

Baptist And Reflector

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News-Journal Of Tennessee Baptist Convention

SBC Elects James L. Sullivan President

By Jim Newton

NORFOLK—Reeling in the ecstasy and agony of a program appearance by President Gerald Ford, the Southern Baptist Convention jammed into its three-day 119th session a celebration of the Bicentennial, election of a new president, adoption of a report clarifying the role of its Executive Committee, and acceptance of a mission challenge to share the gospel with the entire world's population by the year 2000.

James L. Sullivan, Nashville, retired president and chief executive of the SBC Sunday School Board for 21 years, was elected president of the 12.7 million member convention in a majority first-ballot victory over four other nominees after Memphis Pastor Adrian Rogers withdrew from consideration.

A record 18,672 registered "messengers" tried to crowd into the 11,500-seat Scope Convention Center for the sessions. The previous record registration was 18,190 messengers at Dallas in 1974.

Messengers Unhappy Over Seating Space

The Convention opened with a mood of frustration and hostility when it was announced that the first 10,500 messengers to register would be given pink admission cards to attend the Tuesday morning and afternoon sessions, and that all others could not enter the auditorium to hear the address by President Ford because of security and fire protection regulations.

Messengers, who drove hundreds of miles and spent hundreds of dollars to attend, complained about their inability to get inside the auditorium. There were reports of shouting matches, scuffling, and hostility among those who could not get inside, despite a closed-circuit television and image magnification system that piped convention proceedings into the adjacent 2500-seat Chrysler Auditorium.

Evening sessions were also beamed to the 1850-seat Virginia Beach Dome, 22 miles away on Virginia Beach where thousands of the messengers stayed and commuted to sessions via bus.

"I believe Jimmy Carter picked up 20,000 votes here today," said Paul Moore, coordinator of local arrangements for Norfolk Baptists as he tried to place blame on the security restrictions on Washington and Nashville.

A Nebraska pastor, Jim Martin of Hillcrest Church in Omaha, complained: "The selection of Norfolk as a convention site, lovely as it is, is not a miscalculation. It is a total disaster."

Meanwhile, reaction inside to the address by President Ford was enthusiastic. He was interrupted by applause 17 times.

Calling for personal integrity among government officials, President Ford declared that Americans, especially the youth, would not take pride or participate in a government "that is defiled and dishonored—whether in the White House or in the halls of Congress."

He drew his longest applause when he challenged Baptists to avoid situation ethics and to differentiate between right and wrong, and when he paid tribute to Democratic Presidential hopeful Jimmy Carter, an active Southern Baptist layman.

President Ford noted that in 1974 when he was vice president, former Georgia Governor Carter introduced him at a Brotherhood Commission-sponsored prayer breakfast in Dallas. Ford said Carter had been "very considerate, very generous in his remarks," adding: "Today, I would like to return that compliment."

Just a few hours before President Ford addressed the messengers, Bill Hale, pastor from Baker, La., introduced a motion asking the convention to extend an invitation to Carter to address the gathering for at least 10 minutes.

The following day, the convention heard the chairman of its committee on order of business, Editor Gene Puckett of the Maryland Baptist, explain that Ford was invited, not as a political candidate, but as president of the nation; and that it would have put Carter in an awkward spot if he, too, had been invited.

The convention overwhelmingly approved a substitute motion by Puckett reaffirming the SBC's traditional policy of not endorsing any candidate for political office.

16,000 Seating Capacity Necessary

Frustrated by crowded conditions, the messengers amended convention procedures to require convention cities to provide a main auditorium seating a minimum of 16,000 and guarantee 6500 hotel rooms with a majority within walking distance or 10-minute bus ride.

In their own election, the messengers selected Sullivan as their new president without a runoff over four ministerial nominees: Kenneth Chafin of Houston, Clifton Brannon of Longview, Tex., Jack Taylor of San Antonio, Tex., and Stewart Simms of Greer, S.C.

Some observers interpreted Sullivan's elec-

tion as a repudiation of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, an ultra-conservative group. Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, and a director of the Faith and Message Fellowship, said he withdrew his name from nomination because "God has spoken to my heart about this matter."

Elected first vice-president was Dotson Nelson Jr., pastor of Mountain Brook Church, Birmingham, Ala. Named second vice-president was Mrs. Carl Bates, wife of the pastor of First Church, Charlotte, N.C.

The messengers reelected W. Fred Kendall of Nashville, registration secretary; and Clifton J. Allen of Winston-Salem, N.C., recording secretary.

In other major action, the messengers approved two major studies covering the role and function of its Executive Committee, and a missions challenge for the last 25 years of the 20th Century. Both studies were authorized two years ago by the SBC in Dallas.

A seven-member committee which studied the role of the SBC Executive Committee offered five recommendations and 12 suggestions to the convention. All were approved.

The changes called for broadening the base of Executive Committee members, upgrading their orientation, improving communication between the Executive Committee and the agencies of the SBC, keeping the authority of the Executive Committee in "healthy tension" with that of agency trustees, and clarifying the authority of the Executive Committee to look into the affairs of the agencies.

Baptists Commitment Important

The Missions Challenge Committee, composed of seven trustees each from the Home and Foreign Mission Boards plus at-large members, offered 15 recommendations, each built around a plea for Baptists to commit themselves to taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone in the world by the year 2000.

The committee warned that unless Baptist giving trends improve drastically, there will not be enough money given by the year 2000 to support the additional 5000 foreign missionaries and 4500 home missionaries projected by the two mission boards.

In a report following approval of Challenge Committee recommendations, the SBC Foreign Mission Board called for a "Total

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First National Colloquium On Christian Education Draws Large Attendance



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Missionary In USA After Auto Accident

HOUSTON, Tex.—Southern Baptist missionary physician Hal B. Boone has returned to the United States for further treatment following an automobile accident in Kenya, East Africa.

Boone's condition is no longer critical, but he remains in serious condition, paralyzed from the waist down. His eighth thoracic vertebra was crushed.

An ambulance service plane flew Boone from Kenya to Frankfurt, Germany. From Frankfurt he was transported by military ambulance plane to Houston where he was admitted at Methodist Hospital. He will later be transferred to Texas Institute for Research and Rehabilitation.

John Newport, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; D. Elton Trueblood, author, lecturer and professor at Earlham College, McGrath; Daniel R. Grant, president of Ouachita Baptist University;

Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board; Arthur B. Rutledge, executive director of the Home Mission Board; Fred Harris, associate general secretary of the United Methodist Church Board of Higher Education and Ministry;

And, E. Bruce Heilman, president of the University of Richmond; David L. Boren, Governor of Oklahoma, and William G. Tanner, president of Oklahoma Baptist University. (BP)

WILLIAMSBURG, Va.—Southern Baptist educators and denominational and church leaders took a long hard look at the "purpose, processes and potential" of Christian education here.

More than 900 persons attended the first National Colloquium on Christian Education, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention's Education Commission and the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

"We addressed ourselves to the serious questions concerning the purpose of a Baptist school," said Ben C. Fisher, executive director-treasurer of the Education Commission.

Theme of the three-day meeting—held June 9-12 on the campus of the College of William and Mary—was "Looking to the Third Century with Confidence."

In a keynote address at the conference, Abner V. McCall, president of Baylor University in Waco, Tex., said: "We must totally reject the false idea that there is any conflict between the Christian community and the academic community.

"In this Bicentennial year, we are here to examine what Baptist higher education has been doing during the last 200 years in America and what should be our future course of action."

Enrollment Up

McCall pointed out that "many church-related colleges and seminaries have suffered declines in student enrollment because of lack of support by the members of the sponsoring churches," and added that in the past five years Southern Baptist colleges and universities increased their enrollment 33 percent and seminaries increased enrollment 55 percent.

Another educational leader, Earl J. McGrath of Indianapolis, Ind., told participants that private schools which maintain a strong Christian distinctive will survive financially in the modern world.

McGrath, senior educational advisor for the Lilly Endowment, said such institutions will "more importantly, restore order to our society laboring under a confusion of purpose and regain for this generation of youth an appreciation of those transcendent eternal values which give enduring meaning to the human enterprise."

The colloquium was the start of an intensive three-year study of the Baptist perspective on Christian education.

George Capps, director of denominational relations for the Education Commission said: "For the next three years we will be talking together about our opportunities in Christian education . . . studying ways of improving what we are doing . . . seeking

to implement the challenge developed at the colloquium."

A number of conferences are planned to involve faculty and staff of the institutions, trustees, pastors, church and denominational leaders across the nation.

Representatives Present From 71 Schools

Representatives from each of the 71 Southern Baptist colleges, universities, Bible schools and academies as well as from the seven seminaries were present for the colloquium, Fisher said.

Drawing the most attention was a series of "reaffirmations" on the "great Biblical and doctrinal themes." At each session, participants made a renewed commitment to the areas they touched.

"These reaffirmations are offered only to serve as guidelines for individuals and institutions who wish to re-examine seriously the Christian basis for education and who wish to engage in a renewed commitment to the great biblical and doctrinal themes which have guided in centuries past," Fisher said.

He added: "We also believe that these truths are a summons to all Baptists to enter into the third century in the life of this republic, in obedience to the Great Commission, firmly committed to an undiminished support of our historic emphasis on missions, evangelism and education."

Reaffirmations Praised By Editor

One Southern Baptist editor, Jack Harwell of the Georgia Christian Index, called the reaffirmations "one of the most significant actions taken by Southern Baptists in many years."

