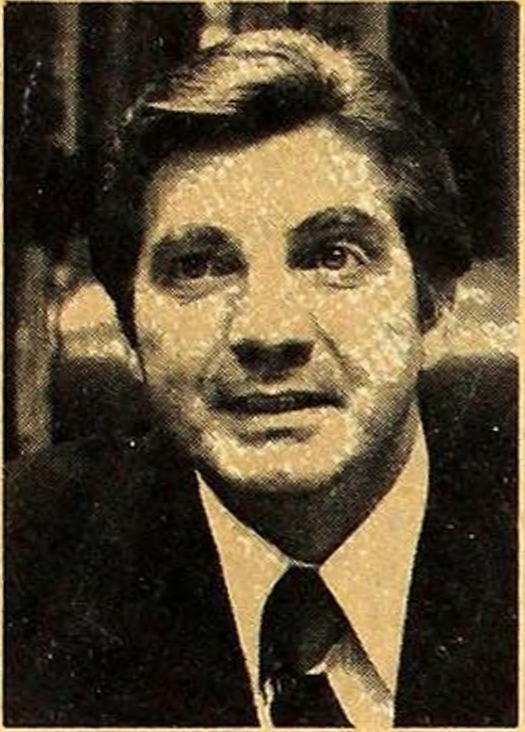


# Baptist and Reflector

Vol. 144/No. 50/December 14, 1978

News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention



Crumpler



Leavell



Robbins



Terrell

## Theme, schedule set for '79 TBC

"Equipping for Church Advance" will be the theme of the 1979 Tennessee Baptist Convention, according to action taken by the Committee on Arrangements at a meeting in Brentwood last week.

The convention will meet at East Park Baptist Church, Memphis, Nov. 13-15, 1979.

At its first meeting to begin planning for the TBC's 105th session, the committee elected Fred Wood as chairman and H.K. Sorrell, as vice-chairman. Wood is pastor of Eudora Church in Memphis, and Sorrell is pastor of Brownsville Church in Brownsville.

The committee voted that the 1979 convention would follow the same schedule as recent years with seven sessions, beginning on Tuesday morning and ending at noon on Thursday.

The Wednesday night session will have a mission emphasis, the committee decided.

Two of the six speakers have been determined by the 1978 TBC. The convention sermon will be preached by William Purdue, pastor of First Church in Kingsport, and the president's address will be delivered by W. Fred Kendall II, pastor of First Church, Union City. The other four speakers were chosen by the committee, and will be announced at a later date.

The committee named Jim McDonald, TBC business manager, as exhibits coordinator, and Frank Charton, director of the TBC church music department, as music coordinator.

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee on Arrangements will be Feb. 8, 1979.

## January 22-23 set as date for Evangelism Conference

A Southern Baptist seminary president, Home Mission Board staffer, and pastors from Memphis, Greeneville, and Nashville will be among the featured speakers at the 1979 Tennessee Baptist Evangelism Conference. Sessions are scheduled to be held Jan. 22-23 at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville. The theme for the 1979 sessions will be "Dare to Disciple," according to Malcolm McDow, state evangelism director.

Landrum P. Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La., will address the group on Monday and again on Tuesday evening, which has traditionally been designated as "Laymen's Night."

Leavell accepted the call to become the seminary's seventh president in January 1975, coming from the pastorate of First Church in Wichita Falls, Tex. All of his other pastorates were in Mississippi. Among other duties, he has served as first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention and president of the SBC Pastors' Conference.

Speaking at the Tuesday morning and afternoon sessions will be Frank H. Crumpler, director of evangelism planning and consultation in the department of evangelism of the Home Mission Board. In his position, he assists state conventions with materials and programs related to evangelism. He has been with the Home Mission Board since October 1976.

Leading Bible studies at each of the five sessions will be Ray Robbins, professor of New Testament and Greek at New Orleans Seminary. Robbins was scheduled to base his Bible studies on the Book of Philippians.

The author of several books and periodicals, Robbins has served on the seminary staff since 1952. Prior to that time, he served as a college professor, a chaplain, and a pastor.

Greeneville minister C.C. Mills, Friendship Church, will speak on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. A native of Jefferson City, he attended extension courses at Carson-Newman College and American Baptist Theological Seminary, Nashville. He served churches in Parrottsville, Sevierville, and Jefferson City, before coming to lead the Friendship congregation in 1956.

Speaking Monday afternoon and Tuesday evening to the laymen will be Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in Memphis. Rogers has been a speaker at state Baptist conventions and state evangelism conferences on many occasions. He has spoken in Southern

(Continued on Page 9)

## Tennessee mission gifts begin year with state's second highest month

Tennessee Southern Baptists experienced their second highest month in mission giving through the Cooperative Program in November, according to Ralph E. Norton, executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Last month's receipts reached \$1,096,234.44 when the state convention's books closed Nov. 30, Norton said. This total is second only to the \$1,107,140.33 given through the Cooperative Program in August 1978.

At last month's state convention in Nashville, the messengers approved an \$11.8-million budget-goal for the November 1978-October 1979 convention year. This is an 11.85 percent increase over last year's \$10.55-million goal and a 7 percent increase above \$11,031,506.44 given through the Cooperative Program during the November 1977-October 1978 convention year.

The monthly goal for the new convention year is \$983,333.33. November's mission gifts were 11.5 percent (\$112,901.11) above the monthly goal.

Norton indicated that November receipts of \$1,096,234.44 were \$85,181.86 above (8.4 percent above) the November 1977 gifts, which were \$1,011,052.58—which still ranks as the TBC's sixth highest month.

November 1978 represents the seventh time that Tennessee's Cooperative Program receipts have passed the \$1-million mark during any month. Other \$1-million months were June 1977 (\$1,006,387.33); August 1977 (\$1,032,672.74); March 1978 (\$1,021,297.54); and May 1978 (\$1,079,007.73).



# President Carter advises caution in 'over reaction' to Jonestown

WASHINGTON—President Jimmy Carter said that it would have been unconstitutional for the FBI to investigate the People's Temple cult before the recent Jonestown, Guyana, mass murder-suicide and warned against an "overreaction" which could result in the denial of religious liberty.

The president made his remarks at a nationally televised news conference in Washington. He called the Jonestown events, which claimed more than 900 lives, a "tragedy" but pointed out that they did not occur within the United States. "I obviously don't think the Jonestown cult was typical of America," he said.

## Former Lawrenceburg pastor leads church in Columbia

Robert E. McIlwain, former pastor of West Point Church in Lawrenceburg, is the new pastor of Northside Church, Columbia. During his pastoral service in Lawrenceburg, he was also principal and teacher in the Revilo School in that city.

A native of Washington County, Ala., McIlwain is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham. He has done graduate work at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis. New Prospect Church in Lawrence County and Ramah Church in Leoma were also under his leadership at one time. He was active in the work of the association.

McIlwain succeeds Glenn Patton at Columbia. Patton is now serving as pastor of First Church in Wartburg.

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News-Journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention  
Ralph E. Norton, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: George Capps Jr., chairman; C. Henry Preston, vice-chairman; Gayle Alexander, William E. Crook, John Daley, Jim Dusek, Charles D. Earl, Ray Fowler, Hayward Highfill, Howard Kolb, Pat Landrum, Mrs. R. Trevis Otey, J. Arnold Porter, Paul Shell, Bill Sherman, Gerald Stow, and Herschel Woodburn.

On the question of whether the FBI should have investigated the cult more carefully in light of reports of psychological and physical abuses inflicted on members at the Jonestown commune, the president replied, "It is unconstitutional for our government to investigate" groups which are "based on religious belief."

Only when evidence exists that federal laws have been violated do government investigative bodies have a role to play when religious beliefs are involved, Carter said.

The president also touched on religious matters in answer to a question about U.S. support of the Shah of Iran, whose government has been threatened in recent weeks by internal dissent.

Carter noted that the Shah "has moved forcefully and aggressively" in altering some ancient religious traditions in an effort to bring Iran more into the mainstream of the modern world. Those actions have resulted in opposition by conservative religious leaders.

"We do not have any intention of interfering in the internal affairs of Iran," the president declared. (BP)

## Song-writing winners chosen by Broadman

NASHVILLE—A recording artist, a minister of music, and a recent seminary graduate, all Southern Baptists, were the winners of the recent Broadman Gospel Song Writing Contest.

Judy Ward, a professional singer from Gwynn, Va., won the first prize of \$500 for her song, "He is Lord." Ward is a member of Gwynn's Island Baptist Church, where she helps with the youth choir ministry and teaches a youth group in Sunday School.

"The Maker," a song by Bill Rutledge, minister of music and youth at Lancaster Baptist Church, Lancaster, Ky., won second place and \$300.

Darrel Lewis, a recent graduate of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., was awarded \$200 for third place, for his song, "Teach me to Talk With You." Lewis is a member of North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.

A total of 3,000 songs were entered in the Broadman Gospel Song Writing Contest, by more than 1,600 persons. (BSSB)

## Stewart County Baptists meet

Stewart County Baptists held their 1978 annual associational meeting with Lakeview Church in Tennessee Ridge and Midway Church in Dover recently. Fourteen churches comprise the association.

Officers elected for the coming year were: moderator H. W. McFadden; vice-moderator William Pyle; clerk Mrs. Dianne Feltner; and treasurer T. L. Askew.

## Seminary Extension grows in Tennessee

NASHVILLE—Tennesseans studied with Seminary Extension in record numbers during 1977-78, with 427 persons participating in one of the theologically-oriented study programs.

Fifteen Seminary Extension centers were reported in operation in the state last year, the largest number of centers ever. Combined enrollments for the centers came to 318 students. An additional 109 persons engaged in correspondence study through the Seminary Extension Home Study Institute.

