

Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

Gospel sung, preached, proclaimed to youth

The message of Jesus' love was pictured through testimonies, played through music, projected through comedy, and preached through sermons at last week-end's Tennessee Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference in Nashville. The two-day meeting drew 30,000 young people to Tennessee's capital city and Vanderbilt Memorial Gymnasium.

David Ring, a victim of cerebral palsy, related his years of loneliness coupled with his desire to die, and then told them of his salvation experience and subsequent call to the ministry.

"I was a nobody," he testified, "but Jesus took me and made me a somebody." What more could you want than to have fellowship with Jesus? he asked them. Referring to his paralysis, he said, "I am not going to let a dumb, stupid, handicap slow me down in bragging for Jesus. I have a handicap—what's your problem?"

Ring, whose Baptist preacher father died in 1964 and mother died in 1968, was called to preach in 1971 at the age of 17. Since then, he has spoken at numerous conferences, conventions, and churches throughout the nation. Last summer, he spoke before the Pastors' Conference of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, Ga.

His testimony brought many "amens" during his speech and a standing ovation at its conclusion.

Call for victory, abundance

Former national football coach of the year Grant Teaff, shared ideas with the junior and senior high school students on how they could live victorious, abundant lives through their Savior.

The Baylor University coach said that too many times in life, people let themselves get out of control. He suggested that, for a young person to obtain self control, he should get his priorities straight; develop a positive attitude toward life, remembering that ultimate victory is through Jesus Christ; and overcome defeat by "slamming it to the ground and using it as a stepping stone to victory."

"It is easy when things are going great, and it is easy when you are a winner. But when things fall apart, remember that Jesus Christ is there," he concluded.

Messages on "The Game Uniform" and "The Main Event in Life" were brought by Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz., the largest Southern Baptist church in the West.