He added: "If fully carried out, these reaffirmations pledge to the world in unmistakable terms that Baptist educational leaders intend to make their schools as distinctively Christian as they are academically superior."

Fisher called the truths represented by the reaffirmations "the cornerstone of our institutional witness through Christian education."

The reaffirmations touched on the covenant relationship between schools and the denomination, unity in diversity, the Christian witness in a secular culture, the Christian idea of a liberal education, finance, Christian absolutes, the Great Commission, student-teacher relationships, management and Christian citizenship.

Addresses paralleled the reaffirmations.

Speakers included Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee; Kenneth Chafin, pastor of Houston's South Main Baptist Church; James H. Landes, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas;

Kaleidoscope '76 Attracts Almost 800 BYW

VIRGINIA BEACH, SBC—Almost 800 Southern Baptist young adult women were challenged at the three-day Kaleidoscope '76 here to look beyond themselves to find their personal missions in life and channel those missions in active involvement.

Kaleidoscope '76, the first national meeting for Baptist Young Women, a Woman's Missionary Union organization for women 18 to 29, explored options in missions in addresses by mission board executives, WMU leaders, and missionaries and in small group activities.

Responsible citizenship was stressed as one way to influence missions. Women wrote letters to their hometown newspapers expressing opinions on political issues in response to major addresses by mission board administrators on how missions is affected by politics. They were asked to mail the letters when they return home.

"Any foreign policy has an affect on foreign missions," said R. Keith Parks, director of the Foreign Mission Board's mission support division. "A foreign missionary is apolitical. For a missionary who goes to a country not his own does not have the rights, responsibilities, and opportunities as a citizen of that country."

He recalled that when he was a missionary to Indonesia, he spent much time convincing Indonesian people that he was not an agent of the American government. "They could not believe that an American would be in their country for religious reasons," Parks said.

Parks reported that the recent revelation of the Central Intelligence Agency using American missionaries has affected work in some countries.

Overseas missionaries have to explain United States laws that protect the American standard of living, he said, calling for women to support legislation that uplifts people "as worthwhile human beings."

Wendell Belew of Atlanta, director of the Home Mission Board's division of mission ministries, told registrants that Baptists tend to restrict political involvement to a few issues that they traditionally have been keen on, citing gambling and local liquor laws. He urged women to expand their political interests.

"It was a political action when Jesus was crucified," he said. "People thought he was an insurrecto who wanted a kingdom on earth."

"Many issues need to be dealt with," Belew said, citing child-beating, wife-beating, Sunday closing laws, rights for women, and world hunger. Regarding Sunday closing, he asked, "Is it really right that we as the largest Protestant denomination in America impose our views on the Jewish people, Muslims, and Seventh-Day Ad-

ventists just because we are the majority?"

He explained that the HMB was concerned about providing equal job opportunities for women and men.

"Why can't women serve in places where God has called them to serve," he questioned.

The HMB appoints missionaries while cooperating with states, associations and churches, Belew said, and these groups must also come to believe in equal rights.

Belew challenged the women to do what they could to support poverty and hunger legislation.

"It is easy to get up a basket of food while tolerating laws permitting hunger and poverty," he said.

Following Belew's address women divided up into small groups to devise ways they could inform their churches of the gravity of the hunger problem.

Suggestions included conducting information campaigns in churches, participating in church-wide meals with meager menus and inviting speakers to a local church who are knowledgeable about the hunger problem in that community.

Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., president of the Baptist woman's auxiliary, urged women to let the God-given gifts within them come to the surface. "There is not a problem in our country that cannot be solved if we are involved in mission," she said. "We hold in our hands the courage to go out in the world and make a difference."

Participants also explored how their marital status touches their effectiveness in carrying out God's plan for their lives.

Ann Daniel, a social work missionary at Sellers Baptist Home and Adoption Center, New Orleans, spoke from the stance of a single person. "As I was struggling to discover what my ministry was to be, I found that others were questioning what I had as a single woman to offer to the ministry," she said. "As I have developed in my ministry, I have found that people are willing to accept what I have as a person."

Jack and Phyllis Merritt, however, said, "We decided that we could do more together than apart." The two Christian social ministry missionaries in Albuquerque emphasized that they each have specialties.

"Jack can do some things that I can't, and I can do some things that he can't," Mrs. Merritt said.

David and Susie Lockard, who head the FMB's missionary orientation center at Calloway Gardens in Georgia, brought in the dimension of God's will to all decisions, whether marriage or career choices.

"God will put it all together as a package deal," Lockard said.

Throughout the meeting, women were

Heilman Named President Of Assn. Of Southern Bapt. Schools

WILLIAMSBURG, Va.—President E. Bruce Heilman of the University of Richmond was elected president of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools, an organization of 71 Baptist institutions ranging from Florida to California.

The election took place at an association business meeting held during the first National Colloquium on Christian Education which met June 9-12 on the campus of the College of William and Mary.

Heilman succeeded President John A. Fincher of Carson-Newman College at Jefferson City, Tenn. President Milton Ferguson of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., was elected vice president of the association.

Heilman, 49, came to the University of Richmond in 1971 after a five-year presidency at Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C. Prior to that he was administrative vice president and professor of educational administration at Peabody College where he received his under graduate and graduate degrees.

Heilman also serves as president of the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia. (BP)

HMB Names 40 As Missionaries

ATLANTA—Forty persons have been appointed as missionaries by the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Home Mission Board here.

Included are six career missionaries and 21 missionary associates. Also approved were 13 mission pastors to receive church pastoral aid.

None were from Tennessee and were appointed to serve in Tennessee.

divided into groups by their life situations—single, married employed or married unemployed. Following a discussion by the Merritts, Lockards and Ann Daniel, they told how their marital status affected their mission opportunities.

The groundwork for exploring missions options was laid in an emphasis on self-awareness. Mrs. Bryan Brasington, former missionary and the wife of a FMB administrator; Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU, Beverly Hammock, a Christian social ministries administrator at the HMB, gave personal testimonies on how they have become more aware of themselves.

The purpose of the meeting was accomplished, according to E. Jane Hix, BYW consultant for WMU and coordinator of the meeting. "This has led us to an uncomfortable feeling that we must be involved in missions where we are and where we are led," she said.

WMU Meeting Begins With Bicentennial Drama

NORFOLK—The Woman's Missionary Union began its annual meeting Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. in Chrysler Hall, with a Bicentennial drama, "Women on Bold Missions." The drama, the story of women's rights from the days of Abigail Adams to the organization of Woman's Missionary Union was presented by Virginia Commonwealth University students.

Events prominently featured in the women's rights drama included the suffragette movement, the first missionary venture, and a display of the current freedom of women as displayed through the organization of Woman's Missionary Union.

Following the drama the women and a large number of pastors heard G. Ronald Goulding of London, associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance and Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

The drama was presented again at the Sunday evening session along with Goulding and Cauthen with capacity crowds at both sessions.

Goulding told of his 12-year ministry with the Baptist World Alliance in areas of the world where Baptists are always a minority group, in some areas membership of the convention is counted in hundreds, not thousands, where Baptists are barely considered as part of the Christian church, but rather as a sect.

"Here Baptists stand together even though they are separated by differences in language, in culture and tradition. They have unity in Jesus Christ," Goulding proclaimed.

Cauthen brought meditations on "The Living Flame," saying that before that living flame could burn, the commission of our Lord had to be sated in unforgettable, unmistakable terms, so that none could be in error as to the will of our Lord.

Cauthen continued, "that after Christ's death and resurrection the living flame was kindled! Fire burned in the hearts of Christians and thrust them forth as witnesses for Christ to brave a pagan world. Many paid a terrible price, but the flame burned on."

"The living flame is burning today," Cauthen declared as he named places such as in prisons, in small groups meeting quietly and cautiously, in lands where the name of Jesus is scorned and freedom to follow Him is denied, and in Christian homes where parents and children cherish the name of Jesus.

U.S. Rep. John H. Buchanan, Jr. of Alabama told his listeners that, "If a man is a Christian, he can be a Christian working in a factory, pastoring a church, or a congressman."

The presence of God in war torn coun-

tries was emphasized by Norman Lytle of Jerusalem, a Southern Baptist missionary to Israel.

"God hears the cries, he sees the suffering, and he sends the means of deliverance," Lytle said in a plea for reconciliation among all people through God's leadership.

Lytle pastors a 30-member congregation consisting of Jews, Germans, Africans, and Chinese, an international conglomerate of Christians in Jerusalem.

Day of Prayer Observance

At the close of the morning session, the Southern Baptist group moved to the Scope Plaza where they participated in service of prayer, fasting, and humility.

Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Church, Houston, Tex., told the group that "world peace and the future of the United States cannot be obtained in secret negotiations of leaders but in the prayer closets of dedicated Christians."

The crowd, which swelled to 5000, observed the raising of 15 historic U.S. flags by Marine women, WAVES, and members of Acteens, WMU's organization for teenage girls, while an Air Force band played "The Star Spangled Banner."

Chafin and the throng read a responsive prayer designed to bring a sense of humbleness and concern for the needs of others to the participants.

The audience was invited to drink a cup of cold water symbolizing the fast, Chafin reminded women of the biblical account of the woman at the well who, in sharing a cup of water Jesus, found a new life.

"It is fitting that this prayer observance be called by our women, who began the call for prayer for missions among the SBC," Chafin said.

