Baptist and Reflector

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News Journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

RAs elect new officers, claim honors in contest

Royal Ambassadors attending the state RA congress in Nashville April 8-9 elected Ricky Denton, a member of Piedmont Church, Dandridge, as their new president. Denton succeeds Jeff Reynolds in the post.

Other officers elected to serve with Denton were: secretary Corbie Stone, mission activity leader Randy Thomas, and interest activity leader Barney Danks, all from Central Church, Chattanooga.

The RAs, ranging from fourth grade through high school, also participated in speakout competition, the annual parade of flags, training in summer RA camps, instruction on camping, bus tours of the Nashville area, and projects display.

According to a spokesman in the Brother-hood dept., Tennessee Baptist Convention, over 1000 RAs were present at the congress with 87 churches represented.

Myers is speakout winner

Eddie Myers, a -member of Northport Church in Newport, took first place in speakout competition for ambassador RAs. Myers, 17, a junior in high school, spoke on "Ambassadors for Christ." He said that any person can be an ambassador for Christ, regardless of who they are. He pointed out that the stipulations for being an ambassador were following the commands of Jesus and obeying the great commission.

First place in the pioneer division of the speakout contest was won by Hugh Inman, South Pittsburgh First Church. The 12-year-old seventh grader spoke on "What Makes A Person Great?" He listed acceptance of Christ as Savior and commitment of one's life to serve God and his fellow man as necessary elements in the life of a great person. He then pointed out that greatness should be the goal of every Christian and concluded his remarks by reciting the poem, "Climb Every Mountain."

A challenge was given by Michael Laws, who won first place in the crusader division of the contest. He stressed in his speech, "Teaching All Nations," that anyone can be a missionary by telling others about God. The 12-year-old sixth grader related various experiences in the lives of early missionaries and then pointed out that opportunities for Christian witness today.

Project winners named

In the projects display, winners included: crusader individual, Brian Dunn, Mt. Olive Church, Knoxville; and Shawn Hensley,

Northport Church, Newport. Crusader chapter winners were Calvary Church, Jackson, and Bear Cove Church, Sparta. The pioneer individual winner was John Taylor, Belmont Heights Church, Nashville, with Woodbine Church, Nashville, winning the pioneer chapter division. Dennis Dearing, Central Church, Chattanooga, won in the ambassador service individual category; and the Lamar Tribble chapter, Central Church, Chattanooga, took top honors in the ambassador service chapter division.

San Diego Chargers quarterback Neal Jeffrey spoke to the group on the final day of the congress. A student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Jeffrey was drafted by the NFL team in 1975 following his graduation from Baylor University.

He told the boys that they should use the talents given to them by God and pointed out that regardless of any handicap they suffer, they can be successful if they depend on Jesus Christ. In giving personal reflections from his life, the pro quarterback related that he has a physical handicap.

Robert Norman, pastor of Belmont Heights Church in Nashville, spoke to the group on "A Challenge to Commitment." He told them that in order to live a victorious life, they should conquer any habits which were not pleasing to God. Basing his message on Romans 7:15-25, he outlined ways for them to determine the habits which destroy their testimony and methods for conquering bad habits.

Sullivan declines second SBC term

James L. Sullivan of Nashville announced last Thursday that he will not serve a second term as president of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was elected to that post at last June's convention in Norfolk, Va.

Calling the reasons "personal and the decision final," Sullivan said he will request that his name not be placed in nomination for SBC president at the Kansas City Convention. Traditionally, presidents have been elected for a second one-year term—the present constitutional limit.

"The ceaseless air travel, constant physical and emotional strains, and extended absences from home cause me to conclude that one term is sufficient and best for me and the convention," he said.

Sullivan said he wished to make this announcement now to allow "ample time for messengers to give due consideration to names of other persons they might wish to nominate for the office."

He expressed gratitude "for the opportunity which has been mine of serving the Lord and Southern Baptists in this manner" and said his "experiences as president have deepened my conviction that the Southern Baptist Convention is the greatest denomination on earth and that God has mighty things in His plans for the future."

Only two other SBC presidents have declined to serve a second one-year term—K. Owen White and F. F. Brown, former pastor of First Church, Knoxville.

Sullivan retired in 1975 after 21 years as head of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Earlier he was pastor of Belmont Heights Church, Nashville.



DEER LAKE—the first cottages of a planned 150-unit retirement community at Deer Lake Center near Nashville are under construction. The developers, Harry Rowland and Bill Gregg of Retirement Housing Services, expect to have the first units completed by June. The center is sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation.

Religious Liberty Congress plans continued vigilance

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands—The first World Congress on Religious Liberty here took steps "to monitor the world religious liberty situation and deal with specific religious liberty concerns," according to a resolution approved by the participants.

The congress by its resolution authorized a continuing committee from various religious traditions to pursue the objectives of religious liberty around the world.

After three days in late March of discussions and reports on conditions in several nations, the congress voted "to draw attention to governments to religious liberty as a fundamental human right flowing from the dignity of the human person, the violation of which is incongruous with international law and contemporary human social relations."

Specifically, the congress urged that an interreligious peace conference to be held in

Belmont to graduate 180 at April 29 ceremonies

A Tennessee college president and a former Nashville Baptist Student Union and church youth director are scheduled to deliver addresses to 180 graduating seniors at Belmont College April 29.

Arliss L. Roaden, president of Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, will give a commencement address at 8 p.m. in Massey Auditorium on the campus. Daniel Aleshire, who served Nashville's Immanuel Church as youth director and the BSU at George Peabody College, will deliver the baccalaureate message at 10 a.m., also in Massey.

Roaden was vice provost for research and dean of the graduate school at Ohio State University before his appointment to the Tennessee school in 1974. He is a graduate of Cumberland Junior College in Williamsburg, Ky., Carson-Newman College, and received the master of science and doctor of education degrees from the University of Tennessee.

Aleshire is a consultant with youth research center, Minneapolis, Minn. A 1969 graduate of Belmont, he was awarded the master of religious education degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the doctor of philosophy degree from Peabody College. He is scheduled to be a guest teacher in the religious education dept., Southern Seminary, this summer.

Moscow, June 6-10, "underline the importance of religious liberty in every nation of the world as an important factor making for peaceful, individual, social and international relations."

Three hundred and fifty participants from 30 nations in Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia and Australia made up the congress. It was sponsored by the International Religious Liberty Association, Washington, D.C.; L'Association Internationale Pour la Defensé de la Liberté Religieuse, Bern, Switzerland; and Liberty, a magazine devoted to religious freedom.

Two Baptists were prominent in the congress. James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D.C., delivered an address on "A Biblical View of Religious Liberty: A Christian Perspective." President William R. Tolbert of the Republic of Liberia in Africa sent a special message to the congress. He is pastor of a Baptist church in Liberia and is a former president of the Baptist World Alliance.

A second world congress on religious liberty is contemplated within two years to be held in a yet-to-be determined place, possibly in Latin America. (BP)

Baptists to stress church vocations

NASHVILLE—As a reminder of the significance of proper stewardship of a person's life, the Southern Baptist Convention has designated April as Life Commitment Month and April 24 as Life Commitment and Church Vocations Sunday.

The special Sunday is designed to help Christians assess their commitment and consider the options of serving through a church vocation if God leads them, according to Mrs. Alice Magill, vocational guidance specialist in the church administration department of the Southern Baptist School Board.

The theme for the month is "Discovery: Your Mission," which also is the vocational guidance emphasis for 1977.

"The reason this theme was selected is that we feel Christians often should recall the mission of God's people and regularly consider how God would have them use their unique personalities to accomplish this mission," explains Mrs. Magill.

Although church vocations are emphasized, Life Commitment Month serves as a reminder to all Christians, according to Mrs. Magill.

"Discipleship is to serve where you are, regardless of the type of work you're in," she said. "It's the Christian in the working world concept, using your Christian gifts in whatever job you have."



Groundbreaking ceremonies were held at Belle Aire Church, Murfreesboro, initiating construction on a \$250,000 building. The facility will house a 400-seat sanctuary and educational space. Vernon Williams Construction Co., Nashville, is general contractor. Joe Elliott, pastor, said that completion is expected in October, 1977.

Evangelists said primary need among missionaries in Africa

RICHMOND — General evangelists to preach, start new churches, train leaders, and advise associations are needed throughout Africa, two area secretaries of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board said on return from tours of their sectors.

The second most important missionary personnel need in Africa is medical workers, according to John E. Mills, area secretary for West Africa, and Davis L. Saunders, who carries the same responsibility for eastern and southern Africa.

Together, these two types of needs account for three-fourths of the personnel requests for career missionaries to Africa.

In view of current political and economic conditions in Africa, Saunders said, there is a "strong sense of urgency" about these needs. The openness to the gospel in most areas makes serving in Africa even more imperative, he added.

Saunders explained that the term "general evangelist" can mean almost anything, depending upon the individual's abilities. "If a man is a city boy, there are opportunities in cities as big as Houston or Dallas. If he is a country boy we've got country and anything in between."

"He will be overwhelmed, if he is sensitive, by human need," Mills said, "and by so many opportunities that he can't get around to doing what he sees that he wants to do. You can go there with your training, your love for people and your following of the Lord, and look around and see what needs to be done.

"It's different from place to place, but you use the same basic tools and principles as in the United States," Mills continued. "We still want Bible teaching, ... missionary education, ... leadership training, ... work with youth and women."

The big need is for evangelists, but the

Baptist college's law school granted \$150,000 from estate

RICHMOND—The University of Richmond has received more than \$150,000 from the estate of the late Mrs. James H. Barnett Jr., whose husband taught law at the Baptist university for 48 years.

Mrs. Barnett, who died July 22, 1976, left the funds to add to the James H. Barnett Jr. Memorial Scholarship at the law school. Professor Barnett became the first full-time member of the faculty of the school of law at the University of Richmond in 1920.