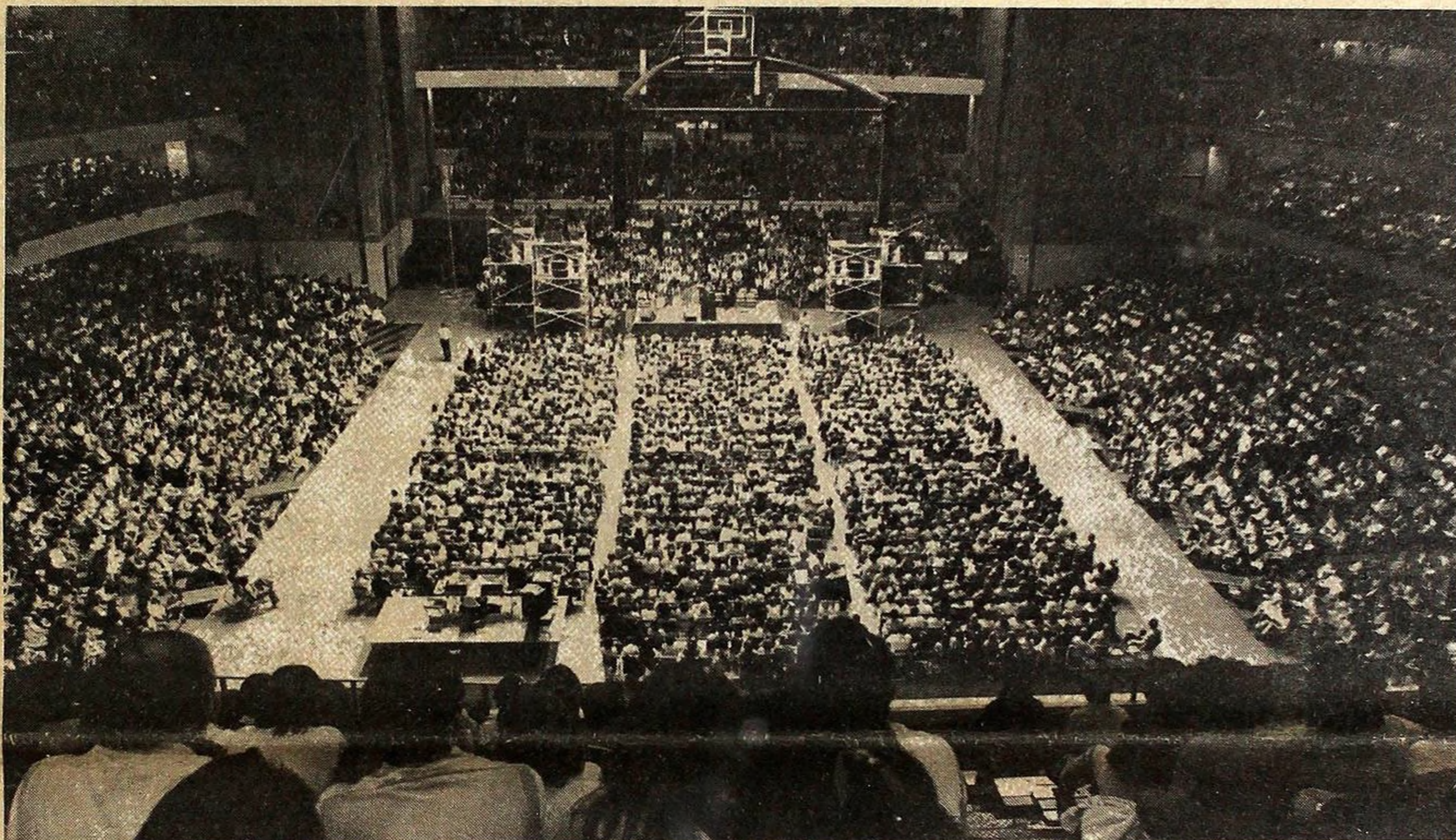
Full-time responsibility

Relating several examples of God's love and Satan's attempt to thwart the Christian, Jackson said that the Christian's uniform ought to be constant. "Being a Christian is a full-time responsibility that involves every moment of my life," he asserted. Admitting that today's young people face many more temptations than young people of other generations, Jackson said that the group should be sure that they are charged with power provided from God and righteousness from Jesus Christ.

He blamed adults for failure to be honest with young Christians, and told the group that America needs a burden for truth. "You will never find victory over temptation and evil until you embrace the truth," he said.

Presenting a simple message of salvation, the Phoenix pastor said in his closing remarks that if a man misses Jesus he misses salvation from sin, personal peace, and

(Continued on page 2)



PACKED HOUSE—About 30,000 young people from churches across Tennessee converged on Nashville and Vanderbilt University last week-end for the state's Youth Evangelism Conference, sponsored by the Evangelism

department, TBC. The increased attendance each year demanded that sessions at Vandy gym be divided to accommodate all of the attenders.

Committee studies Belmont Plaza

A special study committee to explore possible solutions to the financial problems of Belmont Plaza has been named and is already involved in its task, according to Gerald Stow, president of the TBC Executive Board.

At a called meeting on Feb. 22, the board voted to call a special session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention on April 5 and to name a committee to investigate options which messengers to that convention might consider.

Bill Coles, a Nashville banker and member of Belmont Heights Baptist Church, has been named chairman of the study committee by Stow. Other members of the committee are

James Austin, pastor of Rogersville's First Baptist Church; Paul Durham, pastor of Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville; Ed Harris, Knoxville businessman; Frank Ingraham, Franklin attorney; Paul Shell, pastor of Georgian Hills Baptist Church, Memphis; and Paul Williams, pastor of Englewood Baptist Church, Jackson.

TBC president W. Fred Kendall II, pastor of First Baptist Church, Union City, and Stow are serving as ex officio members of the special committee.

The committee held its first meeting March 5. During part of their day-long session, they met with the executive committee of the

Board of Directors of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation and with Wade Darby, TBSC executive director.

A subcommittee was named to secure specific information on several items discussed and to bring this to the next meeting of the study committee, which will be held the latter part of this week.

Belmont Plaza is a 123-unit high-rise apartment for senior adults which was built and financed by the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation. The construction was financed by the issuing of \$5-million in bonds. The facility was completed Feb. 1, but has not opened because of the lack of operating funds.

The TBSC officers have asked for a \$1.5-million letter of credit from the state convention and the assurance of "a minimum of \$100,000 per year" from the TBC's Cooperative Program budget.

Since the 1974 TBC had set the TBC's debt ceiling at \$5-million, it will be necessary for the state convention in session to increase this limit to \$6.5-million, according to convention officials.

The Executive Board has called the special convention session for April 5 "for the express purpose of dealing with the present problems of Belmont Plaza."

Stow said there is "no easy solution" to the project's financial plight. He said that the committee is meeting to thoroughly investigate possible options and will come to the April 5 convention with definite recommendations.

TBC held only other called convention in 1874 to start Baptist college

The special called session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention slated for April 5, 1979, at Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville will be the second such called state convention in TBC history, according to W. Fred Kendall. He was TBC executive secretary from 1956-72 and is the author of *A History of the Tennessee Baptist Convention*, published in 1974.