Speaking on the Christian life of a political family, Buchanan, an ordained Baptist minister, stressed his church as the most important influence on his family. The Buchanan family is active in Riverside Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., a multi-racial city church. Buchanan introduced his wife and she called their church where Buchanan has served as pastor as a "truly American church". "It is made up of every race and political opinion . . . individuals who have found what it means to be unified in Christ."

Buchanan donned a choir robe and joined the Riverside choir to sing during Monday afternoon's session under the direction of Mrs. Buchanan who serves the church as choir director.

Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va. was reelected WMU president and Mrs. William Ellis of Shelbyville, Ky. was also

reelected recording secretary. State WMU presidents serve as vice presidents. Mrs. Claude Jennings of Lebanon serves in this position in Tennessee.

Following the election, Carolyn Weatherford of Birmingham, WMU executive director, urged the capacity audience to speak forcefully through confusion created by para-church organizations and secular organizations for women.

She predicted that the SBC's upcoming Missions Challenge Committee report will call WMU to a renewal of its leadership in missions advance.

Weatherford cited as encouraging WMU's growth in membership, magazine circulation, attendance in national meetings and participation in young women's organizations.

The Baptist leader called WMU the "chief avenue through which Baptist women have achieved leadership in our churches and associations."

Good News In Washington

Edward E. Plowman, news editor of **Christianity Today**, spoke encouragingly of the people working in Washington as he said, "There is more good news in Washington than bad news. It just isn't coming out in the news." He informed his listeners of the 350,000 government workers in Washington with so many of these people coming together every Tuesday and sitting down and sharing their needs and praying.

Asking women not to be pessimistic about recent scandals making news in Washington, Plowman expressed optimism that "God can get at people when they are at their lowest points".

President Gregory urged the organization to study WMU publications, continue prayer support, and rely on God for direction to achieve its purposes. "This organization must use the tools of today to continuously build upon the foundation of yesterday."

Dr. and Mrs. Don Wennerberg presented a dialogue on "The Christian Life in a Professional Family." Wennerberg, a dentist in DeFuniak Springs, Fla., told how several years ago he felt the Lord leading him to begin a missionary network on his ham radio and how he serves as net control.

"Quite frequently I am called upon to secure medication to be shipped overseas to our missionaries. One of the greatest privileges of service comes during the time of disaster, such as the Honduran hurricane, the Peruvian and Guatemalan earthquakes," Wennerberg said.

The Centurymen, directed by Buryl Red,

Southern Baptist Pastors Elect Jerry Vines, Mobile, President

NORFOLK—Jerry Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Church, Mobile, Ala., was elected president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in a meeting prior to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting, June 15-17.

Vines will succeed Adrian Rogers, pastor of Memphis' Bellevue Church.

Elected to serve with the Alabama pastor were Bailey Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., vice president, and Mike Todd, pastor of Bluff Park Church, Birmingham, Ala., secretary-treasurer.

Vines and Smith both were nominated for the presidency. Two votes were taken before Vines was declared the winner. Smith then was nominated for vice president and elected without opposition. Todd also was elected without opposition.

The Seventy-Six Singers, Youth Choir of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, gave a concert at the beginning of the Sunday night session.

Southern Baptist preachers were advised here that America's best defense as a nation rests in the spiritual convictions, character, and commitment of its people.

Russell J. Clearman, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church, Little Rock, told the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference "it's sheer folly to suppose that the strength and security of America lies in its vast economic resources, industrial prowess, scientific ingenuity, diplomatic skill, or military might."

Keynoting the opening session of the meeting at Norfolk Scope, Clearman contended the country was approaching a danger point of losnig "much of the pristine purity, rugged honesty, stern simplicity, militant courage, and Christian ideals that have made our country great.

"We must confess with troubled heart

provided special music before Paul M. Stevens, director of the SBC Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, Texas, addressed the Monday evening crowd.

The Centurymen is a large group of ministers of music from over the Southern Baptist Convention.

Arthur B. Rutledge, executive director of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, disclosed that during the next three years home mission efforts will focus on 600 counties in the United States without a Southern Baptist church, churches in transitional communities needing help, cultural and lifestyle groups needing ministries and key cities where Southern Baptist work is weak.

Rutledge, soon to retire from his post, was presented with a painting of Texas bluebonnets as an official retirement gift from Woman's Missionary Union.

that America has forgotten God. She is rolling in luxuries, reveling in excesses, rollicking in pleasure, reeling in drunkenness, revolting in morals and rotting in sin."

Clearman shared the podium with Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, who also spoke to the conference theme, "Faith of Our Fathers."

Discipline In Difficulty

Stanley told the preachers about the "discipline of difficulty" in their ministry, and urged them to thank God when difficulties come to their ministries."

The preachers were also asked to spend more time with their families, instead of attending meetings.

"Until the church learns to pray, this nation will never have revival," Ron Dunn told the 6000 pastors.

Dunn, of Irving, Tex., who now is in a president of LifeStyle Ministries, told pastors that the extremist behavior in America today comes from "people who are spiritually starved."

Former U.S. Congressman Walter Judd urged the pastors to take an interest in their government.

"I think we must be against political activism by church bodies, but for political action by Christian persons who are being the citizens of the republic," he said.

The former missionary to China also urged Baptists to become active in political parties: "You can't do anything by throwing brickbats from without, but you can have more influence than you imagine from within."

Another speaker, Homer Lindsay Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., told participants "people are dying for love.

"Jesus could have preached the problems of the poor . . . slavery, civil rights . . . women's rights.

"He could have gone from village to village with an ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) petition signing all the women up. But he didn't do it. I think the devil will let us do a lot of good things if we will stop doing the best thing (preaching Christ)."

Vines Asks Preachers To Preach A Resurrected Christ

Jerry Vines, who addressed the pastors before the close of the morning session, told the pastors: "The hope of this nation is not in Washington. The hope of this nation is in the God-gifted men in the pulpits, preaching a resurrected Christ."

The pastors heard special music from Anita Bryant and the Anita Bryant Singers of Miami, Fla. Joe Helms of Hollywood, Fla. Thomas P. Lane, minister of music

for the Bellevue Church, led the congregational singing, directed the Sunday night concert, and sang a solo before a long-time former Bellevue pastor, Robert G. Lee, addressed the conference.

Peter M. Lord, pastor of Park Avenue Church, Titusville, Fla., contended that "while most of us seek to get other people into the Kingdom of God, our own children are leaving it in droves.

"Most of us know children of religious workers who no longer care for God at all. In many cases, they have a resentment toward God because their parents neglected to spend time with them while serving God.

"When we seek to please God, we will find our priorities revolutionized as well as our lives and ministries," Lord said.

"We will encourage our families to stay home and get to know each other. We will pray and play together."

Lord told the preachers another test of their love for God was in how they treated their fellow pastors.

"God is displeased when his children fuss, condemn, and cut each other to pieces. When we really love God, we love all of his children."

Relationship With God Must Improve

W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Church, Dallas, characterized America as a land of lawlessness and violence as he predicted the country will fail to observe its 300th birthday unless its citizens improve their relationship with God.

"No nation has ever survived in wickedness and drunkenness, desecration, or debauchery," declared Criswell, former president of the SBC.

In developing the lawlessness and violence theme, Criswell said "there are drugs to tear the body apart, promiscuity to tear the home apart, bombs and acts of terrorism to tear our property apart, vandalism to tear our schools apart, hatred and rebellion to tear our cities apart, and strange cults and practices to tear our churches apart.

"We are fast becoming a people and a nation who live in fear. We are afraid to walk our own city streets. We are afraid of the robber, the mugger, and the rapist."

Criswell said the solution was not superior legislation, acts of congress or environmental cleaning, but "a mighty and sweeping revival" resulting in new relationships between individuals and God.

Robert G. Lee of Memphis, 89-year-old retired minister and former SBC president who has preached the closing sermon at the pastors' conference for almost a decade, suggested some paths for the preachers. They included personal piety and purity, hard work, lots of prayer, good stewardship, continuous training, strong preaching, and serving as God's advocate in the world.

Others on the program included Jack Taylor, San Antonio, Texas, and Richard Jackson, Phoenix, Ariz., and Col. Heath Bottomley, San Bernardino, Cal.

The Church And Civil Authorities

By Roy A. Helton

Professor Emeritus of Religion, Belmont College, Nashville, Tennessee

Basic Passages: Acts 5:21b-29; Romans 13:1-10

Focal Passage: Romans 13:1-10

How much do you take for granted about church-state relationships? There are many questions in such relationships which are difficult to answer. But it is not difficult to see a number of good things which government provides for churches which we normally overlook. Can you name some of them? Here are a few. The right to assemble for public worship, the right to own our own church buildings, permission to deduct church contributions from taxable income, the availability of police protection to prevent disturbance of public worship, protection by the fire department, the closing of public offices on Sunday so as to allow freedom to worship at the church of our choice, enforcement of various laws which make possible a better moral climate in which to live.

God, Government or Both? Acts 5:21b-29

The general attitude in the New Testament gives solid support to government. The book of Acts reflects several incidents in which Christianity benefits from the action of government. Paul clearly counsels support of civil authority and declares it to be constituted by God (Rom. 13:1). He even urges that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for kings or others who are in positions of civil authority (I Tim. 2:1-2). He counsels Titus to remind men to be subject to principalities and powers and to magistrates and to be ready for every good work (Titus 3:1). Peter takes much the same position. He urges that citizens submit themselves to every human ordinance, whether of the king or governor. He counsels against using freedom as a cloak for evil, and asks that honor be given to the king (I Peter 2:13-17). Jesus did not repudiate or oppose civil authority. He pointed out that his followers had obligations both to God and to the government (Matt. 22:21).