A native of Kentucky and a graduate of Georgetown (Ky.) College, he directed athletics at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., before coming to the University of Richmond, where he enrolled in the law school and graduated in 1917.

second most critical need is doctors. Saunders said his area needs six doctors, both male and female, nurses, a dentist and a lab technician.

Requests also have been made for student workers, youth workers, agriculturalists and literacy workers in both areas. West Africa needs mass media workers and also social workers to go out to help improve living conditions.

But the bulk of the need is for general evangelists—people to get the word out, the two men stressed. (BP)

Mrs. W. W. Adams dies, Lottie Moon co-worker

BIRMINGHAM—Mrs. W. W. Adams, who during her early missionary service in China was a co-worker with Southern Baptist missionary heroine Lottie Moon, died here April 9 at the age of 93.

Mrs. Adams and her husband, the late W. W. Adams, served 34 years as missionaries in Tengchow and Dairen, China, before retiring in 1943. She and Adams had fallen in love during their seminary days in Louisville, Ky. After his appointment by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, she remained for a year of additional training before sailing to join him in China in 1909.

While final preparations for the wedding were being made she stayed in the home of Lottie Moon, the senior missionary in Tengchow and the woman for whom Southern Baptists have named their annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. (BP)

BSSB professors set at seminaries

NASHVILLE—New professorships to interpret Southern Baptist educational programs and materials to seminary students will be implemented this fall by the six Southern Baptist seminaries and the denomination's Sunday School Board.

Each seminary will employ a professor to keep students and faculty informed about the facilities, programs, literature, and services of the Sunday School Board.

The professors will carry full-time teaching loads assigned by the seminaries. Regular consultation between the professors at each institution and the Sunday School Board will be maintained to keep all graduates and faculty members supplied with information pertaining to the latest educational processes and materials.

All professors will be employed by the seminaries, assigned responsibilities and supervised by the seminaries, with the Sunday School Board reimbursing them with a sum equal to the salary and fringe benefits on the same scale as other faculty members.

Grady C. Cothern, president of the Sunday School Board, said the seminaries and the board were interested in beginning the professorship program to help keep pastors and religious education and music ministers better informed about the operation of the board and its relationships to churches and Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions.

The seminary and board presidents believe that the professorships program could begin a new awareness of the operation and goals of the Sunday School Board by sharing information with future denominational leaders while they receive seminary training. (BP)

Ecuador reports 700 public decisions in 17 violence-plagued tent revivals

QUITO, Ecuador—Despite opposition in several towns, a Baptist tent ministry in Ecuador has resulted in almost 70 people making public professions of faith in Jesus Christ during the past eight months.

In Tambo, a mob attacked the tent on the revival's opening day, March 20, and told the Baptists to leave or there would be bloodshed. The meetings continued as scheduled for four days, with protection of armed guards.

But the revival was then closed because of the difficulty in holding religious services under these circumstances and because of plans for a street fiesta, which would attract thousands of rural Indians. The governor asked the tent team to leave before they came, fearing serious trouble might occur. Since August, 7 evangelistic campaigns have utilized the 40-by-80-foot canvas tent. Many of the converts are now baptized church members, and others are studying in doctrinal classes. Lay training classes are being conducted for emerging leaders in new mission stations.

The tent evangelism ministry has contributed to church growth throughout Ecuador. Congregations of Baptists and other evangelical believers continue to spring up throughout the Indian cultures of Ecuador "as the spirit of God moves across the land touching thousands of lives," missionaries report.

Nine all-Indian congregations have sprung up among Ecuadorian Baptists. A little more than two years ago, only one Indian Baptist church existed. (BP)

Youth to investigate jobs at Christian career meet

Robert D. Dale, supervisor of the career guidance section of the Church Administration dept., Baptist Sunday School Board, will present an overview of current trends on the job market and explore possibilities for future vocations during the 1977 Christian Career Conference, April 29-May 1 at Camp Carson.

Youth in senior high school (ages 15-17) and young adults (ages 18-24) are encouraged to attend, according to Johnnie Hall, director, Church Training dept., Tennessee Baptist Conventino, sponsor of the annual event.

In addition to presentations on the secular vocational field, youth will also receive information on church-related and mission vocations. George Capps, associate executive director, Education Commission, Southern Baptist Convention, will deal with the subjects of the calling to discipleship, the Biblical meaning of a calling, and discipleship for the Christian. He will also supply information on various Christian vocations.

A basic study of individual personalities, talents, abilities and interests will be guided by James McCluskey, pastor, Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville.

A special session on exploring missions

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and summer job opportunities will feature dialogue and testimonies with mission personnel.

Registration will begin at 3 p.m. (EST) on Friday. The conference will close following lunch on Sunday. Reservations should be made through the Church Training dept., TBC.

R. G. Lee transferred to Memphis hospital

MEMPHIS—Robert G. Lee, 90-year-old former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has been transferred to Methodist Hospital here by ambulance airplane from Oklahoma City, where he had been hospitalized for about a week.

Lee, in Oklahoma City to preach a revival meeting, suffered two heart attacks and had been listed in critical to grave condition.

But a Methodist Hospital spokesman here said the well-known pastor emeritus of Bellevue Church, Memphis, was in satisfactory condition as of April 13.

A daughter, Mrs. E. R. King of Shelby-ville, said her father needs rest and will not be allowed visitors or telephone calls. As for the return to Memphis, she said "he was fretting so much about getting home they were afraid he would have another heart attack." (BP)

Carson-Newman College to dedicate building

Dedication services will be held on the Carson-Newman College campus, Thursday, April 21, for the school's new Henderson Humanities Building.

The structure has been occupied since the beginning of the spring semester in January. Ground breaking services were held in March 1975.

Construction on the facility began following a fire in January 1974 which destroyed the old Henderson Hall. At the time Henderson Hall was destroyed by fire, the C-N Board of Trustees were formulating plans for an extensive renovation of the building. Damage from the fire forced the board to change their direction and plan for reconstruction.

The original administration building for the campus had occupied the same site until it was destroyed by fire in 1916.

Named for former C-N president John T. Henderson (1892-1903), the new structure houses Gentry auditorium, closed circuit television equipment and audio visual teaching aids, and the departments of speech and drama, religion, foreign language, English, and philosophy.

Architect for the \$3,168,330 structure was Cooper and Perry, Knoxville. The general contractor was Johnson and Galyon, also of Knoxville.

In addition to the insurance coverage on the building, funds have come from the college's 125th anniversary development fund, a 10-year program, presently in its third year.

Two Annuity Board decisions affect retirement programs

DALLAS—Two important decisions now in effect in the retirement program administered by the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention promise larger benefits for the denomination's ministers and church and agency lay employees.

One of the decisions raises the interest assumption rate for funding retirement benefits to 6 percent, which automatically means more money for many board participants at retirement. Annuitants on the roll now will get the increase in their April checks, according to Darold H. Morgan, president.

The other decision expands the retirement benefit section of the Southern Baptist Retirement Program, and allows members to decide what kind of retirement fund investments they want. Each now has a choice between a balanced and fixed fund, plus the variable fund.

The fixed fund will utilize "fixed income"

type investments which provide a guarantee of principal and an attractive rate of return. The rate can be expected to remain relatively stable through rising and falling money markets.

The interest rate for each following year will be communicated to participants during the final two months of each year.

The balanced fund will utilize different types of investments such as common stocks, bonds, leases, and mortgage loans. Investment ratio usually changes as economic conditions change.

Credits to participants' accounts may vary, depending on actual net earnings each year.

The section's third fund is the variable in which investments are made in common stocks. Participation here is restricted to persons already in one of the other funds.

Southern Baptists' relief gifts grow 485 percent since 1974

RICHMOND—In only seven years Southern Baptists have moved from a \$100,000-a-year world relief program to one that leveled off at more than \$1.6 million in 1976.

A major part of this growth occurred in one year (1975) as world attention focused on the great human needs resulting from the 1974 floods in Bangladesh and famine in West Africa. Giving to world relief jumped from \$299,000 to \$1,670,000—an increase of 485 percent. At the same time, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board was reaffirmed as the world relief channel for Southern Baptists.

"It takes a little time to gear up for the spending—the wise spending—of more than \$1.6 million," said W. Eugene Grubbs, the board's coordinator for hunger response and disaster relief. "But today we are spending it wisely in more than 33 nations, using missionaries as administrators of funds and considering each of the projects carefully."

During 1975, the board appropriated

Morristown adds color to televised services

Television viewsr between Knoxville and the tri-cities were able to witness worship services at Morristown First Church in color for the first time on Easter Sunday morning, and the congregation worshipping at the church experienced services in a remodeled sanctuary.

The remodeling improvements and transformation from black and white television broadcasting to color were part of a program which began last year and marked the first major changes in the auditorium since 1913. Final preparations for the Easter services were completed with the installation of a 42 rank Reuter pipe organ, according to Clay Krummel, minister of education.

Television equipment includes two broadcast cameras and a small black and white camera which enables the church to superimpose the names of speakers, titles, songs, scriptures or other text matters over the air. All broadcast equipment is operated by volunteer church members, according to William Palmer, pastor. Services are broadcast over channel 8 cable in Morristown at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. They are also carried over radio stations WAZI-FM and WCRK-AM each Sunday.

"We want to be a viable, contributing part of the spiritual life of this community," Palmer said. He added that he felt an improved television outreach would help achieve that desire.

\$1.24 million for use in relief projects. In explaining the difference in the amount given by Baptists and the amount appropriated for use that year, Grubbs pointed out that the giving called for a greater volume of planning to be done on how to spend the money wisely.

"Giving and appropriations are leveling off, almost even with one another," he said. "The board is moving ahead to use every available dollar for world relief."

Grubbs pointed out that during the second year of the increased giving by Southern Baptists (1976) the appropriations made by the board almost equaled the amount received. The last appropriations included in the 1976 figures were made at the Dec. 13 board meeting, although funds continued to come in throughout December.