The previous high enrollment in Tennessee centers was 197, reported the year before, with nine centers in operation.

These figures were part of a year-end report released recently by the Seminary Extension Department, an arm of the six Southern Baptist seminaries. Across the nation, student enrollments reached a record level of 10,447, with 340 centers in operation.

## Student center bought at Cumberland College

Baptists of Wilson County Association have purchased property in Lebanon and converted part of the property into a new Baptist Student Center for the students at Cumberland College.

Douglas Cather, director of missions, told Baptist and Reflector that the association bought a house and a three-car garage directly across from the college and have completely renovated the garage for the students, making it the first BSU center in the campus' history. The facility contains a large meeting room, fellowship and kitchen area on the first floor, and study and residence area on the second floor. The cost of renovating the facility was approximately \$10,000.

Approximately 500 students attend the Lebanon junior college. Bill Vance, BSU director, said that 60 of these students are actively involved in the BSU program. Students have met in available classrooms and various other sites in the past.

Open house was held in the new facility last month.

## Counselor applications due for 1979 summer RA work

Young men, ages 16 and 17, in Tennessee Baptist churches may now apply for positions as summer counselors in Royal Ambassador camps, according to Kenny Rains, state RA director.

Rains said that counselors would serve boys attending RA camps at Linden, Carson, and in Shelby County. Time of service would be approximately five weeks.

Applications may be obtained from the Brotherhood department, Tennessee Baptist Convention. Rains added that pastors, RA leaders, and youth workers could also send in recommended names of boys in their churches.



## New Orleans seminary buys student housing

NEW ORLEANS—Housing problems have been eased somewhat at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with the purchase of a 64-unit apartment complex near the seminary campus.

The purchase marked the end of a lengthy search by seminary administrators and trustees to find solutions to housing problems brought on by the increasing enrollment at the seminary, which now has 1,145 students.

The complex, purchased for \$1.2-million from four New Orleans businessmen, has 52 two-bedroom apartments and 12 one-bedroom units, which will rent for \$210 and \$185 respectively. As with campus housing, the occupant will pay for utilities.

The additional apartments bring the number of housing units available to students to 368, with 304 located on the east New Orleans campus. The seminary has no current plans to purchase additional housing since the complex will solve most of the current housing problems, according to Carl McLemore, vice-president for business affairs. (BP)

## Florida Baptists vote Bold Mission goals

LAKELAND, Fla.—Florida Baptists voted ambitious Bold Mission Thrust goals and commended outgoing Florida Gov. Reuben Askew for his leadership in the recent defeat of casino gambling in the state.

Messengers to the Florida Baptist Convention's annual meeting adopted an \$8,800,000 budget, with 48 percent—up one percent from last year—ticketed for worldwide mission causes through the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program.

But messengers, overriding a motion of objection, approved a recommendation from the State Mission Board to keep gifts exceeding the budget goal in the state for missions and institutions, rather than sending 48 percent of the overage to SBC causes.

The State Missions Board and Florida Baptist executive secretary-treasurer Harold C. Bennett indicated it was necessary to keep all gifts over the budget in the state to help with present needs and commitments.

In keeping with the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust goal to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world in this century, the Florida convention accepted a number of challenges for 1979-82. They include 20 percent increases in both Bible study enrollment and baptisms; establishment of 200 new churches and church-type missions, starting of 100 new Sunday Schools and 300 other ongoing mission ministries; setting a goal of 1,600 commitments to career missions and other church-related vocations; seeking of 500 volunteers for the SBC's new Mission Service Corps; increasing both the number of tithers and mission offering gifts by 30 percent; and increasing gifts from churches to the state Cooperative Program each year by one percent. (BP)

## Carson-Newman trustees proceed with plans for Bible School

JEFFERSON CITY—At its December meeting the Carson-Newman College Board of Trustees approved plans to proceed with the development of a Bible School which would operate in connection with the college. Target date for the first classes is set for the fall of 1979.

In addition, the board voted to initiate a planned giving program and to formulate an up-to-date master plan for campus development.

Carson-Newman President Cordell Maddox and his administrative staff presented the annual report of the college to the board.

In other action the Board elected Harry D. McNeeley, executive vice-president of Eastman Kodak Co., as chairman of the board. Serving with him as vice-chairman will be Jack H. McEwen, pastor of the First Church of Chattanooga. Elected secretary of the board was T. Maxfield Bahner, attorney from Chattanooga.

The Board of Trustees also adopted a resolution honoring Lawrence D. Smith, of Rutledge for his service as chairman of the Board during the past year. Smith has been instrumental in getting the plans under way for the new music building at Carson-Newman. The new facility is expected to be completed in January 1980.

## Northwest Baptists approve new statement of faith

SEATTLE, Wash.—The Northwest Baptist Convention voted a major constitutional change to delete the convention's current statement of faith and replace it by the statement of Baptist Faith and Message adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963.

Throughout its 30-year history, the Northwest convention's constitution has included a statement of faith which each church was required to accept prior to its petition for membership and seating messengers at the convention. It declared that churches could accept only persons baptized by "a New Testament Baptist Church."

The statement of Baptist Faith and Message, which Northwest churches will also have to accept under this year's action, calls only for baptism of believers by immersion without mention of the church in which baptism occurred. (BP)

## Charlotte pastor to arrive in Nashville next month

David Clark, pastor of First Church in Charlotte for the past two years, has accepted the call to serve as pastor of Hillcrest Church in Nashville. He will be on the field sometime next month.

A student at Belmont College, Clark was ordained to the gospel ministry by Neely's Bend Church in Madison. Hillcrest will be his second pastorate. He succeeds James Growden.



**TRUSTEE OFFICERS**—Elected by the Board of Trustees of Carson-Newman College were (from left) secretary, T. Maxfield Bahner; chairman, Harry D. McNeeley; and vice-chairman, Jack H. McEwen.

## John Taylor to assume West Jackson pulpit

The congregation of West Jackson Church in Jackson has extended a unanimous call to Mississippi pastor John Lee Taylor to lead the west Tennessee congregation. Taylor will assume the position Jan. 1.

A graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, he comes to Jackson from First Church in Grenada, Miss. He has also served churches in Bentonia, Miss., Hodgenville, Ky., Drew, Miss., and McComb, Miss.

He was a member of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1968-76. He has written several articles for Southern Baptist publications and is active in denominational life.

Taylor will become the church's third pastor in the past 57 years. R. E. Guy served for 32 years, and David Q. Byrd led the congregation for 24 years.

## Midwestern alumni select officers to lead work

Hoyt Wilson, pastor of First Church in Lexington, will lead Tennessee alumni from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in their activities this year. Wilson was elected president of the group at its annual meeting during the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Nashville last month.

Wilson told *Baptist and Reflector* that other officers elected were: vice president Maurice Graham, associate minister of church and community missions, Second Church in Memphis and secretary-treasurer Barry Presley, chaplain at Fort Pillow State Farm, Fort Pillow, Tenn. Presley is a member of First Church in Covington.

Wilson said that the emphasis this year would be to involve more alumni and secure support from the approximately 25 Midwestern graduates serving in Tennessee.



# SBC agency resource package given to seminary graduates

NASHVILLE—Gift packets, offering free resource materials to graduating students at the six Southern Baptist theological seminaries, will be given upon their December graduation to symbolize denominational support as they enter ministry careers.

The first distribution of kits to graduating seminary students took place in May and June—1978. The project is a joint effort open

to participation by all SBC agencies. Elaine Dickson, church services and materials coordinator for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, developed the idea while working with Sunday School Board liaison professors from the seminaries.

Included in the kit are postage-paid reply cards offering free books, sample magazines, subscription, discount coupons and other items worth approximately \$40 in retail value.

Agencies participating this year are the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Seminary Extension Department, Annuity Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Radio and Television Commission, Baptist World Alliance, Brotherhood Commission, and Historical Commission.

Of the estimated 1,200 graduates receiving kits in May and June, 41 percent responded by mailing request cards for desired resources. Approximately 5,800 responses were received among the participating organizations.

Among the advantages of the program, according to Miss Dickson, is the ability to introduce the student to a wide range of denominational resources upon moving into a professional ministry role. The gift symbolizes the denomination's interest in and support of new ministers of all types, and permits the student to decide what information is wanted and to take the initiative to secure what is offered.

## Mississippi Baptists oppose alcohol ads, current law

JACKSON, Miss.—The Mississippi Baptist Convention passed a 1979 budget goal of \$10 million and voted resolutions opposing alcohol advertising, the legal definition of intoxication, and excessive entanglement of church and state at its annual meeting.

Resolutions against alcohol called for a halt to advertising alcoholic beverages in any medium; requested the U.S. Surgeon General to declare that alcoholic beverages are hazardous to health; and encouraged state legislatures to reduce the blood alcohol content to .1 percent before one can legally be declared intoxicated, instead of the current .15 percent. (BP)

## Congregation worships at department store

OPELIKA, Ala.—Just before Thanksgiving, First Baptist Church, Opelika, Ala., moved its worship services to a vacant building across the street while its auditorium was being renovated.

At the first service in the building, which formerly housed a large department store, Pastor Robert T. Baggott Jr. pointed out the appropriateness of the location.

"Some of you," he kidded the congregation, "have been worshipping here during the Christmas season for years!" (BP)

## Priorities established for Spanish materials

NASHVILLE—Representatives from three Southern Baptist agencies and four state conventions meeting here approved a recommendation for a Church Study Course diploma in Spanish and English and identified priority needs in Spanish materials for hispanic groups in the United States.

Persons involved in language missions work from the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Sunday School Board, and Missouri, Tennessee, and Texas Baptist conventions met for the second in a series of planning sessions to study materials needs.

