

# Baptist and Reflector

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News-Journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

## Board gives surplus funds to alleviate world hunger

The Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at its meeting last week allocated Cooperative Program funds received above the budget, organized into various committees, and authorized a letter assuring President-elect Jimmy Carter of prayer.

The board met Dec. 9-10 at the Baptist building in Brentwood.

This was the first meeting of the Executive Board since that body was expanded from 75 to 99 members. The state Woman's Missionary Union president, Mrs. Claude Jennings of Lebanon, is automatically a member of the board, bringing the current membership to 100. Ninety-four of the 100 members attended last week's meeting.

The major item of discussion at the Thursday-Friday meeting was the allocation of \$464,948.95 given by Tennessee Baptist churches and their members in excess of the convention-adopted budget for 1976 of \$8,450,000. According to instructions by the 1975 Tennessee Baptist Convention, any surplus above that amount is to be allocated by the Executive Board.

The board voted to continue the division of Cooperative Program receipts with one-third going to the Southern Baptist Convention. However, the members voted after discussion to designate \$100,000 of the \$154,967.49 for world hunger relief through the SBC Foreign Mission Board. The remainder (\$54,967.49) will be given undesignated through the SBC Cooperative Program.

Two-thirds of the overage from Tennessee's receipts will be allocated to ministries of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

In accepting the recommendation of its Program Committee, the Executive Board allocated \$191,435.46 of the \$309,981.46 (62 percent) to the TBC schools: \$53,430 each to Belmont College, Carson-Newman College, and Union University; an additional \$20,000 to Carson-Newman for a special need resulting from a fire loss; and \$11,145.46 to Harrison-Chilhowee Academy.

The board allocated \$26,000 to winterize the dining facility at Camp Linden; \$30,000 to begin construction of an amphitheater at Camp Carson; and \$32,546 to deficits in

operation of the camps in 1976.

Two allocations dealt with student centers: \$5,000 for work on the heating system at University of Tennessee center in Knoxville, and \$25,000 to go toward the purchase of two houses at Peabody College, Nashville, which will be used as a student center.

The Peabody College center was involved in one other action by the Executive Board. The cost of the center will be \$105,000, with Nashville Baptist Association providing \$35,000 toward the purchase. The board authorized the convention to borrow up to \$45,000, which along with the \$25,000 allocation, would be used to complete the purchase.

As this was the first meeting of the Executive Board since the state convention session last month in Jackson, the board was organized into committees. The listing of these committees will be printed in the Dec. 30 issue of the **Baptist and Reflector**.

In other action the board asked that a letter be sent from the board by Executive Secretary Ralph Norton to President-elect Jimmy Carter "concerning assurance that we will carry out the Biblical admonition

(Continued on page 4)

## New Retirement Program Endorsed By 33 States

All state Baptist conventions approved the new retirement program proposed by the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board of Dallas, Tex. for its ministers and church employees.

Darold H. Morgan, president of the Annuity Board, said that action taken by the conventions also endorsed the effective inauguration date of Jan. 1, 1978.

Morgan said approval by all 33 state Baptist conventions for the new program was required before it could be offered.

The new program contains two sections, one providing benefits for retirement and the other for protection.

Any person who receives a salary from a church is eligible for the retirement section. Participation is based on a minimum of 10 percent of total compensation with the church encouraged to provide the cost.

The protection section provides coverage for disability and a spouse benefit in the event of a member's death. The state convention assumes the cost for this coverage for all eligible career ministerial personnel, Morgan said.

Morgan praised the action of the state conventions, calling it "a decision of significant importance to thousands of potential members."

*The BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR is not published Christmas week. The next issue will appear December 30, 1976.*

*The entire staff of BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR expresses sincere appreciation for your prayers, interest, cooperation and support of Tennessee Baptists during 1976.*

*At this Season, we extend to each reader sincere best wishes for a good Christmas in the Spirit of Christ. We wish for each reader a Happy and Fruitful New Year in His service.*

BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR STAFF

# Sunday School gain tops SBC projections

NASHVILLE — The largest Sunday School enrollment gain in 21 years and significant increases in total receipts and mission expenditures dominate the 1976 statistical picture for the Southern Baptist Convention, according to preliminary estimates compiled by the research services department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Projections also indicate slight increases in church membership and WMU, Brotherhood, and church music enrollments.

The only decreases predicted for 1976 are in baptisms and church training enrollment, according to reports received from more than 26,000 Southern Baptist churches.

The final official report will be released in February 1977, according to Martin B. Bradley, manager of the Sunday School Board's research services department. Approximately 35,000 churches will contribute to the final report, Bradley said.

Total Southern Baptist Convention receipts projected for 1976 will top \$1.6-billion, an increase of nearly 12 percent over last year's total of \$1.47-billion. The final figure is projected to be near \$1,651,209,000.

The Bicentennial year was a banner year

## Carter names Cooper to advisory group

PLAINS, Ga.—Owen Cooper, retired president of the Mississippi Chemical Corp. and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has been named to a committee of prominent citizens who will advise President-elect Jimmy Carter on potential governmental leaders.

"I don't know the scope or the depth of the committee, but I'm available to serve as I'm needed on an individual and selective basis," Cooper said of the appointment.

Cooper, of Yazoo City, Miss., who has known Carter for several years and supported him in the tightly contested presidential race in Mississippi, was president of the 12.7-million-member SBC for two terms, 1973-74.

President-elect Carter's press secretary, Jody Powell, said in Plains the committee members would not be eliminated from consideration for federal jobs in their own right, but Cooper told Baptist Press he doesn't anticipate taking a federal job. (BP)

for Sunday School, with an expected ongoing enrollment of more than 7,470,000 people. It marks the fifth consecutive year Sunday School enrollment has increased, and the additional 189,320 members over last year makes the enrollment gain the highest since 1955.

A. V. Washburn, secretary of the Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, expressed personal gratification over the 2.6 percent increase, which he said represented "a growing commitment in our churches and denomination to the basic necessity of reaching more people for meaningful Bible study."

"This year, ACTION, a reach out enrollment plan for Sunday School, has provided a major and effective instrument for church outreach," Washburn said. "Approximately 1,700 churches have conducted an ACTION campaign and the increases in these churches have stimulated growth in many others."

Washburn also pointed out that for the first time in many years, the increase in Sunday School enrollment exceeded the growth in church membership.

"This is most wholesome, and if it continues, greater gains in baptisms, Christian growth, and Christian discipleship should follow," he said.

According to projections, mission expenditures also recorded a large increase in 1976. Total expenditures are expected to be more than \$263,042,400, a gain of 10.7 percent over last year's \$237,617,406.

Estimates for church membership indi-

## Belmont Grads To Hear White House Aide

Richard Scott Brannon, special assistant to President Gerald R. Ford, will speak to the 60 graduating seniors at Belmont College, Nashville, Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Massey Auditorium.

Brannon serves primarily as the President's liaison with constituencies and regional administrators in the South. He is also a speech writer for the President and has coordinated communication between the White House and various denominational media desiring information on Presidential affairs.

A former pastor, Brannon has held pastorates in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Texas.

A native of Spartanburg, S. C., he has degrees from Baylor University, Waco, Tex.; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Brannon also did special graduate work at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

cate an increase of 1.4 percent over 1975, with a predicted total of 12,913,962 members. Last year's figure was 12,735,663.

Baptisms, however, dropped below 400,000 for the first time in five years, with reports indicating approximately 388,486 baptisms in 1976. Last year's total of 421,809 baptisms was the third highest number in SBC history.

Church training also experienced a decrease in 1976, according to projections. Ongoing enrollment dropped 1.4 percent to 1,859,171, which is 26,406 less than the 1975 total.

Projected Brotherhood ongoing enrollment jumped 1.7 percent over last year's figures, with an increase of 8,092 members, bringing its total to 484,094. Figures are not available for additional persons involved in short-term mission projects.

WMU recorded a slight gain, according to church reports, increasing its ongoing enrollment by 2,267 for a total of 1,135,854.

Church music's projected ongoing enrollment for 1976 is 1,375,268, which is 20,324 more than the 1975 total. (BP)

## Seminary Course Offered On Work With Single Adults

Single adult ministries will be a new course scheduled to be taught in January at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

According to Harvey M. Brown, who will teach the course, it will be practical in nature and feature several guest leaders. Visiting leaders will include Linda Lawson, single adult consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board; Britton Woods, minister to single adults at Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex.; and Tom Allerton, minister of education at Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga.

"Students will explore the developmental and crisis needs of the never-married, divorced, and widowed," says Brown. "The needs of single parents will be discussed. Resources from local churches and denominational agencies will be compiled and reviewed."

Brown, an instructor in Southern seminary's school of religious education, also serves as coordinator of single adults at Louisville's Walnut Street Baptist Church.

Registration for the January term will be Jan. 3, and classes will last from Jan. 4-28. Information on registration or other courses available during the one-month term can be obtained from the registrar, Southern Baptist Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Ky. 40206.

**BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR**  
**Brings You News First**



Charles Treadway, consultant in deacon training, Baptist Sunday School Board, discusses duties within the deacon ministry of the church with persons attending a Deacon Training Project held in Brentwood last month. Seventeen men completed the project, thus becoming qualified to lead associational or church deacon conferences.

## 17 Complete Deacon Training As Consultants

Seventeen Tennessee Baptists have completed certified deacon training projects and are now qualified as consultants to lead associational or church deacon conferences, according to Johnnie Hall Jr., director, Church Training Dept., Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The men received the training at Tennessee's first Deacon Training Project, held last month at the TBC Building in Brentwood.

Charles Treadway, consultant in deacon training, Baptist Sunday School Board, led the training in three sessions.

Taking part in the training were: A. Bruce Coyle, Highland Heights Church, Memphis; Ray Fowler, White Oak Church, Chattanooga; John Langlois, Harpeth Heights Church, Nashville; H. Raymond Langlois, Judson Church, Nashville; C. W. Rich, Belmont Heights Church, Nashville; Herman L. King, Judson Church, Nashville; Don E. Mauldin, Church Training Dept., TBC; Matt Nevels, Hamilton Association, Chattanooga; and Carroll Owen, Paris First Church.

Others included: Bill Smith, director of missions, Western District Association; Donald Pharris, Livingston First Church; Don Dillingham, Cleveland First Church; Paul Peak, Murfreesboro First Church; Everett Rafferty, Rogersville First Church; John Perkins, Pinecrest Church, Johnson City; and Paul Williams, Englewood Church, Jackson. Hall, a member of Judson Church, Nashville, also received the training.

## WMU Names Churchill As BYW Consultant

BIRMINGHAM—Sheryl Churchill, a Fort Worth, Tex. native, has accepted the position as Baptist Young Women consultant for Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) SBC, effective Dec. 1. She will work

# New 'Good News Bible' released; 10-million sales seen for '77

NEW YORK—The **Good News Bible**, a Bible as readable as the daily newspaper, was released Dec. 1 by the American Bible Society. The new Bible is expected to break previous records in the publishing industry. The first press order totals a gigantic 1.2-million copies.

Society officials anticipate a distribution of 10-million copies of the **Good News Bible** during its first year. One-million copies have already been published in Great Britain and are expected to be gone by Christmas.

One reason for the optimism is the unprecedented success of **Good News for Modern Man**, the New Testament portion of the new Bible. When published separately by the ABS in 1966, it soared to the top of the best-seller list. In the past ten years its circulation has exceeded 50-million copies.

"The **Good News Bible** (the Bible in Today's English Version) is the first translation of the Bible in the English language ever produced by the American Bible Society," Laton E. Holmgren, the Bible Society's senior general secretary, has announced. "Since its founding in 1816, the

American Bible Society has assisted in the translation of the Bible into hundreds of languages of the world, but never before has it published its own English version. It has instead always circulated the classic English translations such as the King James Version, the American Standard Version, and the Revised Standard Version and will continue to do so.

"The **Good News Bible** is not intended to take the place of these revered older translations," Holmgren said, "but is designed to attract people to Bible reading who have found these standard translations difficult or obscure in places. The **Good News Bible** has been issued especially for use by the churches in reaching men and women who have either never read the Bible at all or have discontinued reading it because they couldn't easily discover its relevance for living in today's world."

The **Good News Bible** claims distinction as a common-language, dynamic-equivalent translation. It avoids both slang and "church" language, aiming instead at a level of written English readily understood in common by the 600 million English-speaking people in the world today.

By following principles of dynamic equivalence, the translators have translated accurately and clearly the meaning of the original Hebrew and Greek into expressions that convey the same meaning in today's English. The **Good News Bible** does not employ the loose wording of paraphrases, but rather uses the closest, natural equivalent in English to convey the original meaning, according to Holmgren.

## Music Training to Feature Kansas City Clinicians

A clinic for workers with children's choirs will be held at Cleveland First Church, Jan. 14-15, according to Frank Charton, director, Church Music Dept., Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Gene and Nancy Stokes, Kansas City, Mo., have been asked to serve as guest clinicians. David Whipple, minister of music at the host church, will coordinate the clinic.

Stokes, minister of music at Swope Park Church, Kansas City, will concentrate on the older children's area and will use a demonstration choir of young musicians from local churches. Mrs. Stokes will focus on conferences for workers with younger children.

The first meeting of the clinic will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday. Saturday's sessions will run from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. with a lunch break at the church.

with all other WMU age-level consultants in field services, traveling and promoting Baptist Young Women work in the Convention.

Churchill, Acteens director for Texas WMU since 1970, graduated from Mary Hardin-Baylor College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

## Chilean soldiers given Bibles by missionaries

CALAMA, Chile—Southern Baptist Missionaries Marcus L. Driggers and O. D. Dyches distributed 6,000 New Testaments and more than 100 Bibles among the Chilean Army personnel in camps in northern Chile, near here.

The two had met Col. Eduardo Ibanez, who is the governor of the district and the Chilean Army's commander of regiments in this northern area, while in missionary orientation. It was because of him that the missionaries gained the right to distribute the New Testaments and Bibles inside the camps.

Ibanez was at the Allied Officers' School at Fort Benning, Ga., when the missionary orientation staff at Callaway Gardens, Ga., invited him and other officers from foreign countries to meet the missionaries going to their countries.

## Terry Succeeds Blevins In New River Assn.

The moderator for New River Association is Hubert Terry, pastor, Robbins First Church. Terry, elected at the association's annual meeting, succeeds Roy Blevins, pastor, Bethlehem Church.

Jerry Eggenberger, pastor, New Haven Church, was elected vice-moderator, and Ben B. Bowling, a member of Low Gap Church, was re-elected treasurer. Mrs. Shirley Carson, a member of Huntsville First Church, was elected clerk.

The 92nd annual meeting of the association is scheduled to be held Oct. 20, 1977, at Robbins First Church.

## Glenn Chance Re-elected In Giles County

Glenn Chance, pastor, Minor Hill Church, was re-elected moderator of Giles County Association recently. He will serve with vice-moderator Edgar Dunnivant, a member of Highland Church.

The treasurer and clerk, both re-elected, were Bobby Howell, a member of Shores Church, and Mrs. George Willingham, a member of Rock Springs Church.

Minor Hill First Church is scheduled to host the 1977 associational sessions Oct. 21-22.

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# HISTORICALLY

## FROM THE FILES

### 50 YEARS AGO

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary reported an enrollment of 389, which included men from 36 states and 14 foreign countries. Seven missionaries were also taking courses.

Members of St. Elmo Church in Chattanooga launched a building program for \$50,000 and paid tribute to their pastor, L. W. Clark, on the occasion of his first anniversary as pastor.

### 25 YEARS AGO

William Thomas Wescoat, Milan, in his 95th year, reported that he looked forward each week to receiving his state Baptist paper. He had been a faithful reader for more than 50 years, starting when E. E. Folk was editor.

The church at Adamsville completed a new \$6,000 pastorium and reduced the indebtedness on it. A. B. Harris was pastor.

### 10 YEARS AGO

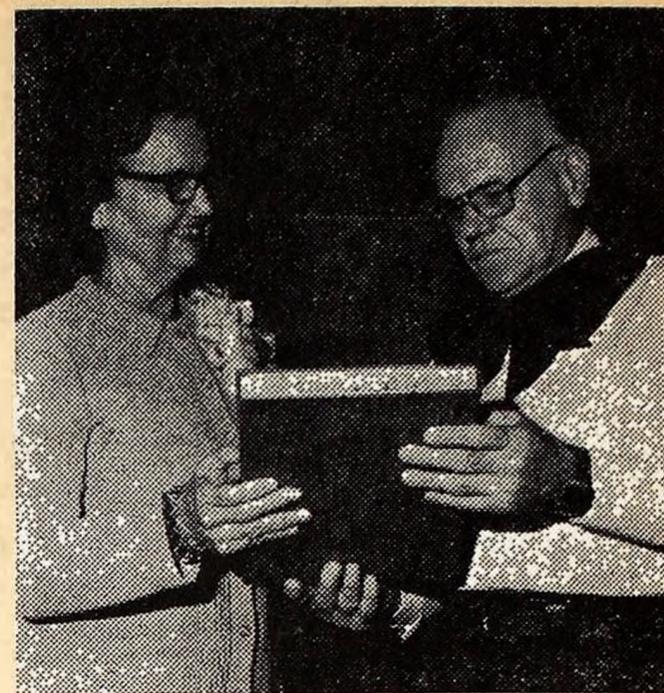
An 84-year-old retired minister, who enrolled at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary the day the school opened in 1910, addressed the seminary students and faculty in his first visit to the campus since his graduation in 1912. W. H. Sims urged the young ministers to stay in school even if it became difficult.

## Bob Peek Elected McMinn Moderator

Robert Peek, pastor, East Athens Church, Athens, was elected moderator of McMinn Association to succeed Fred J. Wohlwend, pastor, Englewood First Church.

