, California, to Taiwan; Mr. and Mrs. Bill L. Pope, Alabama and Kentucky, to Guadeloupe.

Also, Beverly Richardson, Missouri, to Jordan; Mr. and Mrs. Rob P. Sellers, Florida and Oklahoma, to Indonesia; Mr. and Mrs. Bobby C. Speegle, Alabama, to Liberia; Mr. and Mrs. Randy D. Sprinkle, Missouri, to Ethiopia; and Mr. and Mrs. W. David Truitt, New York and Louisiana, to Mexico.

All were appointed as career missionaries with the exception of Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Harthcock and Mr. and Mrs. Speegle, who were employed as missionary associates. (BP)

## Tennessee Baptist Colleges Hit Badly By Lack Of Tuition Grant Funding Program

By Herbert C. Gabhart

Due to the lack of funding for the tuition grant program in the State of Tennessee, Belmont College, Carson-Newman College and Union University will be without at least \$372,276 in student assistance when school opens this fall.

The figures released by The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation for the school year 1974-1975 indicated that at Belmont College 85 students received \$75,290; at Carson-Newman College 129 students received \$125,555, while at Union University 190 students received \$171,431, or a total of 404 students, which is one-ninth of the total enrolment in the three colleges, received a total of \$372,276.

The discontinuance of the funds in the Governor's budget has placed a very heavy strain upon the colleges in matters of student recruitment and retention. None of the three colleges can pick up such a sum for student financial aid from operational budgets which are burgeoning and tightening due to escalation of costs. The end results are that the colleges will be very hard pressed to make the necessary adjustments and provisions in order to partially take care of the students

wishing to remain in college and those wishing to enter while at the same time trying to maintain a stability of enrollment and a balanced budget.

Dr. J. B. Gambrell, editor of the *Texas Baptist Standard* and executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas until 1917 when he was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, once remarked, "Give the Baptists the facts, tell them your story and they will respond and most likely do the right thing." Individuals, organizations and churches would do well to consider right now some help for worthy, deserving students who wish to attend one of our three Baptist colleges. Wills also could be written and trusts could be set up and in due course of time, these monies could take up some of the slack.

If and when the tuition grant program comes up again for consideration by our state officials, each person should express his/her feelings and interest in the matter. Student assistance is a most important factor in higher education.

*Gabhart is president of Belmont College, Nashville, Tenn.*

# Growing As A Witness

By Dr. Ben Curtis, Associate Professor  
Belmont College, Nashville, Tennessee

Focal Passages: Matthew 5:13-16; Acts 8:4-6; Romans 1:14-17

A witness is one who testifies to what he has experienced, no more, no less. The Christian church was founded upon the simple testimony of believers who were convinced God had acted on their behalf in Jesus Christ. When Jesus promised Peter that he would build the Church upon that rock, I take it to mean the "rock-like" faith of human beings, a mixture of faithfulness and unfaithfulness, which is nevertheless witnessed to. The interesting part of this lesson title is the word "growing", for it realistically recognizes that Christians can grow increasingly comfortable and effective in making their witness.

## Natural Qualities Of A Witness Mt. 5:13-16

Jesus used two images in establishing the idea that giving evidence of the presence of God in one's life is a natural thing. "You are the salt of the earth" (v. 13). Salt has distinctive qualities. It preserves, giving rise to the idea that God preserves the world due to the Christians present in it. Also, salt purifies, but mostly it adds taste. Salt provides zing, but if out of proportion it ruins the taste. A Christian witness usually adds zest to life, but if done without sensitivity may ruin the taste of unbelievers for Christianity.

"You are the light of the world" (v. 14). Mind you, this was spoken to a world without electricity where light was invaluable. Palestinian houses were often one-room, one-window dwellings, lighted by clay lamps that were difficult to rekindle. So when going out, the residents would place the light under a big bushel, hiding the light but not putting it out. Alternately God and the Torah were called the light of the world. Israel was called to be a light to the nations (Is. 42:3). Now Christians have assumed the role of illuminating the personal and moral darkness that surrounds them.

Light and salt make their presence known naturally, and usually they are appreciated. When functioning normally, light shines and salt spices. The analogy is clear: the natural function of the Christian is to present a sense of hope in his surroundings.

## Recipients Of Witness Acts 8:4-6

Philip was a layman, indicating witness is not the property of religious professionals. And he went to Samaria, of all places. Jews generally were prejudiced against Samari-

tans, for Samaritans had not retained racial purity. Following the fall of Israel in 722 B.C., Assyrians had intermarried with Jews in the territory of Samaria. The action of Philip is a subtle indication of the maturity of an effective witness: he does not treat persons as stereotypes. This is consistent with the inaugural sermon of Jesus in his hometown synagogue, "he has sent me to announce good news to the poor, to proclaim release for prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind" (Lk. 4:18). The witness goes to the outcast, the oppressed, those who have been dehumanized by our prejudice.

The witness of Philip is understood in contrast to Simon the Sorcerer. Simon wanted power to exploit and impress. His witness was one of detachment, manipulation, and greed. Philip, by contrast, interpreted Jesus as the Suffering Servant, one whose lowliness is very winsome. The witness of Philip was believable and one that strugglers could identify with. He presented Jesus as one who redeemed through suffering (Is. 53).

## Content Of Witness Romans 1:14-17

"I am under obligation" (v. 14). This is the stance of the witness—One who has experienced life as grace and gift. He feels the need to give back. "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel" (v. 16). Evidently, Paul had a few experiences with his presentation of the Gospel that left him frustrated (Acts 17:16-34). But he reaffirms his confidence in his message because it contains the power of God (literally dynamite) to change lives.

In understanding the content of his message, the key words are **righteousness** and **faith**. Righteousness belongs to God, but it is not so much an inner quality as an activity. God's righteousness is his activity in declaring persons righteous, i.e., treating them as righteous although they are not. We are declared righteous by identifying with the righteousness of Jesus. Faith is essentially trust in the all-sufficiency of God. It is dependence upon and receptiveness to the graciousness of God that accepts us as we are.