As giving and appropriations increased, so did the number of nations being helped and the number of projects involved. Developmental as well as disaster response projects were intensified. Rebuilding continues now after the 1974 flood in Bangladesh and famine in West Africa which originally focused world attention on the hunger problem.

More disasters have claimed lives and property around the world, and in 1976 a total of 33 nations received aid. Some of these areas are now moving into a rebuilding process.

Relief aid was increased to areas of slowly developing or long-standing hunger problems. Projects, such as agriculture, water control and vocational rehabilitation, gave whole communities new hope for the future in various countries, such as Brazil, Bangladesh and the nations of eastern and southern Africa. (BP)

Courts Redford dies

BOLIVAR, Mo.—Courts Redford, 78, former executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board, died Monday, April 11, in Springfield, Mo.

Redford, who headed the Home Mission Board from 1953 to 1964, had been ill since suffering a heart attack in January.

Since his retirement from the board, Redford had been president emeritus of Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, which he headed from 1930 to 1943. He later served the college as interim president, 1967-68.

The directors of the Home Mission Board also had designated him as executive secretary emeritus.

Redford was chairman of the Southern Baptist Inter-Agency Council in 1958 and 1959, and also served on the Southern Baptist Convention Jubilee Advance Committee, the 30,000 Movement Committee, the Joint Committee on Canadian Work, and was SBC representative on the Joint Committee for Jubilee Advance. He wrote numerous articles and three books. (BP)

Time change announced for youth music concert

The final concert for the state youth music festival, scheduled to be held in Nashville April 22-23, has been changed from 2 p.m. to 11:45 a.m. at War Memorial Auditorium.

The time of the concert was changed because of an inadequate number of restaurants in the downtown area, according to Frank Charton, director, church music department, Tennessee Baptist Convention. Charton also stressed that space in the auditorium will be limited.

Choirs will rehearse for the Saturday concert at three locations in Nashville on Friday. The all-state band, under the direction of Douglas Smith, will rehearse at 4 p.m. on Friday at Belmont College and 8:30 a.m., Saturday, at War Memorial.



PASTORS—Vern Powers, TBC protection plans department, was the speaker at the West Tennessee Pastors Conference held recently on the campus of Union University, Jackson.

Our People and Our Churches...

Leadership . . .

Benjamen Edsel Keck was called as pastor of Leadvale Church, Nolachucky Association. He is scheduled to be ordained by Manley Church, Morristown. A graduate of Carson-Newman College, he has served as interim pastor at Leadvale for several months.

Ball Camp Church, Knoxville, called Larry Cordell as minister of music. He comes from Gethsemane Church, Danville, Ky., where he served as minister of music and youth. He is a graduate of Cumberland College where he earned the bachelor of science degree.

Fosterville Church, Fosterville, called **Dennis Bain** as pastor. He is already on the field, coming from Belmont College in Nashville.

Bucky Phillips was called as music and youth director by Shelbyville Mills Church, Shelbyville.

John Gilbert is the new pastor of West Colonial Hills Church, Sullivan Association.

Reservoir Road Church, Kingsport, called Billy Ferguson as pastor.

Kester Bunch is the new pastor at Duck Creek Church, Sneedville.

Tom Rives resigned as minister of youth and activities at Cleveland First Church to accept the call of Hurst (Tex.) First Church. While in Texas, he will be attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary parttime. Marvin R. Gibson is pastor at Cleveland.

Beals Chapel, Loudon County, called A. R. Nelms as pastor. He and his wife joined the church from Blairland Church in Loudon.

Dixie Hills Church, Lenoir City, called Thomas Vandiver as music director. He is a ministerial student at Union University.

Hickory Valley Church, Hardeman County Association, called Odis Weaver as music director. He is a student at Union University.

Pleasant View Church, Cumberland Association, called Steve Scott as minister of music.

Woodlawn First Church called Paul Hall as interim pastor. Hall is associate director of missions, Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Lester Anderson resigned as pastor of Cedar Hill Church, Campbell County Association, to accept the call of New Haven Church, New River Association. John Tillis is the new pastor of North Hills Church, Knox County Association. He attended the University of Tampa (Fla.) and Luther Rice Seminary. He comes from Jacksonville, where he was superintendent of the city rescue mission.

Bells Camp Ground Church, Midland Association, called Jack Anderson as pastor. He is already on the field.

Hubert Majors is the new pastor at Bethel Church (Route 3), Midland Association.

Rick Mitchell is the new minister of Christian recreation at Hilldale Church, Clarksville. He is a graduate of Belmont College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he earned the master of divinity degree. Since 1972 he has served churches in Maryland and Kentucky. E. Lee Griggs is pastor at Clarksville.

Roy Shepherd is the new pastor at Edgewood Church, Alpha Association.

Emmaus Church, Dyer Association, called John Poor as pastor. A native of Dyer County, he comes to Emmaus from Memphis. The church membership also voted to begin services full-time.

People . . .

Clyde C. Rogers, pastor, Lucy Church, Millington, has returned from a crusade in Alaska and participation in the Arctic Bible Conference. Members of the church made it possible for him to take part in the venture which was sponsored by the Home Mission Board and the Alaska State Baptist Convention. Rogers and his wife joined 90 other pastors, evangelists, and singers, who were in revivals in all of Alaska's Baptist churches and missions.

Concord Church, Chattanooga, ordained Bob Bookout as a deacon. Wayne High-lander delivered the charge to the candidate, and Hardy Hendon gave the charge to the church. B. Carter Elmore is pastor.

Russell Simpson, Melvin Clausel, Glen Ray Phillips, and Kerry Reed were ordained as deacons at Southside Church, Savannah. Former pastor Lamar O. Ball brought the ordination message. Lathan Bray gave the charge to the candidates, and John Lowe gave the charge to the church. J. T. Drace is pastor.

Louis B. Hamada was ordained to the gospel ministry by Jackson First Church. The ordination message was given by Thomas L. Lewis, director of missions for Madison-Chester Association. Lewis said that Hamada was the first person of an

international background to be ordained by a Southern Baptist church in Tennessee. R. Trevis Otey is pastor at Jackson.

Katie Cobb, oldest active member of Grace Church, Springfield, died recently. Elmer Mason and Edwin R. Alexander conducted the funeral service. Burial was in Robertson County Memorial Gardens.

Reelfoot Church, Beulah Association, ordained Frank Luker, James Rhamy, and John E. Coleman to the deacon ministry. Henry Callison is pastor.

Ida Finley, 86, the last surviving charter member of Oak Street Church, Chilhowee Association, died recently. She was one of 16 original members who constituted the church in 1937.

Maple Grove Church, Chilhowee Association, ordained Kendall McCain as a deacon. Bill Reed is pastor.

Minnie Ford, oldest member of Joelton First Church, celebrated her 100th birthday last month. She resides in Hendersonville. F. Murray Mathis is her pastor.

Highland Church, Alpha Association, licensed Jerry McDonal to the gospel ministry.

Trezevant Church, Carroll-Benton Association, ordained Don Barger, Billy Arnold, George Atwood, Wallace Browning, and Finis McDade as deacons. J. G. Wise is pastor.

Gallaway First Church licensed **Donald** McCulley to the gospel ministry. Tom Johnson is pastor.

Judge Ben Allen, teacher of the fellow-ship Sunday School class at Elizabethton First Church since 1932, died last month. He had joined that church in 1905 at the age of 14. William L. Swafford was his pastor.

Churches . . .

Savannah First Church has announced that it will provide a three bedroom brick home for missionaries on furlough. Members of the church have furnished the home completely and plan for its use by any Southern Baptist missionary. Jim Osborne is pastor.

Members of Johnsons Chapel, Maury Association, announced plans for the construction of a building in the near future. Ollie Ragsdale is pastor.

Lobelville First Church members celebrated the 25th anniversary of the church recently.

One with the Father

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"I and my Father are one."—John 10:30

There are those who insist that Jesus never made a claim to deity. And this is in light of His many references to Himself as the Son of God. Furthermore, they ignore such statements as "He that hath seen me

Devotional

Lift up the hands of God's anointed

By Shirley Grindstaff

"But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun" (Ex. 17:12).

In this and preceding passages the story is revealed of the Israelites and their battle with the Amalekites. Joshua was leading the children of Israel and Moses had gone to the top of the hill, standing there with his hands lifted into the lofty heavens. As long as these holy hands were lifted, Israel prevailed in the battle.

The battle continued, but Moses was human and after a period of time his hands and arms began to grow weary and began to fall. When they did, Amalek prevailed.

So, Moses' brother and sister came to his aid, lifting the arms of God's anointed until the battle was won and Israel victorious.

Our churches today are a battlefield... the forces of Satan versus the forces of God, and our pastor, God's anointed, stands like Moses with his arms lifted.

We need to realize that our pastor, too, like Moses, is only human and he, too, will grow tired and weary . . . and the outcome of the battle will depend on us and how well and how high we lift his hands.

Had not Aaron and Hur lifted Moses' hands the battle would have been lost. Moses had tried and done his best.

The victories come when we get under the load and lift the hands of God's anointed, whether they be our pastors, teachers, missionaries or whatever.

How do we lift their hands? Simply through prayer and words of encouragement. Remember the outcome of the battle will depend on you and me.

Mrs. Grindstaff is a Sunday school teacher at Biltmore Church, Elizabethton, and BYA director for Watauga Association.

hath seen the Father" (John 14:9). To me the one clearest evidence that Jesus made claim to deity is this brief verse of six words.

Let us reconstruct the scene. Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Feast of Dedication (John 10:22-23). The Jewish leaders came to Him in Solomon's Porch, a colonnaded area on the eastern side of the temple area. They insisted that He plainly tell them if He was or was not the Christ. After an exchange of ideas, Jesus said, "I and my Father are one." Literally, "I and the Father are one." "The Father" referred to God. Note that He places "I" before "the Father," since the issue involved His identity. So in words so simple and direct as to defy misunderstanding, Jesus claimed to be one with God. He and the Father were God in their own specific ways of revelation.