Other officers elected included: vice moderator Ronald Sorah, pastor, Calhoun First Church; treasurer Eugene Sadler, member, Athens First Church; and clerk Bea Gardner, member Niota First Church.

Central Church in Athens and Shiloh Church are scheduled to host the 1977 sessions of the association on Oct. 20.



Charles Norton, former director of the Church Training Dept., Tennessee Baptist Convention, presents a book of letters to Mary Anderson following a luncheon held in her honor. She will retire Dec. 31 after serving in the Church Training Dept. since 1947.

## Mary Anderson Feted By Fellow Workers

Mary Anderson, director of library services, Tennessee Baptist Convention, was honored at a retirement luncheon held for her in Brentwood earlier this month. The luncheon was attended by employees of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, retirees, family, and friends.

Anderson has served with the Church Training Dept. of the convention since 1947. Her first position was director of young people's work. She assumed her present position in 1969.

Fellow employees participated on the luncheon program, which was emceed by Nelle Elder.

## Board gives surplus

(Continued from page 1)

to pray for those who govern us." This action came on a recommendation from the board's Public Affairs and Christian Life Committee.

The Administrative Committee told the board that a committee was being named from that group and the Public Affairs and Christian Life Committee to study the job position of a proposed employee to work in the area of moral and ethical concerns.

Two search committees of the State Missions Committee told the Executive Board that they are actively seeking directors for the Evangelism and Brotherhood departments, to fill vacancies which will occur Dec. 31 with the retirement of F. M. Dowell and Roy Gilleland.

The next scheduled meeting of the Executive Board will be May 10.

## Thief loses money —but may WIN

NEOSHO, Mo.—Southern Baptist minister John Wallen was almost glad when a pickpocket lifted some items from his left coat pocket here.

Wallen, pastor of the Lanagan (Mo.) Baptist Mission, was standing at a busy corner waiting for traffic to clear, when the stranger with a coat draped over his arm brushed by him and disappeared.

The pastor immediately checked his wallet; he still had it—but something was missing from his coat pocket.

"Slight anger gave way to humor, then prayer," Wallen said.

The pickpocket, he said, faced a "momentous decision."

Instead of money, the thief had stolen a handful of WIN (Witness Involvement Now) tracts on "How to Have a Full and Meaningful Life." (BP)

## Soviet Baptists receive permit to get hymnbooks

MOSCOW—The All-Union Council of Evangelical Christian-Baptists in the USSR has received permission to receive 20,000 hymn-books of the 1968 Moscow edition in the Russian language.

The project will be arranged by the United Bible Societies, with financial support for the hymn-books and transport costs coming from the European Baptist Federation. (EBPS)



Pastor and Mrs. Kenneth Clayton, Spring City, were commissioned by members of First Church in that city prior to their departure for missionary orientation in Pine Mountain, Ga. They will serve as foreign missionaries in Spain. Shown with the Claytons are their daughter, Jill, and participants in the commissioning service. Left to right are: Ben Walker, director of missions, Tennessee Valley Association; Bob McDaniel, music director; C. R. Inman, Jim Simerly, and Harvey Hope.

# Belmont Heights Will Host State Evangelism Conference



Jaroy Weber



Claude H. Rhea



Roy Fish



C. B. Hogue



Edward V. Hill

An emphasis on discipleship will be given to this year's State Evangelism Conference meeting Jan. 17-18, at Belmont Heights Church in Nashville. Pastors and church leaders from across the state will convene for the series of messages and Bible studies sponsored by the Evangelism Dept., Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The first session will begin Monday at 2 p.m. CST, and the final session will be held Tuesday evening beginning at 6:45. Other sessions will be Monday at 6:50 p.m.; and Tuesday at 9:15 a.m. and 1:50 p.m.

Roy J. Fish, professor of evangelism, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will lead the Bible study at each session. Claude H. Rhea, dean, School of Music, Samford University, will bring the special music.

Robert J. Norman, pastor of the host church, will lead off the first session with a message on "Disciples Are Made, not Born." Other Tennessee pastors scheduled to deliver messages during the conference are: John David Laida, Clarksville First Church; Robert C. Burch, Calvary Church, Knoxville; and Ramsey Pollard, retired from Bellevue Church, Memphis, now serving as an evangelist. The men will speak on the subject of evangelism. Ralph Norton, executive secretary-treasurer, will speak Monday afternoon on "The Disciple Knows God and Himself."

California pastor Edward V. Hill will deliver messages at three of the sessions. He serves currently as pastor of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles. He was president of the California State Baptist Convention Inc., state vice-president of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., and co-chairman of the North American Committee of the Baptist World's Alliance Committee on Reconciliation. He is also active in other civic and religious organizations. Hill is scheduled to speak Monday evening and Tuesday afternoon and evening.

Former Southern Baptist Convention president Jaroy Weber will discuss "The Business of the Church," "The Preacher's

Message to New Converts," and "Every Man's Task" during his messages to the conference. Weber is pastor of Lubbock (Tex.) First Church, the second largest church in the Southern Baptist Convention.

C. B. Hogue, director, Evangelism Section, Home Mission Board, will speak at the Monday and Tuesday morning sessions. He joined the HMB staff on July 1, 1973, having previously led the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma as secretary of evangelism for three years. He has also held pastorates in Oklahoma and Texas.

Tennessee Baptist laymen scheduled to give testimonies include: Wendell Crews, Athens First Church; Walter Pearson, Memphis Highland Heights Church; Fred Pinckard, Cleveland First Church; and Jesse Smith, Murfreesboro First Church.

Frank G. Charton, director, Church Music Dept., TBC will conduct the song services at each session.

Layman's Night, traditionally held on Tuesday, will feature the Tennessee Baptist Chorale under the direction of Louis Ball, Carson-Newman College. Laymen attending the session will be given special recognition.

## Baptist and Reflector Receives New Budgets

Four Tennessee Baptist churches have placed the **Baptist and Reflector** in their budgets.

The associations, churches and pastors are: Cumberland Plateau Association, **Westel Church**, F. T. Buckner; Truett Association, **Sylvia Church**, Lauren Atkins; Holston Association, **First Church**, Blountville, Omer Painter; Knox Association, **West Knoxville Church**, H. Gene Ray.

Two additional Tennessee Baptist churches are receiving the **Baptist and Reflector** through the Trial Plan.

The associations, churches and pastors are: Big Emory Association, **Clymersville Church**, Charles W. Kelly; Bradley Association, **Council Church**, Thomas Franks.

# Around the Associations

## Western District Annual Dedicated to Owen

Messengers to the annual association of Western District recently voted to dedicate the 1976 annual to Carroll C. Owen, pastor, Paris First Church, in recognition of his service to his church, association, and denomination. He served the past year as president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Bill Robbins, pastor, West Paris Church, was elected moderator of the association to succeed H. D. Hudson, pastor, Puryear Church. The new vice-moderator is Richard Boyd, pastor, Fairview Church. The treasurer and clerk, both re-elected, were Charles Conger, a member of Maplewood Church, and Charles E. Orr, a member of Paris First Church.

Messengers will hold the 1977 sessions of the association on Oct. 20-21 at Bethlehem and North Fork Churches.

## English Creek Pastor To Lead In East Tennessee

M. L. White, pastor, English Creek Church, East Tennessee Association, was elected moderator of that association during its recent annual meeting. Harvey Evans, pastor, Bethel Church, was elected vice-moderator.

Re-elected treasurer and clerk were Grady Dennis, member, English Creek Church, and Mrs. Clay Laws, member, Pigeon Valley Church.

The first "Efficiency and Achievement Award" in the association was presented to the Wilsonville Church. The award is based on percentage of church membership enrolled and attending Sunday School, Church Training, percent of total receipts given to missions through the association and Cooperative Program, and other activities.

The 1977 associational meeting is scheduled to be held Oct. 28-29 at Webb English Creek, and Camp David Churches.

## Osborne Succeeds Silliman As Shiloh Moderator

Jim Osborne, pastor, Savannah First Church, is the new moderator for Shiloh Association. He was elected during the association's recent annual meeting, succeeding Abe Silliman Jr., pastor, Turkey Creek Church.

John Hutcherson, pastor, Lakeview Church, will serve as assistant moderator; and Lauren Locke, pastor, Morris Chapel, will serve as treasurer. Tom Sanders, a member of Selmer First Church, was elected to the post of clerk.

Savannah First and Gravel Hill Churches are scheduled to host the 1977 sessions of the association on Oct. 20-21.

## Nat McKinney Honored At Bledsoe Meet

Messengers attending the annual meeting of Bledsoe Association recently recognized Nat McKinney Jr., director of missions, for 20 years of service with the association. A silver tray was presented to him by Mrs. James W. Bell, WMU director, on behalf of the Woman's Missionary Union, and a check was given from the executive committee of the association.

In business session, Arlie Spalding, pastor, Westmoreland First Church, was elected moderator of the association to succeed Richard D. Patton, pastor, Portland First Church. Other officers who will serve this coming year are: vice-moderator Jack Goodwin, pastor, Indian Hills Church; treasurer S. B. Jones, member, Gallatin First Church; and clerk Nat McKinney Jr.