"A way that starts from faith and ends in faith" (v. 17). Faith is risk, not certainty. The Christian witness sows the seed of his belief in the hope that it will make a difference to someone.

## Byard Picked For Seminary Administrative Post

WAKE FOREST, N.C.—Rodney V. Byard has been elected assistant to the president for institutional development at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, one of six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries.

Byard, current associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., will direct the seminary's program of public relations, publications and communications, financial development and institutional research and planning.

He will become a member of the "new administrative model" of President W. Randall Lolley, joining three other persons on the seminary's new administrative council, a seminary spokesman said.

Besides Lolley and Byard, the council will consist of Albert L. Meiburg, the seminary's new dean of the faculty; O. L. Cross, business manager; and Jerry L. Niswonger, current director of development, who will become assistant to the president for student development.

A native of Columbus, Ga., Byard was responsible for religious education, administration, public relations, office management, publications and budget management at the Winston-Salem church. He joined the staff there in 1963, serving under Lolley, who left the church's pastorate last year to accept the presidency of Southeastern Seminary.

Before joining First Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, Byard served as minister of education at Swope Park Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.

Byard is a graduate of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., and of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. (BP)

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(Adv)

# Chattanooga Red Bank Church Sponsors Vietnamese Family

A Vietnamese refugee family, sponsored by the Red Bank Church in Chattanooga, arrived in Tennessee recently following a flight from Eglin Air Force Base Refugee Center in Florida.

Thuoc Van Nguyen, 52, a former supply supervisor in a government installation in South Vietnam, is head of the family which includes six children ranging in age from 8-28. The Nguyens are one of the latest in a series of Vietnamese refugee families to settle in the Chattanooga area. Most of the families are receiving support from one or more local congregations.

The family fled Saigon and spent a month living at Eglin Base in Florida, a center for several thousand Vietnamese refugee families. Members of the Red Bank Church had voted earlier to sponsor at least one Viet-

namese family, according to Fred Steelman, pastor of the 2000-member church.

"I knew something of the crowded conditions at Eglin Center, Steelman, who once pastored a church at Niceville, Fla., said. "So I decided to throw out the idea to the church membership that we might be able to take in a refugee family. The congregation's response was overwhelming," he added.

The eldest son, Thanh Van Nguyen, 28, a university graduate who has worked as an accountant and bank manager in Vietnam, is the only family member with a working knowledge of English. He expressed appreciation on behalf of the family shortly after their arrival in Chattanooga.

Members of the Red Bank Church have established daily English classes taught by women of the congregation and under the direction of Lorene Tilford, a former missionary to China. Sunday School classes at the church will sponsor different members of the family, making sure that they have essential items. A four-bedroom apartment has been rented for the family, and church members have furnished it. The apartment

## Cotey Commencement Speaker At Carson-Newman

H. Eugene Cotey, president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and pastor of Murfreesboro First Church, delivered the commencement address to approximately 56 students receiving their diplomas from Carson-Newman College earlier this month. Ceremonies were held at Jefferson City First Church.

A native of Louisiana, Cotey is a graduate of Union University and received the B.D. and Th.D. degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been pastor of the Murfreesboro church for 14 years.

is located close to the church so the congregation can help the family in day-to-day matters, Steelman said.

Two of the family members have obtained employment, Steelman reported. "We are hoping the family will soon be self-supporting, but we will continue sponsoring them as long as they need our help," he said.

The only surprise in the negotiations came when church members found out that the Nguyen family was already Baptist. "We did not know their denomination until we were midway through the negotiations," the pastor stated.

*Note: This is the second story reporting on the sponsorship of a Vietnamese family by one of our Tennessee Baptist churches. Representing West Tennessee was South Fulton Church in Fulton. Red Bank Church will represent East Tennessee. We plan to carry one story for each region of the state which will represent all of our Baptist churches which plan to sponsor a refugee family.*

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# Our People and Our Churches . . .

## REVIVAL RESULTS . . .

There were eight professions of faith and three rededications during a recent revival at Bradley's Creek Church, Concord Association. The evangelist was **Rodger D. Eakin**, pastor of Southside Church, Lebanon. **James C. Lassiter** is pastor at Bradley's Creek.

**Shelton L. Smith**, pastor of First Southern Church, Ventura, Cal., led revival services at Cottage Grove Church, Western District Association. **Steve Shirk**, minister of music at Second Church, Hopkinsville, Ky., led the music. There were four professions of faith for baptism and numerous rededications. **James Bean** is pastor.

Whorton Springs Church, Smithville, conducted revival services with evangelist **Ray Ridgeway**. There were three additions by baptism, one additional profession of faith, and many rededications. **Fred Vanhook** directed the music. **V. Wayne Tarpley** is interim pastor.

Carthage First Church completed a week of revival with **Tom Madden**, pastor of Tullahoma First Church, serving as evangelist. There were three for baptism, three additions by letter, 75 rededications, and one commitment to full-time Christian service. **Jere H. Plunk** is pastor. **Terry Taylor**, minister of music, led the singing.

Revival services at Hickory Grove Church, William Carey Association, resulted in five professions of faith. **Charles Houston** was the evangelist, and **Kenneth Graham** is pastor.

New Lebanon Church, Holston Association, was led in revival by **William J. Kendrick**, pastor of Greenvale Church. There was one profession of faith, three rededications, four for baptism, and one by letter. **Jack Campbell** is pastor.

## PEOPLE . . .

Oak Grove Church, Holston Association, licensed **Gene Stinnett** to the gospel ministry. **John W. Gilbert** is pastor, and has served the church for 14 years.