Beginning Oct. 1, 1979, the Christian Development Diploma in the study course will be available both in Spanish and English. The catalog listing books in Spanish which meets the course requirements will be available in June 1979, according to Bill Cox, study course coordinator at the Sunday School Board.

Books providing helps in developing Sunday School and church training programs were among the priorities listed.

## Criswell presented award from Israel

DALLAS—W. A. Criswell, pastor of the world's largest Southern Baptist Church, has become the only Christian clergyman ever to receive the Israel Humanitarian Award.

The Dallas office of the Development Corporation for Israel said that Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin selected Criswell to receive the "very prestigious, seldom presented award." Criswell is pastor of the 20,000-member First Baptist Church of Dallas.

Criswell received the award because of his efforts to "increase understanding and acceptance of Israel among the community of nations," according to Michael A. Robinson, representative for the Israel development groups.

Criswell, in accepting the award, said that "the land of Israel belongs to the children of Jacob forever. I cannot preach the Bible and hide my face from this everlasting covenant with the children of Jacob." (BP)

## Missionary to South Africa injured in auto accident

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—Lolete Dotson, Southern Baptist missionary nurse in Bophuthatswana, was injured in an automobile accident Nov. 25 in South Africa. Miss Dotson was hospitalized in Edenvale with a wrist fracture, two broken ribs, and minor cuts on her head.

The accident occurred as she drove from her home in Hammanskraal, Bophuthatswana, to Edenvale, a suburb of Johannesburg, for a delayed Thanksgiving dinner with other missionaries. Missionary Edmond B. Moses, traveling behind her, found her shortly after the accident and took her to the hospital. (BP)

## Baptist radio station established in Italy

ROME, Italy—The Baptist Evangelical Union of Italy has authorized the establishment of a new radio station to operate through its recording studio and mass media center.

This station, which is on the standard AM frequency, began with test broadcasts in August 1978 and with actual programming two months later.

Built by Southern Baptist missionary E. Wesley Miller, the station will be a part of a total broadcast ministry in Italy which eventually will include a television and video production studio. Miller is the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's mass media representative for Europe, the Middle East, and South Asia.

He will serve as consultant for the station, and missionary Stanley Crabb Jr., director of the recording studio and mass media center, will be in charge of programming.

"Italian Baptists will present the radio programs, ministering to their fellow Italians in the Rome area," Miller said. For several years Miller and Crabb have been training Italian Baptists in the skills of radio broadcasting.

The current transmitter is only temporary, operating at low power. Miller expects to build a stronger transmitter as soon as funds are available. (FMB)

## WMU-Birmingham names new editorial director

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Gertrude A. Tharpe, former Southern Baptist missionary to Hong Kong and Hawaii, has been named director of the editorial department of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention.

She comes to WMU from the University of Alabama School of Medicine, where she has served as associate director of admissions.

As editorial department director, Mrs. Tharpe will oversee the production of WMU's nine English periodicals and supplementary publications for WMU organizations in Southern Baptist churches. She will also lead in planning curriculum for WMU age-level organizations.

She received a doctor of education degree from George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville. (BP)



## Californians delete doctrinal penalties

ANAHEIM, Calif.—California Southern Baptists dropped a constitutional clause imposing penalties on churches accepting "alien immersions" and practicing open communion and expressed disapproval to leaders—including President Jimmy Carter—who spoke in favor of California's Proposition 6 on homosexual rights.

Messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California voted 469 to 179 to drop the clause prohibiting the seating of messengers at annual sessions from churches admitting persons with alien immersions or which allow open communion. The vote required a two-thirds majority.

The resolution on homosexuality, one of two passed on the subject, expressed "disapproval to political leaders and entertainment personalities who publicly encouraged people to vote against Proposition 6," an issue defeated by California voters which would have made it easier to fire homosexual school teachers who openly advocate their lifestyle.

The resolution specifically cited President Carter, California Gov. Jerry Brown, former California Gov. Ronald Reagan, and TV star Ed Asner. (BP)

## Baptists purchase historic church

Baptists of Union Association announced the purchase and dedication of the old Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church in the northeast section of White County.

Johnnie Lee, director of missions in Union Association, told **Baptist and Reflector** that the association's churches and individuals will pay \$18,000 for the historic church. Dedication services were held on Sunday, Nov. 19, and the facility was named Cherry Creek Baptist Chapel.

Lee said that the building was constructed by the Presbyterians in 1942 but had not been used for several years. He added that there are no Baptist churches in the immediate area, and that the church has a potential of serving 500 people within a five-mile radius.

On Nov. 26, regular services were held, including Sunday School, church training, and worship. Lee is serving as interim pastor. Gum Springs Church, Walling, will be the sponsoring church, the director of missions stated; but the work will be supported by all of the churches in the association.

## Knipper announces move

Adrian Knipper has accepted the pastorate of the Malesus Church in Madison-Chester Association. He began his work there this month.

The new pastor has led Harmony Church in Haywood Association for the past nine years, with the exception of a short interval of two months when he served the Big Hatchie Association as director of missions.



**RECALLING**—Mrs. Ralph Norton recalls some of the experiences of early married life for her and her husband, including his first pastorate and days as a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Norton was honored by employees of the TBC building at a banquet Dec. 8.

## Employees honor Ralph E. Norton at December retirement banquet

Tracing the major events in his life from birth through his upcoming retirement, employees of the Tennessee Baptist Convention building in Brentwood honored Ralph E. Norton at a banquet on Friday, Dec. 8, in Nashville.

The TBC executive secretary-treasurer was feted by master of ceremonies Jonas Stewart, Tennessee Baptist Foundation; Mrs. Norton: a former church secretary, Mrs. G.E. Powell, Chattanooga; and O.M. Dangeau, Cooperative Program and stewardship, TBC. Norton is scheduled to retire Dec. 31 after six years in the executive post.

Using the theme of "Chattanooga Choo-Choo," Stewart pointed out his tenure as pastor of Red Bank Church in Chattanooga from 1948 until he came to Brentwood in December 1972. He was credited with service on major Baptist boards and committees, and as a trustee of several institutions.

Mrs. Norton recalled several events in the early years of their marriage, including his decision to become a preacher and leave the field of education.

Special guests at the dinner included the Norton's sons, Ralph Jr., Houston, Tex.; David, Chattanooga; and daughter Mrs. Linda Havron, South Pittsburg; grandson, Cy Havron; and friends from Chattanooga.

In expressing appreciation to the group, Norton said that all of the experiences in his life have been wonderful. "I would not change any of the eras in my life, for each stage has had experiences which I have treasured," he said.

Following his retirement, Norton will return to Chattanooga where he will serve on the staff of Brainerd Church. He also plans to become a visiting professor of religion at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City.

## Texas education leader, Donald Anthony, dies

DALLAS—Donald M. Anthony, 48, director of the Texas Baptist Christian Education Coordinating Board, died in Dallas Nov. 24, following an illness of several months.

Anthony's death followed by almost four months that of his associate, Chester L. (Chet) Reames, director of the division of student work, who was killed in an automobile accident in Dallas.

Before becoming Christian education director for Texas Baptists, Anthony was vice president for academic affairs, Texas Eastern University, Tyler; president, Tarrant County Junior College, Northeast Campus; and registrar and professor, Mary Hardin-Baylor College. (BP)

## Student center dedicated in Guadalajara, Mexico

GUADALAJARA, Mexico—The new Baptist Student Center building, adjacent to two Guadalajara college campuses, has been formally dedicated and received as an official part of the National Baptist Convention of Mexico. Money from the 1977 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions went toward the building, which includes a library, offices, prayer room, kitchen and small chapel. (FMB)

## Carson-Newman receives \$22,500 Kodak grant

JEFFERSON CITY—Carson Newman College has received a \$22,500 special grant through the Eastman Kodak Company's 1978 Educational Aid Program.

Special grants are made to help institutions meet the challenges of an increasingly complex world with new problems and specialized facilities.

Carson-Newman is among 31 schools sharing \$2.3-million in Kodak special grants.



# Our People and Our Churches . . .

## PEOPLE . . .

Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, ordained deacons **James Gunnels**, **Gene Harston**, **Fred Light**, and **Carl Perry** recently. Kentucky pastor **Jim Wood** gave the charge to the deacons. **Damon Corley**, pastor of Mill Creek Church, Nashville, delivered the charge to the church. **Doug Westmoreland** is pastor.

Mr. and Mrs. **Harold B. Gray**, members of Raleigh Church in Memphis, were honored on their 50th wedding anniversary earlier this month. Their pastor is **Dan M. Hodges**.

**Harley Watson**, charter member of Immanuel Church, Lawrenceburg, died last month following a heart attack. He was a deacon of the church and had served as chairman of the building committee when the church was formed. He is survived by his wife, **Artie Mae** of the home; his son, **Jack**; and one granddaughter, **Emily Jane**, who lives in Milwaukee, Wis. **Gary A. Anderson** is pastor at Immanuel.

**John O. Hamblen** was ordained to the gospel ministry by First Church in Winchester. **Hamblen** is minister of music and youth at the church. **Jewel R. Pruitt** is pastor.

Poplar Corner Church, Haywood Association, ordained **Lloyd Davis**, **Alvis Castleman**, and **Jerry White** as deacons this month.

East Athens Church, Athens, ordained **Bob Housley** and **David McKee** as deacons last month. **Bob Peek** is pastor.

Ball Camp Church, Knoxville, announced that two couples within that fellowship celebrated their 50th anniversaries recently. They are Mr. and Mrs. **W. Albert Gault** and Mr. and Mrs. **Samuel Herbert Ruckart**. **Leonard Markham** is pastor.