New Hope Church is scheduled to host the 1977 sessions of the association on Oct. 27.

## Reunion Church Asks Knox Membership

Reunion Church, Knox County, applied for membership into the Knox Association during the recent annual meeting. Messengers voted to accept the church. Clyde Surrett serves as pastor.

Officers elected to serve during the coming year were: moderator Charles Earl, pastor, Lyons Creek Church; vice-moderator John Buell, pastor, McCalla Avenue Church; treasurer Robert Breazeale, a member of Knoxville First Church; and clerk Taylor Smith, pastor, West Haven Church. Earl succeeded Billy Edmonds, pastor, Trinity Church, as moderator.

Sharon and South Knoxville Churches are scheduled to host the 1977 sessions of the association on Oct. 17-18.

## Annual Meeting Held For New Duck River

Wayne Bassette, pastor, Calvary Church, New Duck River Association, was elected moderator of that association during its recent annual meeting. He succeeds Emery O. Farmer, pastor, Cornersville First Church, in the position. George Carneal, pastor, Edgemont Church, is the new vice-moderator; and Paul Rogers, a member of Southside Church, is treasurer. Farmer will serve as clerk.

Friendship Church, formerly Flat Creek Mission, a mission of Shelbyville First Church, applied for membership into the association and was accepted. Frank Howard is pastor of Friendship. The 1976 minutes were dedicated to Robert Mizell, director of missions for the association.

## Stewart Messengers Vote Church Into Fellowship

Midway Church applied for membership in Stewart County Association recently and was approved by messengers attending the annual meeting. The church is served by pastor R. B. Mackens.

The pastor of Dover First Church, H. W. McFadden, was re-elected to the post of moderator. Elected vice-moderator was Steve Murphree, pastor, Corinth Church. A Corinth member, T. L. Eskew, was re-elected treasurer. Dianne Feltner, a member of Big Rock Church, was re-elected clerk.

Messengers are scheduled to meet Oct. 27-28, 1977, at Bear Springs and Lakeview Circle Churches for the annual meeting.

## L. R. Dobbins Re-elected In Sequatchie Valley

L. R. Dobbins, pastor, Sequatchie First Church, was re-elected to the post of moderator in Sequatchie Valley Association during its recent annual meeting.

Other officers who will serve in 1977 were also re-elected. They include vice-moderator Houston Inman, pastor, South Pittsburg First Church; treasurer Vivian Henry, member, Whitwell First Church; and clerk C. W. Cordell, member, Cartwright, Church.

The 1977 meetings, scheduled for Oct. 20-21, will be held at Pikeville First Southern Church and Whitwell First Church.

## Indian Creek Association Meets, Elects Officers

The new moderator for Indian Creek Association is Norman O. Baker, pastor, Waynesboro First Church.

Other officers elected include vice-moderator H. H. Hurst, pastor, Calvary Church; treasurer Emory Middleton, member, Philadelphia Church; and clerk Ivan Raley, pastor, Green River Church.

Messengers met with Friendship Church and Clifton First Church. Calvary Church, Savannah, was voted into membership of the association. They are led by pastor Ed Gregory.

## William Carey Adds Two Churches to Association

William Carey Association held its 85th annual meeting recently and accepted Taft First Church and Howell Hill Church into association membership. Pastor of the Taft church is Ray Winsett, and pastor of Howell Hill Church is Edward Blackburn.

Moderator for the coming year is Charles Houston, pastor of Prospect Church. Don Schultz will serve as vice-moderator; and Henry Wattenbarger will serve as clerk and treasurer. All were re-elected to their posts.

# Our People and Our Churches . . .

## LEADERSHIP . . .

**Tommy Taylor** is the new youth director at Westwood Church in Nashville. He came to the position from Highland Church in Tullahoma and is a student at Belmont College. **James Gregg** is pastor at Westwood.

Scenic Hills Church, Shelby Association, called **Ken Hunsberger** as director of youth ministries and music. He comes to the position from Fairhaven Church, Olive Branch, Miss. **William E. Burney** is pastor at Scenic Hills.

Jasper First Church called **Charles Norton** as interim pastor.



Tusculum Church, Greeneville, called **Grant G. Bishop** as pastor. A graduate of Carson-Newman College, he served the Buffalo Church in Grainger County and Rogersville First Church. He is already on the new field of service.

**Carl** **Crabtree** is the new pastor at Beech Springs Church, Old Fort, Polk County Association. He came to the position from Charleston, Tenn.

**Milton Gresham**, director of music and youth at Ripley First Church for the past two years, resigned in order to enter Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as a student. **Joseph Blass**, professor of music at Union University, was called as interim director of music at the church, and **Mrs. Micky Thornton** has been called as interim director of youth activities. **Paul W. Woodford** is pastor.

**H. Gene Ray** is the new pastor at West Knoxville Church, Knoxville. A native Tennessean, **Ray** was born in Jefferson County and educated in Memphis. He came to Knoxville from Irving, Tex., where he was pastor of North Irving Heights Church. While in seminary at Southwestern in Fort Worth, he was awarded the first W. Fred Swank Evangelism Award given by the institution. He received the master of divinity degree there, and has an application pending to the doctor of ministry program. **Ray** served as assistant minister in two Tennessee churches, East Park in Memphis and Oak Grove in Covington.

**A. R. Nelms**, Loudon, was called as interim pastor at Beals Chapel Church, Lou-

## PEOPLE . . .

Riverview Church, Knox County Association, ordained **Bruce Houser**, **Edward Williams**, and **Marvin Dockery** as deacons. Members of the church also voted approval of a deacon rotation system. **F. E. Sorey** is pastor.

**Joe Stott**, **John Wade**, and **Jack Williams** were ordained as deacons at Seymour First Church.

**Earl Stroup** was ordained to the gospel ministry by Manley Church, Morristown, where he serves as minister of education and youth. **Walter B. Shurden**, associate professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, preached the ordination sermon. **John R. Churchman** is pastor at Manley.

**O. C. Markham**, a native Tennessean and former pastor in the state, was killed in an automobile accident in October. Markham, president of Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in Mayfield, Ky., was in route to an associational meeting at the time of the accident. He was buried in Clinton, Ky.

Memphis First Church ordained **Al Weir**, **Tim McCall**, **John Hodges**, and **Guadalupe Gonzalez** as deacons. Pastor **Earl Davis** delivered the ordination sermon.

**Joe Kimery**, **Kenneth Vandergriff**, and **Tony Barrett** were ordained as deacons at El Bethel Church, Shelbyville. **Carl Bond** is pastor.

**don Association**. He was formerly pastor at Woodland Heights Church, Chattanooga.

**Ralph Littamby** is the new pastor of Pilot Mountain Church in Lansing, Tenn.

**Randy L. Hyde** is the new pastor at Bellevue Church, Nashville. He comes to the position from Bristol, Va.

Apison Church, Hamilton Association, called **Conroy Ryan** as minister of music. He will be on the new field this month.

**Richard Emert** accepted the call as pastor of Seymour First Church, coming from Ryker's Ridge Church in Madison, Ind. A native of East Tennessee, he is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He will be on the new field Jan. 2. **William F. Hall** has served as interim pastor of the church.

## CHURCHES . . .

Members of West Maryville Church, Chilhowee Association, have completed an extensive remodeling program which included the fellowship hall, educational facilities, hallways, and basement area. **Troy Christopher** is pastor at West Maryville.

Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, held dedication and open house on Sunday, Dec. 12. Members entered new facilities on Dec. 5. **Ralph Norton**, executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, delivered the dedicatory address. According to pastor **John W. Kurtz**, the church will be two years old on Jan. 5. The value of the site and building is approximately \$500,000, according to building committee chair person **Berdinia Wright**.

Members of Green Hill Church, Mt. Juliet, dedicated their new \$250,000 educational building on Sunday, Dec. 12. Former pastor, **Carl Price**, was guest speaker for the occasion. Morgan and Isaacs, Nashville architects, designed the two-story, 13,000 sq. ft. addition, with Boone Contracting Co. Inc. serving as general contractor. The facility contains classrooms, office suite, and a fellowship hall. **George Fletcher** served as chairman of the building committee. **James L. Smith** is pastor.

Macedonia Church, Wilson County Association, installed a baptistry and added several Sunday School rooms to the existing building. **John Nixon** is pastor.

The church fellowship of Ridgeview Church, Campbell County Association, has moved into a new sanctuary, built alongside the old auditorium. The new building is approximately 35 x 70, and most of the work was done by the church membership. **Lloyd Slover** is pastor.

Members of Crieewood Church, Nashville, burned the fourth of six building loan notes. **Herman Jacobs** is pastor.

Alice Bell Church, Knoxville, held dedication and open house for the church's new library ministry. **Guy H. Lawson Jr.** is pastor.