It is not a choice between God and government. There is the possibility of being in allegiance to both. But what about the case with the disciples and the Jewish Sanhedrin (Acts 5:21-29)? How do you make a choice here? The high priest Caiaphas and his father-in-law before him were notoriously unscrupulous men. They presided over the Sanhedrin, and both the leaders and the members of the court were willing to pervert justice to their own gain. When the

preaching and healing ministry of Peter and John attracted such wide attention, the Sanhedrin commanded them to speak no more at all in the name of Jesus. These bold men replied, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than God, you be the judge, for we cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:18-19). That non-plused the dignified leaders and they could only answer by further threatening them and then letting them go. They preached again, were put in jail, released by an angel and continued to preach. The Sanhedrin met again and summoned them, and sharply reminded them that they had disobeyed the command to be silent about Jesus. The reply of the apostles was, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). When there is a conflict between the law of God and the laws of men the Christian must choose. Be sure there is a conflict before the choice is made.

The Christian and Citizenship Rom. 13:1-7

Had Paul lived until the end of the century one wonders whether his statements in this passage might have had some modification. By the end of the century the Roman government was engaged in active persecution of Christians. In Paul's lifetime he had been protected from fanatical Jews and from other enemies. At the time he was writing Romans he must have known of some Christians in Rome who regarded the state as their enemy. His counsel was that as a general principle Christians should be good citizens and support civil authority. In essence Paul teaches three things in Rom. 13:1-7. (1) Government is included in the sovereignty of God as a benefit to human beings (vv. 1-2). Earthly government derives its authority from God. Therefore, anyone who resists that authority resists the authority of God, and will bring the judgment of God upon himself. It is obvious that Paul is assuming here that government recognizes the fact that it does derive its authority from God and is, therefore, responsible to God. Perhaps this assumption on Paul's part derives from the fact that he had been personally protected by the Roman government, and that the Empire had been made a relatively safe place in which to live. (2) The Christian attitude toward good govern-

ment is to be one of voluntary obedience and support for conscience sake (vv. 3-5). It is not to be an obedience and support which is based on fear. When government gives protection to law-abiding citizens and administers justice to wrongdoers, it deserves full support of Christian people. (3) Good government obligates the Christian to assume full civic responsibility (vv. 6-7). This includes the payment of taxes for the support of those who administer government. Christians should never feel that participation in government is foreign to Christian faith and practice. It is a vital part of Christian responsibility to help make the world a better place in which to live.

Obligations Beyond Law Rom. 13:8-10

Paul had dealt with what may be termed public debts in the previous verses. He now deals with what may be termed private debts. There were numerous public debts which the people of the Roman Empire were obligated to assume. Verse seven mentioned two types of taxes: tribute and custom. Tribute was a tax which had to be paid by people who were members of a subject nation. There were three forms of this tax: (1) a ground tax to be paid in cash or kind to the extent of one tenth of the grain, and one fifth of the wine and fruit, (2) a head or poll tax to be paid by all between the ages of 14 and 65 years of age, (3) a one percent income tax. The word custom really refers to a variety of local taxes such as import and export duties, taxes for the use of main roads, bridges, market places, and harbors. In spite of this heavy burden of taxation Paul taught that the Christian should live up to these public obligations.

In saying, "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law" (v. 8), Paul put every Christian under permanent private debt. The debt is that we love one another. This law of love is God's law. No nation has such a law. It rises above any law that any nation can pass and enforce. Paul's thought is that any one who tries to live up to this law will automatically fulfill the commandments which he enumerates. Fulfilling the law of love prevents falling into adultery, because genuine love demands respect and restraint which avoids that sin. Love does not seek to destroy but to build up, therefore killing is avoided. Love is more concerned with giving than getting, therefore stealing is averted. Fulfilling the law of love takes away covetousness which would transgress any law to possess what it unlawfully desires to have.

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Our People and Our Churches . . .

CHURCHES . . .

In Weakley County Association, Beech Springs Church dedicated a new annex to the church building.

Parkway Church, Bradley Association, will be using newly constructed Sunday School rooms this summer.

Members of Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, celebrated the 25th anniversary of the church's child development center. **Mrs. Ruth Cooke**, director of the center, has been associated with the project for 20 of its 25 years. **Fred Steelman** is pastor of the church.

Sanford Hill Church, Madison-Chester Association, installed a baptistry in the church. **George E. Clark** is pastor.

Boyd's Creek Church, Sevierville, voted to make major improvements in the building including new pews, carpet, painting, and remodeling. **Ralph Clevenger** is pastor.

Members of Radnor Church, Nashville, voted approval for construction of a new auditorium and activities center. They voted also to float bonds in the amount of \$500,000. **Paul Durham** is pastor.

Meadow View Church, Lawrenceburg held dedication services for new facilities recently.

Aldridge Church, Obion, installed a baptistry and painted mural in the sanctuary. **Johnny Criswell** is pastor.

Bethel Church, Beulah Association, voted to add one room to their present building. **Richard McCarver** is pastor.

Sanford Church, McMinn Association, organized a Girls in Action program with 11 girls. **Ann Womac** and **Ruby Womac** are leaders. **Carlos Liner** is pastor.

Piney Level Church, Maryville, has begun construction on a new church building. The church held a building fund commitment program with a goal of \$30,000. **George Macht** is pastor.

The home and lot of the late **Frank and Ruth Rogers** have been given to West Jackson Church in Jackson by the sons of the couple, **Frank and Joe Rogers**. The sons are giving the home as a memorial to their parents. Members of the church voted that the property become a home for furloughing missionaries and that it be called the **Rogers Memorial Missionary**

PEOPLE . . .

Michael Lee Adams, pastor of Spring Hill Church, Trenton, was among the graduates of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary who participated in commencement exercises earlier this month. **Adams**, a graduate of Union University, received the master of divinity degree from Southern.

Page Heights Church, Bledsoe Association, ordained **James R. Pemerton** and **Fred E. Johnson Jr.** as deacons. **Fred E. Johnson** is pastor.

Ralph Grindstaff, Maryville pastor, was one of several students at Clear Creek Baptist School in Pineville, Ky., to receive a \$100 scholarship from the school's alumni scholarship fund.

Mount Harmony Church, Riceville, ordained **Harold Haun** and **Taylor Perry** as deacons. **Burch Cooper** was serving the church as interim pastor.

John Blackman was ordained as a deacon at Immanuel Church in Nashville. **David C. George** is pastor.

Green Pine Church, Holston Association, ordained **Clay Leach** and **Ted Lacey** as deacons. **Harry Moore** is pastor.

In Concord Association, Grace Church ordained **Bobby Francis** as a deacon. **Robert Fesler** is pastor.

Smyrna First Church ordained **Ron Hosse** as a deacon. **Herbert Gabhart** is serving as interim pastor.

Smyrna First Church ordained **Ron Hosse** as a deacon. **Herbert Garhart** is serving as interim pastor.

First Church, Clarksville, licensed **Artie Rivers**, **Wayne Boyd**, and **Sam Hawkins** to the gospel ministry. **Rivers** and **Hawkins** will be attending Union University, and **Boyd** will be a student at Austin Peay State University. The church also voted to license **Tom Forehand** as a minister of the gospel. He will be attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. **John David Laida** is pastor.

Home. **David Q. Byrd** is pastor at West Jackson.

Members of Robertsville Church in Oak Ridge celebrated the church's 30th anniversary recently. Special speaker for the day was former pastor **W. C. Summar**. **Lee Morris** is pastor.

Mr. and Mrs. West Reagan, Knoxville, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary recently. **Mrs. Reagan** is a member of Meridian Church in that city. **James Hutson** is her pastor.

Members of Paris First Church honored staff member **Charles Orr** on the occasion of his 25th anniversary with the church. **Orr** serves as minister of education. Members of the church presented him with a gift of a tour to the Holy Land to be taken at his time of choosing. **Carroll Owen** is pastor at Paris First Church.

One Tennessee Baptist dentist served along with five other doctors and assistants in a recent dental project in Georgetown, Guyana. Approximately 7500 patients were treated by the team, who worked in cooperation with local Baptist pastors, Southern Baptist missionaries, and church members. **Jack Fuson** was the team member from Tennessee.

LEADERSHIP . . .

Eva Church, Eva, called **David Miller** as pastor. He comes from Lexington, Tenn.

Coy Brockman resigned as pastor of Concord Church, Carroll-Benton Association.

Howse Church's pastor, **J. W. Hays**, resigned. Howse Church is located in Atwood.

Jimmy Allison resigned as pastor of Prospect Church, Hollow Rock.

Foreign Missions Conference To Begin June 26

RIDGECREST, N.C.—Foreign missions will be the focal point for discussion and instruction when the annual Foreign Missions Conference gets underway here at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center Saturday, June 26.

A number of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries and personnel from the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention will be leading various informative sessions during the week-long emphasis.

The program begins with Saturday's evening meal and concludes at noon the following Friday. Opportunities have been planned for all age groups to study and discuss foreign missions.

Among the program personalities for the week will be **James G. Harris**, president of the Foreign Mission Board.

Seminary Professors To Lead Belmont Preachers' School

Two Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professors will lead special conferences during Belmont College's one-week Preachers' School scheduled for June 28-July 2.