Kendall reports that when the TBC was organized in April 1874, the "delegates" were anxious to have a Baptist college. They named a Committee on Location, which called a special state convention session for Aug. 12, 1874 at Trezevant.

The 32 Baptists who attended this special TBC approved the committee's recommendation that the convention accept a proposal from the trustees of West Tennessee College, a state school in Jackson, whereby the property and endowment would be transferred to the convention, and the convention would raise \$300,000 during the next 10 years.

The new school was known as Southwestern Baptist University, which is now Union University.

Youth Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

heaven. "There is no place to take sin except to Jesus," he declared. "You cannot get rid of sin through positive thinking, and you cannot get peace from sorrow and difficulties except through Jesus."

Comedian Grady Nutt, Louisville, Ky., offered humorous comments on family life, dating, and church life; and then he told the attenders that the gospel comes with a clear and clean message that young people can come to Jesus at any time. Revising the story of the Prodigal Son, he said that Jesus always offers forgiveness for sin and makes no demands or prerequisites to obtaining that forgiveness.

Several rounds of applause were heard during musical performances by the Stone Brothers of Rome, Ga. The three young men, Randy, Rodney, and Rick, presented a variety of Christian music and accompanied themselves with trumpets. Their final appearance before the group also warranted a standing ovation.

Malcolm McDow, director, evangelism department, TBC, said that approximately 2,000 of the young people attending the conference would accept Christ sometime during the week-end. He also pointed out the importance and effectiveness of the numerous personal witnessing sessions which were held in various locations throughout Nashville in conjunction with the conference.

Bill Sherman, pastor of Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville and past president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, made an announcement to the young people on Friday night regarding the recent defeat of senate bill 200 which would have raised the drinking age in Tennessee from 18 to 21. Sherman asked the group to "send a message to the booze boys that there are thousands of young people who are not going to sell their minds and souls to anything that is immoral and debasing." The young people stood and applauded following Sherman's request.

Music throughout the sessions was led by Guy Bates Jr., minister of music at First Baptist Church in Lebanon.

Applicants screened for journeymen

RICHMOND, Va.—A record number of missionary journeyman candidates came to regional interview conferences held recently in Richmond, Va., and Fort Worth, Texas, by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

A total of 212 candidates who passed initial screening were invited to the conferences, according to Stanley A. Nelson, associate secretary for missionary personnel who directs the journeyman program for the board.

The record number of candidates came after a drop of almost 40 in 1978. The previous record was set in 1977 when 192 candidates went to regional interviews.

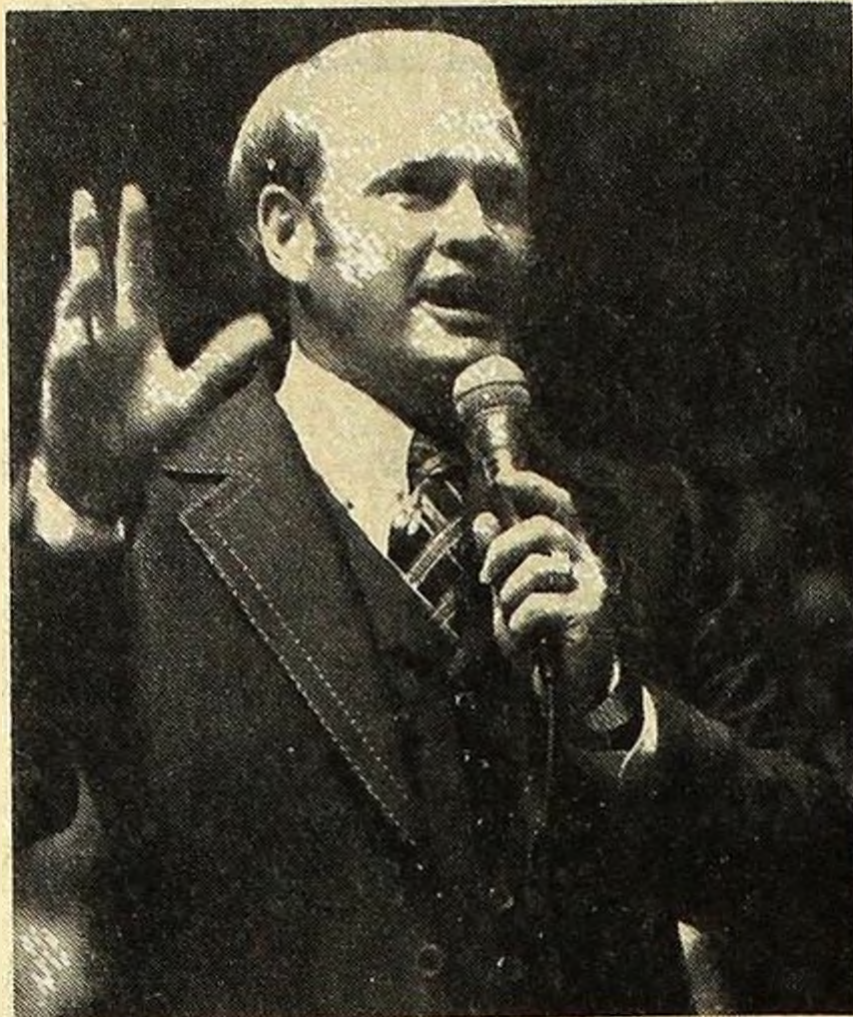
Journeymen are college graduates, age 26 and under, who do not feel led to career mission service overseas, but who would like to apply their training and talents to critical needs abroad for two years before pursuing careers in the United States.