**W. Hobert Lamb**, former Tennessee pastor, has returned to this state to retire after having served 20 years as a pastor in Indiana. **Lamb** served 10 years in Tennessee and was pastor of the West LaFollette Church in 1955 when he announced that God had placed the pioneer area of Indiana on his heart. He was the pastor of a new mission, Marwood Southern Baptist Church, for nine years, and served the past 11 years at Sugar Creek Church in New Palestine. **Lamb** will reside in LaFollette.

## LEADERSHIP CHANGES . . .



Keith

**Bill Keith**, a second-year student at Clear Creek School in Pineville, Ky., has accepted the call to serve as pastor of Winfield Church in Winfield, Tenn. The **Keith** family will reside on the campus of Clear Creek School and commute to the Winfield community.

**Bob Wilson** has accepted the call to serve as minister of education at the Red Bank Church in Chattanooga. He comes from a similar position at Kirkwood First Church in Kirkwood, Mo. **Fred Steelman** is pastor at Red Bank.

**Bobby Sanders** resigned as pastor at Mt. Nebo Church in Carroll-Benton Association. During his ministry there an educational building was constructed and central heat and cooling were added. The church also began Church Training, Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, and Acteens.

**James Criswell** resigned as minister of music at Trenton First Church, and **Mrs. Criswell** resigned as financial secretary at Jackson First Church. The couple plans to move to Fort Worth where he will enter the School of Church Music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. **Mrs. Criswell** has been on the Jackson First Church staff for nine years.

**Charles Wiley**, Hickman, was called as pastor of the Beulah Church, Beulah Association and assumed his duties last month.

Ridgecrest Church, Hamilton County Association, called **James Collums** as pastor.

**Ray Maynard** is the new assistant pastor at Big Spring Church, Bradley County Association.

**Reuben Hiatt** has resigned Lebanon Church, effective the end of September. Lebanon Church is in Bradley County Association.

**Mike Calvery** was licensed to the gospel ministry by the Hopewell Church, Shiloh Association. He has been called to serve as pastor of the Calvary Church.

**C. Henry Preston** celebrated his 29th year as pastor of East Ridge Church in Chattanooga. A hand painted portrait of the pastor, done by **Janet Anderson**, was hung in the vestibule of the church.

## CHURCHES . . .

Fairview Church in Paris celebrated its 25th anniversary recently with each of the church's living former pastors participating in the all day event. The church was begun in 1950 with **H. D. Lankford** as the first pastor. The original building was completed in 1962, and groundbreaking ceremonies for a new sanctuary were held in 1963 with completion in May 1964. Former pastors include: **Lankford**, **Boyd LeCroy**, **Leon Penick**, **George Daigle**, **George Carneal**. **Jessie Hawkins**, present pastor, has served since Sept. 1973.

Members of Jackson First Church voted recently to purchase 3.07 acres of land immediately adjoining the south side of the Highland Avenue building site. The acquisition of the tract will allow for location of a new church complex on the land it now owns, according to **R. Trevis Otey**, pastor. The cost of the land to be purchased is \$46,050, and is owned by **Dr. George Harvey** and his sister **Mrs. Frank Proctor**. Harvey plans to donate to the church his half interest in the land, thus making the total cost to the church \$23,025.

Fosterville Church, New Duck River Association, is installing a baptistry. **Robert L. Asa** is pastor.

Woodland Heights Church, Chattanooga, is in the process of building a youth fellowship hall. It will serve as a recreation building and fellowship area. **A. R. Nelms** is pastor.

Cedar Hill Church, Hamilton County Association, observed its 50th anniversary with special services recently. **John Ashby** is pastor.

Blue Springs Church, Bradley County Association, added two Sunday School rooms to the building.

A baptistry was installed at Bethel Church in Beulah Association, and plans are being made to add additional Sunday School space. **Jackie Harris** is pastor.

Members of the Springdale Church, Kingsport, announced plans for special homecoming services on Sunday, Sept. 14. Former pastor **Henry C. McCann** is the scheduled speaker. A covered dish luncheon will be served. **Dewey Ramey** is pastor of Springdale.

# Violence Continues In Beirut But Missionaries Will Stay

By Bill Marshall

BEIRUT, Lebanon—"It's all over," I heard for the second time in as many months from an optimistic Beirut neighbor. But few really believed the outbreak of violence had ended.

There appeared to be too many loose ends, too little indication that the heart of the situation had been penetrated. Most people seemed skeptical that any combination of political leadership could solve the enormous political problems. A pervasive pessimism settled with the heat from the afternoon sun.

In late June, with the late-night thud of distant rockets, residents sensed it was coming again. Come it did, this time with even greater force. Within three days all of Beirut was grimacing from the fierceness of fighting which left no area untouched and no persons unaffected.

No one knows with certainty how many died this round—some estimates top 300 with over 2,000 wounded, but others are found daily in the rubble, bodies of "missing" and some known only to God.

Lebanese pride themselves in remaining independent of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The past several months have awakened them to the fact that they are being drawn, almost helplessly, by a powerful undertow into a deeper sea of conflict.

With people confined to homes and business interests waning, many Lebanese closed their shops and left jobs and went to the mountain villages which cradled their childhood. Most have returned now. Some Lebanese are talking about leaving their country permanently, but most will remain where their roots lie deep and they have families to feed.

## Foreigners Stay In Beirut

Many "foreigners" will remain with them. About 6,000 Americans live in Beirut, at least half of them near the predominantly foreign district of Ras Beirut, which has thus far been the least devastated of Beirut's many districts.

Among the foreigners who will remain are missionaries, not a few of whom have lived here over 25 years. The greatest concentration of American Protestant missionaries in the Middle East is in Beirut, where many are connected to headquarter facilities which service the broader area.

Some 35 Southern Baptist missionary personnel in Lebanon, all in Beirut, are a small part of the missionary community. Southern Baptists arrived later than the American

Presbyterians, who established a prestigious university here.

The Baptist ministry shows itself through a Baptist seminary, a program of publications and a radio ministry, all in Arabic and each one with an international outreach.