Frank Stagg, professor of New Testament at Southern, will lead a special study of the book of Romans, the selected 1977 January Bible Study book for Southern Baptists.

Stagg, a pastor for three years, joined the faculty at Southern in 1964, after serving in



Stagg

church music at Southern, will direct a special conference during the Preachers' School on "Using Music Effectively in the Church."

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, he received a bachelor of science degree from Carson-Newman College; master of music education from North Texas State University; and a doctor of music administration in trumpet performance from the University of Michigan.

He has taught at Dallas Baptist College (Tex.); University of Michigan; North Texas University; and Everett High School in Maryville, Tennessee. He was minister of music in churches in Tennessee, Texas, and Michigan.

Smith has performed or directed music clinics in twenty-five states and Mexico.

The Preachers' School will be directed by Robert O. Byrd, professor of religion at Belmont. A special session is scheduled each morning for preachers' wives.

Registration is \$7.50 per person or \$10.00 per couple.

the New Orleans Baptist Seminary for 19 years as professor of the New Testament and Greek.

A native of Eunice, Louisiana, Stagg received his bachelor of arts degree from Louisiana College. He holds the master of theology and the doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Seminary. He has done advance study



Smith

at University of Basel, Switzerland; and University of Edinburg, Scotland.

Douglas Smith, associate professor of

HOUSEPARENTS NEEDED at West Tennessee Branch, Tennessee Baptist Children's Home. If interested contact **E. A. Butler, 901-386-3961, 901-386-4898; or Dr. E. B. Bowen, 615-373-5707.**

NEW BOOKS

Lovingly Liberated by Sandie Chandler, Revell Co., 122 pp., \$4.95. A Christian woman's response to the liberation movement.

Dream a New Dream by Dale E. Gallo-way, Tyndale, 128 pp., \$4.95. How to re-build a broken life.

Confident Children and How They Grow by Richard L. Strauss, Tyndale, 155 pp., \$5.95. The book leads parents to God and his pattern for raising children—and this will result in families enjoying the presence of God in their home.



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Pulpit To Pew

By Jim Griffith

A man and his wife in Rock Island, Ill., have purchased a 73-year-old church, complete with steeple, and are living in it—using the main sanctuary as their living room.

Needless to say, this couple has found what could be described in the literal sense as a church home.

And the fact that they have taken up residence in the church is not too surprising. But it is pleasing to know that this is one husband who cannot say to his wife: "You spend so much time at the church you just ought to move your bed down there."

However, it is a well-known fact that sleeping in church is not too unusual. A good many churchgoers have done this for years.

Still, all of this does bring up one interesting possibility. At last, here is one man who has the right to throw his weight around and strut like he owned the church.

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Plans For Student Week Will Involve Deaf Persons

RIDGECREST—In an effort to meet the needs of as many students as possible, this year's Student Conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Aug. 21-27, has been planned to include the deaf student.

Sponsored by National Student Ministries of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, the week-long conference will provide manual interpretation at all major sessions. A seminar also is scheduled for the leader or student interested in working with deaf persons.

According to Charles Roselle, secretary of National Student Ministries, the special emphasis has two desired outcomes.

"One goal is to help deaf persons become involved in the process of church leadership. When this occurs, they can be viewed as more than a group simply to be ministered to.

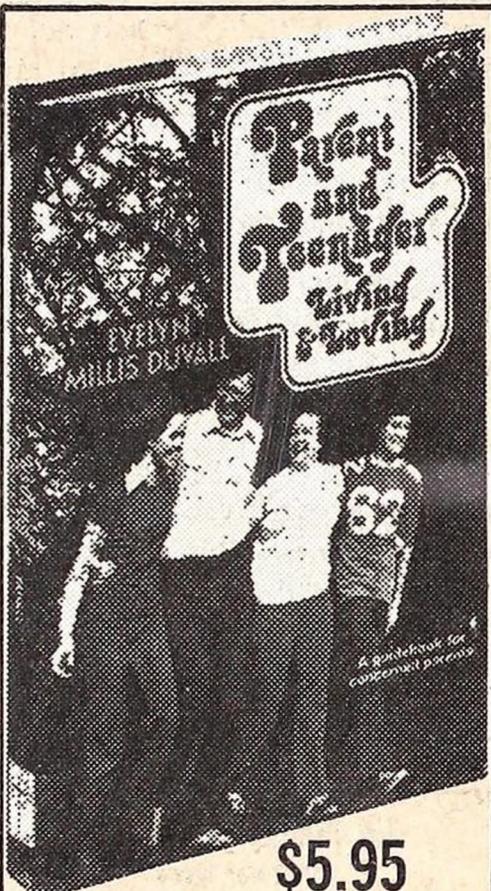
"We also hope that the student will become active in his church or community to train others in the techniques of communication with deaf persons."

Fred Wilson, staff member at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, N.Y., will be present, along with his wife, to serve as interpreter. Wilson, also a volunteer Baptist Student Union director, is the interpreter for a New York

church that ministers to approximately 15 to 20 deaf students.

"Introduction to Sign Language/Ministry to the Deaf," a seminar open to students and leaders, offers information which is basic for work with deaf persons. Conferencees have the opinion of attending once or continuing each night into more detailed study which they can incorporate in their local churches.

For additional information or to register, write Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, N.C. 28770.



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James Hatley Named To Brotherhood Post

MEMPHIS—James W. Hatley of Dallas, consultant in rural-urban missions for Texas Baptists, has been named director of world missions conferences at the Brotherhood Commission here.

Hatley, who begins his new duties this

month is filling a new position developed by the Commission in cooperation with the Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board.

The former Texas pastor will lead in developing and implementing world mis-

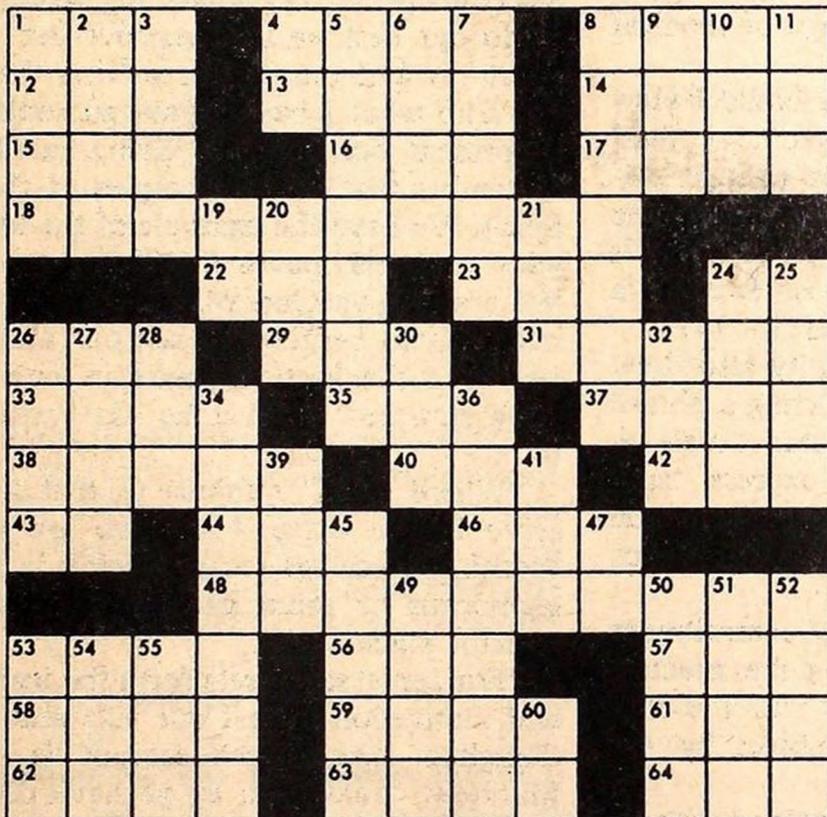
sions conferences (schools of missions) with the two mission boards and state Baptist conventions.

Norman Godfrey, director of the ministries section at the Commission, said Hatley's specific duties include developing world missions conference approaches, planning and scheduling the missions conference with state conventions, promoting attendance in the conferences, and training state and associational world missions conference directors.

Hatley is a graduate of William Jewell College at Liberty, Mo., and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Kansas City.