Baptist missions (organizations of missionaries) this year requested journeymen to fill 170 positions ranging from elementary school teachers to agriculturalists to secretaries.

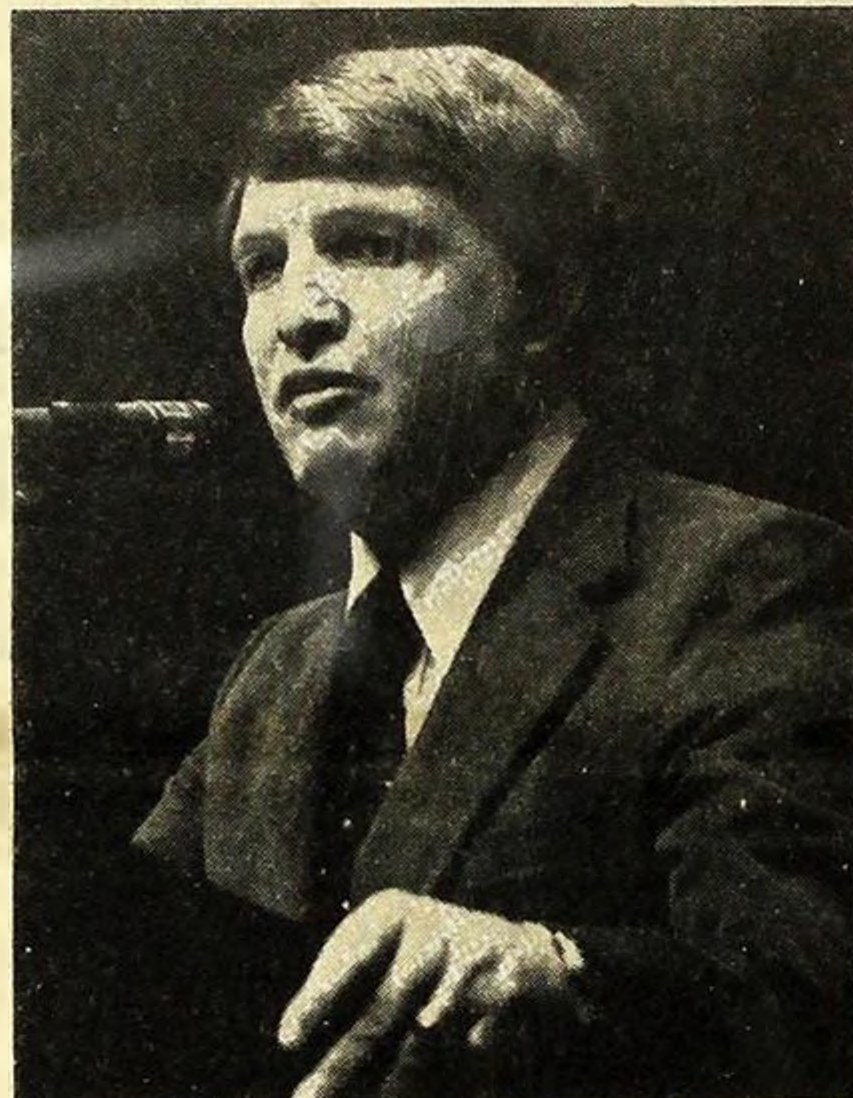
Nelson, however, doesn't anticipate filling all these positions, even with a surplus of applicants, because of difficulties in matching people and their skills with requests from the field.