This statement so infuriated the Jews that they "took up stones again to stone Him." This means to stone Him to death. Note "again". This refers back to John 5:18 where they sought to kill Him because He said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. But they were even more vicious here.

"Took up" means that they went elsewhere to get stones, and brought them to Solomon's Porch where there were no stones available. This shows the depth of their rage. It was no impulsive move of the moment, but was one with a resolute purpose.

When Jesus asked them for which of His good works they were about to stone Him, they replied, "For a good work we stone Thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that Thou, being a man, makest Thyself God" (v. 33). Not "equal with God" but "makest Thyself God."

Some modern scholars may miss the point of Jesus' words "I and my Father are one." But these Jewish leaders did not!



Two auditions announced for Centurymen singers

Annual auditions for The Centurymen have been scheduled for June 21 at Ridge-crest (N.C.) Conference Center and July 5 at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center.

The Centurymen is the men's singing group created by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission to provide program music for commission programs.

"All voice categories are eligible for audition," said J. Malcolm Edwards, Centurymen manager. "But only men who are vocationally involved in church music are eligible for membership."

Additional information and application forms may be obtained by contacting Edwards at the Radio-TV Commission, 6350 West Freeway, Fort Worth, Texas 76116.

BWA General Council moves July meeting from Guatamala

WASHINGTON—The General Council of the Baptist World Alliance will hold its 1977 meetings, July 11-15, in Miami Beach, Fla., rather than at Guatemala City, Guatemala, as originally planned, because of visa problems.

Robert S. Denny, general secretary of BWA, made the announcement after the alliance's staff decided that "the securing of visas to Guatemala would be both difficult and uncertain" for General Council members from several countries.

He said that questions about the availability of visas developed in recent conversations with Guatemalan government officials. The uncertainty centered on applicants from Great Britain, Taiwan, Cuba, the countries of eastern Europe, and possibly others. (BP)

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Inaccurate petition resurfaces

An emotion-laden petition—based upon falsehoods—has resurfaced in churches throughout Tennessee. Even the part of the petition that is based on truth is nearly two years out of date.

The mimeographed, one-page statement (with a coupon at the bottom) states that famed atheist Madelyn Murray O'Hair has a petition before the Federal Communications Commission which would eliminate the broadcasting of religious programs on radio and television. The statement identifies this petition as RM2493.

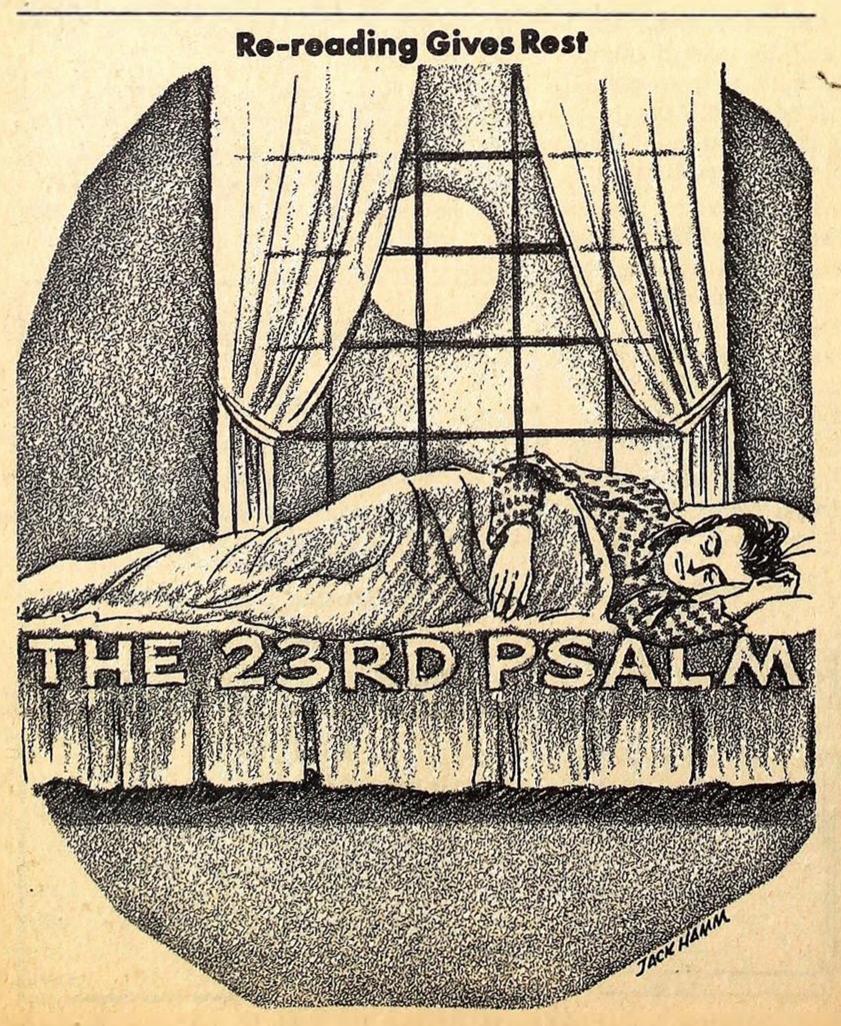
We are glad that our church members want to keep the gospel on these media. However, there is no threat whatsoever to prohibiting such programs before the FCC at this time.

Here are the facts:

In December 1974 two California men, Jeremy D. Lansman and Lorenzo W. Milam, filed petition RM2493 with the Federal Communications Commission. The petition would NOT have prohibited religious programs, but rather asked the FCC to freeze the issuing of licenses for additional educational television and FM radio stations to individuals or groups planning to air only religious or quasi-religious programs.

Mrs. O'Hair had nothing at all to do with the petition—although she doubtless would have agreed with its request.

On Aug. 1, 1975—almost 21 months ago—the FCC in a unanimous vote denied the petition, thereby killing RM2493. Mrs. O'Hair did not request, nor was she granted a hearing before the FCC concerning RM2493.



Even if RM2493 had been approved (which it was not), it would have had no effect whatsoever on present radio and television stations or on present or future religious radio and television programs.

The inaccurate statement being circulated in our churches says that "her petition also protests the decision of the astronauts to read the Bible as a Christian message to the world from their spacecraft while orbiting the moon in 1978."

RM2493 made no reference to astronauts reading the Bible in space.

You may recall that our astronauts did read the Bible and gave a Christmas message while orbiting the moon in 1968 (not 1978). Mrs. O'Hair did present a petition with 27,000 signatures to the National Aeronautical and Space Administration in 1969 in an attempt to stop similar activities by astronauts in the future. She filed two suits against NASA. Federal courts dismissed both suits, and the United States Supreme Court TWICE in 1971 refused to hear an appeal on the issue—meaning that they did not desire to overturn the lower court decision. Mrs. O'Hair has stated publicly that she does not intend to pursue this issue further.

So, PLEASE if this statement is being circulated in your church, (1) disregard it, and (2) try to influence others to disregard it. To respond to this grossly inaccurate statement is a waste of postage, time and influence.

The tragedy is that our response to a long-dead issue will indicate to government officials and to others that you and your church are not aware of what is going on—you are beating a long-since dead horse.

This will surely minimize our effectiveness when we do speak out on a real issue.

Commendable stand

The possibility of pari-mutuel gambling on horse races in Tennessee is apparently dead for this session of the General Assembly. The proposed bill failed to receive approval of the Senate's Finance Committee at a meeting on April 12.

The committee was deadlocked on the issue, and Lt. Gov. John Wilder refused to cast a vote to send the issue to the Senate floor. We commend him for his wise, decisive action.

Recalling his mother's teaching that gambling is wrong, Wilder made his decision on moral, rather than economic, grounds. Nearly all of the arguments in favor of pari-mutuel gambling has been based on projected income.

Because of Wilder's commendable stand, Sen. James White (Memphis) asked the committee to delay any further consideration of his pari-mutuel gambling bill until the General Assembly reconvenes next January.

We hope between now and January that concerned Tennesseans will communicate to their legislators their opposition to gambling in any form.

Cicero's comment



By the editor

"Cicero, since April is Life Commitment Month, I thought you would like to know that I feel God is calling me into vocational Christian service," said Fred E. Katt.

"Great!," I responded. "When did you make your public decision?"

"Well," Katt purred, "I haven't. I've got a lot of questions. I have only one life to live—not nine."

Cicero wondered about the questions.

"I will be going to college this fall, so I will need about \$10,000 to see me through. I would need some extra funds for seminary —but my faith is so strong I'm willing to wait a little while for that."

I nodded.

"In college, I would like to be an All-America football star, since this would sound good in my testimony; you know, how I gave up a \$1-million pro contract to serve the Lord."

Fred added that he had only been a substitute on the B-team of the junior varsity in high school. "The Heisman Trophy would be a nice addition, but I guess it wouldn't be necessary—unless God thinks so," Katt confided.

"Then, I would like to know whom I will marry. It would be a definite asset to my ministry if my wife was a former Miss America who is a concert pianist and operatic singer."

"Is that all you need to know now?," "Not quite," said Katt, with his back arched in impatience. "Here are a few other questions: How many children will I have and what will be their sex, athletic abilities, and IQ's? How many years will I have to serve inferior churches before I get to pastor First Church in Dallas? Where will my children go to college; how many cadillacs will I own? At what age will my first book be published? How many tours will I lead to the Holy Land? What year will I be president of the Southern Baptist Convention? How many overseas preaching tours will the Foreign Mission Board send me on?"

Fred paused to take a breath, so I managed to interrupt. "You mean you want all these answered before you commit your life to God?"