Bible Puzzle Page

Answers On Page 13



ACROSS

- 1 "By a new and living —" (Heb. 10)
- 4 Burn
- 8 "the mighty — of God" (1 Pet. 5)
- 12 Mexican's bravo
- 13 Jeer
- 14 Son of Asher (Gen. 46:17)
- 15 The tumeric
- 16 Day of worship: abbr.
- 17 Surfeit
- 18 Jesus sent them (Luke 9:52)
- 22 Eggs
- 23 Zodiac sign
- 24 Football position: abbr.
- 26 "— away with divers lusts" (2 Tim. 3)
- 29 Candlesnut
- 31 Son of Ishamel (Gen. 25:14)

- 33 Eye part
- 35 Old cloth measure
- 37 Beloved physician (Col. 4:14)
- 38 Power
- 40 Hadad's city (1 Chron. 1:50)
- 42 People: comb. form
- 43 Plural noun suffix
- 44 Expression of despair: var.
- 46 Compass reading: abbr.
- 48 "A — — maketh a cheerful" (Prov. 15)
- 53 They sang a new one (Rev. 5:9)
- 56 Fish eggs
- 57 Tibetan gazelle
- 58 Indonesian boat: var.
- 59 Grand Ole —
- 61 Wapiti
- 62 "acceptable — of the Lord" (Luke 4)
- 63 "my flesh shall — in hope" (Acts 2)

64 Tennis term

DOWN

- 1 It does not die (Mark 9:44)
- 2 Opposite of aweater
- 3 Affirmative votes
- 4 Center of gravity: abbr.
- 5 "Call — — Maher-shalal-hash-baz" (Isa. 8)
- 6 "sealed up in — —" (Job 14)
- 7 "— not ye against the Lord" (Num. 14)
- 8 "in exchange for — —" (Mark 8)
- 9 King of Judah
- 10 Pinon
- 11 "and shall — in your sins" (John 8)
- 19 King of Egypt (2 Ki. 17:4)
- 20 Stowe character
- 21 Sea
- 24 Erie, for one
- 25 Pronoun
- 26 "burnings of —" (Isa. 33)
- 27 Goddess of discord
- 28 Understand: slang
- 30 High mountain
- 32 Anathema
- 34 His weapon was an ox goad (Judg. 3:31)
- 36 Attorneys
- 39 Fasten
- 41 Suffix denoting ethnic group
- 45 "and the spirit of —" (1 John 4)
- 47 Pronoun
- 49 "with a cart —" (Isa. 5)
- 50 Golden and Bronze
- 51 Actor's part
- 52 Tempo
- 53 "to — out our liberty" (Gal. 2)
- 54 Danish coin
- 55 Freed from taboo: Tahitian
- 60 Symbol for yttrium

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SBC Elects Sullivan

(Continued from Page 1)

Mission Thrust Now" which would double by 2000 the number of foreign missionaries, increase the number of countries where missionaries serve from 82 to 125; and multiply by 10 the number of churches overseas.

The SBC Home Mission Board outlined plans for a "Bold Mission Thrust" program designed to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the United States by the year 2000.

In a report to the convention, the SBC Stewardship Commission recommended that a special task force be appointed to find the necessary funds to carry out the challenge issued by the Missions Challenge Committee.

Record Budget Set

In adopting the record \$55 million budget for 1976-77, an increase of \$4 million over the previous budget, the convention heard a report on a record year of giving in Baptist

East Tennessee Preachers To Meet June 28-July 2

Carson-Newman College will sponsor the 48th annual East Tennessee Baptist Preachers' School June 28-July 2 on campus. Jointly sponsored by C-N and the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the school will be a week-long group of sessions taught by Southern Baptist leaders, professors, and preachers. This year's theme is "Equipping the Saints Ministry."



Childs, Jr.

Open to any minister and his wife, expenses for the week are \$7 for a Tennessee preacher and \$10 for an out-of-state minister. An additional fee of \$5 is charged for wives. There will also be sessions for women, and housing for couples, single men and men not bringing their wives.

S. Lawrence Childs Jr., superintendent of Missions in Charlotte, N. C., will present a nightly session on "Equipping the Saints" at the conference.

All meals will be served on a schedule at the college cafeteria.

General sessions and classes for both men and women will meet in the First Church, Jefferson City. Preachers' School participants may visit college classes in session by arranging beforehand with the instructor involved.

For additional information, write J. Donald Mitchell, Director of Extension, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn. 37760.

churches last year. The messengers also learned that receipts on the current budget are running 14.25 percent ahead of gifts for the same period last year.

The \$55 million budget includes \$49 million for operating needs, \$1 million for capital needs, and a two-phase \$4.9 million challenge goal divided among the agencies, most of it going to foreign and home missions, six seminaries, and the Radio and Television Commission.

The most hotly-debated issue was a resolution on abortion, which required three different business sessions before approved as proposed by the resolutions committee.

Messengers defeated two amendments that leaned toward the anti-abortion view, and then affirmed the most hotly-contended paragraph which affirmed "the limited role of government" in abortion matters and the right of mothers to a full range of medical services.

The resolution affirmed the biblical view of the sanctity of human life, including fetal life, and urged Baptists to help change attitudes that might encourage persons to use abortion as a means of birth control. It repeated many of the positions stated in a resolution messengers adopted in 1971.

A resolution on homosexuality also drew debate with the messengers deleting a phrase expression compassion for homosexuals as persons and rewording it to express "concern that all persons be saved from the penalty of sin through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The resolution affirmed "our commitment to the biblical truth regarding the practice of homosexuality as sin." It was the first statement adopted on the subject by the convention.

Other adopted resolutions pledged support of the nation's Bicentennial and expressed appreciation to President Ford for recognizing support of full religious and political freedom for all people, calling especially for the release of Georgi Vins, imprisoned Baptist minister in Russia; and opposed government support of teaching the views of Transcendental Meditation.

Messengers also approved resolutions supporting the work of the American Bible Society, expressing appreciation to the host city, officers and news media, supporting observance of Sunday as a day of rest, and opposing the use of beverage alcohol and portrayal of pornography.

Six resolutions presented to the convention and referred to the resolutions committee were not reported back to the messengers. However, four were passed on to appropriate agencies. One asking the Radio and Television to refrain from using rock music on its program, Powerline, was referred to the commission.

Motions To Be Studied

A number of motions presented before the convention were referred to the SBC Executive Committee for a report next

Devotional

I Will Do The Best I Can

By June McEwen

"I will do the best I can, with what I have, where I am, for Jesus' sake today."

This sentence was the motto for Vacation Bible School several years ago. It has remained indelible in my mind because it encompasses in so few words, and in such clear language a significant concept and guide for living the Christian life.

"I will do the best I can." We are under orders to "be ye perfect as your father in heaven is perfect." By deciding afresh, daily, to do our best we will improve our witness to others and our joy in serving the Lord.

"With what I have." Paul admonished us to present our bodies a living sacrifice, to remember that we are temples of the Holy Spirit. We have the example of the little boy who gave his loaves and fishes to Christ. We are to give God what we have; we are not excused because we see our abilities as less than the best. He asks us only to be good stewards of what he has entrusted to us.

"Where I am" reminds us that we must serve in the place where we are without excusing ourselves for not being in a more glamorous or more dangerous, or a more difficult place.

"For Jesus' sake" sets forth the inspiration and motivation for all our acts and all our thoughts. Just as the servant is told in Matthew, "Inasmuch as ye have done this unto them, ye have done it unto me," so also are we to perform all our lives for Jesus' sake and in his place in our world.

"Today" underscores the urgent need for immediacy in all the acts of our lives. Jesus reminds us, "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Today is what we have. We must cherish the day and use it to glorify him.

This motto, written for boys and girls, can be a reminder by which every Christian can guide his life using the basic principles of the gospels. Thus we are assured of lives free from unnecessary worry, lives filled with his presence, and lives lived to the fullest—daily.

June McEwen serves presently as administrative coordinator to the associate superintendent, Hamilton County Schools, Chattanooga. She received the master of education degree in secondary English from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 1974. Mrs. McEwen is a member of Chattanooga First Church where her husband, Jack, is pastor.

year.

One called for a study of the use of the term "Baptist Church" by independent con- (See Page 13)

SBC Elects Sullivan

gregations not affiliated with the SBC. Another asked for a new bylaw or change in convention procedure that would make the vote count on all written ballots a part of the public record. A third would seek to work out ways to allow messengers to register for the convention in advance of the meeting. The fourth called for a study of a bylaw on representation on SBC boards from smaller state Baptist conventions.

Messengers refused to change another SBC bylaw which requires a two-thirds vote to override automatic referral of any motion presented on the floor of the convention dealing with the internal operations of a convention agency to the trustees of that agency for a report.

After lengthy debate, the SBC also referred to its Foreign Mission Board a motion calling for more support of Southern Baptist efforts in Canada.

Messengers reaffirmed a policy of the Baptist Sunday School Board to provide financial support for Baptist state conventions after lengthy discussion on the matter during the board's report.

Hostile Debate

The most hostile debate came over reports of the Christian Life Commission and the Public Affairs Committee dealing with a social studies curriculum series called MACOS (Man: A Course of Study) used by some public schools for fourth and fifth graders.

Herschel A. Markham, pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Fairburn, Ga., called the materials "luciferian, satanic, devil-filled" and wanted to read sections of the material to the messengers.

At one point, Markham threatened to sue the convention if he were not allowed to speak further. He sought the microphone offered no motion or amendment to the reports of the two agencies, ultimately received by the messengers.

Debate, including Markham's insistence on the right to express his views, raged so long during the convention's final business session that time was extended again and again. At one point, the messengers defeated a motion to adjourn for lunch in order to complete the many items of business pending.

Several motions were ruled out of order, including one to change the name of the convention to Evangelical Baptist Convention (on the basis that the SBC voted last year not to change the name of the convention).

Two other motions ruled out of order dealt with the Christian Life Commission. One asked the SBC Executive Committee to instruct the commission to make it clear that it cannot speak for the SBC. The other asked the commission to organize a protest movement against major television networks

Carson-Newman Receives "Special" Fund Gift

Don Mitchell, director of church relations and extension at Carson-Newman College, received a special contribution for C-N's 125th Anniversary Development Fund. One young man at Delano Church literally saved his dimes until he had enough to make a \$5 contribution.

Although \$5 is not a great amount of money by today's standard, it is nonetheless special. Alan Frederick Bell, 14-year-old son of Mrs. Edna Bell, of Delano, received the idea from his church which is giving its Birthday Fund toward the rebuilding of Henderson Humanities Building which burned on the college campus in January 1974. Alan began his own fund which he later turned over to another church member, John Newman.