## A commendable challenge and a caution

The Executive Board's decision last Friday to give \$100,000 of the state's Cooperative Program to help alleviate world hunger through our Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board should serve as a **commendable challenge** and a **caution**.

It has been the policy of the board to share a portion of the Cooperative Program gifts above the budget with the ministries supported through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program. This year the percentage of the overage will be 33 percent—the same as the regular budget.

However, the board decided after considerable discussion and a standing vote to designate a large part of the SBC's one-third to world hunger rather than to give it undesignated, as in the past.

The board is to be commended for its **concern for world hunger**. It chose the proper channel—our own Foreign Mission Board which has had for the past two years a special "World Hunger Relief" account to receive designated gifts from groups and individuals. Since these funds are administered by our missionaries, 100 percent of these funds go for food on our mission fields. Perhaps others will be challenged to respond to this great need.

Yet, caution should be exercised—not in the object of this

designation, but—in its operation. Rarely is it wise to encourage designated giving.

Churches prefer that their members give their tithes and offering to support the church-adopted budget. Likewise, associations and the state convention would prefer that the churches share their gifts so that support is given to ministries carried on by a budget approved by messengers to those bodies.

Certainly there are special offerings to which our people are urged to designate their gifts. And, always the wishes of the donor must be followed.

The action by the Executive Board was taken to meet a special, immediate need in our world. The majority of the board felt that this should be done.

Let us hope that this decision will NOT establish a pattern or precedent for our state convention, our churches, and their members.

## Yes, Virginia, but . . .

"Is there a Santa Claus?" an eight-year-old girl inquired of the *New York Sun* in 1897. Her letter inspired the now famous editorial (frequently reprinted every Christmas) which begins, "**Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.**"

Virginia, if you were to ask your question in 1976, there would be no doubt as to the answer.

If you could have sat before a television set on Thanksgiving Day, you would have seen gigantic parades in several American cities. All of the people who lined those streets had come to pay homage to Santa Claus.

If you could walk down Main Street (you pick the town), you would see hundreds of images of Santa Claus on street lights, billboards, and store displays.

If you could see the letters and catalogues that come in the daily mail, you would see many pictures of the "jolly old elf"—each testifying that he is alive and well.

If you could see the many Santa Clauses—at least one per shopping mall—and the children lined up to make their wishes known, you would see that others believe in him.

If you would note the ads on radio and television and in the newspapers and magazines, you would see that the advertisers believe in Santa Claus.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus—in 1976.

But, Virginia, our problem in 1976 is not trying to convince the world that there is a Santa Claus, but to convince your modern-day counterpart that **there is a Jesus Christ**.

Many deny that Jesus was born to a virgin named Mary as God's Son. They say that He didn't have the power to perform miracles. They believe that His life ended on a cross atop Mount Calvary.

After all, Virginia, Christmas is really the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

### "He Shall Reign Forever And Ever"



## Cicero's comment



By the editor

Several Christmases ago my wife Tommye gave me a four-band transistor radio. That night I was trying out the short-wave band and picked up the English-language broadcast of Radio Moscow.

That program consisted mainly of answering questions from North American listeners. One question was related to the seasons, inquiring if Christmas was observed in the Soviet Union.

The announcer responded that it was not a holiday, and work went on as usual—but added that citizens who desired could have appropriate decorations in their homes and could privately observe the occasion. Noting that not many Soviet citizens took special note of Dec. 25, the Radio Moscow voice added a most intriguing sentence, "Only believers actually celebrate Christmas."

In Russia, I suppose, where being a Christian is at least "unpopular," only a person who truly believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God would risk the ridicule and scorn of celebrating Christmas.

Is it any different here in America?

Oh, many go through the motions of the season. Decorations are displayed. Presents are purchased, wrapped, and given. Stockings are hung. Greeting cards are sent. Christmas music is heard everywhere. Friends and families get together.

But the Radio Moscow statement—although doubtless unintended—imparts a great Christian truth. Regardless of the glitter, the gifts, and the good-times, only a true believer in Christ can really celebrate Christmas!

Only a person who personally knows Christ can properly observe the occasion of His birth.

Only one who has given his heart and life to Jesus can grasp the thrill of Christmas.

Only a believer can understand the real meaning of Christmas and use this season to honor and to glorify the Christ Who came to this earth at Christmastime to save lost sinners.

On either side of the Iron Curtain, the Radio Moscow answer is true. "Only believers actually celebrate Christmas!"

## Letters to the Editor . . .

Letters on any religion-related subject are welcomed. Letters of over 300 words will not be used. Other letters may be shortened at the discretion of the editor. No unsigned letters will be printed, but writer's name will be withheld for sufficient reason.

### Full rights for women?

Dear editor:

I agree with Mr. Stroud's letter (Nov. 18) stating that ministers should hold public office and be able to have full rights.

I think first of all that we need to put our house in order.

Many churches with a few exceptions have elected deacons but have excluded women from holding that office and thus give them one-half franchise of not being able to hold an office they have voted for. I am aware of what the Bible says, but we need to put this in proper perspective.

In Warrenton, Va., in 1874 women were invited to attend the business meeting of the church. The article I read did not say that they were allowed to speak out on issues.

We in this world are concerned today about the right to vote, the rights of minorities as well as majorities in a free world.

Women are the strength and might be in the majority, so why should they be disqualified because of being women?

I have been a deacon nearly 40 years and this situation about the office of deacon has been put on my heart.

Think about it and correct it.

T. C. King  
503 Holt St.  
Athens 37303

### No TBC session at Union

Dear editor:

Host pastor David Q. Byrd and the members of West Jackson Church did an excellent job in providing for the recent meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Thanks for a job well done!

Why did the Committee on Arrangements fail to schedule at least one session of the convention at the Union University campus?

Robert E. Craig, Union University presi-

dent, assured me the campus chapel could have held the crowd. Parking space was available. Official letters of invitation were sent to the Committee on Arrangements.

Union University is one of our major institutions. We should have provided a way for the 1,500-plus messengers and guests to visit the campus.

This failure by the Committee on Arrangements to plan at least one session on the Union University campus represents either (1) a serious short-sightedness on the part of the committee, or (2) a decision by the committee to snub one of our major institutions.

It's an error of judgment which must not be repeated the next time the Tennessee Baptist Convention meets near one of our major institutions.

W. Lee Prince  
2181 Union Ave.  
Memphis 38104

I understand that the Committee on Arrangements considered, and was favorable to, the possibility of holding a session at Union University. However, there seemed to be a problem in providing the needed 400-500 parking spaces—in addition to those already in use by the college.

### Midst of upheaval

Dear editor:

As a member of a Southern Baptist church, I was very appreciative of the article entitled "Beware Termites in the Meeting House" by Harold Gregory (Oct. 28).

In regard to Dirk Van Dam's letter (Dec. 2), obviously he never had a preacher that was more "independent" than "Southern" Baptist. Our church is in the midst of an upheaval now because of an independent preacher.

Amen to your comment at the end of his letter.

Name withheld by editor

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Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

# The 'What' of the Resurrection

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"With what body do they come?"—I  
Corinthians 15:35b

The answer to the "what" of the resurrection Paul gives in verses 39-41. As God gives to each seed its own body so does he do for the bodies of people. In doing so he draws upon the physical and the celestial.

First, "All flesh is not the same flesh" (v. 39). He cites men, beasts, fishes, and birds.

Paul's point here is that each type of creature has a body suited to its own realm. We can best see his point as we compare the last two. Fishes and birds are perfectly adapted to their respective habitats. Note gills and lungs, fins and wings. Both have oval bodies to enable them to move through water and air. Scales and feathers are the most protective for their existence. Both have hollow bones to provide buoyancy. Fins and wings propel them through water and/or air. The point is that all creatures have bodies necessary for living in their natural habitats. The conclusion is that our resurrection bodies will be such as to live in our heavenly environment.

Second, the apostle turns to the celestial sphere (vv. 40-41). He says that as the glory of celestial bodies exceeds that of the terrestrial, so will the glory of our resurrection bodies exceed that of our earthly bodies. Some see the "celestial bodies" as

referring to angels, and especially to Christ. But this view seems forced. Paul in his illustrations moves from plant and animal life to the heavenly bodies. This is seen in verse 41.

The various heavenly bodies—sun, moon, stars—vary in glory. It seems here that Paul is thinking of degrees of reward in heaven (Matt. 25:14ff.). Each person will enjoy heaven to his full capacity. But the capacity of some will be greater than that of others, based upon the lives they have lived for Christ on earth.

Two men hear a symphony with enjoyment. But one comes with greater understanding and appreciation than the other. Hence his greater enjoyment. So it shall be in the glory of one resurrection body over that of another. Each will reflect God's glory to his full capacity as the moon and stars reflect the glory of the sun. Of course, Paul was speaking from his mundane view of these luminaries. Thus the glory of our resurrection bodies will differ as "one star differeth from another (v.41).

Paul's most definitive word about both the "how" and "what" of the resurrection is seen in Philippians 3:20-21. "For our conversation (manner of life) is in heaven; from whence we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body" (see also 1 John 3:2).