When one thinks of a distinctly Lebanese ministry, one pictures the Beirut Baptist School which enrolls more than 800 students, and unlike many local schools, caters to both Christian and Muslim. The Baptist school remained open until bus drivers called in saying they were pinned down by gunfire.

If the pattern continues, families will be forced to spend long hours confined to relatively small apartments high above the streets. Day-laborers may see their children

## Carson-Newman Names Dobyns Academic Dean

Roy A. Dobyns, chairman of the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at Clayton Junior College in Morrow, Ga., has been named academic dean at Carson-Newman College, according to college president John A. Fincher. Dobyns will join the East Tennessee Baptist College this month.

The Bristol, Va. native earned his undergraduate degree from Carson-Newman in 1953, and received advanced degrees from Vanderbilt University and George Peabody College. He has served on the faculties at Georgetown (Ky.) College, McNeese State University (Lake Charles, La.), and Louisiana College (Pineville, La.).

go hungry for want of work; the poor will suffer most.

Southern Baptist missionaries will stay on, admittedly frustrated by the situation but feeling somehow their presence may make a difference, and knowing that "brotherhood" is formed when people suffer together. (BP)

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STUDENTS AND WORKERS IN THE CHURCH AS WELL AS MYSELF EXTEND THIS INVITATION.

WITH ALL CHRISTIAN CONCERN,  
EUGENE COTEY, PASTOR

*Roy Powell*  
*Steve Powell*

*Jeff Farman*

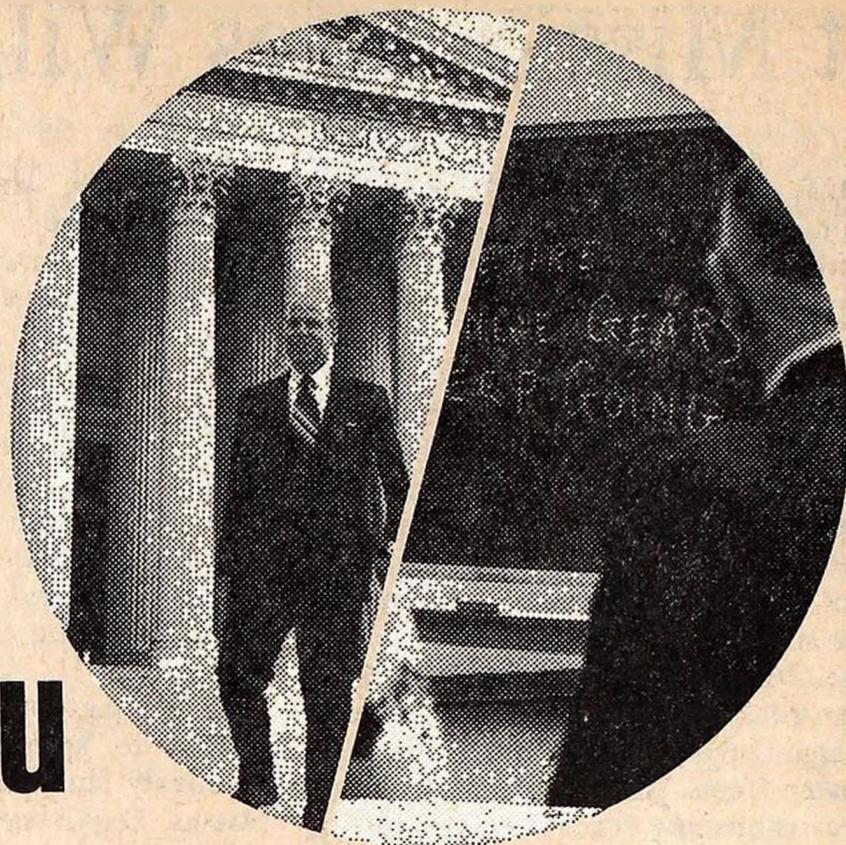
*Phyllis Boggan*

*Debbie Brown*  
*Glenn E. Duggin*  
*John Whitley*  
*Earl Roberts Jr.*  
*Kelvin Samuel*

Editor's Note: Bill Marshall, a Southern Baptist missionary stationed in Beirut, is field representative for the Middle East.

The BAPTIST JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS—The ANNUITY BOARD

# Government... Minister's Retirement... the Cooperative Program... and You



Through the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, you speak out when Baptist principles are jeopardized by governmental action. Through the Annuity Board, you extend a hand to care for retired ministers, their families, their widows. Your involvement—firsthand—in these worthy ministries happens because you and your church support the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program. The Cooperative Program, in turn, supports the Joint Committee and the Annuity Board.

#### The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

Government affects the lives of all people, both indirectly and directly. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that the objectives of the state and of religious institutions be properly related. The right balance of these two is necessary to provide freedom for the gospel to penetrate and transform society according to principles set forth in the New Testament. For these and other reasons the SBC and eight other Baptist Bodies sponsor the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The Joint Committee relates to many issues vital to Baptists—such as religious liberty, church-state relations, and public affairs. The Committee is authorized "to act in the field of public affairs . . . whenever Baptist principles are involved, or jeopardized through governmental action and "to inform Baptist constituencies of governmental measures affecting . . . relations between church and state and the right application of Christianity to the life of the nation."

Committee members often testify before Congressional committees on religious issues. For example, members testified before the House Ways and Means Committee against proposed legislation for the removal of tax deductions for charitable contributions.

#### The Annuity Board

Retired ministers and church employees need security to accompany them after they disengage from active service. Through the Annuity Board, Southern Baptists are taking care of these retirees. Over \$4.5 million dollars a year are spent bettering the retirement picture for ministers and other staff members in the churches. Funds from the Cooperative Program, as well as additional funds from individual churches, provide not only retirement benefits, but widow benefits, child benefits, child education benefits, and disability benefits.

The retirement plan of the Annuity Board provides for "vesting" and "portability." Vesting means the individual has rights to pension credits he can never be deprived of. Portability indicates the plan crosses state lines and shelters the pastor as he changes locations of his pastorate.

