

# Baptist and Reflector

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News Journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

## Baptist Hospital trustees avoid lease consideration

The executive committee of the Board of Trustees of Baptist Hospital, Nashville, has declined to consider a proposal that the institution be leased to Hospital Corporation of America. The committee met Aug. 10.

Earlier last week, an article in the **Nashville Banner** had disclosed that HCA was interested in leasing the hospital, which is owned and operated by the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

According to the newspaper, Jack C. Massey, prominent Baptist layman and chairman of the HCA executive committee, had discussed with several Baptist leaders the possibility of leasing the facility for \$1.2-million per year which would go to Belmont College, Nashville. Massey has been a strong supporter of the Baptist college and has contributed large amounts of money to the college over the years. Massey Auditorium on the campus is named in his honor.

The possibility of such a lease and the possible problems involved were discussed widely by Baptist leaders prior to the Aug. 10 meeting of the hospital trustee's executive committee.

Without referring directly to the HCA

proposal, the executive committee passed a motion which stated, "There is no interest in the sale or lease of Baptist Hospital to anyone."

James H. Winters, chairman of the Board of Trustees, declined to discuss the motion which also praised the hospital's administrators, employees, and staff physicians.

Massey had stated earlier that the idea was in the tentative discussion stage and no concrete proposal had been made.

Ralph L. Norton, executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, told the **Baptist and Reflector** that the leasing of a Baptist facility would need to be carefully studied to see what complications might arise from this relationship. He also noted that, since this would be a change in the convention's financial operation and the hospital's charter, the leasing of the hospital would have to be approved by messengers to a state convention.

Hospital Corporation of America is a Nashville-based firm which leases or operates hospital facilities. Because of the large number of hospitals it manages, it is reported to be able to combine services and purchases for financial savings.

## Seven Tennesseans appointed by FMB

Seven new missionaries with Tennessee ties were among the 38 appointments made by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Aug. 10 at its meeting in Glorieta, N.M.

**Mr. and Mrs. Don R. Bradley** are currently living in Dallas, Tex., where he is minister of education and administration for Northway Church. They will serve in Panama where he will be a general evangelist.

During his early years, Bradley lived in Memphis when his father was on the staff of Union Avenue Church.

Both Bradley and his wife, the former Linda Watts of Wichita Falls, Tex., are graduates of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex. He is also a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

**Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Horner III** were assigned to Chile where he will work in general evangelism. Horner presently is pastor of Arlington Heights Church, Pascagoula, Miss.

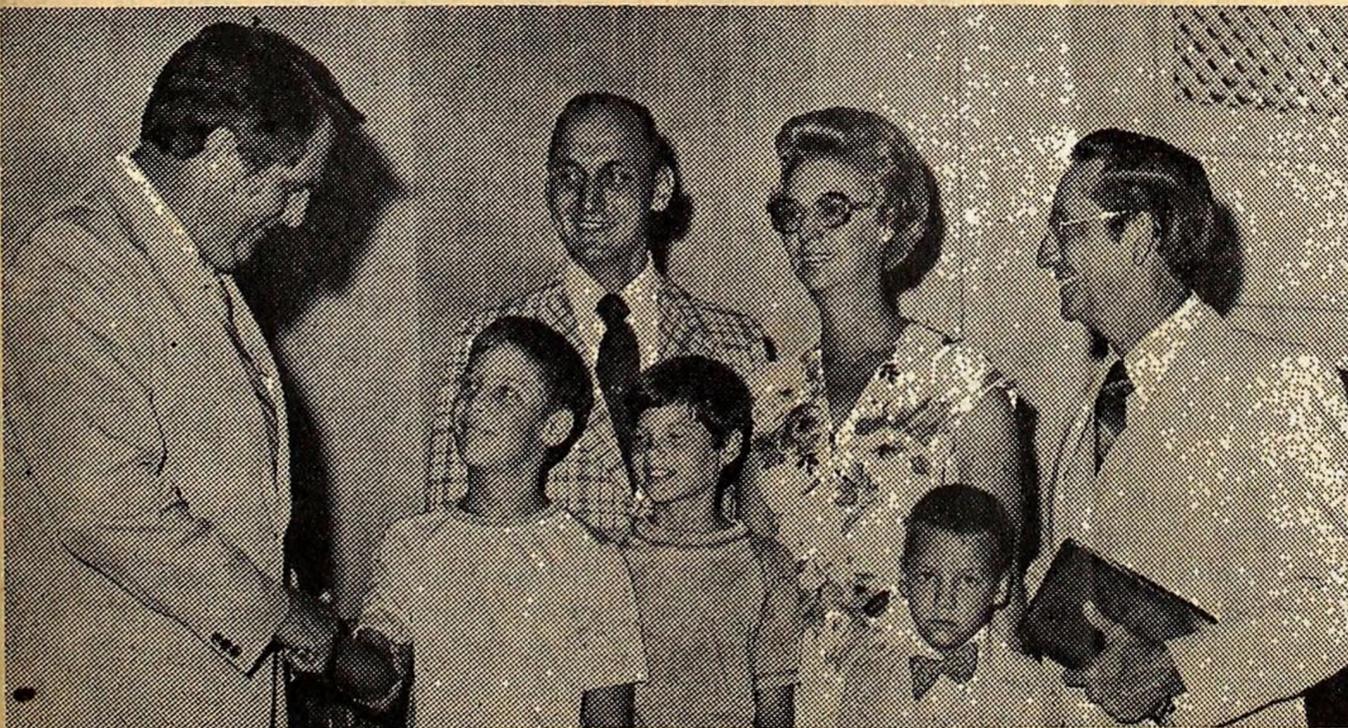
While growing up, Horner lived in Chattanooga, where he attended and was baptized by Brainerd Church.

Both Horner and his wife, the former Mary Pruitt of Alabama, are graduates of Auburn (Ala.) University, and he is also a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Rebecca P'Pool** was appointed to teach school in Japan.

A native of New Mexico, Miss P'Pool lived in Clarksville for two years when her father was stationed at the Air Force base

(Continued on page 4)



**COMMISSIONED**—Brighton Church held a commissioning service July 31 for members of their church who will be spending the next year on Okinawa in military service. The George Berthelson family, including the sons Chad, Shay, and Ky, are congratulated by Pastor Pat L. Landrum (left) as Wiley Reid (right) looks on. The Berthelsons plan to work with local churches on Okinawa while stationed there.

## Nashville youth group contacts 2,500 homes during mission tour

Work done during a mission tour of a youth group from Grace Church, Nashville, led them into 2,500 homes in the Glen Ellyn, Ill. area earlier this summer. Glen Ellyn is located 23 miles west of Chicago's State Street.

Working with the Glenfield Church in that city, the young people conducted a survey, held backyard Bible clubs, performed in concerts, and appeared on live television. The group had prepared for the tour for three months, according to Larry L. Smith, pastor of the Glenfield Church.

Accompanying the group from Grace were associate pastor Jimmy Moore and minister of music Ken Jones.

# TV viewer's reaction packets mailed to churches, pastors

**NASHVILLE**—In the midst of the increasing uproar over television programming, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has produced a special packet of materials to help parents, pastors, and others concerned about the medium's moral content.

The packet, entitled "Help for Television Viewers," is being mailed to about 30,000 Southern Baptist pastors and more than 15,000 ministers of education, church librarians, and other church, state convention and denominational leaders across the 12.9-million-member denomination.

Its introduction comes at a time when the subject of television morality is receiving renewed nationwide attention, sparked particularly by the controversy over "Soap," a new comedy series which ABC-TV plans to air this fall.

Religious leaders from several denominations, including staff members of the Christian Life Commission, have protested vigorously over "Soap" and have formed various alliances aimed at keeping the series off the air.

"Television's current offerings of sexual immorality, violence, profanity, social drinking and drunkenness, and godless materialism broadcast into our homes and into the minds of our children every day has reached the unbearable stage," claims Foy Valentine, executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission.

"This packet is not the final word, but neither is it just another list of complaints about television programming. We think it is a significant beginning in providing the kind of materials that will help Christians cope with the moral challenge television presents."

According to Valentine, the packet is the result of the commission's four hearings on "Television and Morality" conducted across the U.S. this past year, careful monitoring of the three national networks by Southern Baptist viewing teams, and months of research by the agency's staff.

The packet is also a response to a set

of recommendations approved less than three months ago by the Southern Baptist Convention in its annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo., calling on all Southern Baptists to "courageously confront television's moral challenge."

The SBC recommended that Southern Baptists make a special effort in August to study the packet's materials along with other "trustworthy resources," to evaluate carefully the moral content of television programming in September, and to communicate their concern to advertisers and local and network television officials during October.

The recommendation also urged Southern Baptists to unite in the next year with other groups "who share our deep moral concern about current television programming."

The packet, which contains a dozen different pieces of information and suggested guidelines related to television morality, includes statements on "How Television Affects Us," covering such issues as TV violence, sexuality and profanity.

It also contains separate suggestions for individuals, families, and churches on what they can do about changing and coping with television immorality, a hard-hitting bulletin insert, a list of resources for study and action, a selection of facts and quotes about television, a survey form for evaluating programs, and a list of appropriate questions to ask before, during and after a program which can be affixed to the television set for easy reference.

The packet even includes "immediate reaction" postcards addressed to the three major networks. The viewer can write his reaction to a specific program on the card and mail it promptly to the appropriate network.

It is designed primarily for Southern Baptists, but the Christian Life Commission believes it offers useful help for other concerned Christians as well. With no dated materials, it may be used by individuals or it can be utilized as a source for group discussion by churches or other concerned groups.