Two Rivers Church in Nashville ordained former member **Craig Johnson** to the gospel ministry. **Johnson** is a student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and serves as pastor of a small church in that vicinity. **Ralph McIntyre** is interim pastor at Two Rivers.

The new congregation of College Heights Church, Gallatin, recently elected and ordained their first deacons. Those set aside for this ministry were: **York Bizzell**, **Wayne Diel**, **Perry Johnson**, **Lee Skaggs**, and **Ken Whitaker**. College Heights was constituted as a church in April of 1978 and applied for membership in Bledsoe Association in October. **Larry L. Gilmore** is pastor.

**Wayne Towery** was ordained as a deacon at First Church in Columbia this month. **Harold Smith** is pastor.

Members of Mt. Carmel Church, Knoxville, honored their pastor, **Roy L. Miller**, on the occasion of his fifth anniversary with the church last month. **Ralph Norton**, executive secretary-treasurer, Tennessee Baptist Convention, was the guest speaker at the morning worship service. A special service was also held in the evening with a reception following.

Goodsprings Church, Etowah, ordained **Terry Williams** to the gospel ministry last month. **Williams** is a student at Clear Creek School in Pineville, Ky., and serves as pastor of New Bethel Church in Cranes Nest, Ky. **Ted Davis**, director of missions for McMinn-Meigs Association, led the ordination prayer. **Ernest Condee**, pastor of Goodsprings, brought the ordination sermon. **Tery Williams'** father, **Ray Williams**, presented the Bible to his son on behalf of the congregation.

**Paul Frick**, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., was ordained to the gospel ministry by Woodmont Church in Nashville. **Frick** completed his master of divinity degree at Southern and is pursuing a doctor's degree in theology. He is pastoring the Blank Church in Blank, Ky. Representatives of that congregation were present for the ordination. **Bill Sherman** is pastor at Woodmont.

Second Church, Union City, ordained **Raymond Hutchins** and **Wayne Sutton** as deacons. **Noel Edwards** is pastor.

Central Church, Nolachucky Association, ordained **Michael Potter** recently. The ordination sermon was delivered by **Calvin Helton**.

**Lee Austin** and **Harry Jetton** were ordained as deacons by First Church, Maury City. **Tom Lewis**, director of missions for Madison-Chester Association, preached the ordination sermon. **James R. Jones** is pastor at First Church.

## CHURCHES . . .

**Warren Earle Fusselle**, Jackson, was guest speaker at the 10th anniversary of Covington Pike Church in Memphis last month. **Wallace H. Pruitt** is pastor.

The 85th homecoming of Avondale Church, Chattanooga, was observed last month. **Robert Smith**, former staff member who was ordained by the church in 1947, was speaker and evangelist for a week of revival services. **Joe Parks** of Chattanooga led the singing. There were 29 rededications. **Smith** is now missions director for the Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association in Weslaco, Tex. **James H. Walker** is pastor at Avondale.

West Paris Church, Paris, dedicated a new kitchen, fellowship hall, and educational building debt free recently. The dedication service was followed by a meal served at the church. **Bill Robbins** is pastor.

## LEADERSHIP . . .

Bordeaux Church, Nashville Association, called **Jess Williams** as interim pastor. **Williams** is a member of Belmont Heights Church in Nashville.

In Polk County Association, Benton Station changed the status of **John Smith** from interim pastor to full-time pastor.

**L.E. Twitchell** resigned Bible's Chapel Church, Nolachucky Association, and is now serving as associate pastor and youth minister for Montvue Church in Morristown.

**Raymond DeArmond** is serving as interim pastor at Manley Church in Morristown.

**Jack Horner** is the new minister of music and youth at Brownsville Church, Haywood Association.

**Clayton Burchell** resigned at First Church in Guild after a five-year pastorate.

**W.A. Farmer** is serving as interim pastor at Mt. Moriah Church, Fayette Association. He is retired and resides in Como.

**Norman Culpepper**, associate pastor at West Jackson Church, Jackson, resigned, effective Dec. 31. He has served the church for the past five years. The congregation has called a pastor (see related story, this issue).

**Truman Brown Jr.** is serving as interim pastor at Grandview Church in Nashville. **Doyle Chatham** is also on the Grandview staff as interim minister of education.

**Nilon H. Elliot**, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, was called as interim pastor at Battle Creek Church, Robertson County Association.

**Roger Rickabaugh** was called as minister of music at North Fork Church, Shelbyville. He is a student at Belmont College and comes to Tennessee from Fairborn, Ohio. **Bill Smith** is pastor.

Midway Church, Stone Association, called **Leman Marsee** as music director of the church.

**Charles Nail**, pastor of Richland Church, Nashville Association, resigned.



## After I'm saved, what?

By Ira S. Perkins

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship and in the breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42).

What do I do after I'm saved? How would you respond to this question? Here's one answer you could give.



Perkins

They studied the Scripture. Preaching and teaching go together like hand and glove. Those saved at Pentecost were active Christians. They assembled to study

what the apostles were saying. God spoke to them through His Word. The Bible will teach you how to grow. Bible study and prayer are to the soul what exercise and food are to the body. You must have both in order to be healthy.

They also shared their possessions in fellowship and love (2:45). They divided their material possessions, but fellowship is more than food. It is sharing the joys, sorrows, hopes, and dreams of other Christians. We are most Christlike when we share with others. There is need for real compassion and concern in our churches for each other. Fellowship is sharing ourselves in love.

They prayed, but what is prayer? Is prayer only words or is it joining hands with God and reaching out to a starving world and demonstrating love? Prayer is reaching out in the church and into the community and saying, "Can I help?"

They shared their wealth but they also shared in the work load of the church. They were active in the worship inside the church and witness outside in the world. Service and love go together, for you cannot love unless you also serve. Do you sing, "Oh, How I Love Jesus," drop a twenty dollar bill in the plate and feel that you have done your duty to God, your church, and mankind? If so, you need to reread your New Testament. You can go through the motion of worship without becoming involved, but true worship includes service to God through His church.

Once you are saved, you need to grow. Study your Bible, become active in your church and go out into your community to get involved in relieving the suffering of humanity and grow in Christ.

*Perkins is director of missions for Big Hatchie Baptist Association, Covington, TN 38019.*

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## Sunday School directors revive 'Standard of Excellence' plan

NASHVILLE—The Sunday School Standard of Excellence to go into effect Feb. 1 was presented in final form to state Sunday School directors meeting with the Sunday School Board's Sunday School department here.

"The standard grew out of a request by the state directors for a simple planning and

evaluation tool," said Mavis Allen, Sunday School program design and planning coordinator and chairperson of the committee which designed the general standard.

Standards will be available for the entire Sunday School and for the four age groups—preschool, children, youth, and adults. In addition, associational, cradle roll, homebound ministry, special education work, and Vacation Bible School standards will be available.

"The purpose of the standards is to give Sunday School workers an instrument for measuring the kind of work they're doing," Miss Allen said. "In addition, the standards can help workers identify areas where improvement is needed and to plan for the future."

The standards provide guidelines for eight areas of Sunday School work: outreach and growth, Bible study, evangelism, member involvement, organization, learning environment, planning, and leadership development.

"Special effort was made by the committee to make this a standard which any church of any size could use as a guide," Miss Allen said.

Leaflets listing the requirements for each standard may be obtained after Feb. 1 from state convention Sunday School departments. Certificates of recognition will be issued.

### Howell congregation applies for associational membership

First Church, Howell, applied for membership into the William Carey Association during its recent annual meeting and was accepted on a watchcare basis, according to director of missions Joe Mayberry. The church is led by Pastor Fred Rutledge.

James Shutt, pastor of First Church in Flintville, was elected moderator to succeed Don Shultz, pastor of Lincoln Church. Charles Gresham, pastor of West End Church in Fayetteville, was elected as vice-moderator.

Re-elected to the posts of treasurer and clerk was Henry Wattenbarger, a member of Prospect Church.

Oak Hill and Lincoln Churches are scheduled to host the 1979 annual sessions on Oct. 22-23.

### Church growth materials set for January release

NASHVILLE—A notebook giving detailed information on planning for church growth will be available in January through the Sunday School Board's materials services department.

**Sunday School Growth Spiral** by Andy Anderson is a practical application of the Flake formula for Sunday School growth. Anderson, who also developed the ACTION enrollment plan, shows how a church can plan for growth using five concepts: locate prospects, enlarge the organization, enlist and train workers, provide the space and go after the people. (BSSB)

### C. Henry Preston sets resignation

After leading the congregation at East Ridge Church near Chattanooga for 35 years, C. Henry Preston has announced his resignation from the active pastorate at that church, effective Dec. 31. He plans to remain in supply, interim, and evangelistic work.

He first came to East Ridge in 1941 and served until 1944. He returned there in June 1946 and has remained until the present. While he was a student at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, he pastored the Russellville Church. Preston has also led congregations in California, Kentucky, and Virginia. In addition to his work at Carson-Newman, he attended Los Angeles (Calif.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Active in denominational work on both the associational and state level, Preston was a member of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention on two occasions for a total of 14 years. He was a trustee for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes for six years, a member of the state missions committee, secretary of the Executive Board, vice-president of the administrative committee, and chairman of the recognitions committee for the retirement of Ralph Norton, executive secretary-treasurer, TBC. Preston is now a member of the committee on boards for the convention.

In Hamilton County Association, he has served as moderator and vice-moderator, and as a member and officer of numerous committees.

Sunday, Dec. 10, was Preston's last Sunday in the pulpit. A reception honoring the pastor was held at the church that afternoon.

### Former WMU leader dies

MURPHYSBORO, Ill.—Maude Hathaway, former Illinois Baptist Woman's Missionary Union director, died at the age of 94.