"Well, you and God certainly don't expect me to step out on faith without knowing where I'm going!"

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. Letters must contain complete address.

Worship and giving

Dear editor:

Since the regular contributions of Hershel H. Hobbs are so wonderfully good, it is difficult to understand how he could say that "giving is as much a part of worship as any other act of worship." While the statement is literally true, the inference is not true true because it is like saying purple is as much black as is green or blue.

Hobbs has said that worship is a function of the soul, and that is true. There are no acts of worship as far as physical activities are concerned.

A great many of our prominent theologians are promoting a false teaching that is just about as widely accepted as was the tradition of the elders.

In a published comment on a Sunday School lesson in October 1974, one of our best known and highly respected leaders said: "In a sense worship is the same as service, and service is the same as worship."

Another one of our prominent and best loved writers at one time said, "the meaning of the word depends on common usage, or upon the viewpoint from which it is approached." That was truly tragic.

There is not one word in the original, used in reference to the worship of God, that carries any idea of service. (Some words in reference to worship of idols and material things do.)

In the Bible, as in Christian life, worship and service are closely associated. But they are not the same. Worship is adoration. As Hobbs said, it is a function of the soul. Nothing in this life is more important to a Christian than worship. And in order to prevent the worship of God, satanic influences are continually seeking to confuse men's minds as to just what it is.

> Clifton F. Bridges P. O. Drawer K Crossville, TN 38555

Abortion resolution

Dear editor:

Entertainer Anita Bryant speaks out against homosexuals, the Christian Life Commission and others are voicing concern against sex and violence on television, the Texas Baptist Executive Board blasts a parimutuel gambling bill, and so it goes, but I do not hear voices raised (except a few) against the most heinous crime of this century—abortion.

The saddest day in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention was the passage of a resolution supporting murder. We will be judged as a nation someday for this but we will also be judged individually (Matt. 25:41-46). I'm glad my Lord was born almost 2000 years ago because today He might be suctioned out as so much

garbage.

"And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord?" (Ex. 4:11). How true are the words of Jesus, "Ye blind Guides (I believe this applies to Southern Baptist leaders) which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel" (Matt. 23:34).

God has given me six children, two of which have birth defects and I can stand before the Lord someday and say, "Lord, I did what I could to save the unborn." What will you say, fellow Baptists?

> Mrs. Mildred Woods 1811 Indian Hills Road Lebanon, TN 37087

Resolutions passed by the SBC in 1971, 1974, and 1976 would allow abortions ONLY "under such conditions as rape, incest, clear evidence of severe fetal deformity, and carefully ascertained evidence of the likelihood of damage to the emotional, mental, and physical health of the mother." This resolution was passed by church-elected messengers: 13,716 in 1971; 18,190 in 1974; and 18,637 in 1976. (editor)

Basis of belief

Dear editor:

I felt like the subject concerning women deacons had been well covered in the past issues of the Baptist and Reflector. However, the Lord would not let my pen rest concerning Janet G. Tharpe's letter (March 31). What I or anyone else thinks about what God said in His word concerning any subject does not change what God said.

Ms. Tharpe made the statement that she had read all she cares to read of our opinions that, for the most part, have nothing but Biblical proof-text and dogma to back them up. Many times we might like to change a particular passage in the Bible because it cuts like a two-edged sword (Heb. 4:12). Christians had BETTER base their beliefs on God's word. God tells us that His word is the Christian's authority. II Timothy 3:16 states that "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," Revelation 22:18-19 warns those who would try to alter or change God's word.

(Continued on page 13)

Sullivan commends Carter for stand on human rights

SOUTHERN PINES, N.C. — Southern Baptist Convention President James L. Sullivan applauds President Jimmy Carter's stand on "human rights" for people around the world.

"I think it's very appropriate emphasis that he's making," Sullivan said in an interview with the **Biblical Recorder**, news publication of North Carolina Baptists.

"I realize that he gets some static because some people think that he's too straight forward, but there's one real advantage in the approach he's taking, everybody knows where he stands and what he's for . .

Sullivan said he had not had any recent personal contact with President Carter. "I have felt really that being president of the convention would make me a little bit slow in identifying in a political situation because some people might misunderstand," he said.

But Sullivan said he has written Carter a letter since his election as U.S. President and "interestingly enough received a reply from him with a handwritten invitation at the bottom of the page to visit . . . (his) Sunday School class . . . (at First Baptist Church, Washington) the first time I was in Washington . . . "

Sullivan complimented President Carter's involvement in First Baptist Church. "We

have had Baptists in the White House before, but this is the first time we have had a man who is really a churchman, and he's committed to what the church is trying to do and (he) knows Baptist life. He knows our Baptist doctrines. He knows the Bible."

Sullivan paid a tribute that many Sunday school teachers would appreciate from a SBC president when he said, "He (Carter) knows how to teach. It is marvelous that those who have sat in his classes have been so wonderfully impressed with the skill with which he does it." (BP)

Belmont College receives scholarship from Aetna

Aetna Life and Casualty Insurance Company has granted \$2500 to Belmont College to be used for scholarship aid, Robertson Mackay, chairman of Aetna's Scholarship Committee, has announced.

The grant has been designed to help qualified students who, without some financial assistance, might find it impossible to continue their education.

Herbert C. Gabhart, Belmont's president, said "This grant is a fine expression of concern by one of America's leading companies as it shares with worthy students who are working hard to get an education. It is a further indication of a togetherness between private education and private enterprise."

Romanian pastor, two others jailed for protesting Christians' rights

WASHINGTON—Josif Ton, a Romanian Baptist pastor, was arrested Sunday night, April 3, during a church service in his country because the outspoken minister distributed a document protesting violations of human rights in Romania, according to reports received here.

The reports, received by the Baptist World Alliance here, indicate that Ton, an Oxford University-educated pastor of a

church in Ploesti, was arrested along with two other unidentified persons. The arrest is believed to have occurred in Bucharest.

A BWA spokesman said the arrest reportedly resulted not because Ton wrote the document but that he distributed it outside of Romania.

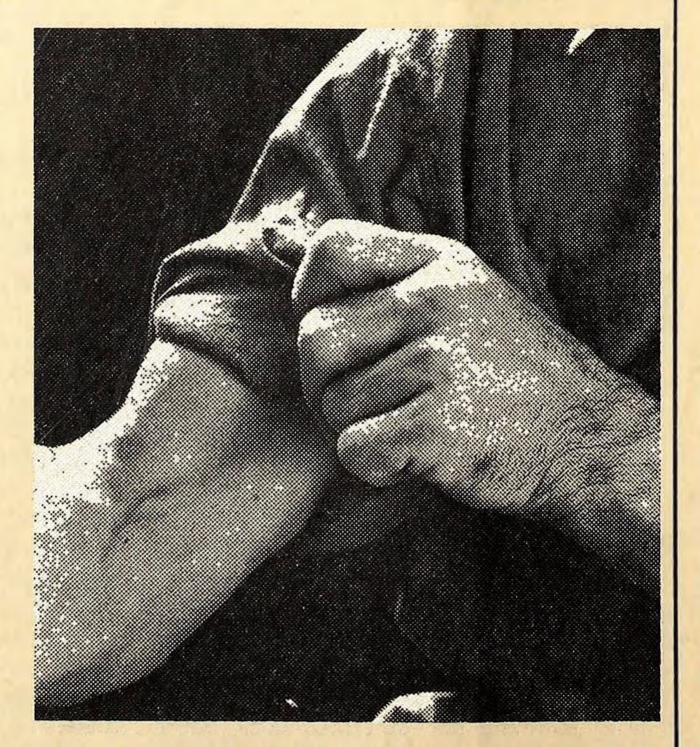
Ed Plowman, news editor of Christianity Today, who just returned to the United States from a trip through Romania following devastating earthquakes there, said Ton gave him a copy of the document, written in Romanian.

Plowman said he will soon have a complete translation but that verbal translations given him by Ton and another Romanian reveal that Ton does not blame Romania's central authorities for the violations but called for ceasing of violations on the local level.

"Ton basically urged action to prevent human rights violations in three areas," Plowman told Baptist Press: "1. Fining of a number of Christians, under Romania's houliganism law, who meet in small groups, even though they belong to recognized churches; 2. Harassment of a number of Christian youth in high schools and universities by teachers and administrators, including flunking of tests, expelling, denying of entry to universities, and barring of Christians from the youth group to which all belong; and 3. Demotion and firing of a number of Christians." (BP)

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BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR

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Pulpit To Pew

By Jim Griffith

A citizens band radio signal interrupted a solemn moment during a church service in Bath, N.Y.: The minister had just told the congregation that "God will answer your prayers," when a deep male voice crackled over the public address system: "That's a big 10-4, good buddy."

This is one sure way to wake up a congregation. After this strange occurrence, even the usual sleepers were as wide awake as children on Christmas morning.

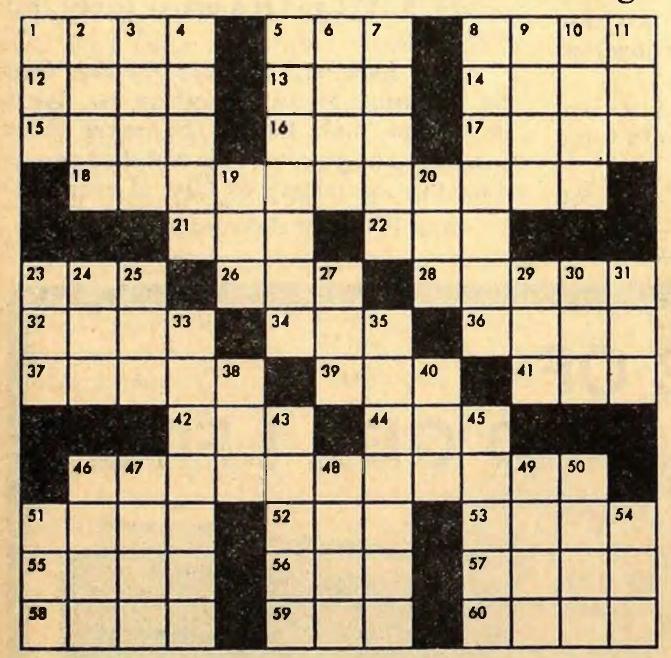
Moreover, on Monday the preacher could say to his fellow ministers: "Yesterday in my church the people were on the edge of their seats, hanging on every word."