"Obviously, the networks cannot please everyone," states Harry N. Hollis Jr., director of family and special moral concerns for the Christian Life Commission, in one of the packet's articles. "There are too many different philosophies to do that. But the networks must hear the anguished cry, the broad-based protest by the American people (who) are fed up with the exploitation of violence and sex on television. Something has to be done about it. Something will be done about it." (BP)

## Belmont College given law enforcement grant

The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration will provide \$40,000 in grants to students enrolling in the new criminal justice program at Belmont College this fall, according to Norma Baker, chairman of Belmont's Behavioral Sciences Department.

"The use of the funds will be to upgrade the educational level of persons in the field of law enforcement," she said. Grants of \$400 each will be made to students who are accepted into the criminal justice degree program at Belmont.

Wayne Curry, associate professor of social work at Belmont, is coordinator of the criminal justice program. He will teach the course in Introduction to Criminal Justice. Other instructors in the program this fall will be Major George Currey, commander of the Youth Guidance Division of the Metro Police Department; MacVean K. Sweazey, a career U.S. Secret Service officer; and Philip L. Davidson, legal training officer with the Metro Police Department.

The criminal justice major is offered through the Department of Behavioral Sciences at Belmont College. Student who wish to major in criminal justice will complete course requirements for the bachelor of science degree.

## Charles Johnson dies

Charles Johnson, 52, pastor of the Blowing Springs Church, Clinton Association, died last month at Lake City Hospital of cancer.

He has also served as pastor of Central Church, Caryville; Stephen's Church, Coalfield; and Oak Grove Church, Lake City. He was a veteran of World War II and served in Okinawa, Japan.

Funeral services were held at Blowing Springs Church with Kenneth Seeber officiating. Burial was in Oak Grove Cemetery.

He is survived by his widow Dorothy Slover Johnson; two daughters, Linda and Kathy; and one son, Wayne, all of Lake City.

## Washington Avenue calls Lilly

Rex Lilly has accepted the call to become pastor of Washington Avenue Church, Knoxville. He served for the past five years as pastor of West End Church in that city.

Before coming to Tennessee, he served churches in Cleveland, Ohio, Grand Rapids, Mich., and Clearwater, Fla. He received the B.A. and M.A. degrees from Trinity College in Clearwater, and attended Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill., and Bob Jones University, Greenville, S.C.

Robert Hollingsworth served as interim pastor at Washington Avenue after the resignation of Thomas Haskins.

## Uruguay elects Tennessean as business administrator

**MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay** — Southern Baptist Missionary Paul E. Roaten was named the first business administrator of the Uruguay Baptist Mission during the organization's annual meeting. Roaten had served as treasurer of the mission since July 1976. He also opened new mission work some 60 miles from here.

Roaten attended Union University, Jackson, Tenn.

# Relationship with aging parents explored at Glorieta conference

**GLORIETA, N.M.**—How does one deal with and care for aging parents?

This question was explored in one of the sessions during the National Family Enrichment Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

Lack of understanding of the aging process is the main cause for poor relations between children and their aging parents, according to Horace Kerr, supervisor, senior adult section, family ministry department, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Kerr stated that now as more people than ever before are reaching the age of 65 and over, everyone needs to realistically face and attempt to understand what changes occur during the aging process. These changes may include loss of acuity of senses, lack of self perception, and reversion to former behavior patterns.

There are three major phases of concern when dealing with aging parents, according to Kerr.

First, there are those aging parents who can take care of themselves. In this phase, children should take on an adult or peer relationship with their parents and allow them to live their own lives.

Second, there are those who can take

care of themselves, but don't think they can. These parents often play psychological games with their children in an attempt to evoke feelings of debt or guilt.

Third, there are aging parents who cannot take care of themselves. In this situation, those involved should consider all alternatives and then decide on a course of action which best meets their needs.

"We've reached a new phenomenon in which we're seeing retired persons who still have a responsibility to their parents," concluded Kerr. "Now when parents reach the age where they need us, our own children are often at the age where they need us too. Too often children with aging parents are caught in a four-way pull between their parents, their children, their spouses, and themselves.

"We need to fulfill our responsibilities to our parents as best we can, but not become enslaved to them. We should look at the total picture, make our choices and then not feel guilty about them."

## LaFollette church names pastor

After serving in the pastorate at Atkin Church, Corryton, for seven years, Jack Day resigned to accept the call as pastor of Cedar Hill Church, LaFollette. He succeeds Lester Anderson in the post.

Day has served as pastor of several churches in Tennessee, primarily in Knox County.

## Alabama to consider \$9.5-million budget

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.**—The Executive Board of the Alabama Baptist State Convention has adopted a Cooperative Program budget goal of \$9,500,000 for 1978. The goal is an increase of \$200,000 over the 1977 goal.

The board also voted a challenge goal of \$1,000,000, for a total Cooperative Program and challenge goal of \$10,500,000.

A priority item in the challenge goal is \$200,000 for the first phase of "Good News Alabama," a mass evangelism effort of the Alabama convention and four black Baptist conventions projected for 1978-79. The project will be a major part of the Alabama convention's "Bold Mission Thrust."

Of the \$9,500,000 Cooperative Program budget goal, 35.5 percent is for Southern Baptist Convention causes and 64.5 percent for Alabama Baptist Convention and general denominational causes.

The budget is subject to final approval of the convention when it meets here in November.

In addition, the board elected two persons to fill positions at the board's offices in Montgomery.

Jere Allen, who has served as the board's consultant to churches in changing communities for the past two years, was named director of the special missions department.

O. Wyndell Jones, pastor of Highland Church, Florence, was named director of the church ministries division, effective Sept. 1. Jones was pastor of Trenton First Church and a member of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention before moving to Alabama. (BP)

## Kitchen fire contained at church in Brentwood

Early detection of a fire at Concord Church in Brentwood, Thursday, Aug. 4, was instrumental in preventing extensive damage to the entire facility, according to a church spokesman.

The fire, which was contained in the church's kitchen and fellowship hall, was noticed by four men who were passing the church early Thursday evening. According to Mrs. Jerry Geho, wife of the associate pastor, fire did not reach the sanctuary, which was constructed in 1845. Mrs. Geho said that the sanctuary was built with hand-made bricks, made by the members of the early church. The kitchen and fellowship hall were added in the late 1950s.

Cause of the fire has not been determined, but four burners were found on in the kitchen after the blaze was extinguished by the Nolensville Volunteer Jaycee fire dept. Smoke and water damage was suffered in the educational building, nursery, and auditorium.

An estimate of the damage had not been made at press time, but construction of new facilities was to begin immediately. The church is without a pastor.



Members of Meridian Church, Jackson, broke ground for an auditorium and educational facility which will cost approximately \$170,000. Brasfield Construction Co., Jackson, is the contractor. Pastor Jerry W. Smith estimated completion for January 1978.

# FMB hears reports on African situations

**GLORIETA, N.M.**—Although doors to Southern Baptist work in Ethiopia have been temporarily closed new prospects for missionary witness in eastern and southern Africa are opening up, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board official reports.

Davis L. Saunders, the board's area secretary for this part of Africa, said on return from a tour of his area that the two couples remaining in Uganda are planning to ask for additional personnel to assist in the work there. Saunders, along with other board staff members, was here for the annual Foreign Missions Conference.

Other opportunities are opening in Burundi, the Seychelles, South West Africa, and in Bophuthatswana, an African homeland within South Africa which is expected to gain its nominal independence in December, Saunders reported.

Conditions in Uganda are not ideal, Saunders said, and it will be necessary for personnel going there to be able to live with conditions as they exist, to be willing to minister where they can.

Both Southern Baptist couples presently in Uganda, Mr. and Mrs. James L. Rice and Mr. and Mrs. G. Webster Carroll, are stationed in Jinja where Southern Baptists have a Bible school. Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Garvin, who also have been working in Uganda while living in Kenya, have returned to the United States on furlough.

Southern Baptist missionaries remained out of Uganda for some time earlier this year as President Idi Amin asked all Americans to report to him. The president was accused of murdering a Ugandan church official but denied the charges.

Saunders, who plans to visit Uganda in October, met with the Rices and Carrolls while they were visiting in Kenya in July. The couples reported that no travel restrictions exist in Uganda and that there's no government interference with Southern Baptist work.

In Burundi, a small country adjoining Rwanda and Tanzania, Baptists have asked Southern Baptists to assist them in urban programs in Bujumbura, the capital. Danish Baptists, who already have work there, joined in the invitation.

Farther to the south, in Bophuthatswana, the leaders of the Tswana people, who have as many of their tribe in South Africa as live in the neighboring country of Botswana, are asking Southern Baptists to provide missionaries with technical skills to assist in the development of their people.

Saunders sees this as an opportunity for persons who have the needed technical skills and who are strong lay witnesses. He expects this new opportunity for Baptist witness to open up early next year if plans to grant nominal independence to this tribal area are carried out.

An invitation also has been received from the Baptists of South West Africa (also known as Namibia) to be prepared to send in more missionaries. A missionary associate or volunteer pastor and a general evangelist are needed, Saunders said. Four Southern Baptist missionaries already are assigned to South West Africa.

In addition, Saunders noted that the official transfer of the William P. Steeger family from Ethiopia to the Seychelles will mark the opening of the 88th country or territory where Southern Baptists have work.

The action came after Saunders received a letter from the minister of education in the Seychelles, where a coup recently resulted in a change of government in the former British colony off the eastern coast of Africa. Steeger has been asked to help develop craft-training centers for unemployed youth who will be trained to make items for sale to tourists, the islands' major industry.