Your contributions through the Cooperative Program support both the Joint Committee and the Annuity Board. Through the Program, you and your church extend a vital ministry to many areas. *You provide the MEANS to the WAY for Christ.*



**COOPERATIVE  
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*Tenth in a series of ads on the Cooperative Program.*

# Bible Press Of Brazil Celebrates 32nd Year

**CURITIBA, Brazil**—More than three million Bibles have been printed since 1944 on the Brazilian Baptist Bible Press. This year, the 32nd anniversary, 125,000 Bibles will come off the press in October.

"The rotary press, which is being installed, will make it possible to set new goals," said Southern Baptist missionary H. Victor Davis, general director of the Religious Education and Publications Board of the Brazilian Baptist Convention. "We hope to print 500,000 copies yearly by the centennial year of Baptist work in Brazil, 1982."

Davis was speaking at a special worship service held recently to commemorate the 32nd anniversary of the press.

The Bible Press was started in 1942 because of a shortage of Bibles prior to World War II. With evangelical work progressing, Southern Baptist missionary T. B. Stover, presented the idea of publishing the Bible in Brazil to the South Brazil Mission in its 1940 annual meeting.

The Bible Press was founded on July 3,

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1942, with a special designated gift of \$2,500. The next day a Brazilian began setting the type for the first Bible to be printed there.

"We appreciate our American and Bra-

zilian friends who, through their interest and gifts, have helped make it possible to increase our Bible production to more than 200,000 yearly," Davis said.

For 23 years the printing of Bibles was directed and supported by Southern Baptists. In 1963, the Bible Press of Brazil was transferred to the Brazilian Baptist Convention and the following year the convention gave the printing and production responsibility to the Brazilian Baptist Sunday School Board.

## Bible Puzzle Page

### Answers On Page 13

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
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48					49					50		
51					52					53		

#### ACROSS

- 1 "whereby they — in wait" (Eph. 4)
- 4 For love's — (Philemon 9)
- 8 Unites
- 12 Citrus drink
- 13 Dye purple
- 14 Of the ear
- 15 They are met together (Psa. 85:10; three words)
- 18 Hair length (1 Cor. 11:14)
- 19 Hawaiian shrubs
- 20 Wading bird
- 23 Son of Noe (Luke 3:36; poss.)
- 25 Coup d'—
- 26 Greek letter
- 27 Calendar abbr.
- 30 "—, — them" (Luke 23)

- 33 Trainmasters: abbr.
- 34 Forty day happening (Gen. 7:12)
- 35 Ways: abbr.
- 36 Girl
- 37 Iddo and others (2 Chron. 9:29)
- 38 "— — ye after their works" (Matt. 23)
- 41 Girl's name
- 43 "and pray — — —" (Jas. 5)
- 48 Repose
- 49 Be swift to do it (Jas. 1:19)
- 50 Ruined city of Burma
- 51 Aspiring to be artistic
- 52 Nautical word
- 53 Sweet potato

#### DOWN

- 1 O.T. book: abbr.
- 2 Chemical suffix
- 3 Poet's word
- 4 "And he said unto him, — —" (1 Sam. 15)
- 5 O.T. man (Neh. 10:26)
- 6 Ahab and Ahaz: three words
- 7 Old age: dial.
- 8 Not for salvation (Eph. 2:9)
- 9 Small case
- 10 Asian tree
- 11 Elementary and high: abbr.
- 16 It was blue (Num. 4:12)
- 17 Absalom's sister (2 Sam. 13:1)
- 20 Weight: colloq.
- 21 Samson's rock (Judg. 15:8)
- 22 Rodents
- 24 Collar or jacket
- 26 Man's name: poss.
- 27 Half of the widow's offering (Mark 12:42)
- 28 Prefix for come or see
- 29 Famous FBI man
- 31 Poetry muse
- 32 "both to small and —" (Acts 26)
- 36 Towering
- 37 Blessed (Deut. 28:5)
- 38 Feminine name
- 39 Unusual thing
- 40 Set on high (Hab. 2:9)
- 42 Adjective suffix: zool.
- 44 Royal Hibernian Academy: abbr.
- 45 Foundation (1 Cor. 3:12)
- 46 Stowe character
- 47 Male sheep

#### CRYPTOVERSE

AB DFZ YDD ZCKOF FOFNKFA QFGKAC

B DBGL

Cryptoverse clue: Z equals T

# FCC Rejects Petition On Religious Broadcasting

By Stan Haste

**WASHINGTON**—The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) unanimously rejected a petition by two California men seeking a freeze on applications for educational television and FM radio channels by religious organizations.

The FCC decision on the petition is subject to appeal. A Washington attorney who represents the petitioners, Jeremy D. Lansman and Lorenzo W. Milam, said here that he does not know whether his clients will appeal.

The unanimous decision by the federal agency, which regulates the nation's airwaves, follows an avalanche of public reaction, both through the mail and over the telephone. The FCC noted in a press release, however, that "the vast majority of letters were premised on the mistaken view that the petition proposed to ban all religious broadcasting, which was not the case."

An officer in the public information department of the agency told Baptist Press that estimates on the pieces of mail received ranged from 70,000 to 700,000. In addition, he said, the agency has received "thousands" of protest telephone calls.

He emphasized, nevertheless, that most of the mail and calls demonstrated a lack of knowledge about the petition. His evaluation is consistent with that of staff members of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs here, who have also been deluged with inquiries about the petition.

John W. Baker, associate director in charge of research services for the Washing-

ton-based Baptist agency, has repeatedly stated that this information about the petition has been distributed by certain religious spokesmen, including some broadcasters themselves.

## Forms Were Distributed

Thousands of forms were distributed throughout the country seeking signatures to urge the FCC not to "ban religious broadcasting from the airwaves," an action which the federal agency has, in fact, never considered.