Fact is, they were as startled as the doctor who said, "One Sunday I was in church praying for divine help and a deep, majestic voice answered, 'Take two aspirin and call Me in the morning."

But seriously, the pastor should have relayed this truth to his stunned congregation: When you pray to God, you don't have to break in—the channel is always open.

Bible Puzzle

Answers on Page 14



ACROSS

- 1 Animal pouches
- 5 Accountant's abbrs.
- 8 "cup of water"
- (Matt. 10)
- 12 Inland sea 13 Interjection of
- disgust 14 "for necessary —"
- (Tit. 3)
- 15 Monster
- 16 Prescription word
- 17 "— life everlasting" (Gal. 6)
- 18 "given thee ——" (John 4)
- 21 Work unit
- 22 Fallow
- 23 Hebrew letter
- 26 "a time to —" (Eccl. 3)
- 28 Addition to a

document

- 32 Lighted 34 Dowry
- 36 Ancestor of Jesus (Luke 3:27)
- 37 Traffic signal
- 39 City of the priests
- (1 Sam. 22:19)
- 41 Spider or cob
- 42 Son of Bani
- (Ezra 10:34)
- 44 Dry
- 46 Melchisedec (Heb. 7:2; 3 words)
- 51 Kind of eagle
- 52 Hint
- 53 Thin
- 55 "speaketh ——"
 - (John 8)
- 56 Idol destroyer
- (1 Ki. 15:13) 57 Wicked
- 58 Venison
- 59 Albanian coin.
- 60 Lawmakers: abbr.

DOWN

- 1 Saddle
- 2 Seed covering
- 3 South American city 4 "a homeborn —"
- (Jer. 2)
- 5 "we shall be -"
- (1 Cor. 15)
- 6 Ladder part
- 7 Wrapper
- 8 "heavens as a —"
- (Isa. 40) 9 Prophet (Rom. 9:25)
- 10 Shakespearian king
- 11 Died without issue:
- L. abbr.
- 19 Federal agency:
- abbr. 20 Eastern church veil
- 23 O.T. book: abbr.
- 24 He blessed Elkanah
- (1 Sam. 2:20)
- 25 Playing marble

- 27 Was victorious
- 29 Moisture
- 30 Before
- 31 "in the fifth —" (2 Sam. 20)
- 33 Roar
- 35 "not afraid ——"
- (2 Pet. 2) 38 A doe in its
- second year
- 40 Stinging insect
- 43 Not broad or
- general
- 45 "choked with -"
- (Luke 8)
- 46 Coarse cabbage
- 47 "—— not" (Gal. 1)
- 48 Dissolve 49 Hiding place
- (Josh. 10:16)
- 50 Ireland
- 51 Kind of city
- (Ezra 4:12)
- 54 Some trains

CRYPTOVERSE

PIK QHUR HP KWHPR IQP RLRU DRJF

JPM MRYJFK DFIB KWR ZIFM RXHZ

Today's Cryptoverse clue: D equals F

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 1977

HISTORICALLY

FROM THE FILES

50 YEARS AGO

According to an announcement by Oscar E. Sams, president, Carson-Newman College, Mrs. Carrie Cate Cole of Jefferson City had turned over her lovely home located on a two-acre lot, plus all the house furnishings, to the college to be used as a hospital.

Paul R. Hodge, pastor of South Pittsburg Church, declined the call of Grandview Heights Church, Nashville, to become its pastor.

YEARS AGO

First Church, Gatlinburg, dedicated its new edifice. The building and fixtures cost \$214,568. J. O. Carter was pastor.

Jerry Sanders, 22, and his brother, Robert Neal Sanders, 20, were ordained to the gospel ministry by Prescott Memorial Church, Memphis. Both were ministerial students at Union University. Jerry was serving as preacher at Hornbeak and Bob was preaching at Morris Chapel near Adamsville. They were sons of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Sanders, both Sunday School teachers at Prescott.

10 YEARS AGO

First Church, Daisy, held services in its new building which cost \$350,000. Edward C. Briggs was pastor.

Immanuel Church, Nashville, had planned immediate construction of a new sanctuary and Sunday school wing costing \$700,000. Gaye L. Mc-Glothlen had completed 18 years as pastor.

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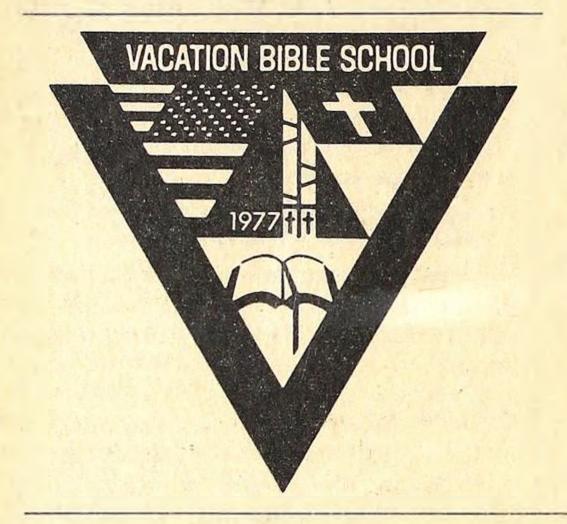
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Vietnam-two years after evacuation

RICHMOND—In March 1975, a group of Baptist Men were at a prayer retreat in South Vietnam. Communist forces were fighting 20 miles away, an early part of a sweep that would engulf the country just after Easter.

The only American at the prayer sessios was Southern Baptist missionary Joe G. Turman, who found himself surrounded by Vietnamese Christians. Aware of the



impending disaster, they pleaded "Tell us how we can best live under communism?"

"I remembered the Scripture where Jesus said, 'I will not leave you comfortless.' I told them, 'The Lord will be with you in a special way in this time of persecution. My presence is not essential. I'm not going to be with you, but the Lord will be with you."

About the same time, missionary H. Earl Bengs Jr. was leading a men's retreat on the seashore near Nhatrang, during which he posed three questions:

"What are you now doing that you could still do if missionaries were not in your churches?" was the first.

"We could worship in our homes," came one reply. "We could read the Bible. We could encourage our brothers."

Bengs inquired, "What are you now doing that you couldn't do if the missionaries were gone?"

"Maybe we could not have such a nice building," one said. "We may have to train ourselves," others said.

Then Bengs asked, "What are not equipped to do?"

"Perhaps we do not know how to worship as we ought," was one answer. "We don't know much about the Bible," some said.

The day after their men's meeting, the Bengs left their Dalat home and headed toward Saigon—never to go back to Dalat or Nhatrang.

When Southern Baptist missionaries left Vietnam and Laos, it marked the first time in more than 20 years—since leaving mainland China—that Baptist missionaries had been forced into an apparent permanent absence from a field of service.

South Vietnam's collapse came when response to the gospel seemed to be growing, the missionaries say. Several still remember special events at a Vietnam Baptist Mission meeting in 1974 and at a prayer retreat that December.

"As we look back, we can see that God was preparing us for something we didn't know about," says Bengs. The special times of sharing and prayer "re-established in our minds the sovereignty of God in every sit-

(Continued on page 13)

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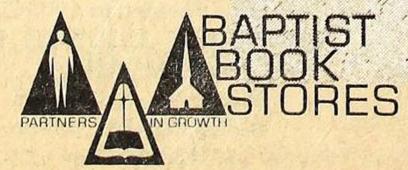
Familiar songs include: How Great Thou Art, Because He Lives, Victory in Jesus, All That Thrills My Soul, I Have Decided to Follow Jesus, In the Garden, In Times Like These, Follow On, He's Everything to Me, Do You Really Care, Sweet, Sweet Spirit, Set My Soul Afire, Pass It On, The Saviour Is Waiting, Without Him and many, many others.

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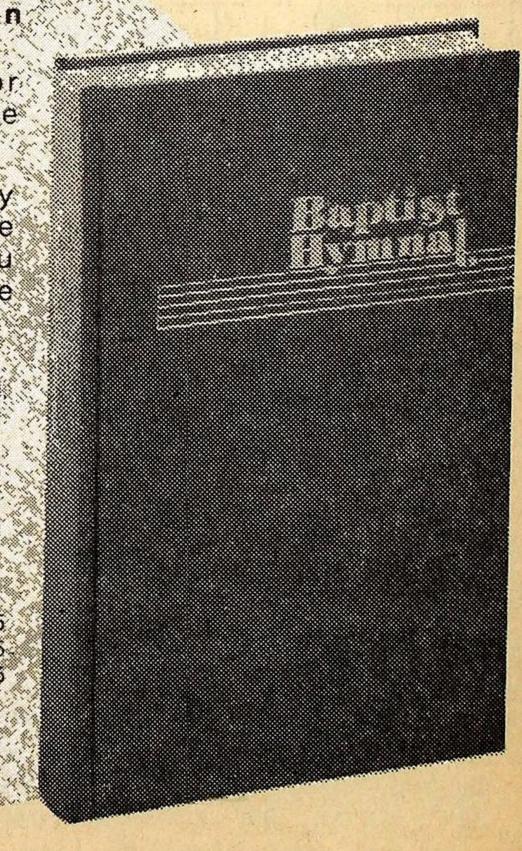
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Vietnam -

(Continued from page 12)

uation. On the strength of that," he notes, "we were able to minister in the months to come."