Said Newman in a letter to Mitchell, "He just walked up to me one Wednesday night with a little bank, and it contained five dollars worth of dimes he had saved."

Alan attends special classes at Benton Elementary School in Benton. An active member of all youth activities at Delano Church, Alan has invested in the futures of youths from across the U.S. with his bank full of dimes.

for use of "vulgar language" and for "glamorizing violence."

A motion that all ecumenical statements in SBC literature be stopped was never considered, since the messenger who introduced the proposal was not present to formally present it.

Messengers Urged To Elect Christians For Public Offices

In his presidential address, Jaroy Weber, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, urged Southern Baptist messengers to go to the polls and vote for men who can lead the nation to follow Christian principles and to encourage Christians to run for public office.

Citing Roger Williams, Isaac Backus and John Leland, Weber lauded the struggle of 18th Century Baptist leaders in their quest to lead America to adopt the First Amendment which guarantees religious liberty for all.

In the annual convention sermon, Warren Hultgren, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tulsa, warned against superficial religion, urging Baptists to be realists, idealists, and optimists while reaffirming their confidence as believers.

In a speech just five hours before his election as president of the convention, Sullivan urged Baptists to continue to look to the Bible and the commandments of Jesus as the source of authority for the church. "The Bible has many critics, but it has no rivals," he said.

BWA Commission On Church Life Includes 9 Southern Baptists

WASHINGTON—Carl H. Lundquist, president of Bethel Baptist Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., is chairman of the Baptist World Alliance's new 37-member international Study Commission on Church Life, which includes nine Southern Baptists.

Commission secretary is Emanuel A. Dahunsi, general secretary of the Nigerian Baptist Convention, according to Robert S. Denny, BWA general secretary who made the announcement.

Southern Baptists on the Commission include: Larry G. Rohrman of Jackson, Miss.; Findley B. Edge of Louisville; Inez Fletcher of McLean, Va.; Elias Gomes of Rutherford, N.J.; Warren C. Hultgren of Tulsa, Okla.; Lee B. Satterfield of Altavista, Va.; Pat Baughman of Hilton Head Island, S.C.; Howard B. Foshee of Nashville; and Julian H. Pentecost of Richmond.

Despite the importance of the local congregation in Baptist thought and practice, Denny said, there has been little opportunity for exchange of ideas on how to nurture and help the local congregation until now. The commission is expected to provide such an interchange between scholars and practitioners from various cultures and conventions, Denny noted. (BP)

In an organizational meeting of the SBC Executive Committee, William Ches Smith, III, pastor of First Church, Tifton, Ga., was elected chairman, succeeding Charles Harvey of Shreveport, La. Rufus B. Spraberry, pastor of First Church, Vernon, Tex., was named vice chairman, and Mrs. Claude Kirkpatrick of Baton Rouge, La., recording secretary.

The messengers voted to hold the 1980 session of the convention in St. Louis on June 10-12.

BIBLE PUZZLE PAGE ANSWERS

W	A	Y		C	H	A	R		H	A	N	D	
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"For many are called, but few are chosen" (Matt. 22:14).

Freedom To Love And Help

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

Basic Passage: Galatians 6:1-18

Focal Passages: Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18

There are totalitarian systems which go to extremes on regimentation and regulation of everything. On the other hand, there are many democracies that have gone to extremes in the concept of freedom, particularly in the realm of morals.

We owe the God who made us not to dissipate our gifts and be less than He intended us to be, or to defeat the highest purpose for which we are here.

We owe to our fellowman not to exercise our freedom so as to impinge on the rights of others.

We owe it to society not to disqualify ourselves by personal indulgencies so that we cannot make our best contribution to the common good.

Some people think that they have a right to do what they please, when they please and as they please. This is license—not liberty. In fact, it is undisciplined selfishness. We are to exercise our power of choice on a higher level and be freer. We should choose to love and help. Besides, there are forms of innocent indulgences that do not harm others.

FREEDOM TO RESTORE ERRING— Galatians 6:1

If a brother be overtaken in a fault, we can criticize and neglect, or seek to restore.

We must guard against two things: To be condescending or to compromise our principles as we try to help. In any case, we are to be of service, if possible. Seek to get him back on his feet with love and kindness along with example and counsel.

WE CAN EXERCISE FREEDOM BY SHARING—Galatians 6:2-5

There are brethren and fellowmen who have burdens too heavy to carry alone. We can share our strength or whatever we have to make their load bearable. Thus we become like Christ.

During our pastoral experience, we had a deacon who would say ever so often, "Pastor, I know there is something that concerns you deeply. If you will share it with me, maybe I can help you." So often he could and did. It was not always easy for him, but he did not hesitate to do his best.

We need to be humble in all of this. All of us are very human and should be aware of it. No "holier than thou" attitude should be apparent in us as we seek to help.

Also, the individual we seek to help must not be encouraged to lean on others too much. He must be inspired to help himself up to his full ability. Thus he will maintain his self respect and have the satisfaction of intended achievement.

There are some burdens or responsibilities that each of us must assume for himself.

FREEDOM TO LEARN AND PASS ON LEARNING—Galatians 6:6

Some choose not to study God's revelation very much or any. They unwillingly prefer to be ignorant to the deepest realities and values, particularly the rich treasures to be found in the Lord.

On the other hand, others diligently seek more knowledge of God and the highest wisdom and get great satisfaction in passing on this experience to others, or rather sharing it.

FREEDOM TO SOW RIGHT SEED TO THE SPIRIT—Galatians 6:7-10

So many people sow the wrong seed to the flesh. They reap corruption.

Others sow good seed to the spirit. They reap real life of quality and durability.

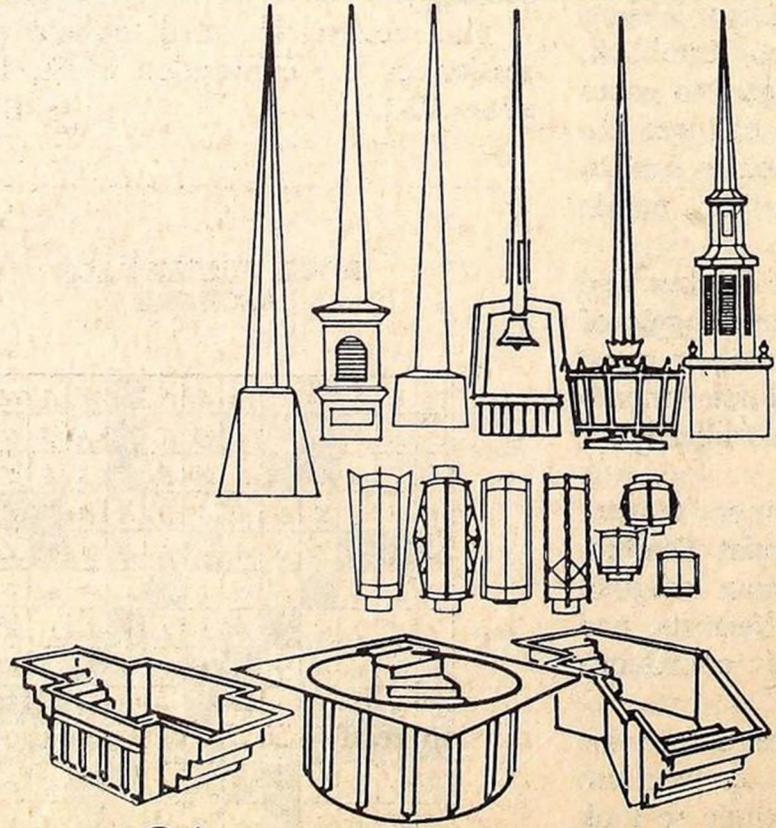
We may sow the good seed to the soul or spiritual part of other people and often reap a delightful harvest. We are encouraged to not become weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. God can not be mocked. We reap what we sow!

FREE TO DIE TO WORLD—Galatians 6:14-16

Paul would not glory save in the cross of Christ by which he was crucified to the world and the world crucified to him. In other words he preferred to be dead to the world and its dominion. He kept the cross between himself and the world.

FREE TO BEAR THE MARKS OF JESUS—Galatians 6:17-18

Paul was happy to bear scars for Jesus. He bore the brand of Jesus Christ as one who had suffered for Him and would thereby be identified with Him forever.



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Religious Liberty Theme Of Historical Commission Meet

RICHMOND—"We Baptists and Americans must be discontented with the progress made so far in the struggle for religious liberty," Brooks Hays, former Southern Baptist Convention president and former U. S. congressman, told the 1976 joint meeting of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission and Society here June 13.

"We must not fall back on the progress we have made but look forward to achieve greater things," Hays declared.

Various speakers addressed the theme, "Baptists and the Struggle for Religious Liberty in Early America," during the two-day meeting held on the University of Richmond campus.

The Virginia Baptist Historical Society, celebrating its 100th anniversary, and the university jointly hosted the 25-year-old commission. More than 150 persons, comprising the largest group ever, attended the meeting.

The Norman W. Cox award, three history writing contest awards, and special recognition of the commission executive director's 20 years of service, were presented at the luncheon meeting where Hays was the principal speaker.

Speaking on the future of America, Hays said, "We need to be intensely devoted to ideas we know to be true. We must determine our convictions and spread them throughout the nation and the world."