The increase in applicants is significant, says Nelson, because of new recruiting approaches used this year. These include publication of Journey Big Little Book, a flip-book telling the experiences of a hypothetical journeyman, publicity in state Baptist papers, and some visitation on college campuses.

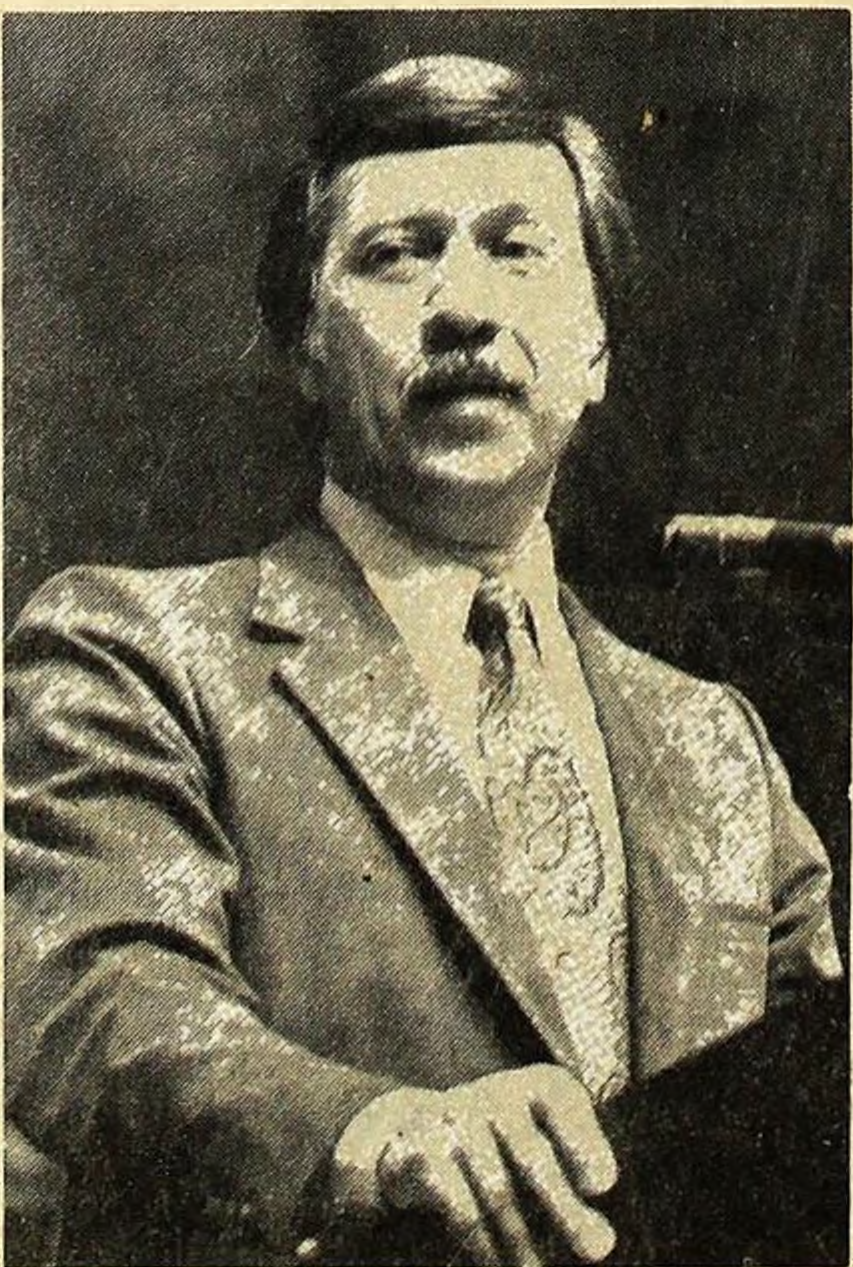
"But our major recruiters are returned journeymen," he says.



PREACHER—Phoenix, Ariz. pastor Richard Jackson tells junior and senior high school students that many adults have failed them by not being honest with them. The pastor of the largest Southern Baptist church in the West said that Tennessee's Youth Evangelism Conference was the largest group of young people before whom he had spoken.



COACH—Baylor University head football coach Grant Teaff reminds young people at the Youth Evangelism Conference that Jesus is near when things fall apart and when they are losers instead of winners. The Southwest Conference coach spoke to the group on Friday night.