Among those who sponsored the massive drive for signatures were the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) and Christian Crusade of Tulsa, Okla. Christian Crusade, which was headed until recently by Billy James Hargis, urged those to whom the group wrote to contribute money to carry on the fight before the FCC.

Baker related that one day recently he received a call from a Baptist associational director of missions, asking about the appeal for money, because a Baptist woman was in his office with \$150 to send to the Tulsa group. The director of missions, upon learning that the appeal was based on unfounded rumor and misinformation, then suggested to the woman that she invest her money in the Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists.

In its action denying the Lansman-Milam petition, the FCC noted that the two California men "would have us disqualify all religiously-affiliated organizations and institutions from eligibility to operate on reserve channels." That, the agency ruled, would constitute "discrimination."

"As a government agency," the ruling continued, "the commission is enjoined by the First Amendment to observe a stance of neutrality toward religion, acting neither to promote nor to inhibit religion."

Because of its neutral stance, the ruling stated, the FCC will consider applications from religious and secular groups for reserved stations on an equitable basis. In that context, the agency found that the Lansman-Milam petition is "an impermissible proposition."

The rejected Lansman-Milam petition did not challenge the right of religious groups to make use of the commercial airwaves, but it dealt only with the propriety of religious programming on stations owned by religious organizations and devoted exclusively to



Photo by Warren Johnson

**BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE VICE-PRESIDENT GIVES VIEWS**—Akiko (Mrs. Shuichi) Matsumura, recently elected vice-president of the BWA, discusses the role of women in Japan today. Although women there want to be independent, they often find security in relying on their husband, she said. "If things go wrong you can blame your husband; you don't have to take the responsibility." The solution, she says, is to look toward God for self-value, rather than toward one's husband. (BP)

religious programming. Their petition questioned whether such religious broadcasters are abiding by the FCC's "Fairness Doctrine," which requires that broadcasters expressing opinions on any controversial issue of public importance give the other side the opportunity to reply. It was the failure to comply with that regulation which last year cost fundamentalist radio preacher Carl McIntire his license.

The FCC spokesman told Baptist Press that the agency "intends to continue its vigilance in enforcing the Fairness Doctrine." He noted, however, that the federal agency is not required actively to police the 9,000 licensed broadcasters throughout the nation. Such a task would be practically unfeasible, he said. What the FCC does to enforce the Fairness Doctrine is to act on specific complaints against individual broadcasters.

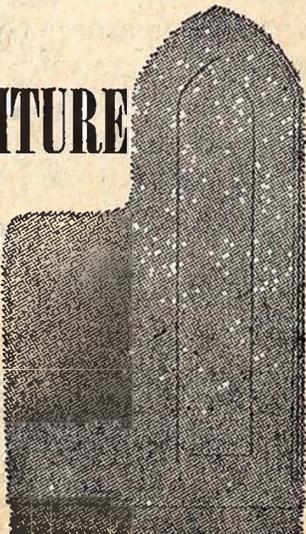
In commenting on the FCC ruling on the Lansman-Milam petition, Baker expressed appreciation for the decision. "When I first read the petition," he said, "I didn't expect the FCC could respond favorably to it. The FCC decision was exactly what I had anticipated."

Baker continued, "The great outpouring of protests to the FCC shows a commendable concern by religious people for freedom in this country. However, it is a good illustration that thousands of people can be frightened into action by a misunderstanding of the facts."

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# Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

We have enjoyed the BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR so much over the years that it has taken me more than a week to finally decide to write this letter. My protest concerns the reprinting in the July 24th issue of the article or editorial by Mr. C. R. Daley in the *Western Recorder*.

Mr. Daley criticized the program committee of the Southern Baptist Convention for inviting Vonda Kay Van Dyke and Jerry Clower to have a part in the program at the Convention in Miami Beach. Here are two sentences from Mr. Daley's article: "Now Vonda Kay Van Dyke and Jerry Clower are to be admired for the dedication of their talents as a Christian witness and there are appropriate places for them to do their things. But, in my opinion, the Southern Baptist Convention is not one of those places."

Jerry Clower received a long standing ovation, not for the entertaining stories which the crowd enjoyed but for his personal Christian witness. Mr. Daley says the Southern Baptist Convention is not the place for Jerry Clower to give his personal Christian witness. I do not remember any speaker that failed to do this. Here is the last sentence from the article by Mr. Daley: "In the meantime, let's keep the Southern Baptist Convention from being prostituted by beauty queens and clowns." Can a man who entertains large audiences and gives a strong Christian witness prostitute the Southern Baptist Convention?

I think the program committee did a fine job. It was thrilling to hear the missionary from Saigon, as well as the Home Missionaries give such fine

Dear Editor:

I truly enjoyed the editorial, "SBC Session No Place For Entertainment," by C. R. Daley. Mr. Daley speaks for thousands of Southern Baptists when he says, "I am sick of the entertainment and shoddy exhibitionism which are more and more invading Baptist meetings where worship is supposed to go on and where the work of the Lord is supposed to be done." God help us when preachers joke from the pulpit and make sport of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and souls are dying and going to hell.

If I could paraphrase I Corinthians 2:1, "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came with excellency of speech and of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of myself." This seems to be the theme of most evangelists today.

Sincerely,  
Mildred Woods  
1811 Indian Hills Rd.  
Lebanon, TN 37087

reports. The music and other speakers were great including Dr. Jaroy Weber, whose predecessor as President of the Southern Baptist Convention was a fine Christian layman, Owen Cooper, with whom Jerry Clower was associated in business for 18 years.

I do not believe Mr. Daley's criticism of Vonda Kay Van Dyke and Jerry Clower is deserved in view of the enthusiastic way they were received.

Sincerely,  
Sam E. Miles  
715 East Brow Road  
Lookout Mountain, TN 37350

Dear Friends in Christ:

I've just returned from a visit to Tennessee where I was privileged to attend church services at the First Baptist Church at Decaturville. I read your paper, BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR. I like the paper and would like to get on your mailing list.