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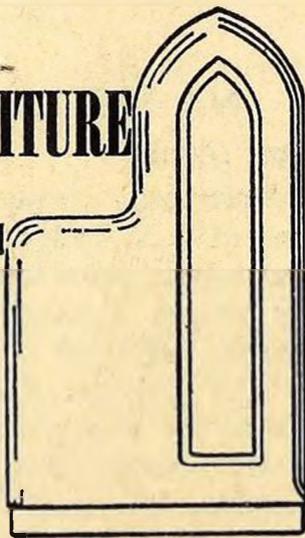
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## Pulpit To Pew

By Jim Griffith

As the story goes, a pastor enlisted four little children to help him present his Christmas sermon on "The Star."

He gave each child one of the letters to hold up so he could make a point on each letter which spelled out the word: S-T-A-R.

But as the children stepped forward and turned around, they were in reverse order and the laughing members of the congregation almost fell out of the pews as they read: R-A-T-S!

With all the hustle and bustle and accompanying pressures by so many to do so much all in the name of being "ready for Christmas," it could be that the children have expressed the opinion of some of the harried and hurried.

Christmas for some can be a load, but it ought to be a lift—especially if proper preparation is made for the coming of the Honored Guest. For behold, He does bring tidings of great joy!

# Baptists help victims in Nicaragua drought

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Funds provided by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board have brought aid to victims of a recent drought here.

The \$5,000 in emergency relief funds appropriated by the Foreign Mission Board in October was used to buy basic food and seeds, according to Stanley D. Stamps, Southern Baptist missionary.

Four years ago, Baptists also responded

to a crisis situation in Nicaragua on the wake of a devastating earthquake. Baptists sent relief money and volunteer teams to help rebuild destroyed church buildings.

At that time, there were no Southern Baptist missionaries in Nicaragua. Today, the Stamps are the only Southern Baptist missionaries in Nicaragua. They came here in July 1976 to establish the Baptist book deposit and bookstore.

## Devotional

### Can You Hear?

By Mrs. Trevis Otey

"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear!" "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift!" "Blessed are your ears, for they hear!"

The sounds of Christmas are all around! What do you hear? The noise of crowds in the stores? The blaring of horns in the streets? The laughter of children in toy shops? The music of worshippers at church? The cries of humanity for help? The voice of



Mrs. Trevis Otey

God? A carol suggests, "Oh rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!" This is a good place to start! As one rests and listens, however, he hears more and should and will hear much more, if he has a mind to hear.

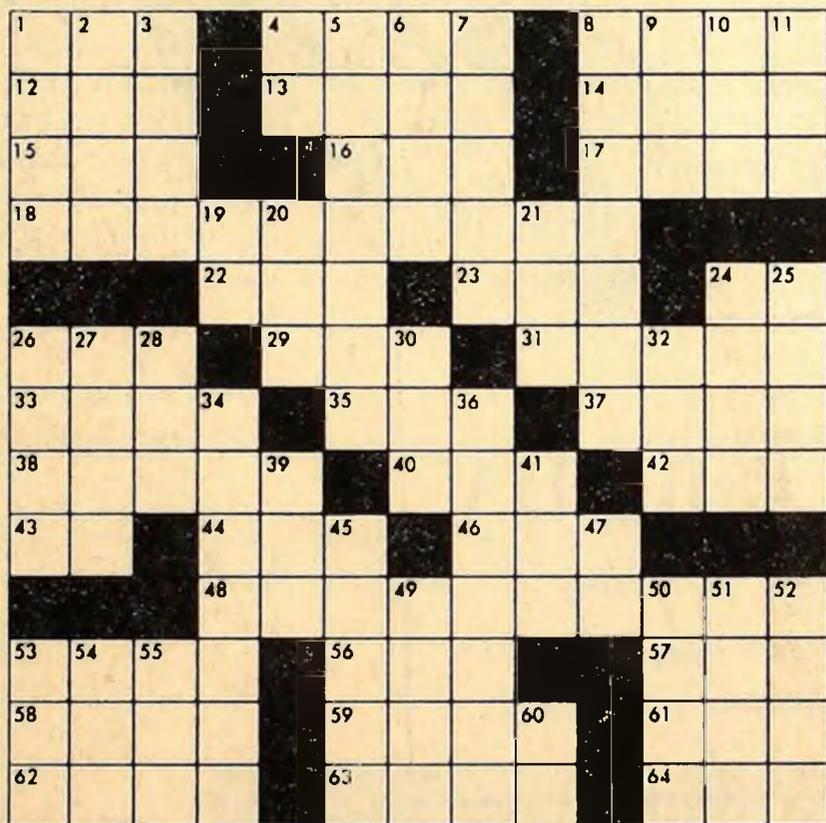
Do you hear your own frustration struggling to discover a gift for the lucky ones on your list this Christmas? "What shall I give him?" "He already has everything." I have a suggestion—a purely personal one, but one I firmly believe is of God. The suggestion? Here it is! A listening ear! What better gift for your child this Christmas than your undivided attention, even for a moment! What a happy shock to your wife if you **really** listened to her? What a change in your home if your husband discovered you **did** hear what he said! What a transformation at school or at work, if you listened! What comfort to your neighbor, near or far, if his words fell on **concerned** ears! What power God could pour into your life if His still voice could be heard through the tumult.

His unspeakable gift come to us at Christmas, as He Himself came down and dwelt among us to hear, to listen, to be concerned. This Christmas may you know the joy of giving a listening ear, first to God, and then to those all around you! Merry Christmas and may you truly hear the angels! LISTEN!

*Mrs. Otey is the wife of Trevis Otey, pastor, Jackson First Church.*

# Bible Puzzle Page

## Answers On Page 13



### ACROSS

- 1 Aaron's budded (Heb. 9:4)
- 4 "and fell —" (Num. 22)
- 8 Jeremiah sank in it (Jer. 38:6)
- 12 French island
- 13 Ice cream container
- 14 "a penny —" (Matt. 20)
- 15 Government agency: abbr.
- 16 Zip
- 17 Ancestor of Jesus (Luke 3:29)
- 18 "an — in the Lord" (Eph. 2)
- 22 European country: abbr.
- 23 Tables of organization: abbr.
- 24 Concerning
- 26 Felt shoe
- 29 Land (Judg. 11:5)

- 31 Kind of vote
- 33 Herdman and prophet (Amos 1:1)
- 35 Letters: var.
- 37 Time past
- 38 "dead —" (Rom. 6)
- 40 Speck
- 42 Wax: comb. form
- 43 Time: abbr.
- 44 Not otherwise provided for: abbr.
- 46 Barnyard sound
- 48 It was upon him (Luke 2:40; 3 words)
- 53 "descending like a —" (Matt. 3)
- 56 N.T. book: abbr.
- 57 Noun suffix denoting group
- 58 — Star
- 59 Snare
- 61 Wool: comb form
- 62 Report of recent events
- 63 Japanese monetary unit: poss.

- 64 Kind of places (Matt. 12:43)

### DOWN

- 1 "— men oppress you" (Jas. 2)
- 2 Medley
- 3 Word after square or fair
- 4 French coin: abbr.
- 5 "I —" (1 John 4)
- 6 Town (Josh. 15:50)
- 7 "to — the Spirit" (Acts 5)
- 8 "right hand of the —" (Heb. 1:3)
- 9 Artificial language
- 10 Egyptian sun god: poss.
- 11 Light of the body (Matt. 6:22)
- 19 Biblical pronoun
- 20 Explosive
- 21 — Alamos
- 24 Uncommon
- 25 Pitcher
- 26 "the — of judgment" (Isa. 40)
- 27 Cherub
- 28 Lettuce
- 30 Household need
- 32 Fabulous bird
- 34 Children of Asaph (Ezra 2:41)
- 36 "But — will say" (1 Cor. 15)
- 39 Than
- 41 Also
- 45 "divided into three —" (Rev. 16)
- 47 From
- 49 "The gainsaying of —" (Jude)
- 50 It is cankered (Jas. 5:3)
- 51 Duke (Gen. 36:15)
- 52 Gainsay
- 53 Biblical tribe
- 54 Heard at the bullring
- 55 Oath
- 60 Letter abbr.