Looking to the western side of his area, Saunders said, "We still haven't given up" on the prospects of possible future return to Angola. Southern Baptist missionaries withdrew temporarily from his country on the Atlantic side of Southern Africa following the outbreak of civil war in 1975. Angola became independent in November 1975.

Earlier this year, Angola Baptists voted to ask for return of Southern Baptist mis-

sionaries but are awaiting the appropriate time to seek a government answer to their request.

In a report to the board on the Ethiopian situation, Saunders indicated that Southern Baptist missionaries have no plans to go back into the unsettled eastern African country.

Mr. and Mrs. V. Lynn Groce will remain in Nairobi, Kenya, where Groce will continue to serve as treasurer of the Ethiopian Mission and maintain contacts with the Ethiopian administrator in Addis Ababa.

Saunders gave the following account of the other Ethiopian personnel:

Mr. and Mrs. Ron D. Bodenhamer and Mr. and Mrs. William D. Curp are transferring to the East Africa Mission; Mr. and Mrs. Steeger have been transferred to open up work in the Seychelles.

Also, three families—Mr. and Mrs. Jerry P. Bedsolt, Mr. and Mrs. Dale E. Beighle, and Mr. and Mrs. R. Clifford Staton Jr.—are still unsure of their assignments. The Stations are temporarily in Tanzania, and the Bedsols and the Beighles are looking into prospects of working in Southern Africa.

Samuel R. J. Cannata Jr., who was detained 16 days by Ethiopian officials in April pending investigation on a firearms technicality of which he was cleared, plans to go to Kenya after he and his family return from a six months leave in the States.

Missionary Journeyman Larry F. Whitten has been transferred to Blantyre, Malawi. Five other families are in the States but are not sure of their plans at this time. (BP)

## Seven Tennesseans

(Continued from page 1)

there. She is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University and currently is a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mr. and Mrs. John Tarpley were appointed to Nigeria where he will serve as a physician.

Both are natives of Tennessee.

John was born in Nashville while his father was pastor of First Church, Donelson. Later he lived in Knoxville, and was baptized by his father into the membership of Island Home Church.

Mrs. Tarpley is the former Maggie Johnson of Dickson.

Both are graduates of Vanderbilt University, Nashville. John also received the doctor of medicine degree from Vanderbilt, and she earned a master's degree in library science at George Peabody College, Nashville.

John was instructor in surgery at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., prior to his appointment by the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

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# Missions committee approves Illinois pastor as TBC language program leader

Ruben Javier Cañas, pastor, First Spanish Baptist Church, Bensenville, Ill., was named language program leader and interfaith witness coordinator for the Tennessee Baptist Convention by the State Missions Committee meeting in Brentwood last week.



Cañas

The coming of Cañas as an associate in the Missions department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention follows action of the Executive Board, in its May meeting, approving the addition of a person to that department to assume leadership in developing a program of language

missions and interfaith witness in cooperation with the Home Mission Board.

According to Leslie Baumgartner, director of the department, Cañas will work throughout the state locating ethnic groups, creating an awareness of their presence to local churches and working with churches and associations in developing ministries to those of other language cultures. He will be employed jointly by the Tennessee Baptist

Convention and the Home Mission Board.

In his position as pastor of the Illinois church, Cañas is serving as a missionary associate of the HMB. He has been in that location since 1975. The church is in the Chicago Metropolitan Baptist Association.

A native of San Benito, Tex., he earned the B.A. degree from Baylor University in Waco. He also attended Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, and Eastern New Mexico University, Portales. Prior to service in Illinois, he was employed in similar positions with the Alta Vista Mission in San Antonio, Tex. and Los Vecinos Mission in Harlingen, Tex. He also served churches in Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, and Texas, and participated in a survey work of language mission for the Kansas Baptist Association.

Baumgartner stated that Cañas would be on the field sometime this month.

## SBTS endowment fund honors former Tennessee pastor

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Family and friends of Carroll Hubbard Sr., have established a new endowment at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here to honor the former Tennessee Baptist pastor on his retirement as director of community affairs for the seminary June 30.

The "Carroll Hubbard Fund" will provide investment earnings to support various programs and projects of the seminary, to be determined annually based on the seminary's current needs. Among the programs which could be assisted are visiting professorships, special guest lectures, missions and evangelism projects, and student scholarships.

Contributions from friends and associates of Hubbard are now being accepted by the seminary treasurer to help build the endowment toward a minimum goal of \$50,000.

Hubbard served during his career as pastor of several churches, including Central Church, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

## Christian Life consultation to examine churches' response to energy crisis

NASHVILLE—As Congress worked overtime trying to get some form of the President's energy package passed before recessing, the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention put the finishing touches on preparations for a consultation on "The Energy Crisis and the Churches."

The consultation, to be held Aug. 22-23 at the Southern Baptist Convention Building here, will be attended by a representative group of Southern Baptist leaders.

W. David Sapp, director of organization at the Christian Life Commission and coordinator of the consultation, points out that many people remain unconvinced that an energy crisis actually exists. "We are holding this consultation," he explains, "because we do believe in the existence and the severity of the energy crisis, and because we believe that Southern Baptist churches should be speaking intelligently and acting decisively to meet this grave moral challenge."

"We hope that this small meeting will be the beginning of a larger Baptist effort to provide moral leadership to our society in the use of our God-given energy resources."

The consultation, Sapp adds, is part of the commission's efforts to "help Christians apply the gospel to all of life."

The two-day meeting will feature addresses by Wes Michaelson, editor of *Southern Baptist* magazine and former administrative assistant to Sen. Mark Hatfield; Carlyle Marney, director of the Interpreter's House,

Lake Junaluska, N.C.; and Frances Gulick, analyst in environment and natural resources policy for the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Cecil Ray, general secretary-treasurer of the North Carolina Baptist Convention, will address the group on what Baptist churches can do about the energy problem, and Albert McClellan, associate executive secretary and director of program planning for the SBC's Executive Committee, will speak on the meaning of the energy crisis for organized religion.

## Dedication to be held at Piney Level Church

Piney Level Church, Maryville, is scheduled to dedicate a new auditorium and educational space Sunday, Aug. 21, according to pastor George Macht. Dan Dunkel, pastor, Pleasant Grove Church, Maryville, will be the guest speaker.

The new facilities contain educational space for 240 persons, a nursery, pastor's office, and secretary's office. Space was also provided for a library, Macht stated. The auditorium, constructed with a cathedral ceiling, will seat 240. Cost of construction was approximately \$250,000.

Delmar Caylor, Walland, was the contractor; and A. E. Garcia, Maryville, served as architect.

Open house will be held on Saturday, Aug. 20.

## 3 Sunday school weeks pull 6,400 attenders

RIDGECREST, N.C.—More than 6,400 people registered here at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center during the three consecutive week-long Sunday School Leadership Conferences, held July 16-August 5.

The leadership conferences, which were planned and coordinated by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School department, were designed for Sunday School age-group workers and general officers, church staff workers and associational leaders.

Features of the conference included special services and receptions honoring North Carolina native A. V. Washburn, retiring secretary of the Sunday School department. He has served at the Sunday School Board for 44 years.

"Better Teaching . . . For More People" was the theme for the general sessions of the Sunday School Weeks. Special leadership classes and seminars were held for pastors, ministers of education and workers with the mentally retarded and the deaf.

A Small Church Sunday school conference is scheduled for August 27-September 2 at Ridgecrest. This conference is patterned after the other Sunday School conferences, but will be geared to meet the needs of workers from small churches.

# SBC agricultural missionaries discuss evangelism, food needs

**LIMURU, Kenya**—Southern Baptist agricultural missionaries of eastern and southern Africa met recently to examine their philosophies of agricultural missions and their evangelistic task.

"This could well be the most important single conference ever held by Southern Baptists on the African continent," said John R. Cheyne, Southern Baptist missionary field representative to eastern Africa. Cheyne is serving this year on special assignment as associate coordinator of hunger relief and disaster response at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

In explaining his statement Cheyne pointed to the 65-million persons suffering from malnutrition on the African continent and to the growing desire by some governments for missionaries to justify their presence in terms of social welfare.

Davis L. Saunders, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area secretary for eastern and southern Africa, considered the conference important in terms of the communication between missionaries about philosophy, methods, and purposes.

Both Cheyne and Saunders see an insufficient food supply as a major problem for the future of Africa.

"Agricultural missionaries will continue to wrestle with the problem of how best to help the people of Africa to feed themselves," Saunders said.

The 400-million people of Africa are primarily agrarian, Cheyne states, with some tough problems facing them. He cited the changing weather patterns as one cause of drought and the subsequent starvation. Changing from traditional crops to ones that are more drought resistant is slow, Cheyne said, and planning for agricultural projects on a national scale is difficult because of the village living.

Facing these problems and keeping in front the primary goal of evangelism, the agricultural missionaries brought forth several recommendations, most of them centered around needed career missionaries, broader use of volunteers, and future conferences.

"The primary emphasis was on the fact that agricultural missionaries are witnesses," said Saunders, "both by what they do and what they say."

"There is an overwhelming sentiment that evangelism is their first purpose," Cheyne agreed. "There is a growing conviction that we are all evangelists and even the man who is assigned to general evangelism is really a specialist in leadership training or

church development. Whereas, the agricultural missionary is an evangelist who is a specialist in agriculture."

Present for the meeting were 11 agriculturalists, two veterinarians, a public health administrator, and an engineer who specializes in village level technology, plus various guests and board officials.

More than one-third of all the agricultural missionaries under appointment by the board serve in eastern and southern Africa and were present at the meeting. More agricultural missionaries have been appointed by the board during the last three years than in all the previous years combined. (BP)

## HISTORICALLY

### FROM THE FILES

#### 50 YEARS AGO

Clay I. Hudson was elected as assistant to P. E. Burroughs in the Church Building Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Hannah's Gap Church, Petersburg, observed its centennial. M. J. Taylor was pastor.