I am pastor of First Baptist Church, Eureka, Ill.

Thank you for your time in reading this, and may God continue to direct you in producing a good paper such as you do.

In Christ's Service  
Rev. Bob Brown  
Route 1, Box 2  
Secor, IL 61771

## BIBLE PUZZLE PAGE ANSWERS

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"So let all thine enemies perish, O Lord" (Judg. 5:31).

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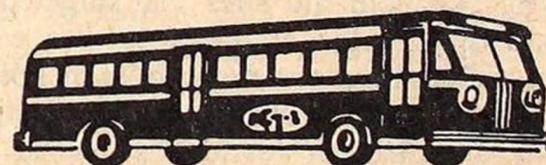
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# Grateful For Life's Blessings

By Dr. W. R. White  
Baylor University, Waco, Texas

**Basic Passages:** Ecclesiastes 2:24-26; 3:11-13; 9:8-10; 12:1, 13-14  
**Focal Passages:** Ecclesiastes 2:24-26; 3:11-13; 9:8-10; 12:1, 13-14

In spite of the experimental nature of many things that provide excitement in life, we can get daily enjoyment out of many things that take place. There are many innocent joys that leave no aftermath of regret and remorse. We can accept the measure of joy they give, keeping everything in proper perspective. Then we will not lean on them too much. Never substitute them for the sources of deeper and more lasting satisfactions and joys.

Material blessings have their place in this life here and now and if properly evaluated, they can give much joy and meaning to us. The smallest favors from God and man should have our gratitude. Else much of their value will escape us.

## The Satisfactions Of Merely Doing Things

There is an element of drudgery and monotony in continuous labor and in particular types of labor. This is no doubt a consequence of the fall of man. In the Garden of Eden man was to dress and keep the garden. No doubt it was even rewarding and satisfying.

There is a measure of joy and reward in labor since the fall. We remember as a child we wanted to help adults do certain things, like hold the lines that directed the horses or turn the crank of the ice cream freezer. We have observed children holding the steering wheel of the car. In fact, we recall the thrill of learning to plow. The excitement of achievement gave sweet satisfaction. The reward of self respect of supporting myself even though it meant hard work comes to mind. Compensating joy in eating and sleeping well after labor reminds

us of the blessings of little or routine experiences.

Even under the trouble that is in this world order, there are many good things such as recognition or belonging, appreciation, kindness, thoughtfulness, congeniality and love. Yea—there is some real wisdom and true knowledge. From all of these may be derived much good. Yet, if this is all, emptiness and futility will come. The true child of God can have all the innocent forms of joy plus a deeper and more satisfying experience.

## The Charm Of God's Scheme In Creation Eccl. 3:11-13

Everything in its place and time as God has designed is beautiful. His creation as He ordained it and even as it now is presents many good things for our appreciation.

God has set eternity in the heart of man, therefore, the material universe does not meet its deepest needs nor explore all of its dimensions. This should not prevent us from enjoying creation and our legitimate experiences but should point out their limitations.

## Divine Meaning In Marriage Eccl. 9:8-10

Always keep your personal appearance attractive and in good taste. Live in joyous compatibility with the wife whom thou lovest. There is much good in a serene, satisfying home life. Do your best in this life which is a parenthesis between birth and the grave, knowing that the probation period is short. In it you must make good for time and eternity.

## Youthful Opportunity Fleeting Eccl. 12:1

Each period of life has its unique opportunities. Youthful possibilities are the most numerous and the most fleeting. This should make the young not sad but very thoughtful. Habits that last are forming fast.

## The Great Conclusion Eccl. 12:13-14

Holding God in reverence and awe and making His will our will is what it is all about so far as man is concerned. This wraps it all up.

## Small Sunday School Leadership Retreat Set

RIDGECREST, N.C.—A holiday retreat for Sunday School leaders and families from small churches will be held Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 27-29, 1975, at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

Provisions are being made for the entire family at the holiday retreat according to A. V. Washburn, secretary of the Sunday School Department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

He also reports that this is the first Sunday School Leadership Conference specifically planned at Ridgecrest Conference Center for leaders and families from Sunday Schools with fewer than 150 enrolled or organized according to classes rather than departments.

Teacher training groups will observe children attending the retreat in preschool and children's demonstration departments. A Youth Bible Conference is scheduled for young people, and leadership training classes will be provided for all adults.

The Ridgecrest Holiday Retreat is patterned after other Sunday School weeks at conference centers, but only small churches are invited to this retreat. The conference will include two nights and six meals, beginning with the evening meal on Thursday (Thanksgiving Day), and concluding Saturday at noon.

Cost of the retreat will be \$27 per person, based on the occupancy of two persons to a room. This cost includes meals, lodging, insurance and the conference services fee. Preschoolers over two years old will be charged half-price. For children two years and under, the only cost will be the \$2 conference services fee. The family rate will be a maximum of \$75 when the entire family stays in one room.

Reservations for the holiday retreat may be made by writing to Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, N.C., 28770. The conference services fee (\$2 per person) should accompany each reservation request and will be applied to the total cost.

Allen B. Comish, director of the Church Services and Materials Division at the Sunday School Board, will be the preacher for the retreat and Eugene L. Skelton, consultant in the Sunday School Department at the Sunday School Board, will lead the Bible study. John Chandler of the Board's Church Music Department, will lead the singing.

Daryl Heath, a general officers consultant for small Sunday Schools in the Sunday School Department, is serving as project coordinator for the holiday retreat.

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# Family Living

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

## Teenage Marriage

Recently a staff reporter from the Columbian Missourian called and asked me to respond to one question: "Can teenage marriages succeed?" This is what I said:

Basically, I think they have a very difficult road ahead of them. Fifty percent of all teenage marriages end in divorce. That's much higher than the normative average.

Generally, teenagers marry for the wrong reasons: to get out of the home, to get out of school, or the fact that they've tried sex and think marriage is the next logical step. Premarital pregnancy is yet another reason. They marry only because they feel they have to give the baby a name, and that's utter nonsense.