### CRYPTOVERSE

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Today's Cryptoverse clue: F equals D

FIBERGLASS

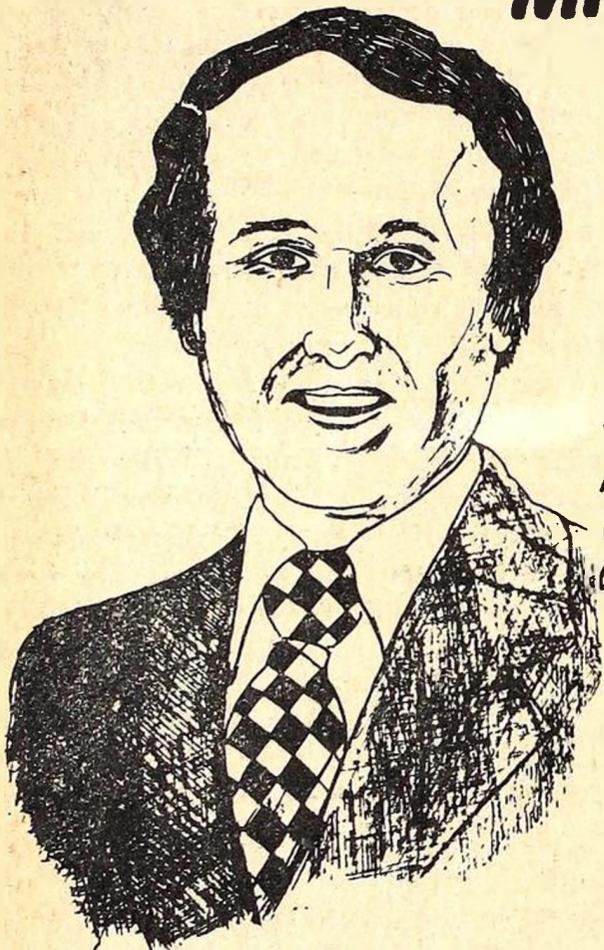
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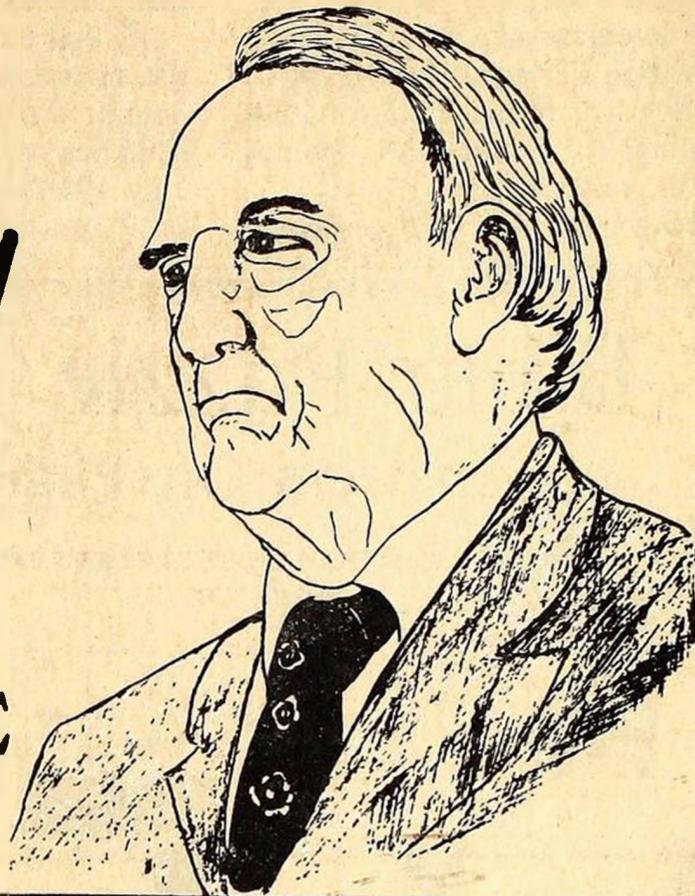
# SMOKY MOUNTAIN MID - WINTER



## BIBLE CONFERENCE

### SPEAKERS

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VANDER WARNER  
CLYDE MARTIN

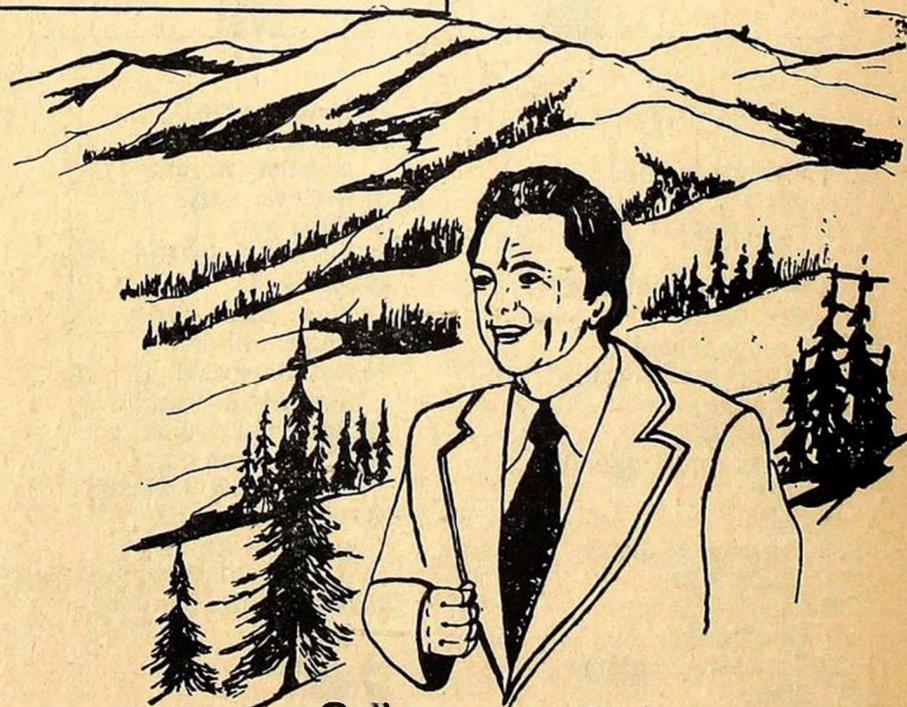


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# SBC Foundation honors Berry, says earnings top \$1-million

**NASHVILLE**—The Southern Baptist Foundation meeting here paid tribute to its retiring executive secretary-treasurer, heard a report that earnings again topped the \$1 million mark, and unanimously instructed its chief staff officer to work toward removing all limitations on the Foundation's work.

Kendall Berry, a Baptist layman, banker and former newspaper publisher from Blytheville, Ark., will officially retire Dec. 31 after more than nine years as the Foundation's chief staff executive.

He will be succeeded on Jan. 1 by Hollis E. Johnson III, previously a vice-president of First American National Bank, Nashville, who has joined the Foundation staff as executive secretary-treasurer-elect.

In his final report to the Foundation, Berry noted that fiscal 1976 has been "a good year—not good enough, but good."

Additions to all funds for the year

amounted to over \$2.5-million in a 12-month period, and earnings topped the \$1-million mark for the second consecutive year, he said.

Withdrawals of over \$2 million were the heaviest in the Foundation's 29-year history, Berry added. He attributed this to building projects in which the Foundation has helped many participating Southern Baptist agencies by managing their capital investments.

The agency's Cooperative Program-supported operating budget for fiscal '77 is \$126,586, compared with \$120,169 for fiscal '76.

In other action, the Foundation reelected its officers. Foundation President is G. Frank Cole Jr., a publishing company executive of Nashville. Serving with Cole are J. Thomas Bryan, a Nashville physician, vice president; and John O. Ellis, a Nashville banker, recording secretary. (BP)

# From the Executive Secretary

By Ralph Norton

I wish it were possible for me to walk into your home and greet you personally with a warm and sincere wish for a meaningful Christmas and a Happy New Year. I also wish it were possible for me to meet and have fellowship with every Baptist in Tennessee throughout the year. Obviously neither of these wishes can become realities.



Norton

Yet, if I expressed these wishes sincerely through the medium of this column, would you accept them as very personal messages from me to you?

I am very grateful to you for what you have meant to the cause of Christ during this past year. Some of you have served in staff positions along with pastors. Others have labored tirelessly as leaders and teachers in our various organizations; many have served in less conspicuous areas of the general church programs; and still others have proven their faithfulness and loyalty in a quiet, cooperative manner as they supported their church.

For all of these who have served along with us during the past year, I am deeply grateful. I appreciate your warm spirit of concern and cooperation. You have blessed our hearts over and over again as you express confidence in the great future of Tennessee Baptists as we work together.

My wish for you will remain the same throughout the coming year: That the spirit of Christmas will permeate your every activity during this lovely season and continue on during the weeks and months that lie ahead of us, and that our fellowship together, when we meet, will encourage and strengthen our work.