In 1943-44, Miss Hathaway, who served for 18 years, asked to be relieved of her office responsibilities and spent two years going from church to church doing personal evangelism.

Out of this experience she wrote the book, **Soul Winning in Your Community**, later adapted by the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala., as a study course book. It set the pattern for what was then known as community missions among WMU groups in all the states. (BP)



# The pastor and church relationship

It is a sacred occasion in the life of a church and in the life of a minister.

A congregation has met to vote on the calling of a new pastor. They have heard about him—and they have heard from him in a trial sermon. After sincere prayer for God's will, the congregation votes on a recommendation from the Pastor Search Committee. The ballots are counted, and the call is issued.

The prospective pastor has learned about the church from the committee and his visit to the church field. He has given the committee his consent to present his name to the church. Now he is informed on the church's vote to call him as pastor. After sincere prayer for God's will, he accepts the call to become their pastor.

With excitement and assurance of God's leadership—by both pastor and the church—a long fruitful relationship is begun.

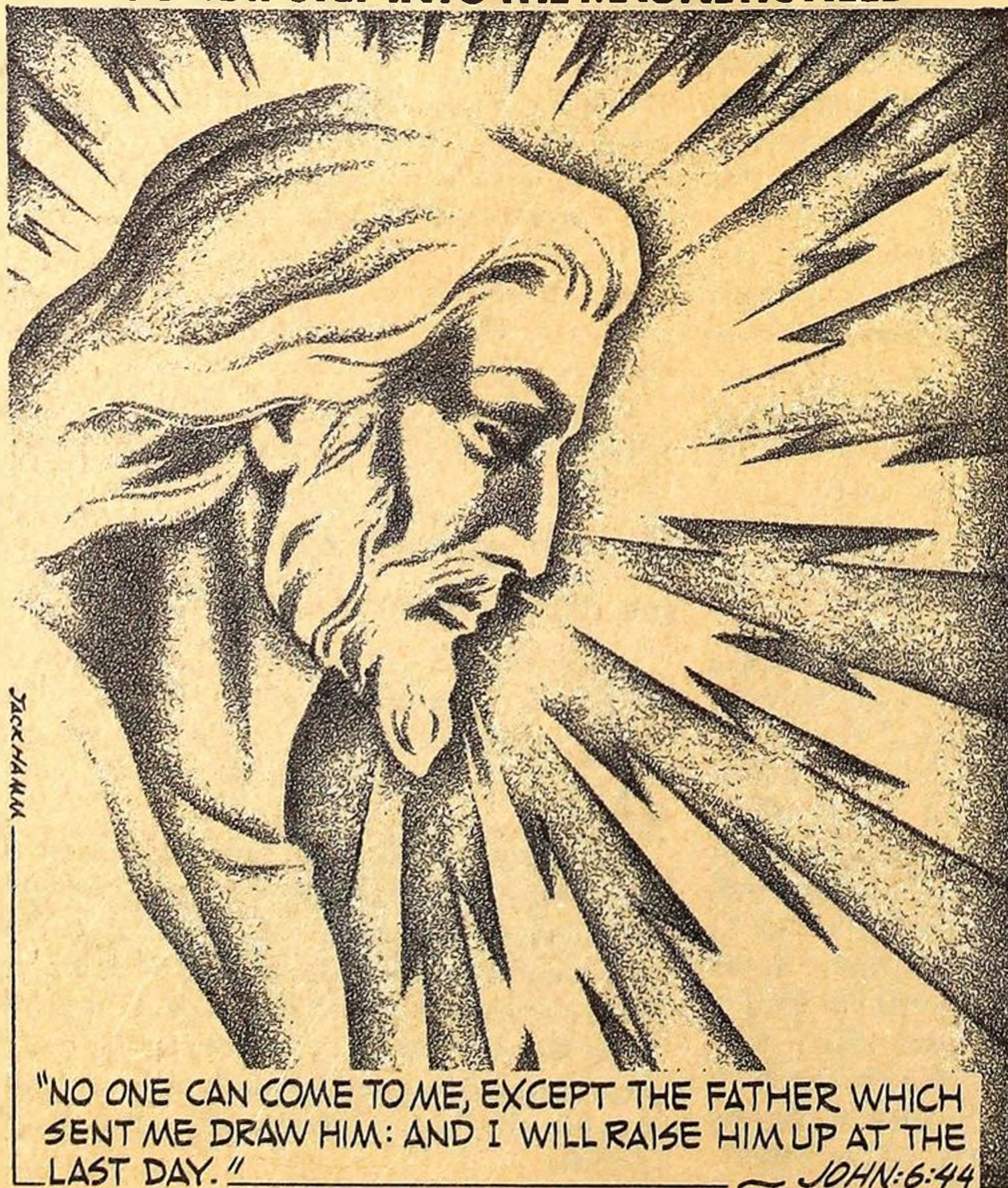
However . . . if this is an average Southern Baptist church, two years from now this church will be going through the same procedure. The pastor will be gone. The joy of a pastor-church relationship has ended—often with bitterness, hostility, and permanent scars.

What happened? Why? What really is the relationship between church and a pastor?

## PASTOR'S RELATIONSHIP TO CHURCH

Usually it is the pastor who dissolves this relationship, although we will admit that occasionally his resignation is "encouraged."

### YOU MAY STEP INTO THE MAGNETIC FIELD



"NO ONE CAN COME TO ME, EXCEPT THE FATHER WHICH SENT ME DRAW HIM: AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY."

— JOHN 6:44

Basically there are two reasons why a minister moves from his present pastorate.

(1) The pastor accepts a "greater challenge" which usually means he goes to a larger church with a larger salary; to a bigger membership with a bigger parsonage.

We accept the fact that God often uses a smaller congregation to train a pastor for a greater responsibility—but no pastor should see his present pastorate as merely a "stepping stone."

(2) The second reason for a pastor's departure is that he comes face-to-face with the problems of the church.

The first year is the "honeymoon" period for a new pastor. Gradually, he is asked to solve the church's problems—huge church debt, indifference, lack of leadership, strife among the membership, crisis in members' lives. As he works with these and other problems, it is likely that he will encounter discouragements and disappointments.

So, the pastor has a choice. Now that he knows the problems he must face, he can either determine to have an effective ministry by working out, working under, or working in spite of these problems—or he can go to another church, where he will encounter similar situations. Tragically, too many pastors are unwilling to stick it out, so they choose to leave.

## CHURCH'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE PASTOR

Until recent years it was a rare occasion for a congregation to vote out its pastor. Such votes came when the pastor was accused of gross immorality or of extreme heresy—after the pastor has been given the opportunity to resign.

Now, however, we hear of an increasing number of churches who, seemingly without serious charges, bring the pastor to the congregation for a "vote of confidence."

When the pastor was called, the membership had by vote expressed their conviction that it was God's will for him to be their pastor.

But before too many months have passed, some members discover that the new pastor has no miracles to offer. If the church is to be the church, there must be visitation, prayer meetings, teacher training, stewardship campaigns, Saturday work day, etc. The problems and discouragements which existed before he came will not disappear quickly—if at all.

So, some of the members begin to talk about his "lack of leadership" or that he "doesn't fit in" or that his methods are too old or too advanced. A solution is offered—"We need a new pastor."

Rather than support the pastor by faithful attendance, by encouragement, and by prayer, these members prefer to move him out and get a "better" pastor. Even if the pastor survives the vote, it is doubtful he can regain a position of strong leadership within the church.

THE PASTOR-CHURCH RELATIONSHIP is in some ways like a marriage. It should not be entered into lightly. It must be based upon a conviction that God's will is being followed. It must recognize there are periods of "better, worse; richer, poorer; sickness, health." It should be entered into with a desire for permanency.

The relationship between a church and its pastor is a sacred, God-given bond. Neither that pastor nor that church should tamper with that bond without anticipating God's judgment.



# From the Executive Secretary

By Ralph Norton

A truth I learned many years ago was brought to my attention recently by my daughter when she penned a note on her birthday card to me. She reminded me, as she said I had often advised her, that life is full of stages, some easy and some hard, but if you have love, God and happiness, life will always be beautiful, regardless of the stage.



Norton

I have pondered this truth often during the past few weeks and am convinced that every scene in the drama of life can indeed be beautiful, if God is in control of that life. This is true in spite of difficulties encountered or frustrations experienced. As I think of the three scenes that span my life's ministry, six Southern Seminary years and student pastor, twenty-five years as pastor of Red Bank Church, and these six years as your executive secretary, I realize anew how beautiful life has really been.

The main thrust of this message, however, is intended to express sincere gratitude to you, Baptists of Tennessee, for the encouragement given, prayers offered in my behalf, and the great spirit of cooperation which you have exhibited during these years. Time and space would not allow me to enumerate the opportunities I have been given to share in your work, rejoice with you in your successes, help you solve a problem, or work with you on convention programs. I only want you to know that these experiences have been a source of real blessing to me. My life has been deeply enriched because of our fellowship together.

I will continue to support the program of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Tom Madden as he becomes our new leader. I am looking forward to being involved in the program of Brainerd Baptist Church in Chattanooga, but if there are areas in which I can be of service in the programs of our state, please feel free to call on me.

Both Louise and I wish to take this opportunity to wish for each of you a very happy Christmas Season and a blessed New Year in your individual lives and your church.

## First, Algood, calls Carl Rea

Carl Rea is serving as pastor of First Church in Algood, after serving in an interim capacity there for the past several months.

Rea, who has been in full-time evangelism for the past 10 years, came to Tennessee three years ago from Texas. He is a native of east Texas.

The church's former pastor is Tom Burgess.

# TBSC elects Ross as president, reviews reports on projects

Kenneth Ross of Brentwood was re-elected as president of the Board of Trustees of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation at a meeting last week in Brentwood.