The problem is one of emotional immaturity. They haven't lived enough and learned enough to share, to support, to live with someone else. Successful marriages are usually found among those who are older and have been longer acquainted.

There is one hope. We are now seeing an upturn in the delay of marriage, especially among females. They are putting off marriage for better training and preparation for living, generally, and for marriage, particularly. I think we'll see an even greater decline in teenage marriages.

When you consider some of the faulty reasoning behind teenage marriages, it's no wonder that only 50 percent succeed. It's better to match than to patch.

## Mildred Souther Dies In Salt Lake City

**SALT LAKE CITY**—Mildred Curtis Souther, 62, died in a hospital here after a brief illness. Dr. Souther and her husband, William H. Souther, were in Utah, where he was to begin work with the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention.

She had been professor of childhood education and director of the Demonstration School at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where her husband had also served before going to Utah.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. Souther; a son, William Robert Souther of Jackson, Miss., and a daughter, Joy Souther Cullen, a Southern Baptist missionary to Bangkok, Thailand. Funeral services were held in New Orleans and Dallas, with burial in Dallas. (BP)

# HISTORICALLY

## FROM THE FILES

### 50 YEARS AGO

The church at Gadsden was struck by lightning and one end of the building was demolished. A revival meeting had just let out, and the chair where the evangelist had been sitting had a three-inch hole through its center, bored by the bolt of lightning. J. R. Mantey was pastor.

The churches at Somerville and Stanton called R. K. Bennett of Jackson, and he accepted the call to serve as pastor.

### 20 YEARS AGO

Brainerd Church, Chattanooga, broke ground for a \$300,000 educational building. Pastor Connie A. Dabney said that the dedication would launch another development in a long-range building program.

Miss Eva Mae Eldridge left to serve as a missionary in Nigeria, West Africa. She was a native of Hardeman County and a product of Grand Junction Church.

### 10 YEARS AGO

At the beginning of Youth Week, the young people of the North Knoxville Church, Knoxville, presented the church with a complete set of organ chimes. Included were the regular chimes, echo chimes, and tower chimes. O. G. Lawless was pastor.

Charles A. Tidwell, director of editorial services and consultant, Department of Church Administration, Baptist Sunday School Board, was named professor of church administration at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

# From the Executive Secretary

By Dr. Ralph Norton

It is time now for serious thought to be given to the need for upgrading retirement for members of the church staff. Many finance or budget-planning committees are already at work on next year's budgets and I would urge these committee members to consider seriously the status of the staff's retirement program.



Norton

Many churches participate in the basic plan (Plan A) of the SBC Annuity Board, whereby the church pays an amount equal to 10 per cent of the pastor's salary. To this the state convention budget provides an amount equal to 5 per cent of the pastor's salary. There is a drawback, however, in that when this plan was originated the maximum salary on which the retirement is based was \$4000 per year. Other supplemental plans to increase retirement benefits are offered; however, many churches consider that their participation in Plan A only is sufficient. Inflation has to be considered if adequate protection is desired for members of the staff.

I would urge those who have responsibility for providing benefits to look into this situation very carefully, securing more information where needed, and suggesting that a closer look be given to this very important concern for staff members. This need not be an embarrassing subject when a pastor is forced to call this to the attention of his church, for oftentimes a suggestion on his part serves to remind members of this need to upgrade retirement.

I am concerned that our staff members be given this consideration. If you are a member of a responsible committee involved in budget and finances, don't wait for someone else to speak out for this program to be studied. Take the initiative and start the ball rolling. This could be one of the most meaningful involvements of your life if you have a part in caring for your staff members and their families in the event of a crisis, death or during retirement years. We believe they deserve this act of thoughtful concern and love on the part of the church whose members they serve.

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To The Senior Citizen Addressed:

As of January 1, certain changes were made concerning Medicare which you should know about as they personally affect you.

Many people do not fully understand what benefits are payable under Medicare and what expenses the Senior Citizen himself must pay.

Medicare was enacted to help our Senior Citizens pay the ever-rising cost of Hospital and Medical Services; however, Medicare does not pay the entire bill. As you know, some expense is left for you to pay in addition to Medicare. Now, with these new changes effective January 1, there are more expenses left for the Senior Citizen to pay.

As it is very important that you know about these changes, complete and mail the enclosed postage-free card immediately, so that we may rush you complete information concerning the new changes in Medicare.

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## Foundation

### Facts To Consider

By Jonas L. Stewart  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Did you know that if every Tennessee Baptist who lives today would leave an average of \$1000 in trust with the Tennessee Baptist Foundation for the Lord's work, that this generation would provide \$950 million to undergird our Baptist institutions? This would mean, of course, that some would leave all of their estate to the Lord's work, some would leave a percentage and some would leave nothing. If you are reading this where do you fit among these three?

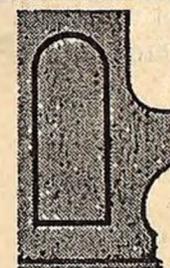
Did you know that estate tax, probate cost and legal fees can be reduced tremendously and often can be completely eliminated at your death by using the Tennessee Baptist Foundation as trustee in a properly prepared living trust or a trust in a will? This can be done while providing an income for one's dependents.

Did you men know that without a will at your death your wife will not be the legal guardian of your children without court action; that she cannot touch any of your children's share of the estate without court approval?

For any of these services or any information about them write or call Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Dr. Jonas L. Stewart, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, P.O. Box 347, Brentwood, Tennessee 37027, phone: 615-373-2255.

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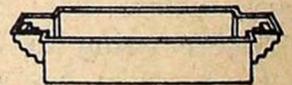
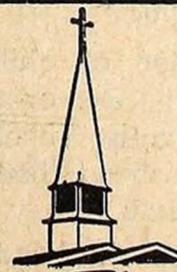
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