COMEDIAN—Grady Nutt, Louisville, Ky., offers humorous comments on dating, family life, and church life at last week-end's Youth Evangelism Conference in Nashville.



SINGERS—The Stone Brothers, Rick, Randy, and Rodney, of Rome, Ga., draw applause as they present gospel music to a full house of young people at Vanderbilt Memorial Gymnasium in Nashville last week-end.

SBC mideast missionaries reassigned to new posts

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries who had been serving in Iran have accepted other assignments, one of which will take a missionary couple to Stavanga, Norway.

The C. Kenneth Glens will work with an English-language Baptist church in Norway in which members mainly consist of employees of American oil companies and their families.

J.D. Hughey, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area secretary for Europe, the Middle East and South Asia, said the Glens would live in Norway for at least six months with the possibility of extending their assignment if they and the church feel it is wise.

The James F. Kirkendall family was also stationed in Iran. Kirkendall will continue his work as field representative for south Asia

from Bangalore, India, and will devote more of his time to evangelism and church development in India. Mrs. Kirkendall will remain in Liberty, Mo., where their son has enrolled in William Jewell College.

The Henry E. Turlingtons will be active in evangelism and church development efforts in Bangalore, India.

Both the Turlingtons and Kirkendalls hope to return to their work in Tehran, Iran, when other Americans return to that country.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, the possibilities of English-language work continuing in Turkey are brighter.

James F. Leeper was not allowed to remain in the country, but John Allen Moore, a retired Southern Baptist missionary to Europe, is applying for a visa "to help a group of American Christians in Ankara organize a church within the framework of Turkish law and to serve as pastor of the church," Hughey said.

Missionaries stay at posts in Yemen

SANAA, Yemen (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries plan to remain at the Baptist Hospital in Jibla even though the U.S. government has suggested they consider moving north to the capital city of Sanaa, farther from fighting in the south.

Jon D. Tillinghast, Southern Baptist missionary physician stationed in Sanaa, relayed the missionaries' decision to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board by telephone March 6.

Nine Southern Baptist missionaries and four missionary journeymen are now in Yemen. All but the Tillinghasts are stationed in Jibla.

The U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., confirmed that it has suggested all unofficial Americans (Americans not directly related to government programs or employment) consider moving from southern Yemen to the northern region. This would be a move away from the recent border fighting between Yemen and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, a separate nation on Yemen's southern border.

Tillinghast told J.D. Hughey, the board's secretary for Europe, the Middle East and South Asia, that the missionaries in Jibla reported fighting "not so far away" but emphasized it had not reached Jibla.

"No Americans have been involved in the fighting or have been injured," Hughey said. He said the ambassador had asked Americans on government assignments, including Peace Corps and Agency for International Development workers, to move from the southern area to Sanaa.

None of the other Americans in the Jibla area made the move.

Yemen is a Muslim country, where Southern Baptists have a hospital and a public health ministry. The 70-bed hospital in Jibla is the only medical care in the area of this village and also provides outpatient clinics. Southern Baptists have been working in Yemen since 1964.

Leeper was denied a residence permit last fall on the grounds that the congregation which he had served as pastor for 12 years was not officially recognized by the Turkish government. After several appeals failed, Leeper left the country permanently early in 1979.

The Leepers are now in Augsburg, Germany, where they are active in another English-language church. Leeper is working with the large population of Turks living in Germany in addition to his work as pastor of the church.

The Moores are still in the United States while awaiting official approval to work in Turkey.