Other officers are Gaye McGlothlen, Nashville, as vice-president, and Tom Patton, Jackson, as secretary.

The trustees approved the budget for the coming year and received the auditor's report.

Wade Darby, TBSC executive director, reported on several projects which will provide housing facilities for senior adults.

Deer Lake of Nashville has entered its second phase of construction, with 11 additional units and the activities building presently under construction. To date, 50 units have been sold, Darby reported.

The corporation will become managers of the Baptist Health Care Center in Lenoir City in the near future, with arrangements hope-

fully closed by Jan. 15. Darby said the transfer has been delayed while the Internal Revenue Service was giving their approval for the service corporation to operate the facility.

Darby reported on several problems related to the 123-unit high-rise Belmont Plaza in Nashville. The completion of construction is running five months late, he noted. The TBSC executive secretary also discussed with the trustees problems related to the financing and operating of the retirement facility.

Darby reported that TBSC is seeking property in Johnson City and Memphis for the construction of some type of living facilities for senior adults.

## Evangelism

(Continued from page 1)

Baptist Convention programs and is past president of the SBC Pastors' Conference.

Nashville pastor H. Franklin Paschall, will deliver messages on two occasions, also. He is scheduled to speak on Monday evening and Tuesday morning. Paschall has led the Nashville congregation since 1956, coming from the pastorate of First Church in Bowling Green, Ky. He has been a member of numerous committees and boards in the convention, is an author, and has spoken at several SBC gatherings.

Other speakers slated for the two-day event are: Tom Madden, executive secretary-treasurer elect of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; Jeff Brooks, president of the Tennessee Conference of Baptist Evangelists, Knoxville; and Roy Edgemon, church training department, Baptist Sunday School Board; and McDow.

Spencer P. Thorton, Nashville ophthalmologist, will give his testimony on Tuesday night. He is an active member of First Church.

The ministry through song will be under the direction of Frank Charton, state music director. Special music will be brought by: concert lyric soprano Beverly Terrell; Baptist entertainer Kay DeKalb; Bill Morris, minister of music at First Church, Clarksville; John Outland, minister of music at First Church in Clinton; the Tennessee Baptist Chorale, under the direction of L. O. Ball Jr.; the orchestra of Belmont Heights Church; and the choir from First Church in Nashville.

The first session will begin at 2 p.m. on Monday. The conference will close Tuesday night at 9:15.

## Sponsors needed for Internationals

Tennessee Baptists have an opportunity of ministering and sharing with International college students from Dec. 21-Jan. 1. Rollin DeLap of the National Student Ministries Dept. of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, is coordinating the program in Nashville.

In the Nashville area, Belmont Heights Church has accepted the responsibility of hosting many of the 45 students, while various institutions and individuals are participating by providing meals. Grace, Woodmont, and First Church, Hermitage are providing some of the meals.

Shelby County Baptist Associational WMU is sponsoring 22 students, and First Church, Memphis, is hosting 11 additional students.

Maury Baptist Association along with the Baptist Student Union at Columbia Community College are sponsoring 10 students who will be staying in homes of local people.

The highlight of the program for the Internationals will be new friendships with each other and with their host families. For many, this opportunity will be their first, and perhaps the last, visit in an American home. It is also an opportunity for Baptist families to share the meaning of Christmas in their homes with the International students.

In the Nashville area, the families would provide breakfast each day, meals on Sunday, Dec. 24 and 31, as well as Christmas Day and New Year's Day. During other days the Internationals will be under the direction of Delap.

There is a need for additional families to participate. If interested call Delap at 615-251-2774, Jim Alexander, BSU director in Columbia at 615-381-0131, or John Billington, BSU director at UT Center for Health Sciences, Memphis, 901-525-8889.

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William Reynolds named to gospel music group

NASHVILLE—William J. Reynolds, secretary of the church music department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has been named to a national executive advisory committee for planning the Gospel Music Hall of Fame Research Library and Museum. The facility will be built in Nashville on Music Row across from the Country Music Hall of Fame. Housed in the 25,000 square feet will be the Gospel Music Association offices, the library and a Hall of Fame Gallery. (BSSB)

HISTORICALLY FROM THE FILES

50 YEARS AGO

William A. Huey was the new assistant pastor to R. G. Lee of Bellevue Church, Memphis. He came from Charleston, S.C., and succeeded J. Fred Scholfield.

H. F. Wright accepted the call of Ninth Street Church, Erwin. He came from Rosamond, N. C.

25 YEARS AGO

Charles Roselle of Columbia, Mo., was elected secretary of the Baptist Student Union department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Roselle, who had served previously as student secretary for the colleges of Nashville, succeeded Rogers M. Smith who had resigned.

Meridian Church, Madison-Chester Association, was constituted. The church was located in the Cedar Grove community of Madison County. Missionary Robert L. Newman, a leader in the movement, was in charge of the service. There were 28 charter members.

10 YEARS AGO

Highland Park Church, Lawrenceburg, held open house at their new pastorium. J. Arnold Porter, pastor for the past six years, and his family had moved into the house. Cost of the house was more than \$25,000.

Ground breaking ceremonies were held for the Sara Elizabeth Fortner Activities Building at Highland Heights Church, Memphis. The building estimated to cost over \$500,000 was to be named for a long-time member of the church whose husband began the fundraising with a generous contribution in her memory. Slater A. Murphy was pastor.

Pulpit To Pen

By Jim N. Griffith

As you make your Yuletide plans and do your Christmas shopping, make certain you do not forget the last, the least, and the lonely.

It steps on your heart to read of the elderly lady, living alone, who wrote the Nashville postmaster a few years ago, enclosed 25 cents, and a strange request:

"Please get someone in Nashville to use this quarter and send me a Christmas card." In her loneliness, she asked only that someone send her a card which should remind us at Christmas not to forget the down-and-outs or the left-outs.

One young man said: "The greatest gift I ever received at Christmas was when, I, as a little boy, got a note from my daddy, saying: "Son, this year I will give you 365 hours of my time—one hour each night after dinner to use as you will."

A great truth is underlined by this: the only true Christmas gift is yourself.

Bible Puzzle Answers on page 13

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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ACROSS

- 1 He was wicked (Gen. 38:7; poss.)
- 4 Containers: abbr.
- 8 Muttonfish
- 12 Famous general
- 13 Sunk fence
- 14 Portent
- 15 "into a — — —" (Matt. 13)
- 18 First man (1 Cor. 15:45)
- 19 Duck
- 20 Counted as stubble (Job 41:29)
- 23 Arm bone
- 25 Cordage fiber
- 26 Fish sauce
- 27 Eastern Church veil
- 30 "— — — at his word" (Isa. 66)

- 33 Sodium aluminum sulfate: abbr.
- 34 Raised platform
- 35 Kiln
- 36 Animal (Psa. 42:1)
- 37 "— have they" (Psa. 115)
- 38 King of Tyre (1 Chron. 14:1)
- 41 Hur's son (1 Chron. 2:20; poss.)
- 43 "— — —, say they" (Psa. 41)
- 48 Wolf, of a sort
- 49 Plain
- 50 Day of the week: abbr.
- 51 Presently, old time
- 52 "Israel — — empty vine" (Hos. 10)
- 53 Positions: abbr.

DOWN

- 1 Fairy tale character
- 2 Man (Gen. 11:18)
- 3 Homily: abbr.
- 4 Fish
- 5 Dangerous word (Matt. 5:22)
- 6 He sent them away (Matt. 14:22; 2 words)
- 7 — Paulo
- 8 European city
- 9 Among
- 10 Fen
- 11 Brother of Mamre (Gen. 14:13)
- 16 Knob and notch in ceramics
- 17 "and as a tottering —" (Psa. 62)
- 20 North African rulers
- 21 Scope
- 22 Monotonous routines
- 24 Irish sea god: poss.
- 26 — of roses: var.
- 27 Arab garments
- 28 "or — be absent" (Phil. 1)
- 29 Soaks
- 31 Place (Josh. 19:33)
- 32 Elk
- 36 It was not com-modious (Acts 27:12)
- 37 Month (Neh. 2:1)
- 38 Asian screw pine
- 39 Party to
- 40 City in western USA
- 42 European capital
- 44 56 in Roma
- 45 Unit of electricity
- 46 Jesus Christ (2 John 3)
- 47 Printer's measures

CRYPTOVERSE

H N C P S I Y J W I J G W S N Y J M N M B P S I  
A H A X J G P S I U N A A I X W

Today's Cryptoverse clue: H equals I





Mrs. Werdna Phillips

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## Senior adult leaders invited to conference

DALLAS, Tex.—Facts on understanding the aging process and life in later years will be presented during a senior adult leadership conference at the Southern Baptist Annuity Board Jan. 16-19.

The conference, co-sponsored by the Annuity Board and the senior adult ministry section of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will focus on a theme of "Effective Ministry with Older Persons."

"On the foundation of understanding the aging process and life in the later years, the seminar will build practical methods of surveying interest and needs; organization and programming with senior adults, providing service opportunities, resources, motivation; and developing community relationships," explained Gary Hauk, senior adult consultant with the Baptist Sunday School Board.

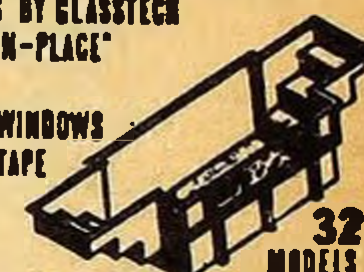
Registration information is available from Gary Hauk, MSN 140, Baptist Sunday School Board, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, Tennessee 37234.