#### 25 YEARS AGO

Stuart Rule, pastor of First Church, Oak Ridge, was elected president of Harrison-Chilhowee Academy. He succeeded Roy Anderson who retired after 23 years.

Velma Rhea Torbett was elected assistant educational director at Broadway Church, Knoxville.

#### 10 YEARS AGO

S. E. Kidd resigned as music director at Eudora Church, Memphis, where he had served for 10 years.

Mary Jane Nethery was elected executive secretary-treasurer of Woman's Missionary Union, TBC. She was serving as dean of women at Mary Hardin-Baylor College, Belton, Texas. She succeeded Mary Mills who resigned after 14 years.

## President Carter visits both churches in Plains

**PLAINS, Ga.**—During a visit home, President Jimmy Carter prayed for reconciliation between the split Baptist churches in Plains.

But as he left the worship service at Maranatha Baptist Church, which split from Plains Baptist Church, the President told reporters he doubts whether the two churches will reunite.

Maranatha Church split from Plains Church in the midst of a controversy over whether to fire former pastor Bruce Edwards.

The controversy began during efforts by Clennon King, a black non-denominational minister, to integrate the Plains Church. The church, in which Carter had long served as a deacon and Sunday School teacher, voted to open its membership, but the wounds of the controversy never healed.

Carter ended speculation about which church he would attend by visiting both during his visit home. The President attended Sunday School at the Plains Church and the worship service at Maranatha, which is made up of most of the former Plains members who supported his position for racial openness. (BP)

## Caribbean Baptists propose major evangelistic thrusts

**BERMUDA**—Six major Caribbean cities are the target sites for an impact of Baptist evangelistic efforts from early 1978 through 1980.

The evangelistic program was proposed during the executive committee meeting here of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship, according to Mrs. Robert L. Harris, Southern Baptist missionary press representative in Bermuda. Those cities which will be involved have not yet been named.

Also at that meeting it was announced that four major student thrusts are to be recommended to the largest student groups by 1980, Mrs. Harris noted.

In other business, the group approved the purchase of an administrative building for the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship.

## Jasper announces new pastor

Billy W. Ellison, pastor of Falling Water Church, Hamilton County Association, for six years, was called as pastor of Jasper First Church. He succeeds G. A. McGrew in the Jasper pulpit.

Prior to serving the Falling Water Church, he pastored in Nashville Association.

## SHARE BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR WITH A FRIEND

# Carter's envoy to the Vatican

By James E. Wood, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Baptist Joint Committee  
Washington, D.C.

The announcement by the White House on July 6 of President Jimmy Carter's appointment of an envoy to the Vatican is a profound disappointment.

Earlier in his campaign last fall, the President had indicated in an interview with C. L. Sulzberger of the *New York Times* that he had "no objection" to an exchange of ambassadors between the United States and the Vatican. That position provoked vigorous opposition from various responsible Baptist leaders, among others.

The White House would neither confirm nor deny the rumors of the appointment of David M. Walters, a Miami attorney, until late afternoon on July 6.

Meanwhile, the National Catholic News Service, which had been waiting for a week to release the story, disclosed in their announcement that the President's appointment of Walters had been cleared with the president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Joseph Bernardin of Cincinnati, according to Russell Shaw, secretary for public affairs of the U.S. Catholic Conference. Shaw further revealed that Walters was recommended on a personal level for the Vatican post by Terrence Cardinal Cooke of New York and Archbishop Coleman Carroll of Miami. These disclosures confirmed the ecclesiastical nature of the appointment and the concern of the President for ecclesiastical approval of the first Roman Catholic to serve as an envoy to the Vatican.

In a personal interview with Walters, the new envoy indicated to me that he saw his appointment as representing the concerns of the U.S. government for 717 million Roman Catholics throughout the world. Walters further indicated that he saw his role as primarily concerned with human rights. When asked if he saw his appointment as one of preferential concern of this administration for the human rights of Catholics throughout the world, he replied that he saw the concern as primarily for the individual members of the church rather than the ecclesiastical structure itself. When asked about U.S. envoys to other religious bodies, he expressed the view that he would have no problem with the President's appointment of envoys to the World Council of Churches, or to Buddhist or Muslim international bodies. Asked about the Vatican's support for Carter's human rights policies, Walters replied, "It's more the other way around, isn't it?"

When he goes to Rome, the new envoy would "like to see evidence of active dialogue with the Vatican on human rights, and also on ecumenism, in keeping with the Second Vatican Council."

## CHURCH-STATE ISSUE

President Carter's appointment of an envoy to the Vatican revives a church-state issue which intermittently has had a divisive effect on American religious communities for almost four decades. Furthermore, there is less justification today for the appointment than in any of the three previous administrations since 1939 which initiated such moves.

With the outbreak of World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt named Myron C. Taylor as the first U.S. envoy to the Vatican. Relations between the U.S. and Italy were strained and war between the two nations was eminent.

President Harry Truman's proposal to name an ambassador to the Vatican, which was vigorously opposed by non-Catholics and leading members of Congress, including the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee, came during the "cold war" with the U.S.S.R. and its satellites.

The appointment of Henry Cabot Lodge by President Richard Nixon was made during the Vietnam War in which the Roman Catholic Church was deeply involved because of its important role in Vietnam.

In the absence of any international crisis such as was encountered by previous administrations in initiating formal diplomatic relations with the Vatican, the action of President Carter appears all the more surprising and lacking even the rationale of political expediency on behalf of American national interest.

No justification has apparently been offered by the White House for the appointment. Presently, the State Department maintains a Vatican desk in Rome, separate from the U.S. Embassy, staffed by one foreign service officer and secretary. The creation of this desk resulted from pressure from the Vatican that a country not accredited to the Vatican make its representation from an office physically separate from its Rome Embassy. This, of course, is in line with the official position of the Vatican which strongly favors full diplomatic relations

with sovereign states. Vatican sources have therefore recently indicated that the Vatican would welcome full diplomatic relations with the United States.

Recently, the U.S. Senate voted repeal of a century-old statute prohibiting public funds for a United States ambassador to the Vatican. The repeal of the 1867 statute was not in the House version of the 1978 appropriations bill (H.R. 6689). The inclusion of the repeal provision was deleted a few days ago by the conference committee from the Senate and House of Representatives, which, at least for the present, prohibits the President from upgrading his "personal representative" to the Vatican to full ambassadorial rank. The defeat of the proposal came after numerous communications were received in protest to the action of the Senate.

## REASONS FOR OPPOSITION

From its beginning in 1939, the Baptist Joint Committee has expressed its opposition to U.S. diplomatic relations with the Vatican. Repeatedly, the committee has unanimously voiced its "unalterable opposition" to such a move for a variety of reasons, which are no less valid today than in previous decades.

(1) The appointment of a presidential envoy raises serious constitutional questions which involve diplomatic recognition and entanglement of the executive branch of the federal government with a particular church. The recent practice of a few American presidents, which avoids any accountability to the Congress or to the people of the United States, needs to be terminated.

(2) Such action officially underscores the special concern of this government, to the point of giving preferential treatment to one religious body not accorded any other religious group anywhere in the world. Even

(Continued on page 10)

## FIBER GLASS BAPTISTRIES

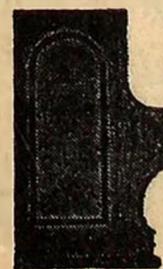
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## No lease for Baptist Hospital

The highly-publicized "proposal" that Hospital Corporation of America might lease and operate Baptist Hospital of Nashville was blown into a major news item in middle Tennessee—far out of proportion to facts of the matter.

Jack Massey, a prominent Baptist layman who has served on the hospital's Board of Trustees, is chairman of the executive committee of HCA. His interest in Baptists, in Baptist Hospital, and in Belmont College prompted him to discuss with several Baptist leaders the possibility of HCA leasing the hospital. The discussion was informal; the ideas offered were tentative; and no concrete proposal was apparently made.

Obviously, such a change in the operation of Baptist Hospital would require in-depth examination and could not be made without approval of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in session. Even with favorable interest, the process would take many months or even years to finalize.

It is unfortunate that local media pressed for quote and counter-quotes to give the appearance there were controversies and misunderstandings between those who were involved. All of those who discussed the possibility of lease—including Massey—want what is best for Baptist Hospital.

We would doubt at this time that more than a handful of Tennessee Baptists would give serious consideration to leasing any of our institutions to private companies. These are ours. We have supported them and take justifiable pride in their accomplishments.

The Baptist Hospital, as well as all our state Baptist institutions, bear the name "Baptist" well. It is good to note that our three hospitals are managed so capably that none of them requires operating funds from the state convention budget. In fact, they are all growing institutions, using whatever financial resources that come from their efficient operations to expand their facilities and services.

At this time, it does not seem wise to consider seriously any other type of financial arrangements.

However, one note of caution for the future should be made. Various regulations and requirements from governmental agencies continue to increase. These will bring increased problems in our convention's operation of our hospitals.

A recent example came in 1971 when the Baptist General Convention of Texas determined it was best to dissolve its long-standing relationship with Memorial Baptist Hospital in Houston.

Perhaps, at some point in the future of Tennessee Baptists, we will face a similar decision. Yet, at this time such a drastic change does not seem to be warranted.

## Influence on TV

"Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it," wrote Charles Dudley Warner in an 1897 *Hartford Courant* editorial. If he were writing that oft-quoted phrase today, he might add "and television."