After the 1974 Vietnam Mission meeting came "renewal in our lives," says Turman. Then, "the Holy Spirit working through our lives, began to work through the national leadership." Between March 1974 and January 1975, Turman says, there were more professions of faith in Christ than the missionaries had seen before among the Vietnamese.

"The Lord was preparing a remnant of people to be left behind," believes missionary James L. Kellum Jr., now assigned to the Philippines. Missionary Robert R. Compher, also now in the Philippines, agrees: "The outpouring of the Holy Spirit all over South Vietnam during the last year we were there must have been preparing the Vietnamese for what would come."

During the last six months Kellum was in South Vietnam, the church he had worked with had at least 26 decisions for Christ every Sunday. He was on furlough when the country fell to the Communists.

People seemed to realize that "society and life, as it had been known during the past 25 years was breaking down; there simply was nothing to hold to. This caused an undercurrent of fear and stress that people weren't able to articulate," says William T. (Bill) Roberson, also now in the Philippines. "In desperation, they saw the message of the gospel that offered new hope and life, and they flocked to it. I think the Holy Spirit used the under-current of foundations breaking up to do what He wanted."

During the last days the missionaries were in Saigon, Vietnamese believers went to refugee camps to give our rice and copies of the Gospel of John. Believers, many of whom ate only two meals a day, shared their food with refugees, Turman recalls.

Plans to help evacuate Mission employees from Saigon fell through. "I feel the Lord left them there for the purpose of carrying on a witness," muses Mrs. Roberson: "They have to depend on the Lord."

Bengs declares, "We left a foundation that will last, of people who truly know the Lord and will lead others to Him. We left the printed word and years of training we had offered," he continues. "The last thing we said was, 'Get the literature out of the office; don't leave it here to be confiscated. Get it out among the people.'"

"The only thing we could have left of lasting value would be New Testament churches," says Turman. "They are of eternal value."

—Adapted for Baptist Press by Leland Webb, managing editor of "The Commission," from an article in that publication.

More letters

(Continued from page 9)

I can not accept one portion of God's word without accepting it all. Ms. Tharpe went on to recommend publications that are readable for laymen. I did not know that the Bible was not readable for laymen. II Timothy 2:15 tells all Christians what to study. I am not saying that we should not read books about THE BOOK, but our authority comes from THE BOOK. We better be more concerned about what Dr. Jesus says about something, rather that some professor—a fallible human.

I agree Paul was not a male chauvinist. He just preached God's word, and it cut deep into sinful hearts as it does today. You will notice that I back this position with Biblical texts; I also back up my salvation experience and my walk with Jesus with Biblical texts.

Jimmy H. Davis P. O. Box 237 Savannah, TN 38372

Incensed at editorial

Dear editor:

As a member of the Baptist faith, I am greatly concerned over the editorial appearing in the March 24th edition of the Baptist and Reflector captioned "Limiting the number of liquor stores."

I am particularly incensed as to the statement in this editorial which refers to "the threat of Metro Mayor Richard Fulton to approve 35 liquor licenses at once." This is another glaring example of erroneous reporting by those who either do not care to determine the true facts involved or lack journalistic integrity.

For your information, the mayor of Nashville does not issue or approve liquor licenses.

Under the law, anyone desiring to sell alcoholic beverages through retail package stores must obtain a license to do so from the Alcoholic Beverage Commission of the State of Tennessee. The state law governing the issuance of such license requires that an applicant submit a "certificate of good moral character" from the mayor or govering body of the municipality which simply affirms that the applicant is a person of good moral

character. This certificate, together with other documents required by the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, are considered for the approval or disapproval of a license.

In the event the mayor or governing body of the municipality cannot prove the applicant to be of poor moral character, they have no choice under the law other than to issue the certificate. But again, this is not a license to sell liquor.

Mayor Fulton took every legal step possible in attempting to uphold our Metropolitan ordinance which restricted liquor stores to the old downtown business district but was over-ruled by the State Alcoholic Beverage Commission and the State Supreme Court. Thus, stores were allowed to move into the suburbs.

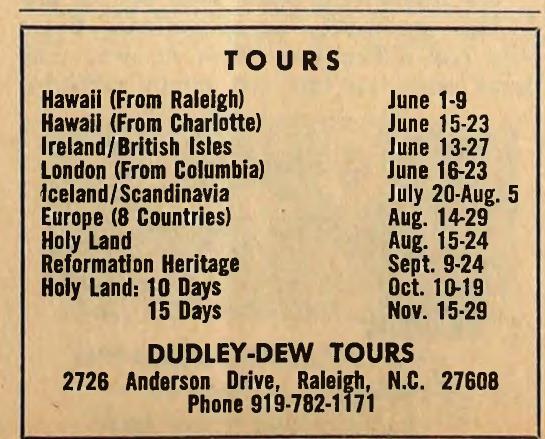
It is saddening to note that spokespersons for our denomination made little, if any, effort to support Mayor Fulton in his efforts and now are accusing him unjustly of issuing 35 licenses.

I would like to request that a retraction be published by the **Baptist and Reflector** in order that our readers may understand that Mayor Fulton has done everything possible to prevent the spread of liquor stores in our community rather than to condemn him for issuing additional licenses, which he did not do.

William Hobbs Candlewood Drive, Rt. 3 Franklin, TN 37064

First, let me state I do appreciate some of the stands taken by Mayor Fulton on this matter.

I regret that one paragraph of my editorial was interpreted by you (and perhaps others) that Metro Mayor Richard Fulton could approve liquor licenses. Only the Alcoholic Beverage Commission—as I pointed out in four other paragraphs—can issue licenses, BUT before the ABC can act, a mayor or similar official must approve the applicant's good moral character. Fulton did in fact threaten to give at once his approval (attest to the good moral character) of 35 applicants for liquor licenses in Davidson County. The problem confronted by the editorial (and HB 417) is there are no state limitations on a mayor or the ABC which keeps them from processing that many applications at one time in one county. (editor)





Jesus commissions His followers

By Don H. Olive
Coordinator of the Philosophy Department
Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tennessee 37760

Text: Luke 24:44-53

The central fact of missions for Christianity is that it is not "mission" but "commission." This means simply that the Christian speaks among a company of witnesses and in the presence of the resurrected Lord. All zealots have a mission, only the Christian has commission. And the Christian has commission because of the resurrection of Jesus. The testimony that He is alive drew the early followers out of dejection and despair to thrust them into turning the world upside down. No follower of the resurrected Lord in any age has experienced less and can do less.

Resurrection—Commission

A popular term to use for certain Christians today is "evangelicals." That's fine. It's a good term. The problem is that it is redundant. It's like saying "widow woman." It just says again what is already said in saying "Christian" or "follower of the resurrected Lord." Christians are by nature "evangelizers," "missionaries," "witnesses." Such offices are not optional, to be taken up if the follower so chooses. Because of the resurrection, the followers of Jesus see, through the Scriptures, the purposes of God in the suffering and the resurrection of Jesus. And in these purposes the followers of Jesus hear His "commission." The present reality of God in Jesus Christ, even apart from His words, commissions His followers to telling the Good News.

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Rev. Lewis D. Gourley Rt. 10, Government Farm Road Knoxville, TN 37920 Death and the grave have been robbed of their victim. Who can sit on this? No one can plug a volcano for very long. Nor can one silence those who have met the resurrected Lord. The resurrection was the rupture of the silence about God which had settled over the Jews in their preoccupation with themselves. Preoccupation with self is possible for Christians, certainly. However, again and again, every first day of the week, we are reminded that the reconciliation of God has burst upon us. And who can be silent?

Commission—Preaching in His Name

As Jesus opened the minds of his followers to the Scriptures, it was not only that they might see the testimony to His suffering and resurrection three days hence. But it was also that they might see another reality—commission. The proclamation of repentance and forgiveness of sins is not offered as a possibility. It is as much a reality as the resurrection itself. It is not something which may come about, if the followers of Jesus do their work. It is something already accomplished in the resurrection. Repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be announced, not requested. This is the finest dimension of preaching in His name.

In ancient days the herald was sent with the king's proclamation. With voice and trumpet he announced what the king had spoken. And this is the proclamation: "Jesus is raised from the dead. Repentance and forgiveness of sins has been accomplished." The commission is not to tell hearers to repent, but to acknowledge the one before whom repentance is appropriate and forgiveness is fact. It is to announce in Jesus Christ the gracious presence of God among men. We are heralds, above all else.

Commission—To All Nations

The followers of Jesus were not the first to hear the words, "to all nations." But a very real difficulty stood in the way until Jesus came. At the next family gathering



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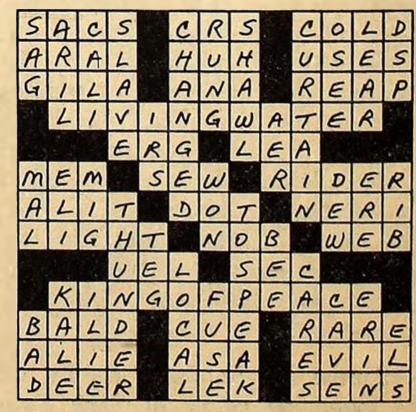
you attend note the verbal shorthand that you hear. With the same background and tradition the members of that family communicate without having to say very much at all: "Oh, you know how Aunt Suzie is!" To someone outside that family or tradition most of what is said is unintelligible, because that one does not know what Aunt Suzie did in 1921. So, we understand how difficult it was to speak to all nations about the God who parted the waters of the sea, who spoke from burning bushes and mountain tops. Without the tradition it made little sense.

So, God acted again in a tradition common to all men; He defeated that enemy common to all peoples, death. All men, Greek and barbarian, Jew and Gentile, can now hear that Good News. The dead and dying are found everywhere. The repentance and forgiveness of sins, preached in His name, can be to all nations. The resurrection itself commissions us to the most universal of proclamations. No one is deaf to God's act of grace in the resurrection of Jesus.