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32  
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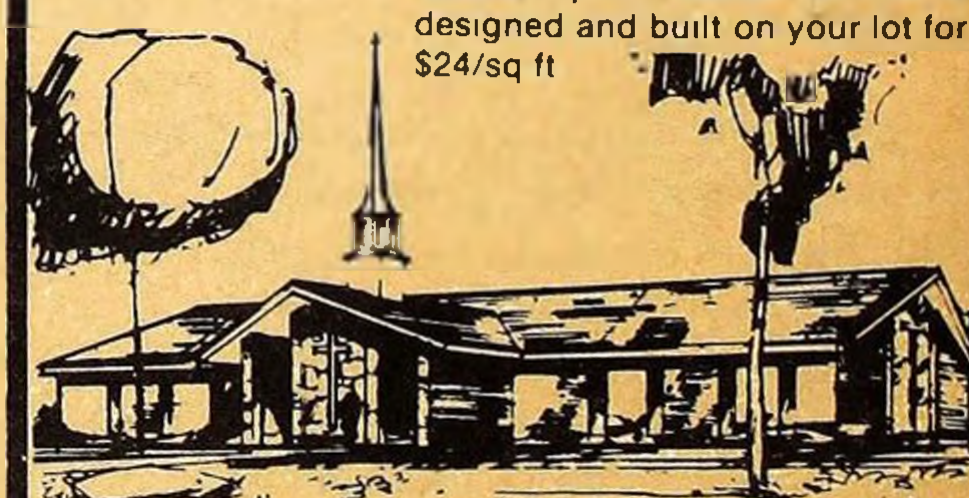
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## Assurance amid persecution

By Herschel H. Hobbs

*"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations."* —1 Peter 1:6

1 Peter was written about A.D. 65 during a time of persecution of Christians by Nero. The persecution will be of short duration as seen in "for a season" or, literally, "for a little while." Even if the persecution should last, it is but for a little while on earth as compared to eternity in heaven. "If need be" means a moral and spiritual necessity in view of their faith in Christ. "Are in heaviness" means "put to grief." The reason being their manifold temptations." Here "temptations" mean testings or trials, obviously referring to persecution.

"Greatly rejoice" renders one verb meaning to rejoice. "Wherein" gives the basis of their rejoicing. This refers back to verses 3-5.

In this context of persecution, Peter praises "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." This is because of "His abundant mercy." Literally, "the much of His mercy." In this He "hath begotten again" translates an aorist (historical tense) participle. It is the equivalent of Jesus' "born again" or "born from above" (John 3:3). This new birth is "unto a lively [living] hope" through the resurrection of Jesus Christ out of the realm of the dead. Peter is fond of the word "living" (1:23; 2:4-5, 24; 4:5-6).

The Pharisees held a hope of the resurrection of the dead. But Jesus' resurrection made it a living hope or assurance. Peter's readers may lose possessions and life on earth through persecution. But they have in heaven an inheritance "incorruptible" and "undefiled." This latter word was used to denote a title to property which had no flaw in it. Unlike a faded flower this inheritance will not fade away. "Reserved" renders a perfect passive participle of the verb "to guard." It is completely guarded by God Himself.

"Kept" in verse 5 renders a verb used "to

garrison." The present tense expresses continuous action. God's power forms a constant garrison about our heavenly inheritance which is ours "through faith unto salvation." This will be "revealed" or unveiled at the "last time." This refers to the final judgment. Thus we, along with Peter's initial readers, find assurance as we endure life's trials.



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"I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys" (Song of Solomon 2:1).



# God judges and forgives

By Bob R. Agee  
Dean of Religious Affairs  
Union University, Jackson, TN

Background Passages: Hosea 2:1 to 4:19; 11, Isaiah 57; 14-21; Hebrews 8  
Printed Passages: Hosea 4:1-3; 11:1-4, 8-9

What is God's attitude toward sin and the sinner? Does an individual really have to answer for his decision to live contrary to God's laws? Is sin strictly a personal matter, or does our sin affect persons or things around us? Does God have a right to impose harsh punishment upon us for our disobedience? What is His response to our sin?



Agee

Many years ago the prophet Hosea went through some personal experiences that gave him a deep insight into answers to these questions. Hosea lived in the Northern Kingdom of Israel, probably during the first half of the eighth century B.C. The book that bears his

name includes a brief account of his tragic marriage and the heartbreak that he suffered because of an unfaithful wife (Chap. 1-3). The story section of the book reaches its zenith when Hosea buys his unfaithful ex-wife off the slave block and returns her to his home. After a period of discipline, she is restored completely to her relationship with her husband. God used Hosea's experience as an object lesson to point out that Israel was playing harlot. The nation had been unfaithful to God. Because they had violated their covenant with God, the nation would suffer the consequences for their sin.

### God's Dispute With His People (Hos. 4:1-3)

Tragically, the people of Israel assumed the attitude that they could ignore God, worship Baal, and not have to pay for their unfaithfulness. The covenant relationship between God and His people hinged upon their maintaining that close personal fellowship. As a result of the loss of that close personal fellowship, three desirable qualities had been lost from their lives.

Truth was missing. The people were no longer trustworthy. God could not rely upon them to maintain their part of the covenant.

Mercy was missing. One of the most powerful words in the old Testament is the word translated here as mercy. It is the word for a special covenant kind of love. The husband and wife were to share this special kind of covenant love for each other. God and His chosen people were to share that special kind of covenant love for each other. That love expressed itself in a loyalty to one another and a devotion to one another. But that had disappeared from the hearts of the people of Israel.

Knowledge of God was missing. God's people were not to be familiar with facts about God. He wanted them to know Him intimately. Their knowledge was to be a deep inner personal knowledge that resulted in their obedience to what God wanted of them. It had become evident that because they no longer knew God, they no longer knew how to do good.

With these inner qualities missing due to the lack of personal relationship with God, it was only natural for the people to violate the commandments of God (v. 2).

The ten commandments can be divided into two parts. The first five commandments have to do with man's relationship to God. The second five deal with man's relationship to his fellow man. Verse one in the passage under study portrays the violation of the first four. Verse two points out that when right relation-

ship to God is broken, it expresses itself in broken relationships to others. The people of Israel were violating the covenant by ignoring the laws that governed their relationship to one another. Their society was marked by the loss of trustworthy speech. Human life had come to be of no value as had human property. Just as Hosea's wife had chosen a life of infidelity, even so had the people of Israel chosen to ignore God's standard of moral conduct.

God's judgement is sure (v.3). The prophet carefully focused upon the fact that all of creation feels the impact of human sin and rebellion. The Bible writers were careful to point out that man suffers the consequences of his sinful behavior.

When a person ignores God's law and treats God and his fellow man irresponsibly, it normally shows up in an irresponsible treatment of nature. Every part of creation was affected by Israel's sin. The land, people, beasts of the field, birds of the air, even the fish in the sea were being destroyed by man's sinfulness. God's judgment upon Israel's sin was to simply allow their sinfulness to be followed by the natural consequences of disobedient, irresponsible behavior.

### To love is to discipline (11:1-4)

The reasonable reaction would have been for God to destroy them as punishment for their behavior. But even God's wrath expresses itself in redemptive love. God desires not to destroy but to discipline in love. Earlier Hosea had painted the word picture describing his own feelings toward his unfaithful, disloyal wife as an example of how God felt about Israel. He loved her, bought her from the slave block, and restored her to his home (Chapter 3).

### A Redeeming Love (11:8-9)

When God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, He destroyed three other towns in the same area (cr. Gen. 10:19ff). Along with the infamous Sodom and Gomorrah, He destroyed the towns of Admah, Zeboim, and Zoar. All five of the cities were described as being extremely wicked cities. So wicked were they that there was no hope of repentance. So repulsive was the depth of their corruption that God destroyed them to eradicate their influence.

As Hosea looked about him, it must have seemed to him that he was looking at a repeat performance of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim. Israel had become so immoral; so unfaithful; so repulsive in their behavior that Hosea would not have been surprised if God acted to destroy his nation too.

But God would not turn his back on Israel. They were His people. He had made a covenant with them. He loved them and still had hopes for their repentance. (v. 8).

God's nature is to love. His wrath is wrath that expresses itself in redemptive love. His holiness is a godliness that manifests itself in an unexplainable self-giving love. God's way is to love the sinful person and to offer forgiveness. In his patient grace, He gives us opportunity to repent and be restored to right relationship with Him.

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# The action tells the story

By William L. Swafford, Pastor  
First Baptist Church, Elizabethton

Basic Passage: Matthew 25:31-46  
Focal Passage: Matthew 25:31-45

It is what a person does naturally when there is no one around to impress and no point to be proven that determines genuine character. This passage of Scripture describes the bases on which our lives will be judged. Scholars acclaim this to be one of the most vivid of all the parables of Jesus. It points toward the time "When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him." At that time all our actions will be judged.



Swafford

judgement. We will be judged, rather, on the natural reactions we exhibit toward the everyday needs of people around us: the hungry and thirsty, the lonely stranger, the naked and destitute, the sick, and the incarcerated. The real nature of a person will be determined by whether he reacts positively or negatively to the misery inflicted by these basic human needs.

## The motive for the actions (Matt. 25:37-39, 44)

It is significant that neither the righteous nor the unrighteous were aware that their reactions to human needs were the bases for judgement. Neither acted out of hope of reward nor fear of punishment. Each did what came naturally for him, and his actions became an illustration of his character. This is exactly the point!

The righteous met those needs because it was their natures to do so. The unrighteous would have ministered if they had known that the Lord was in need, but their basic selfish natures never thought to serve their fellowman.

In the sermon on the mount, Jesus said, "Ye shall know them by their fruits . . . Every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but every corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit . . . Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them" (Matt. 6:16-20).