For years citizens have talked about the mediocrity and declining morals of the medium which appeals to the lowest common denominator of public interest. In recent years, some inside and outside the video industry have made attempts—with little public support—to reduce the portrayal of illicit sex and extreme violence.

The straw that apparently has broken the camel's back of public apathy is the proposed ABC-TV series "Soap." Finally, citizens have decided to draw a line.

Are Baptists and other concerned citizens ready to use their influence on TV programming?

We believe the answer is "Yes."

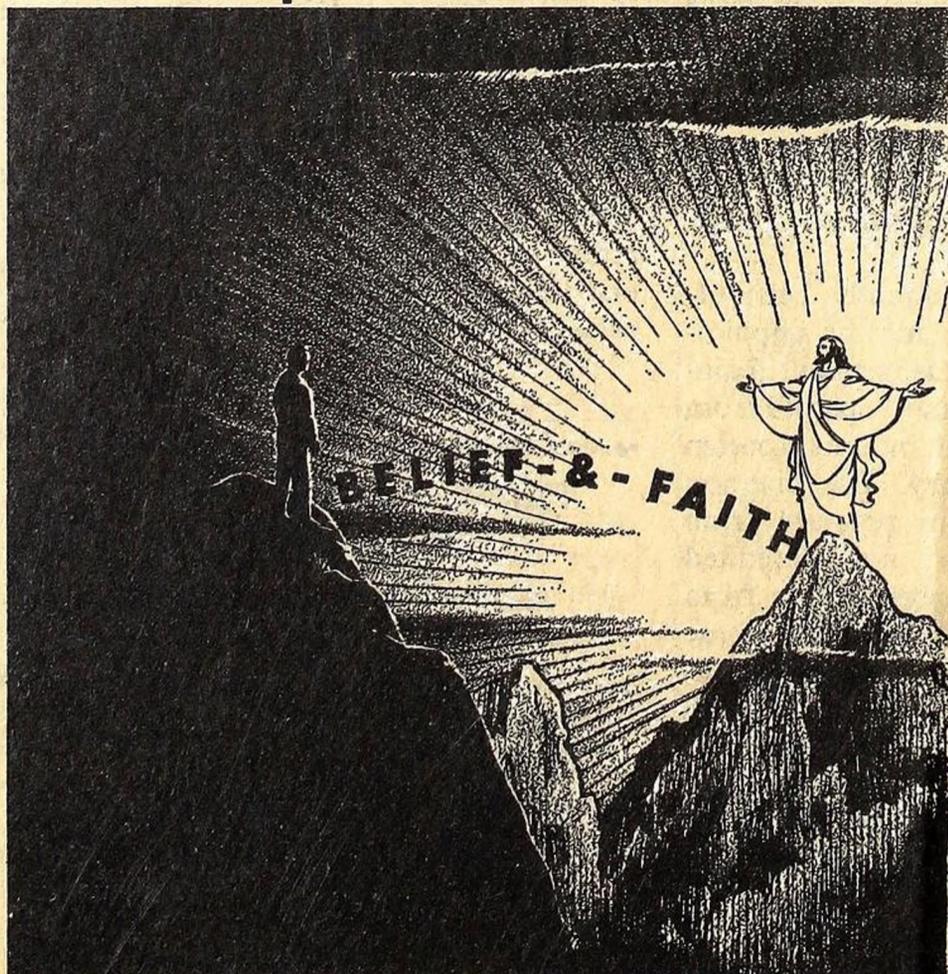
The next question would be, "How can we express our opinions properly and exert influences which will bring changes?"

The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention is in the process of mailing a packet of excellent materials on this subject to every SBC-related church. The packet contains guidelines on responding to objectional programming.

Hopefully, our churches will order or reproduce the materials and share these with their members. Baptists will be asked to keep a log of their TV viewing and to note the offensive parts of programs. The results would be sent to stations, to networks, and to sponsors.

It will be a big, time-consuming task—but a necessary task, if the trends in television programs are to be reversed.

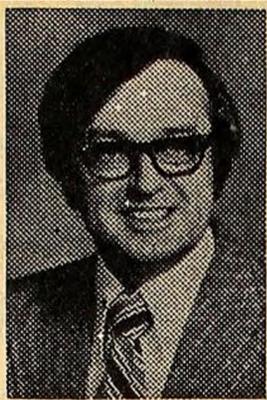
### Overpass From Darkness



ALL THAT CAME TO BE WAS ALIVE WITH HIS LIFE, AND THAT LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN. THE LIGHT SHINES ON IN THE DARK, AND THE DARKNESS HAS NEVER QUENCHED IT."

JACK HAMM — JOHN 1: 4, 5 (N.E.B.)

## Cicero's comment



### By the editor

Cicero telephoned to respond to a request for advertising rates from **Mort T. Shunn**, funeral director of **Fantastic Funerals, Inc.**

"Your proposed ad says Creative Services," I noted. "What do you mean by that?"

Mort explained that funerals had become so routine, that his company was seeking new and exciting ways to enliven them. "You might say the whole process is sort of 'dead'."

Cicero was still puzzled.

"It is our purpose to offer any kind of burial desired by the deceased or his descendants. Our motto is, 'No Rite is Wrong'."

Shunn cited some examples.

His company had used a rocket and shot the casket of **Mal N. E. Ell** into orbit around the earth. "Mal wanted to be the first one there at the meeting in the air during the Rapture."

Then there was **Aunt Sue Shure**, local atheist. "We complied with her request to be buried in an unmarked grave in an unlisted cemetery—just in case, if she were wrong, maybe God couldn't find her."

Mort also told me about **N. C. Cure** who wanted to be buried in 12 yards of concrete rather than shot into orbit. "He was so worried about falling from grace, that he didn't want to have to worry about falling from space."

Cicero responded, "Yes, Mort, those are unusual."

"And I'm still working on other ideas," Mort T. Shunn said gravely. "I have three new items ready for the market."

"One is a **Flip-Top Casket**, designed so the occupant can get out easily on Resurrection Morning.

"Another is for those who believe that baptism is necessary for salvation. We will offer a memorial gravestone with an imbedded frame to hold a baptismal certificate.

"But my best one is my new invention which has a microphone in the gravestone connected to a speaker in the coffin. The occupant will not only be able to hear what the mourners say," Mort mused, "but will also be sure to hear the trumpet on Judgment Day!"

## 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.

### The best in young people

Dear editor:

Just a note to say something about the best in our young people—especially young Acteens.

We are hearing so much about how much is wrong with youth, and very little news about the good our youth are doing to the glory of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

This is to remind everyone that we as a nation have the best youth in this world.

While not able to do much for myself, our Acteens in Spring Creek Church came to our rescue by putting our yard in great shape to look good in the community. How grateful and thankful I am for a fine job well done. These consecrated ladies may never be recognized as celebrities, but they are celebrities in Jesus Christ's name to minister to their fellowman in time of need.

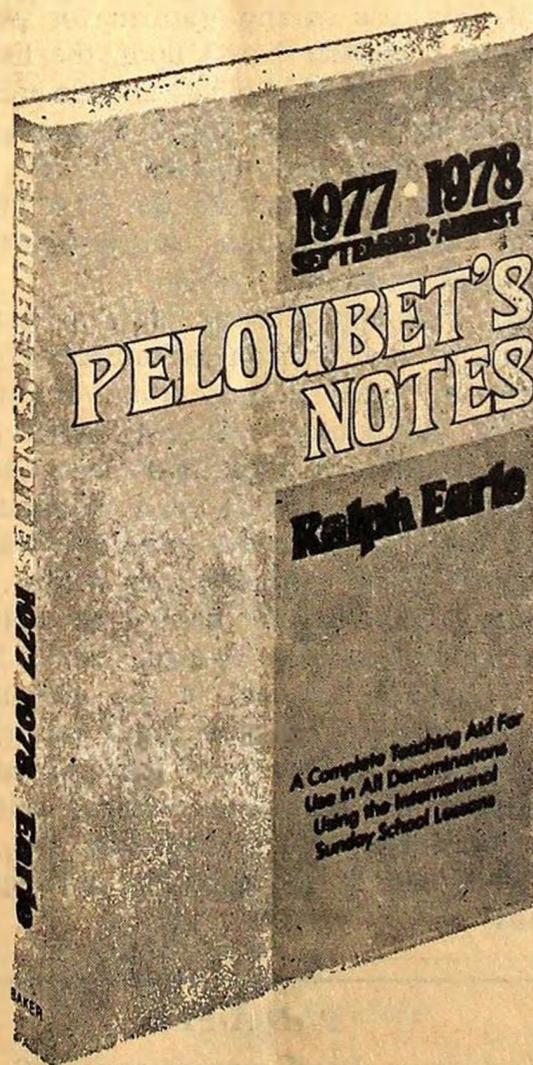
We should be first to give credit to ones

who make life easier as we travel life's path. We should be first to thank them at every opportunity and not be critical and find too many faults when they don't come out in front.

It really grieves me to hear our youth put down, when we Christians should pray for them and the homes they come from. When we get serious about these dear ones, we will pray as they face life as we watch it around us and never fail to pay compliments and take sides for them at every opportunity. I'll be the last to condemn our youth, as its hard at best with Satanic forces our to destory and ruin them.

May God bless our youth as they continue to live and to let Jesus shine through them as they allow His Holy Spirit to lead and guide their lives and to let His grace sustain and keep them for eternity.

E. E. Robinson  
1316 Sunnfield Lane  
Chattanooga, TN 37412



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Ralph Earle, author of *Peloubet's Notes*, is professor of New Testament, Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City.