Portugal Baptist aid flood victims

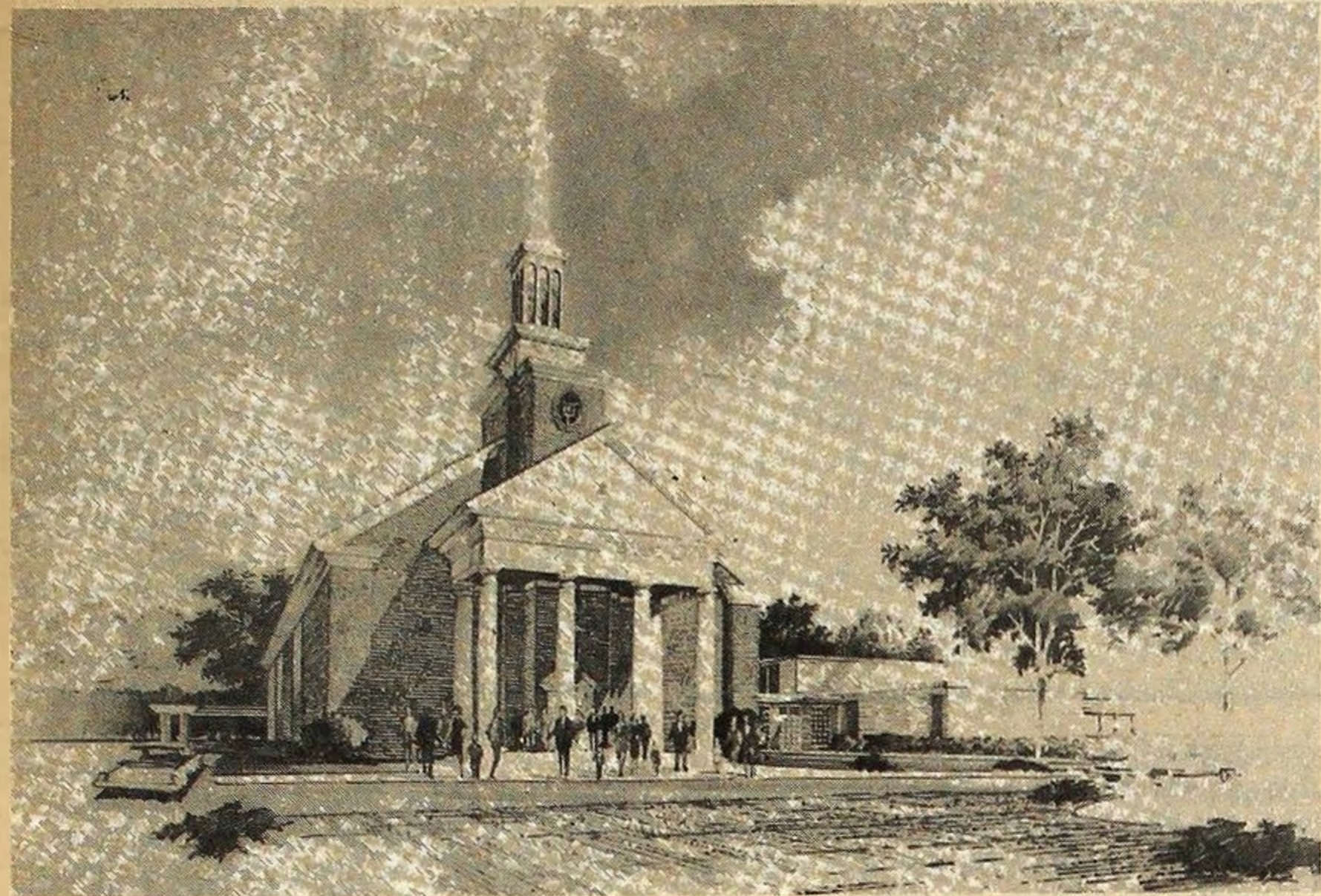
LISBON, Portugal—Several Baptist families in Portugal have experienced significant loss from the worst flood to hit the country in more than a century.

Heavy rains, rough seas, and winds of more than 90 miles per hour have contributed to flooding and the evacuation of more than 10,000 people, according to Mrs. Samuel G. Shepard, Southern Baptist missionary press representative. Also, there were heavy losses to cattle and crops.

Greatest damage has been in the central part of the country, though damage has been experienced throughout the country. The coastline has been hit by huge waves, Mrs. Shepard said, and rising water has curtailed travel.

Although it has been hard to estimate the damage among Portuguese Baptists, at least eight Baptist families have experienced a great deal of loss.

Baptists are trying to determine where the greatest needs are and what can be done to alleviate them. Antonio dos Santos, a pastor in Lisbon, heads the committee on relief.



ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING—Completion is expected in 18 months on this \$1.8 million sanctuary for members of Ridgeway Baptist Church in Memphis. The auditorium will seat 1,200 persons.

Sanctuary construction marks church's second building program

Construction began last month on a \$1.8 million sanctuary for members of Ridgeway Baptist Church in east Memphis.

Charles Hill, minister of education, said that the facility will be the second major building program of the church in five years. Ground was broken for the structure in December, but bad weather delayed construction until February.

The church's first major building program consisted of educational facilities, a multi-purpose gymnasium, kitchen, nursery, and

pre-school and day school.

The new sanctuary will seat 1,200 persons. Also contained in the building will be a temporary music suite. Hill-Armour Associates, Memphis, is the architect; and Jim Bryson, is building superintendent.

Completion is expected in approximately 18 months. Livy L. Cope has served as pastor of the church for over 17 years.