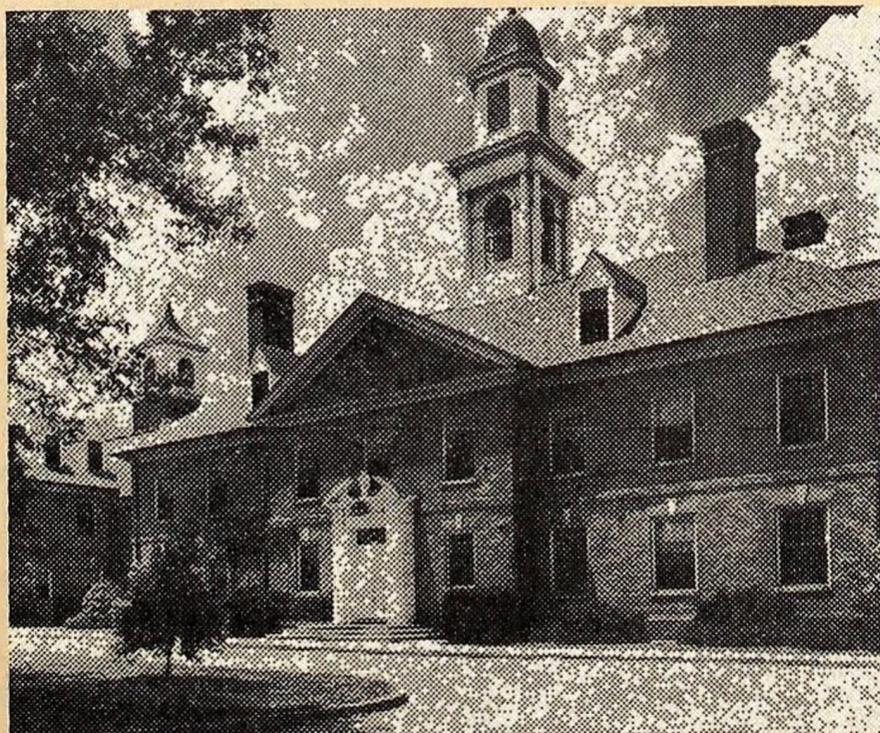
## BIBLE PUZZLE PAGE ANSWERS

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"I will sing unto the Lord, because he hath dealt bountifully with me" (Psa. 13:6).

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# The coming celebrated

By W. Clyde Tilley

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Basic Passage: Luke 2:1-20

Focal Passage: Luke 2:7-20

"Worship is celebration." When I first heard these words as a young seminary student, they almost grated upon my ears. For me, celebration meant everything from fireworks and serenade to pomp and pageantry. In the years that have followed, my understanding of what it means to celebrate has grown, and so has my understanding of worship.

The notion of celebrating includes such ideas as those of commemorating with joy and observing with honor. We celebrate great persons, great events, and the anniversary of great events. Before the week is out we will find ourselves celebrating Christmas—sometimes in ways that are honorable, sometimes in ways that are dishonorable.

Unfortunately the celebration of Christmas does not always mean the celebration of Christ's coming. The celebration of his coming is the celebration that is worship.

We celebrate his coming because he who has come is one whom we adore and whose very coming has brought meaning to our lives. The celebration that is worship is done in ways that differ greatly from land to land and among his many followers. At times it is with spontaneous and ecstatic joy; at other times with ancient tradition and steeped liturgy. It is sometimes done in quiet solitude, and at other times in noisy and crowded gatherings. Yet it is all in honor of the Christ who came, who comes, and who is coming. This is the celebration which is worship.

The Gospel records of Christ's coming are set within an atmosphere of mirthful celebrating. We may note the celebrity, the celebrants, and the celebration.

### The Celebrity

Some of the most renowned celebrities of our national history rose from humble beginnings in long cabins. The celebrity of the event we call Christmas was born in a stable and cradled in a manger. He did not merely rise from such an humble birth to celebrated status; he rather descended from eternal prominence with God his Father to live a life which began in remote obscurity. He, who was the very source of human history, divided it into two parts with his coming, and gave meaning to both halves.

A manger is an unlikely place for royalty to be received or for a celebrity to be accommodated. Bethlehem itself was an unlikely place. Why not Rome, the capital of the empire? Why not Athens, the cultural center and depository of man's loftiest achievements? Why not Jerusalem, the Holy City and home of the great temple? Yet there is something fitting about an obscure beginning for one who came to reveal the Father's love in such a life of humble service. The prophet spoke of him as "a root out of a dry ground" (Isaiah 53:2), a product of an unlikely source. What source is more unlikely for history's greatest celebrity than a virgin womb, a stable manger, and a Judean village?

### The Celebrants

Heaven and earth came together in the man Jesus. How appropriate that both realms should send delegations to celebrate his coming! Angels from the realms of glory and men of lowly birth worshiped him then just as they have been doing ever since.

The angels who rejoice over the return of one sinner (Luke 15:10) found their supreme occasion for joy in the birth of him who came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). Shepherds, the poor and hard-working people of the land, were the first to hear of his coming and to hasten to his manger in praise and worship. Luke is writing a Gospel to show that Christ's coming is good news for all men would take special delight in reporting this incident of the lowly shepherd's worship.

### The Celebration

There's nothing unusual about men watching the 10:00 o'clock newscast. But for the Bethlehem shepherds, without the benefit of television, it must have been something of a surprise! An angel of the Lord appeared before them to announce the good news of the birth of a Savior (vv. 10-11). The new-born Savior is identified as "Christ the Lord," the Messiah of whom the prophets had spoken and for whom Israel had long awaited. The birthplace was identified as Bethlehem, the nearby "city of David."

No sooner than the announcement had been completed, a singing commercial broke in with a word from the sponsor:

Glory to God in the highest  
Peace on earth, good will among men!  
(v. 14)

This angelic carol has been the source of much misunderstanding. Someone objects: "Look, it has been almost two thousand years and still there is no peace." Two comments are in order. First, it is not a promise of peace and good will; a better translation would render it: "Peace among men of good will" or "among men who please God." It is to such men that peace is both offered and given. These are the ones who know that it is simply not the case that there is no peace in our world. Secondly, there is also a potential here for peace in ever enlarging scope but it can be found only if men take Christ, the prince of peace, seriously. E. Stanley Jones is credited with saying: "Christ's way has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found hard and not tried!"

When the angels had finished their celebration in the shepherd's field, the shepherds departed in haste for Bethlehem where they became celebrants of Jesus' glorious birth. Together they adored him at the manger. Together they shared the good news from the angel. Together they glorified and praised God as they returned to their work.

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# The joy of Christ's coming

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

Basic Passage: Luke 2:1-20

Focal Passage: Luke 2:6-20

We associate the idea of joy with the birth of Christ. It was so at the beginning. In fact, it was anticipated in prophecy centuries before His birth. At the time of His birth, angels, shepherds, desert peasants and others who wanted a new and better order were filled with gladness.

We remember as a lad how the word Christmas had a connotation of joy at the very mention of it. As the day approached, the thrill of joy increased. On the occasion of exchanging gifts, joy overflowed.

Much of the joy was secular and selfish. Some of it was deeper as we shared with others, particularly the needy.

The birth of Christ has given a new meaning to childhood. An excitement of happy liberation to the enslaved, underprivileged and oppressed is viewed. Many loads have been lifted and deep inner joys have come from experiences made possible by His incarnation. Songs of grateful praise have been inspired by His birth. A new note of joy has entered.

## FACT OF HIS BIRTH—Luke 2:6-7

Here we have a very simple, factual account of the birth of a peasant child. It sounds somewhat like a legal record. Yet, how profoundly significant to history and humanity. The circumstances are so austere and unadorned.

## GLORIOUS HEAVENLY ANNOUNCEMENT—Luke 2:8-12

The proclamation from heaven by angels and their jubilant ecstasy is such a contrast

to the earthly recognition.

They tell of good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. Christ, the Lord, has been born but can be found in swaddling clothes resting in a manger.

Such a glorious message is delivered to

humble shepherds tending their flocks by night.

## THE SHEPHERDS CONFIRM THE MESSAGE—Luke 2:15-20

The shepherds went into Bethlehem and confirmed with their own eyes the fact of Jesus's being born and lying in a manger. Then they told about all they had seen and heard.

After witnessing the basic facts themselves, they spread and shared the good news. The people seemed speechless and pondered the matter in their minds and hearts.

Mary listened and stored away all these events in her memory and heart. It seemed so wonderful, yet, so strange at the time. Its wonder and uniqueness lingers still.

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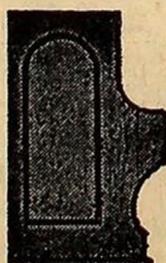
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NASHVILLE — Giving through the Southern Baptist Convention's national Co-operative Program unified budget, after a fairly strong start in the first month of the 1975-76 fiscal year, has decreased somewhat, according to reports here.

In November, undesignated Cooperative Program receipts totaled \$3,589,571 compared to \$4,221,122 during October, the first month in the fiscal year. The November figure is 5 percent ahead of November 1975.

For the first two months, Cooperative Program receipts of \$7,810,693, which are intended for budget needs of the SBC's worldwide missions program, are running 9.4 percent ahead of the same point last fiscal year, according to Billy D. Malesovas, director of financial planning and assistant to the treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee. (BP)

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**Laughs**

The little girl of the house, because of some minor misdemeanor, was punished by having to eat her dinner alone at a little table in a corner of the dining room. The rest of the family paid no attention to her presence until they heard her audibly praying over her food with the words, "I thank thee, Lord, for preparing a table before me in the presence of mine enemies."

Two young men were discussing the relative merits of their alma maters, when the Harvard man finally said, confident that it would be the last word, "Well, anyway, you can always tell a Harvard man."

"Yes," said the Yale man, shaking his head sadly, "but it doesn't do any good."

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