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# PELOUBET'S NOTES 1977-78

# Mistaken zeal

By Herschel H. Hobbs

*"Then those men, when they had seen the miracle [sign] that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world."—John 6:14*

Jesus had just fed the five thousand. In response the people sought to make Him a king (John 6:15). In Deuteronomy 18:15 Moses had said, "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him shall ye hearken." This was regarded as a messianic prophecy.

Jesus fitted this Scripture. From His teaching He was regarded as a Prophet. As a Jew he was "from the midst of thee." Coming from Nazareth in Galilee He was "of thy brethren"—a fellow-Galilean. In His miraculous feeding they saw one like Moses who fed the Israelites manna and quail in the wilderness. So they concluded that Jesus was the Messiah.

The trouble was that they expected a political-military Messiah. To them He was the ideal one to lead in rebellion against Rome. They would need no commissary—He could feed an army out of small rations. No medical corps—He could heal the wounded. No recruitment program. If they were killed, He could raise them from the dead (Luke 8:49-56). To Jesus it was the wilderness temptation all over again—to be the kind of Messiah the people demanded rather than the kind God willed. But again He resisted the temptation.

He first sent the disciples away (Mark 6:45). (Were they the instigators of this abortive attempt?) Then He dismissed the crowd (Mark 6:45), and went into the mountain to pray (Mark 6:46). We may

well imagine that as He prayed for strength to remain true to His Father's will, He also prayed for the people that they might understand the true nature of His mission.

Zeal for the Lord is a wonderful thing. But as zeal is the drive in service, understanding is the guide whereby this service may be meaningful and effective. A bull in a china shop has zeal, but it does not have understanding. We must serve the Lord with our minds as well as with our hearts.

## Carter's envoy

(Continued from page 7)

if the issue of preferential treatment were not involved, however, we would still be opposed to the appointment of presidential envoys to religious bodies.

(3) While technically Vatican City, with its 100 acres and a population of 1,000, is a sovereign state, an envoy to the Vatican is an envoy to the Catholic Church and papal nuncios are envoys of the Roman See.

(4) The use of the Vatican for political purposes, whether based upon the listening post theory for obtaining valuable information or as a channel for U.S. government relations, must be opposed for the same reason we have opposed the CIA involvement with Christian missionaries and churches overseas.

(5) The appointment of a presidential envoy to the Vatican is unnecessary and serves no other purpose than to establish official diplomatic relations between the U.S. government and the Roman Catholic Church. The Vatican can communicate with the U.S. government in the way any religious group communicates with it. Since Rome is at once the capital of Italy and the location of the Vatican, the U.S. has no obligation to yield to the demands of the Vatican for full diplomatic recognition.

Whatever the merits of the appointment, including any marginal political gains for the President among Catholics, the losses to both church and state far outweigh the gains.

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Need your hard pews padded? Send number of Pews and Length. By return mail you receive free estimate, fabric samples and references. (Not a loose cushion.) **By-Line Mfg., Box 645, Jackson, Ohio 45640.**

## When I can't, He can

By Mary Margaret White

"How can I go on like this?" "How can I face tomorrow?" "I can't live with this any longer!"

How often we come to such times in our lives when we feel we can no longer cope with life, when we have come to the end of our ability. And we finally say, "I can't!" Perhaps this is what the Lord has been waiting to hear, for it is then that we are ready to hear Him say, "No, you can't, but I can!" Then we come to know as Paul did that "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." (Phil. 4:13)

Paul told us that the troubles in our lives are those that are common to men, but we who have Christ will not suffer beyond that which we can bear, for God will with that trouble make a way of escape, not out of trouble, but will give us the strength to be able to bear it. (I Cor. 10:13) Christ is our way of escape. For He will take it for us, even as He said to cast all of our cares upon Him. (I Pet. 5:7). We do not have to "grin and bear it" for we can take it all to the Lord and come away smiling with inner joy.

Sometimes we have to learn with Paul that our infirmities or troubles can be used by God for our good. James said we should count it all joy when we fall into diverse troubles which could be a temptation to us to fail to depend on the Lord. These times of testing or suffering produce the quality of patience which has a perfecting work to do in us. (Jas. 1:2-4)

Jesus says, "My strength is made perfect (complete) in your weakness." And we can then learn with Paul that "when I am weak, then I am strong in the Lord. (2 Cor. 12:9,10)

*White is a member of First Church, Humboldt, where she leads a teacher improvement class.*

## Mexican medical mission reports 31 conversions

**DURANGO, Mexico**—Thirty-one adults made professions of faith in Jesus Christ during a recent medical project to the Santiago River Valley here in west central Mexico.

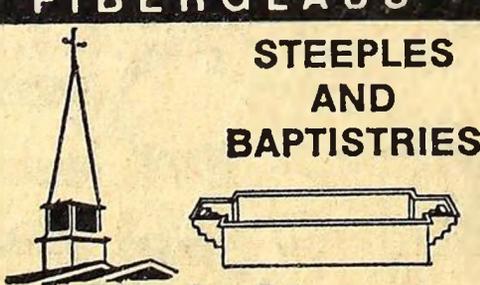
A Baptist medical team of two physicians, a nurse and a dentist treated hundreds of persons in the towns of Gomelia, Maymora and El Tule during a 10-day visit. Medical missionary Lee Baggett, field missionary Gilbert Ross, and a national pastor conducted Bible studies in conjunction with the medical treatments.

Laymen were trained how to teach the Bible, said Ross. In Gomelia, "where we had just one man trying to teach the Bible, we now have three."

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# Pulpit To Pew

By Jim Griffith

A spokesman for the Greater Michigan Sunday School Association has announced at a press conference in Detroit that "in order to increase attendance at next fall's convention," King Kong will be on the platform.

Now this is what I call a big promotional campaign, although the idea is a bit hairy. Presumably, the critics of the plan will be quick to say that someone is just monkeying with the Sunday School program.

What, they will ask, is King Kong going to do? Growl at the absentees?

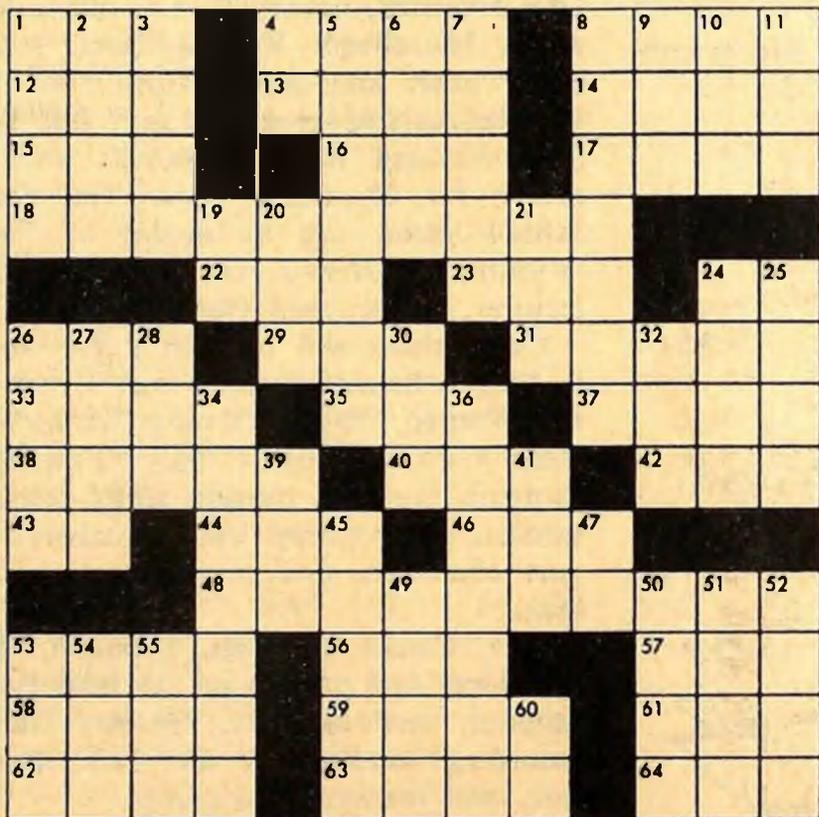
But say what you will, most Sunday School directors would agree that it is high time we put some teeth into our attendance campaigns.

And not since the giving of green stamps for Sunday School attendance has there been such an unusual attendance-stimulator.

However, in one sense, King Kong is not too surprising. I've said all along that people were getting cagey with their Sunday School promotional campaigns.