Commission—Witness to These Things

An advertising campaign of one automobile manufacturer once said, "Ask the man who owns one!" In other words, if you have questions about the value of this automobile, the owner of one will give you the good word. This is not the commission of the resurrected Lord. A witness to the Good News does not wait to be asked. The witness steps forward when the need is perceived. Upon espying that place where death and disease reign supreme the commissioned witness inserts the Good News of the resurrected Lord.

Of course, this active witness is with the promise of the Father and a clothing with power from on high. The witness does not deceive himself. He has not overcome death. But he does have the power of the commission of the resurrected Lord. He has seen Jesus as God's action for man. He has witnessed the victory over death. He knows the fullness of life possible in God. He acknowledges the great joy. He has received blessing, and now he blesses others. In short, he is commissioned. He will not remain silent anymore.



"Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil" (Prov. 3:7).

True to the gospel

By David C. George, Pastor Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee

Basic Passage: I Timothy 1:3-20 Focal Passages: I Timothy 1:3-7, 12-17

Christian life and Christian teaching grow out of a dynamic, creative knowledge of God. This knowledge has come to us in the form of good news, or gospel, the report of inspired persons who experienced this new knowledge of God in the words and deeds of Jesus Christ. As we experience Christ through the witness of the Bible and the witness of the Holy Spirit in our own experience, we, too, come to share this dynamic, creative knowledge of God.

As Paul wrote to Timothy about the life and work of the believer in the church, he called him to be faithful to instruct believers in the truth of the gospel. In verses 10 and 11, he defined sound doctrine as that which is "in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted." The Christian teacher is to come back again and again to check his message with the basic gospel. This does not mean developing a set of orthodox doctrinal statements with which no disagreement is permitted. But it does mean that certain fundamental facts and principles must be insisted on. The gospel affirms some things and denies others. Paul's instructions to Timothy will help us to identify these basic elements.

The Teacher's Aim (I Timothy 1:3-7)

One of Timothy's specific assignments as a minister in the church at Ephesus was to teachers there. These seems to have been early representatives of a widespread movement called Gnosticism, which might be translated as know-it-all-ism. Gnostics combined Judaism and Christianity with Greek philosophy and pagan mythology. Spirit was good and real. Matter was evil and of little importance. God was only remotely connected with the world of evil matter through a descending ladder of lesser spiritual beings ("myths and endless genealogies"). Salvation came by climbing the ladder by means of intellectual exercises in secret knowledge available only to a few. Often this took the form of exercises in the laws of Judaism. If matter is evil, it must be strictly controlled. Ironically, Gnostitcism sometimes went to the other extreme. If matter is evil, then it does not matter what you do with the physical body. Only the soul counts.

Paul's judgment about all this was that it is mere speculation. It does not produce "the divine training which is in faith." Such teaching does not do what good teaching is supposed to do, namely, help people to live

the God kind of life. Christian teaching, on the other hand, aims to produce "love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and sincere faith." This is the same criterion Jesus used to judge false prophets, "You will know them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:16).

For Paul, teaching that is true to the gospel must have much more than intellectual and doctrinal correctness. It must have practical and personal correctness. The love of a pure heart is needed to go with the thought of a pure mind. Orthodoxy (right teaching) must be accompanied by orthopraxy (right practice). The test of Christian teaching is not just speaking the truth, but speaking the truth in love (Eph. 4:15). Failure to love is an even greater heresy than failure to hold correct doctrine. Both are important because beliefs have consequences. Love grows out of what we feel, what we are convinced of, and what we believe (verse 5).

Those who lose sight of the basic meaning of the gospel, the life of God coming into the life of men, soon wander away into vain or empty discussion. Most people can argue endlessly about religion but find it hard to apply their theories to life. Paul indicates that personal ambition to be a teacher is a dangerous thing when it is combined with a lack of understanding about the real issues.

The Teacher's Testimony (I Timothy 1:12-17)

Such an approach to teaching gets very personal. The teacher must deal with the question, what right do you have to talk to me about such personal things in such an authoritative way? There may be some subjects one can teach with no question of how he lives his personal life, but the Christian gospel is not one of them. As he did again and again in his ministry (his

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testimony is repeated three times in Acts), Paul located his authority in his own experience of God in encountering Jesus Christ. It was Christ who had appointed him to the task of leadership and it was Christ who gave him the strength to perform the task.

Paul's life had not always been a life out of which he could teach others how to live. In fact, that was just the point of his gospel. The grace and faith and love which he had found in Christ had changed him from an active enemy of Christ to an example of the mercy of Christ. The gospel was not an abstract, intellectual theory for Paul, it was an undeniable fact of his own experience: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners." This was the very opposite of the Gnostics' effort to reach God in some remote realm by their own legal and intellectual exercises.

The case-study method of research and teaching is one of the great contributions of modern social studies, but it was the basic method of religious study and teaching in the first century Christian church. It is about as far from abstract speculation as you can get.

Paul also demonstrates here how worship, evangelism, and teaching all come together in a well-rounded Christian life. His discussion of true teaching leads him to a simple testimony which in turn leads him to a stirring doxology: "To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

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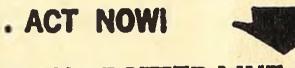
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Ohio drops church over doctrines

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Participation in annuity and state Baptist Executive Board privileges has been withdrawn from Oak Hills Church in Cincinnati because it is "out of fellowship in practice or doctrine."

The Executive Board of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio took unanimous action here on this recommendation from a study committee.

The committee had a meeting with the Oak Hills pastor and one of the church deacons but discovered through the conference there is "too much divergence of doctrine between us." Oak Hills Baptist Church engages in tongue speaking and has practiced alien immersion and foot washing as church ordinances.

The church had previously been voted out of membership in Cincinnati Baptist Association at its 1975 annual meeting, but it hoped it could remain a part of the state convention, despite it's divergent practices.

Annuity privileges apply to the denominational retirement and insurance programs maintained by the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board. State conventions contribute up to \$200 per year on the funding of the basic retirement plan for pastors. (BP)

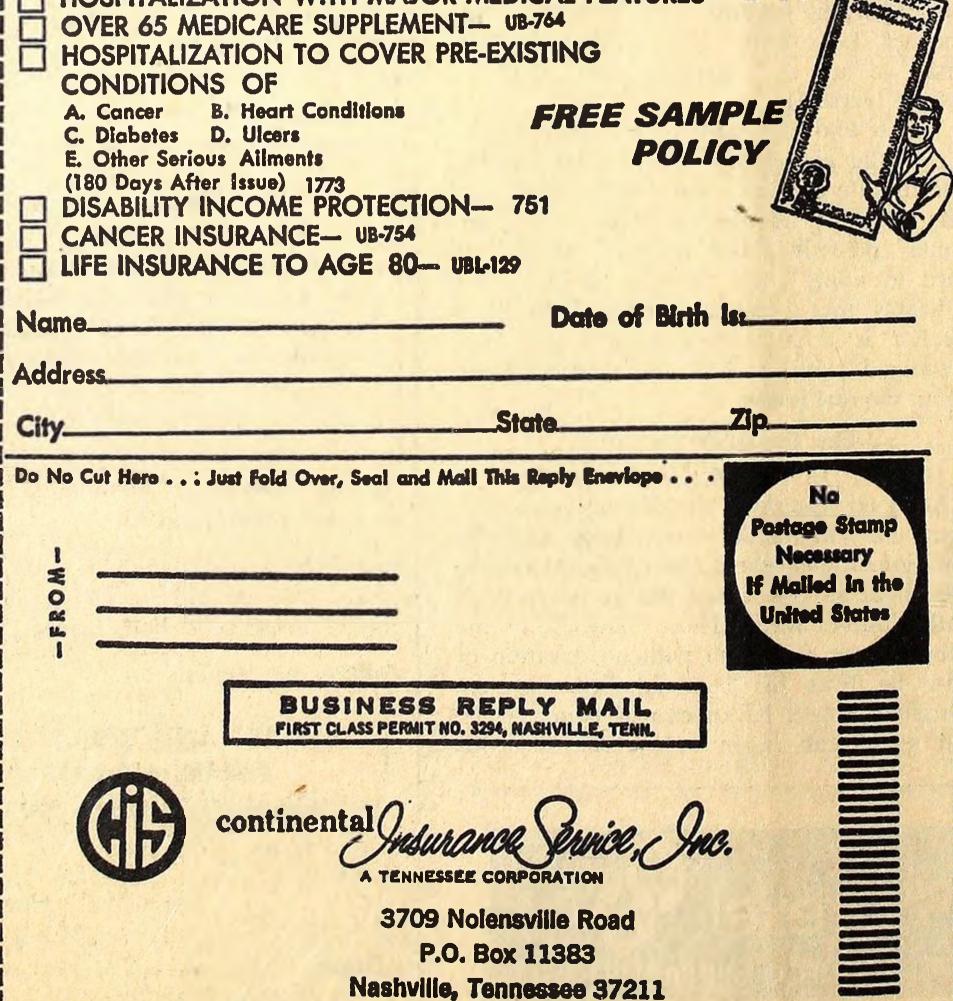
Baptist Bible Institute names new president

GRACEVILLE, Fla.—Joseph P. DuBose Jr., a Pensacola pastor, has been named president of Baptist Bible Institute, a Florida Baptist Convention school here, effective May 1.

DuBose, pastor of East Hill Baptist Church in Pensacola, will succeed retiring President James E. Southerland, the school's top administrator since December 1957.

A native of Orangeburg, S.C., DuBose has been a pastor also in Indiana and North Carolina and has served as a trustee for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, vice-chairman of the BBI trustees, and has served on other statewide and local boards.

A bachelor of arts graduate from the University of South Carolina, Columbia, with a major in business administration, DuBose was graduated also from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, with the bachelor of divinity, master of theology, and doctor of ministry degrees. (BP)





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