The former Arkansas congressman continued by calling on those present to join with others in "cooperative Christianity and ecumenism. The evils in the world are too big for one denomination to handle, even Baptists."

In a manuscript prepared for the meeting, Robert Baker, church history professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., reminded Baptists that "without religious liberty, our American democracy would not be a democracy."

Harrison Daniel, professor of history at the University of Richmond, said the revolutionary experience and the ideology of freedom accompanying it produced an "increasing degree of religious toleration in America."

It was toward that religious toleration that many Virginians worked, said John S. Moore, president of the society, in his address titled, "The Struggle for Religious Freedom in Virginia."

"This nation became the first in the world to insure religious freedom for all in its organic laws," Moore said. "The long struggle to achieve this required nearly two centuries. It involved much sacrifice and persecution. No small part of the credit must go to the tireless and persevering Baptists of Virginia."

William J. Reynolds, director of the

Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department, traced "Our Heritage of Baptist Hymnody in America." He cited church music history as "dynamic, powerful, alive, full of energy, forceful, changing and moving."

Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, described the role of the executive committee in Southern Baptist life.

Historical Awards Given

The history writing contest, held in commemoration of the nation's Bicentennial, featured three categories, Best Book, Best Church History, and Best Manuscript. All finalists received plaques while first place winners also received cash awards. The judges, selected by the commission, judged the works on the basis of originality, quality of research, and presentation of the material.

Alfred Sandlin Reid's book, **Furman University: Toward A New Identity 1925-1975**, won the first place award of \$175. It was entered by Joe M. King of Furman University on behalf of the deceased author. Second place went to Robert J. Hastings, editor of *Illinois Baptist*, and third place to Reuben Herring of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department.

The first place award of \$150 for church history went to Lawtonville (S.C.) Baptist Church for *Two Centuries of Lawtonville Baptists* written by Coy K. Johnson. Second place in that category went to Robert G. Gardner of Shorter College, Rome, Ga., and third place to Mrs. Mildred K. Bates of Rappahannock, Va.

The best manuscript was written by James Carter, pastor of First Baptist Church, Natchitoches, La., who was awarded \$100. The work is titled, "American Baptist Confessions of Faith: A Review of Confessions of Faith Adopted by Major Baptist Bodies in the United States." Second place went to William E. Ellis of Richmond, Ky., and third place to David Nelson Duke of Atlanta, Ga.

The Norman W. Cox award given for the best article published by the commission was awarded to James E. Tull for his article in the January, 1975 issue of *Baptist History and Heritage*.

Lynn E. May Jr., executive director of the commission, was given a plaque and gift for his 20 years of service to the 25-year-old commission.

In other business, the commission voted a \$278,161 budget for 1977, an increase of 29.7 percent over 1976. Included in the increase are funds to meet increased fixed costs, and to enlarge the commission's programs of service to the churches and de-

HISTORICALLY FROM THE FILES

50 YEARS AGO

Major actions coming from the meeting of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention included adoption of the Cooperative Program budget distribution, approval for a proposed campaign enlargement for Baptist And Reflector, grant for aid in church work, and permission given to Baptist Hospital to launch a civic campaign to raise money. Also the Cooperative Program was ably defended as the board expressed itself as being in favor of continuing it.

20 YEARS AGO

The Middle Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference was to feature Ladies' Day with wives of the pastors in charge of the program. The theme was "The Attitude of the Pastor's Wife Toward the Ministry."

Jackson First Church voted to construct an educational building at a cost of \$339,000. It was to accommodate 400 people.

10 YEARS AGO

On the cover page of *Baptist And Reflector*, was a photograph of Beatrice Moore arranging a bouquet of 39 red roses presented to her for 39 years of service to Tennessee Baptists. At that time she was serving as secretary of retirement plans.

Malcolm Maurice Leach was to begin his work as pastor of Richland Church, Nashville. He was serving in pioneer Baptist work in New York.

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nomination through regional workshops, oral history, and the computerized Baptist Information Retrieval System. The Commission reaffirmed its determination to expand both its materials and services to Baptists.

The commission also approved updating the charter to agree with convention standards and change of title for the executive secretary to executive director. (BP)

Local Church--The Lifeline

By Orvind M. Dangeau

The Cooperative Program was born fifty-one years ago. It was conceived in the minds of men who had a burning desire and driving compassion for world missions. The search for a method of financial support came to its glorious conclusion in the formation and the adoption of this great cooperative endeavor by the Southern Baptist Convention during its annual meeting in Memphis. Since that time the Cooperative Program has been the Lifeline to World Missions.

"World Missions", what are they? Recently I heard this definition. "Missions is any work done by a local church outside of itself." This is indeed a true statement. World missions is local missions, associational missions, state missions, home missions, and foreign missions. The Cooperative Program enables the local church to reach into these areas, and into areas of the world where it otherwise would be an impossibility.

To understand the Cooperative Program, simply compare it to the workings of the vascular system of the human body. The entire body can represent world missions. The arteries represent the cooperative program, the heart represents the local church, the bone marrow represents local church members, and the blood represents the monetary gifts of the local church to world missions through the Cooperative Program. The bone marrow manufactures the blood, the heart pumps the blood through the arteries to every part of the body.

Dangeau is director of Cooperative Program and Stewardship Promotion Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Sutherland Named President Of Missouri Baptist College

HANNIBAL, Mo.—Robert S. Sutherland has been named president of Missouri Baptist College (MBC) here, after serving two years as dean and interim president, DeWayne Lasseter, chairman of the school's trustees announced.

During Sutherland's two years as interim president, Lasseter noted, the school has operated within its budget and a total \$453,700 indebtedness has been paid. Student enrollment increased from 331 during the fall of 1974 to 405 during the fall of 1975, he added.

Sutherland joined the college's faculty in 1972 after 16 years at Grand Canyon College in Phoenix, Arizona, where he was professor of English and philosophy, dean, and vice president for academic affairs. He earned a doctoral degree in administration in higher education at Arizona State University (ASU) in 1965. (BP)

With this analogy in mind it is easy to pin-point responsibilities for world missions. There is only one place from which financial support can be provided, local church members. As they give to the local church, the very heart of missions, the flow begins. The church pumps the support through the Cooperative Program to the very ends of the earth.

When the flow of blood is cut off from a part of the body, that part begins to die, and death spreads slowly throughout the entire body. The same is true of our mission program when the Cooperative Program funds do not flow freely and abundantly to every area of world missions.

The local church giving abundantly through the Cooperative Program is the very heart of world missions—this is the lifeline.

Our missionaries around the earth are dependent on every Southern Baptist to keep the "life's blood" flowing. The Department of Cooperative Program and Stewardship Promotion stands ready to aid you as you build a great missions minded church. Call or write us at any time.

Kelley Announces Appointment Of Two Faculty Members

Two new staff members have been appointed to positions on the Belmont College faculty, according to Glen Kelley, Belmont academic dean and executive vice president.

R. Gary Gibson, academic coordinator for athletes, Vanderbilt University, will assume a full-time teaching position as assistant professor of business administration in the college's School of Management. He has taught part time at Belmont for several years.

Appointed to serve as instructor in social work in the Behavioral Science Dept. was Betsy L. Hancock, a social worker for the Arthritis Total Care Project in Nashville. A social worker since 1968, Hancock has also served at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, N.Y.; Senior Citizens Center, Nashville; and Nashville's Veterans Hospital.

She holds the master of arts degree from Case-Western Reserve in Cleveland, Ohio; a master of science in social work from the Nashville branch of the University of Tennessee School of Social Work; and the B.A. degree in English from U.T. Knoxville.

Gibson is a graduate of Tennessee Tech University where he majored in math education. He received the master of business administration degree from Florida State University and is working toward a Ph.D. degree at Vanderbilt.

French Accent Role Of Local Churches

SAINT-QUENTIN, France—The annual Congress of the French Baptist Federation unanimously adopted a resolution here calling for renewed emphasis "on the notion of the local church and on the privileges and responsibilities of membership."

The new and stronger accent on the local church by the French Baptists came, in the face of "neglect and contestation" on the part of some para-church groups working outside the Federation's framework, according to European Baptist Press Service (EBPS). The accent will be especially pronounced in pastoral and membership training courses, EBPS said.

In another resolution the Federation's executive council was asked to effect studies of declarations from the 13th Baptist World Congress in Stockholm (summer 1975), regarding religious liberty, human rights, world peace and Christian ethics. The council was encouraged to publish the declarations in booklet form for church members to study "in the light of biblical teachings."

Among speakers was Jean Courvoisier, president of the French Protestant Federation, who acknowledged, "French Protestantism today owes much to Baptists. The more I travel the more I'm convinced of the unity of those churches which are of the Lord Jesus Christ."

Courvoisier, a bank president from Paris, was speaking particularly of his contacts with Baptists and other Christian groups in the Soviet Union during a recent visit he made, accompanied by Baptist Federation President André Thobois.

In other action, the Federation welcomed the "Communauté Chrétienne", a Baptist church in Lille, to its rank and recognized the opening of a new interior mission post at Bordeaux.

Membership in Federation churches and mission posts reached a record 2,786 in 1975, up 350 over 1974, EBPS said. New converts baptized totaled 165, an increase of nine over the previous year, the news service cited. (BP)

NOTICE!

Photographs submitted for use in "Baptist And Reflector" must be black and white glossy prints. We cannot use color. No pictures are returned unless a self-addressed stamped envelope is sent with the picture. This is due to the increase in postal rates.