## Bible puzzle

Answers on page 14



### ACROSS

- 1 "wherewith I may —" (Luke 17:8)
- 4 Quarrel
- 8 Military women
- 12 City (1 Chron. 8:12)
- 13 Dance of Israel
- 14 Cupid
- 15 Nothing
- 16 "— not worthy" (Matt. 8)
- 17 Iowa city
- 18 "a pomegranate, a —" (Ex. 28)
- 22 Not in
- 23 Dative: abbr.
- 24 Family member: abbr.
- 26 "— of cold water" (Matt. 10)
- 29 Sea
- 31 "as it were a —" (Ezek. 1)
- 33 Palm leaves
- 35 Chips accompaniment

- 37 "— of bondage" (Gal. 5)
- 38 Units of weight
- 40 Housekeeper's need
- 42 Academic degrees: abbr.
- 43 Twice: comb. form
- 44 Curve
- 46 Contend
- 48 "had a —" (Rev. 21)
- 53 Plague (Ex. 8:2; sing.)
- 56 Belonging to us
- 57 Search and rescue: abbr.
- 58 Tops
- 59 "But I say — you" (Matt. 5:39)
- 61 Direction: abbr.
- 62 "the acceptable —" (Luke 4)
- 63 Officials of the Ottoman Empire
- 64 London district

### CRYPTOVERSE

U E L N X C J J F J O N N Q N C M L C J J S X O O M L N

E R S X O O C K S X N X C J J R O C K X A B

Today's Cryptoverse clue: E equals O

### DOWN

- 1 "— of Moses" (Rev. 15:3)
- 2 Mussel genus
- 3 "— their heads" (Ezek. 44)
- 4 Word used to enjoin silence
- 5 Precise
- 6 Place (Josh. 15:52)
- 7 "— of mankind" (Jas. 3)
- 8 Kind of nation (Jer. 49:31)
- 9 Body part
- 10 Disease of sheep
- 11 Specific soluble substance: abbr.
- 19 Perform
- 20 European: comb. form
- 21 It worketh wrath (Rom. 4:15)
- 24 Ten: comb. form
- 25 English festivals
- 26 Temperature (John 18:18)
- 27 Site of a vision (Dan. 8:2)
- 28 Right of precedence
- 30 Obscure
- 32 Kind of sale: abbr.
- 34 "they—, but not with strong drink" (Isa. 29)
- 36 It was deep (2 Cor. 8:2)
- 39 Sign of a success: abbr.
- 41 Fastener
- 45 "— of witnesses" (Heb. 12)
- 47 Baseball abbr.
- 49 Sand hill
- 50 Well (Gen. 26:20)
- 51 Alleviate
- 52 Stretched
- 53 Fairy
- 54 Fish eggs
- 55 A South American people
- 60 Bone

On Matters of

# Family Living

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

## Genetic element is likely in stutters

Eight percent of stutters spontaneously stop stuttering before they reach college age. Could it be that stuttering is a developmental disorder that hits kids who are genetically predisposed to it—and then corrects itself as the youngster matures?

This is one of the questions arising from research on the role of heredity in stuttering, Joseph Sheehan, University of California, Los Angeles, and Marian Costley, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, report in the *Journal of Speech and Hearing Disorders*.

The existence of stuttering in low-pressure societies as well as highly developed nations suggests a genetic connection, rather than a cultural one, their overview of study findings points up. Whatever the society—and stuttering has long been a familiar speech difficulty among African tribes, the Sioux Indians, Japanese and South Pacific islanders as well as on the other continents—"the incidence and prevalence of stuttering in the various populations are quite consistent."

Evidence that stuttering tends to run in families keeps turning up, and the predominance of stuttering among boys (5 to 1) also defies purely psychological explanation, point out Sheehan and Costley.

Treatment of the embarrassing and frustrating speech disorder continues to vary with the therapist's professional philosophy, but the 80% spontaneous recovery figure remains a cheerful as well as intriguing statistic.



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# Sunday School leadership briefings set for eight locations throughout state

Sunday School leadership briefings for 1977 will be held from Aug. 22-Sept. 22, according to Wendell Price, state Sunday School director. Instruction will be offered for Sunday School workers with all age groups, along with information for general officers.

Sessions will be held for one day at each location from 7 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.

Cities and host churches will include: Aug. 22, Hixson, Central Church; Aug. 23, Johnson City, Central Church; Aug. 25, Nashville, Haywood Hills Church; Sept. 6, Cookeville First Church; Sept. 8, Tullahoma First Church; Sept. 15, Lawrenceburg First Church; Sept. 19, Paris First Church; and Sept. 22, Memphis, Highland Heights Church.

Instruction for workers with younger pre-

schoolers will be given by Ann Hofmeister and Sammie Meek. Middle preschool workers will be led by Ann Hart, and older preschool workers will be led by Ray Evette.

Mrs. Bob Taylor, Paula Parris, and Mary Buckner, will lead workers with younger children, while workers with middle children will be under the guidance of Dot Hammatt and Beth Taylor. Older children's workers will receive instruction from Norma Dean.

In the youth division, Lyn Brasfield, Herman Hood, and Leslie Sumrall, will give instruction.

Adult instruction will be given by Frances Price, Mary Jayne Allen, Willard Warfield, and Larry Williams.

Price will lead conferences for general officers of the Sunday School.

## 500 expected at WMU Houseparty this week

Over 500 persons are expected to attend the 1977 Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union Houseparty, Aug. 19-21 at Belmont College in Nashville, according to Mary Jane Nethery, state WMU executive secretary.

The leaders of WMU organizations in churches throughout the state will attend conferences and inspirational sessions involving the theme "A Story to Tell." The first session will begin at 7 P.M. Friday, and the final session will conclude at noon, Sunday.

Devotional and inspirational speakers will include Mrs. C. D. Creasman, former president of Tennessee WMU; Mrs. Charlotte Hamrick, housewife and music teacher in Hermitage; Kay Rodgers, summer field worker and Mary Northington, graduate scholarship recipient; and Bill Wakefield, Foreign Mission Board's area secretary for Southeast Asia. The Sunday School lesson will be taught on Sunday morning by Mrs. J. O. Williams, author, lecturer, and teacher, Nashville.

Conferences will be offered for workers in WMU, Baptist Women and Career Baptist Women, Baptist Young Women, Ac-teens, Girls in Action, Mission Friends, enlistment directors, mission study chairmen, mission study group leaders, mission support chairmen, and mission action chairmen.

Mrs. Claude Jennings, Lebanon, WMU president, will preside at the business and program sessions. Mrs. Herbert Gabhart, recording secretary of the state organization, will welcome the group.

*Mike  
Sams  
Justine Morris*

*Ken Castleberry*

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# Baptists challenge Tenn. ban on ministers in politics

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON — The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs here has joined nine other national groups in asking the U.S. Supreme Court to declare unconstitutional a provision in the Tennessee State Constitution forbidding ministers from serving in the legislature.

Paul A. McDaniel, pastor of the Second Missionary Baptist Church, Chattanooga, who filed and won an election as a delegate to the state's Constitutional Convention this summer, was challenged by one of his opponents, Selma Cash Paty.

Paty cited Article IX, Section 1 of the Tennessee Constitution, which states that "No minister of the gospel, or priest of any denomination whatever, shall be eligible to a seat in either house of the legislature." The Tennessee legislature passed a law last year which applied state constitutional requirements to candidates for the special Constitutional Convention.

In recent weeks, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart stayed a ruling by a Tennessee court which had denied McDaniel to take his seat. The stay allowed McDaniel to take his seat Aug. 1. The high court will decide the case sometime in the fall.

The legal brief filed jointly by the BJCPA and other religious and civil liberties groups and written by famed church-state attorney Leo Pfeffer, urged the high court to strike down the Tennessee requirement on grounds that it violates the free exercise of religion guarantee of the First Amendment.

Joining the BJCPA in filing the brief on McDaniel's behalf were the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Ethical Union, the American Jewish Congress,

Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, the National Council of Churches, the United Church of Christ, the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

In asking the justices to accept the brief, Pfeffer noted that the combined membership of the 10 groups exceeds 65-million Americans and stated that "what brings them together in this brief is a deeply-held commitment to the principle of freedom of religious belief and their conviction that disqualification of a person from public office because of his belief or his profession of that belief as a clergyman of a particular faith violates the free exercise clause."

The brief also argues that although the free exercise of religion is not an absolute right, "the burden is upon the State of Tennessee to establish the presence of a compelling interest that justifies infringing upon the citizen's right to the free exercise of his religion."

Another point advanced by Pfeffer is the fact that Tennessee is the only state which still forbids clergy from holding public office. At one time, early in the nation's history, 13 states had similar provisions.

Pfeffer refuted the state's argument that the religious beliefs of ministers might unduly influence their position on public issues and thereby violate the federal Constitution's ban on an establishment of religion.

Pfeffer asked: "Should not then all citizens having strong feelings in respect to religion, from pietist to atheist, be disqualified, leaving the franchise to those, if there are any, who are completely neutral in respect to religion? This conclusion may be absurd, but it is the only one that can validly sustain the constitutionality of the challenged law."

McDaniel's case came to the nation's high court after the Chancery Court of Hamilton County, which had ruled in his behalf, was overruled by the Tennessee Supreme Court. That court held in its ruling that seeking public office "is purely a secular act" and the prohibition against ministers' running for office "simply does not impose any burden . . . upon religious belief or religious action."

The 3-1 decision went on to observe that "it is not religious belief, but the career or calling, by which one is identified as dedicated to the full-time promotion of the religious objectives of a particular religious sect, that disqualifies."

The case will be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court sometime after the justices convene for the court's new term in early October. No specific date for oral arguments has been set, but it is unlikely that a final decision will be forthcoming until late this year or early 1978. (BP)

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(Adv.)

# Struggle against opposition

By Don H. Olive

Coordinator of the Philosophy Department  
Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tennessee 37760

TEXT: Judges 13:1; 16:23-30

Samson, like Gideon in last week's lesson, was a judge. The story of his life is best known among all the stories of the various judges. This is due in part to the built-in drama of the hero who, though he had super-human strength, succumbed to a fatal flaw and yet was vindicated in his death. It is also due to the fact that the writer of the book of Judges devoted more space to Samson and his exploits than to any other individual. And his story is a fascinating one.

Born to a special vow, Samson was given great strength, as long as he maintained the practices of that vow. Among these practices was that of letting his hair grow uncut. He wrecked havoc on the Philistines until, attracted by a beautiful Philistine woman, Delilah, Samson revealed the source of his strength. While he slept, she had his hair cut. With his strength gone Samson was easy prey for the Philistines Delilah had summoned. He was blinded and made do an animal's work. It was at this point in Samson's history that the passage of today's lesson picks up.