## The recipients of the actions (Matt. 25:40, 45)

Each of those judged reacted in surprise that "the King" said "Inasmuch as ye have done it (or done it not) unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it (done it not) unto Me." Jesus makes it clear that there is a beautiful, mystical, connection between Himself and His "brethren." The believers are "in Christ" (Rom. 12:5) and Christ is "in" the believers (Rom. 8:10). They represent Him in the world and are His outward expression, His body. To serve them is to serve Him.

## The reward for the actions (Matt. 25:34, 41)

To the righteous belongs the privilege, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation

of the world." One who inherits is an heir by virtue of birth. Those about whom Jesus was speaking were "born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever" (I Pet. 1:23).

They were not saved by their compassionate deeds, but performed them because they were saved by grace through faith and were God's "workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). They were, therefore, "the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ" (Rom. 8:17). To them belonged the place for which God created man.

The unrighteous were given the awesome sentence, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

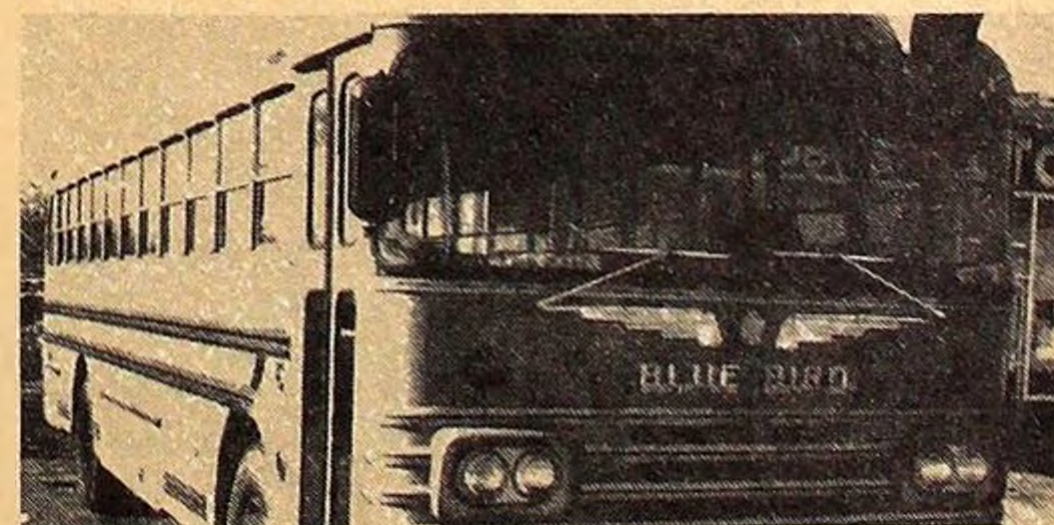
It is a sobering thought to realize that hell was never created for man. "The Lord is . . . longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Pet. 3:9). However, when men refuse to repent and accept Christ, they continued to follow "the devil and his angels" whose eventual destination is "into everlasting fire," a place for which man was never intended.

This parable was the last one Jesus gave. It was as if He were trying, desperately, for one last time to persuade men, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3, 5); therefore, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28).

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## The type of the actions (Matt. 25:35-36; 42-43)

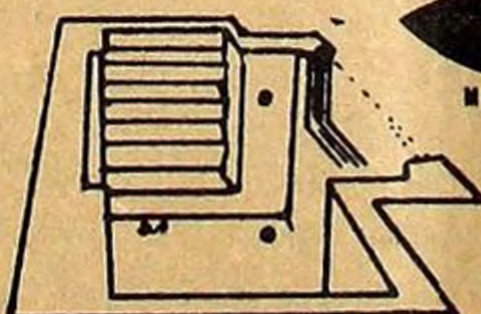
Lest we are further deceived into thinking that we will be judged on our spectacular deeds and accomplishments, Jesus made it clear that those would not be the bases for



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# Lottie Moon makes Western Union wires glow

By Norman Jameson

Western Union wires between Nashville and Richmond, Va., must glow after the holidays as Southern Baptists respond to world missions.

Ada Ruth Kelly, chief bookkeeper for the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, keeps the wires humming with good news as she forwards funds received in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

As chief bookkeeper for the SBC's administrative agency, Mrs. Kelly distributes all funds received through the 33 state Baptist conventions as contributions to the national Cooperative Program—the cooperative effort of 35,000 SBC churches to support world missions. Last year she sent checks totaling over \$100-million to the 19 Southern Baptist agencies.

But she was able to distribute major checks shortly after Christmas and Easter because of the efforts of the Woman's Missionary Union which sponsors the annual mission offerings for foreign and home missions taken at those times.

This year's Lottie Moon goal is \$40-million, a long jump from the \$31.4-million received

last year and a longer leap from the \$3,315 taken in the first foreign missions offering in 1888. But large offerings are necessary to meet the Bold Mission Thrust goal of reaching every person in the world with the gospel of Jesus by the year 2000.

This year's offering, named after a woman who gave her life to missions in China, represents more than three dollars for every man, woman, and child in the 13-million member denomination.

All of the money collected from the churches goes to the state convention offices from where it is sent directly to Mrs. Kelly, who last year handled an average of \$395,000 every working day.

When the press of gifts for foreign missions comes heaviest in February, Mrs. Kelly and her assistant Betty Pollock, have deposited as much as 4,468,364 for the Lottie Moon offering—in a single day!

"Sometimes we get quite amazed at the sums we send to the bank," says Mrs. Kelly, who likes to do her own share of amazing when she calls Carl Monfalcone at the Foreign Mission Board to tell him how much is on the way.

The Lottie Moon money is never held at a Nashville bank to collect interest but is sped directly to the Foreign Mission Board where it is utilized to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in 93 countries where the board now has missionaries.

Because of the unique structure and efficiency of the Cooperative Program, 100 percent of the money collected from the Lottie Moon offering is utilized in the direct support of missionaries. The Woman's Missionary Union siphons none of the money for promotion of the offering and none of it is earmarked

for administrative expenses in Richmond.

Mrs. Kelly wires the collections at least once a week, or every day if as much as \$100,000 comes in. Last year she wired money to the Foreign Mission Board more than 25 times as its designation surpassed \$100,000.

Occasionally the sums draw a long, low whistle from Monfalcone in the general accounting department at the board. "It's so much money at one time," he exclaims.

"Sometimes I'll see a letter from an elderly person who saved all year long or went without something," he says. "It'll say, 'Here's my \$100 for Lottie Moon.' That might be half their Social Security check.

"It's hard to explain. It's a feeling I get deep down that it's really worth all the work. I'm far removed from it all here, but I know I have a part."

Mrs. Kelly says, "I'm constantly fascinated with the way the system continues to work. There's really no one to tell people what they have to do. I've often thought that it has to be God's hand in it for it to continue to function like it does."

For missionaries around the world who depend on the Lottie Moon offering, which provides about 50 percent of the budget for the Foreign Mission Board, the response of Southern Baptists is vital.

Wilma Weeks, recently retired missionary to Indonesia, used to move her living room furniture for Sunday School, Monday Bible study and prayer service, Friday story hour and other church activities. Then Lottie Moon funds built a church building on land just a few minutes from her house.

"Through your gifts to the Cooperative Program and foreign missions you have been with us teaching in Sunday School clinics, attending associational meetings, WMU, Baptist Men and youth rallies, and the organization and foundation service of El Nonok Baptist Church . . . through your gifts to foreign missions you are reaching out and shedding God's light to people in darkness," said Jim and Mary Lochridge, missionaries in Cotabato, Philippines.

What's Lottie Moon to Pat Bellinger in Liberia? "Twenty-two persons were baptized Sunday afternoon in a very full creek," she said in a newsletter. "Purchase of land on Bushrod Island has been authorized for expansion of the work. The first class of the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary will graduate next year."

"I'm surprised and thankful when I stop to think that I have a part in something so tremendous," says Mrs. Kelly. "It's a privilege." (BP)

## Maryland Baptists confront deficits

NEWARK, Del.—In a convention dominated by concern over finances, messengers approved a record budget, debated issues such as the structural role of the Woman's Missionary Union and the right of messengers to adjust the proposed budget from the State Mission Board.

During the meeting, messengers, who have faced three years of deficit budgets, debated actions of the state mission board which limited the 1979 Cooperative Program budget to only a \$6,612 increase over the current budget for 1978, which will experience a projected four percent shortfall.

In October, the board had approved the deletion of two staff positions, one currently filled, and the reduction in allocations to the state paper, the Baptist building operation-maintenance expense, and to the agencies and institutions of the denomination.

In the opening session of the convention, former Maryland WMU President Frances Andrews presented a motion calling for an increase of \$5,000 to the WMU budget internally to preserve a staff position for adult promotion, currently filled by Barbara Elder, who came in June 1977. After debate, the Andrews motion was approved by secret ballot on a vote of 122 to 119.

In a series of resolutions messengers opposed decriminalization of marijuana, denounced the Anheuser-Busch beverage, Chelsea, also known as "Baby Beer," opposed tuition tax credits for private and parochial schools, decried state lotteries in Maryland and Delaware, and took action urging response to world hunger. (BP)

## New York Baptists explore relations with Canadians

ROCHESTER, N.Y.—The Baptist Convention of New York voted in annual session to explore relationships with Baptists in Canada and passed strong resolutions on world hunger and aging.

The resolution resolved that the convention's Executive Board "be requested to investigate possibilities for cooperation and interaction with the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec . . . to strengthen the witness for Christ without regard to political boundaries." Two other state Baptist conventions—Northwest (Oregon and Washington) and Michigan—currently have churches in Canada affiliated with them.

Noting the world's one billion hungry persons and resulting deaths of half that number, the hunger resolution defined freedom from hunger as "one of the basic human freedoms" and urged specific action by Baptists. (BP)