## The War of the Gods

The text for today's lesson recounts the

last episode in Samson's life. Blind and humiliated, Samson was brought to the Philistine temple to be made sport of by the Philistines in the presence of their god. They found it incredibly amusing to taunt an old helpless enemy. As morally unlightened as this practice may have been, the text makes a point of it, not to arouse sympathy for Samson. The narrative in the book of Judges sets the whole sorry episode in the context of a contest between the God of Israel and Dagon, the god of the Philistines.

The testimony of the lords of the Philistines at the great sacrifice to Dagon was, "Our God has given Samson our enemy into our hand." And the people responded in like fashion claiming supremacy for their god, since he had turned Samson over to them. So, the stage is set for a war of the gods. There are several examples of this sort of face to face confrontation between the God of Israel and the gods of the pagan nations, the most notable being that between God and the Baals upon Mt. Carmel during Elijah's time. The people of Israel themselves had not yet come to understand fully that there is only one God. And certainly the Philistines and other pagans did not understand. So, the contests were staged that men might know that the Lord, he is God, and not Dagon or the Baals.

After so many years it looks like men could learn this lesson, first taught so many years ago. When Samson, the champion of God, took the pillars and the house of Dagon fell upon the Philistines, it was evident who is God. But to this day various false gods are worshipped. Whatever a man regards to be of supreme worth is a god. That to which he gives himself becomes a diety. And sadly enough, it is often the case that God must still do

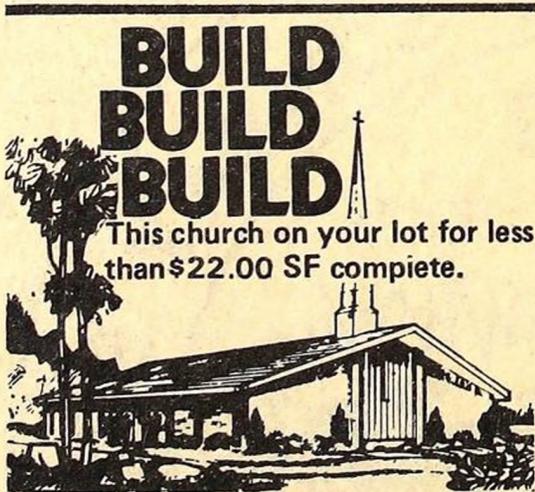
battle with these gods in the life even of those who are Christians. The meaning and intent of the first commandment of covenant is too often lost on us who should by now have learned from the history of past encounters. God is God, and not Dagon or whatever other more modern name false gods may be using.

## The Most Important Things

Samson's prayer just before destroying the temple of Dagon, the Philistines, and himself was for the strength to do one last great service for God's people. He asked to die with the Philistines, for by the destruction of the Philistines deliverance for Israel would be had. And Samson did die. He died in service of Israel and his God. In that moment and under those circumstances Samson decided something else was more important than life itself.

Now, this is not an encouragement to suicide or an elevation of martyrdom. Ninety-nine percent of the time these are wrong for the Christian. We must note, however, that the Christian, as a follower of Christ, does not place ultimate value upon life or death. He does not pursue living or dying at the expense of everything else. He can lay down his life or take it up in the service of others, precisely because he is not his own. Having already died to himself, neither life nor death has any more terror for him. He has been liberated from the first and last captor, himself. He can live successfully, because Christ lives in him. He can die successfully, because Christ dies for him.

This same approach to life and death is stated by the apostle Paul in Philippians, when he affirms that to live is Christ and to die is gain. The question of priorities has been settled here. Certainly, the Christian is not indifferent to the question of his own life or death. He is enabled, however, to affirm the positive dimension of God's action in Christ in whichever is the case. Although Samson failed in so many ways and his life is anything but a model of right living, he did seem to have grasped this truth. The service of God is more important than either living or dying. God's service transcends these important dimensions of life.



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"God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him" (Psa. 67:7).

# The priority of family ties

By Earl C. Davis, Pastor  
First Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee

**Basic Passages:** Exodus 20:12; Mark 7:1-13; Ephesians 6:1-4

**Focal Passages:** Exodus 20:12; Mark 7:5-13; Ephesians 6:1-4

Those masterful storytellers, the Brothers Grimm, have a grim story about an old man, his son and his wife, and a small grandson. It seems the old man could never eat his food without making a mess all over the table and the floor. The inconsiderate and ungrateful son fashioned a small trough, and to the old man's shame, made him eat from the trough as an animal the rest of his days. Not long after, however, the little grandson was seen hard at work in the backyard building a crude trough. At his father's question, the child gave this response, "I'm building a trough for when you and mama get old!" What a grim commentary on the price of breaking the Fifth Commandment! Perhaps "Parents and Pigtroughs" is a fitting phrase to characterize this commandment.

The Scriptures take seriously the sanctity of the family, first stressing obligation to parents, then duty to children. The Books of Exodus and Deuteronomy even make provision for the stoning of the disobedient child. And Jesus chided the Jews for circumventing this commandment to honor the family ties. The entire concept of **Corban**, which your teacher will no doubt discuss in detail, had been so twisted by so many in Jesus' time that it was a tool of wickedness. By **Corban** men escaped their rightful responsibilities to parents.

## A Clear Word to Children

The twentieth century has seen the rapid deterioration of the family in our country. Much of the blame is to be laid at the feet of parents, but the rebuilding of the family falls largely upon our children and youth, who will be parents in a little while. This commandment tells children to **honor** parents. The concept of **honoring** parents includes obedience, gratitude, respect, and even support of parents when they can no longer take care of themselves. Someone has said, "we are to obey our parents in our younger years, we are to support our parents in our older years, and we are to have respect for them through all the years."

Children are to **obey** their parents because, in the first place, they have taken care of our physical needs. But obedience is also due because parents are wiser than children. Perhaps not in the new math, but certainly parents are wiser in the broad area of living life. There simply isn't enough

time for every child to make all of life's mistakes over again! A child needs to have **gratitude** for his parents. As a rule, parents make sacrifices for their children which are never fully known.

## The Other Side of the Coin

Many children do not love, obey, trust, or respect their parents. And the tragedy is that some children have good reason for such attitudes, knowing only parents who failed miserably at the noble task of parenting. Paul tells the parents not to provoke the children. In other words, don't live in such a way that your children grow up full of frustration, cynicism, and fear of failure. It is exceedingly difficult to honor a parent whose very life-style is a rejection of the warmth, care, love, and dignity a child needs. For this word of scripture to have meaning, it must rest as heavy on parents as upon children. In short, for this commandment to be effective, parents must take seriously the God-given task of building a strong family, and parents must live the kind of life their children can admire and imitate. At least a partial key to the rebellion of many youth is their rejection of false values seen in their elders.

## The Importance of This Commandment

We might be tempted to ask why this commandment about family relationships should be placed so high on the tablet of deep and lasting truths. It is because the values of our faith are passed on primarily through the family. Children believe what they see their parents actually living out. If the earlier commandments are to have reality, then this word about the family is vitally important.

## Wartburg pastor accepts call to pulpit at Monterey First

Gerrald Bland has accepted the call to serve as pastor of Monterey First Church, effective Sept. 1. For the past six years, he has been pastor of Wartburg First Church.

He also served Puryear Church in West Tennessee and a church in Bristol, Va. A native of Greeneville, Tenn., he attended Union University and graduated from Bethel College in McKenzie. Additionally, he attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He succeeds William Powell in the Monterey pastorate.

## Whitehouse named supervisor for BSSB communications

NASHVILLE—Donald S. Whitehouse has been named supervisor of the communications services section in the office of communications at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here.

Whitehouse moved to the office of communications from the church training department of the board, where he served as supervisor of the staff services section.

A native of Kentucky, Whitehouse is a graduate of the University of Kentucky, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Middle Tennessee State University.

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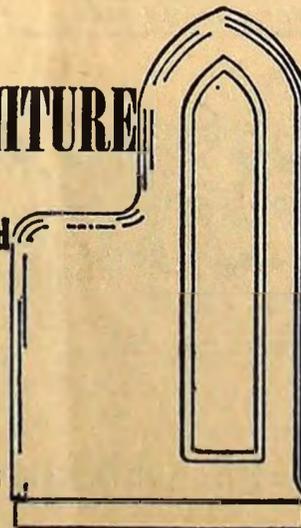
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**Madison pastor moves to Knoxville pulpit**

Lloyd Bardowell, who recently accepted the call to become pastor of Bell Avenue Church, Knoxville, is scheduled to preach his first sermon there on Sunday, Aug. 28.

Bardowell succeeds John McGinnis, who resigned to accept a pastorate in North Carolina.

For the past eight years, Bardowell has been pastor of Alta Loma Church in Madison, Tenn. Prior to that, he was a pastor in North Carolina and then entered the field of full-time evangelism.

He has served as a member of the committee on committees for the Tennessee Baptist Convention and vice-president of the Nashville Baptist Pastors' Conference. He is a graduate of Bob Jones University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Additionally, he did post graduate work at the University of Kentucky.

**Preparation conference set for January Bible Study**

Two conferences for pastors who plan to teach the 1978 January Bible Study will be held Sept. 20-22 and Oct. 11-13 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. During the conferences, there will be golf and tennis tournaments for those attending.

Information about the conference is available from the Sunday School Board's church recreation department.

**East Tennessee leader retires, served Central Church 14 years**

Fred Rudder, associate pastor of Central Church in Knoxville for the past 14 years, retired earlier this summer. He was honored by the church on his retirement with a banquet and recognition service.

Prior to coming to the position at Central, Rudder was pastor of Kingston First Church, Oneida First Church, Grace Church in Knoxville, and a church in Boston, Mass. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and a seminary in Boston.

Rudder and his wife plan to reside in Knoxville where he will do interim and supply work.

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