Ridgeway was organized in 1873 as Central Park Baptist Church. It later became the Central Avenue Baptist Church, and in 1962 changed to Southern Avenue Baptist Church because of its location on Southern Ave. In 1974, the congregation sold its facilities and moved to east Memphis as the Ridgeway Baptist Church.

Registration set for April 5 TBC

Official registration cards for messengers to the April 5 called Tennessee Baptist Convention are now available. The convention will be hosted by Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville.

These cards may be obtained from offices of Baptist associations or from the convention's registration secretary, Mrs. Alice Byram, P.O. Box 347, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Registration tables will be set up at the church, with registration scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. CST. The convention session will begin 11:00 a.m.

Union University student serves Rutherford church

Union University sophomore Robert E. Johnson was called as pastor of Old Bethlehem Baptist Church in Rutherford recently. He has accepted the call, and is already on the field.

A native of Milan, Johnson is a religion major in Jackson. He also attended Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour.

SBC mission leaders meet with Chinese ambassador

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Three Southern Baptist leaders met March 6 with the People's Republic of China's new ambassador to the United States to express Southern Baptist interest in sharing the gospel to all people, including those in mainland China.

Meeting with Ambassador Chai Tse Min at the Chinese embassy in Washington, D.C., were Jimmy R. Allen of San Antonio, Texas, Southern Baptist Convention president; Porter W. Routh of Nashville, Tenn., executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee; and Baker J. Cauthen of Richmond, Va., executive director of the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

The meeting was a "tap on the door" to Christian witnessing that had been closed since the communists took over the country, said Cauthen. "We don't know what will come out of it, but we do right to tap on the door."

He said they were courteously received in a typical oriental manner, and at the end of the hour-long meeting, Allen led the group in prayer that "in God's own way, good might come to all people from the relationships which are developing between the United States and China."

The Southern Baptist leaders and the ambassador and his interpreter discussed who Southern Baptists are and what they do in the United States and throughout the world. The Baptist leaders expressed their interest in sharing the gospel to all people and voiced concern over spiritual ministries to the American Christians whose jobs will be taking them to China to live or to visit.

Also, they pointed out that churches in America are a great reservoir of love and good will for people in China as shown through missions and mission work in the

past. They mentioned wherever work is opened or reopened, it is done as Christian work, not as government policy. Cauthen himself was a missionary in China from 1939 to 1945 when he became the Foreign Mission Board's secretary for the Orient.

Ambassador Chai told the Baptist delegation that the Chinese government permits freedom of religious belief but also permits opposition to it. The government does not encourage people toward religious faith as it is committed to Marxism.

As the Baptists left, they gave the ambassador a copy of Good News for Modern Man (the Today's English version of the Bible) and a letter calling attention to "three matters of much significance to millions of American Christians." The letter expressed concern for the reopening of Christian churches in China and requested permission for Christians to worship publicly. It also asked for the privilege of importing, printing and distributing Bibles and Christian hymnbooks, and for missionaries to travel, reside and witness in China.

Resue succeeds Duncan at New Bethel church

Neal Resue, former minister of outreach at Avondale Baptist Church in Chattanooga, was called as pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church near Harrison. Both churches are in Hamilton County Association. Resue assumes his new duties this month.

He served the Avondale congregation for three years. New Bethel will be his first pastorate. He succeeds Vernon Duncan, who resigned to accept a pastorate in Florida.

Supreme Court declines to review new mandatory retirement laws

WASHINGTON (BP)—In a series of actions, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to become involved in the legal dispute over compulsory retirement laws.

Acting in four separate cases, the justices unanimously decided not to settle a growing dispute in lower courts over the constitutionality of state laws requiring public employees to retire at a given age.

Last year Congress passed legislation extending mandatory retirement from age 65 to 70 for most American workers. No exceptions were made for churches. The law applies only, however, to employers with 20 or more

employees.

By declining to review the four cases, the high court seems to be signaling that it is unprepared for now to get into the thorny area. As is customary, the justices offered no reasons for their denial.

Two of the cases came from New York, where state laws requiring the retirement of public school teachers and tenured civil service employees at age 70 were under challenge. The Second Circuit Court of Appeals had ruled earlier that the laws do not violate either the equal protection or due process rights of those affected.

Another circuit court, however, has held that an Illinois school teacher who was retired at age 65 under a mandatory retirement policy had an "actionable claim" which required that the school board demonstrate that the policy served a purpose which furthered the "state interest."

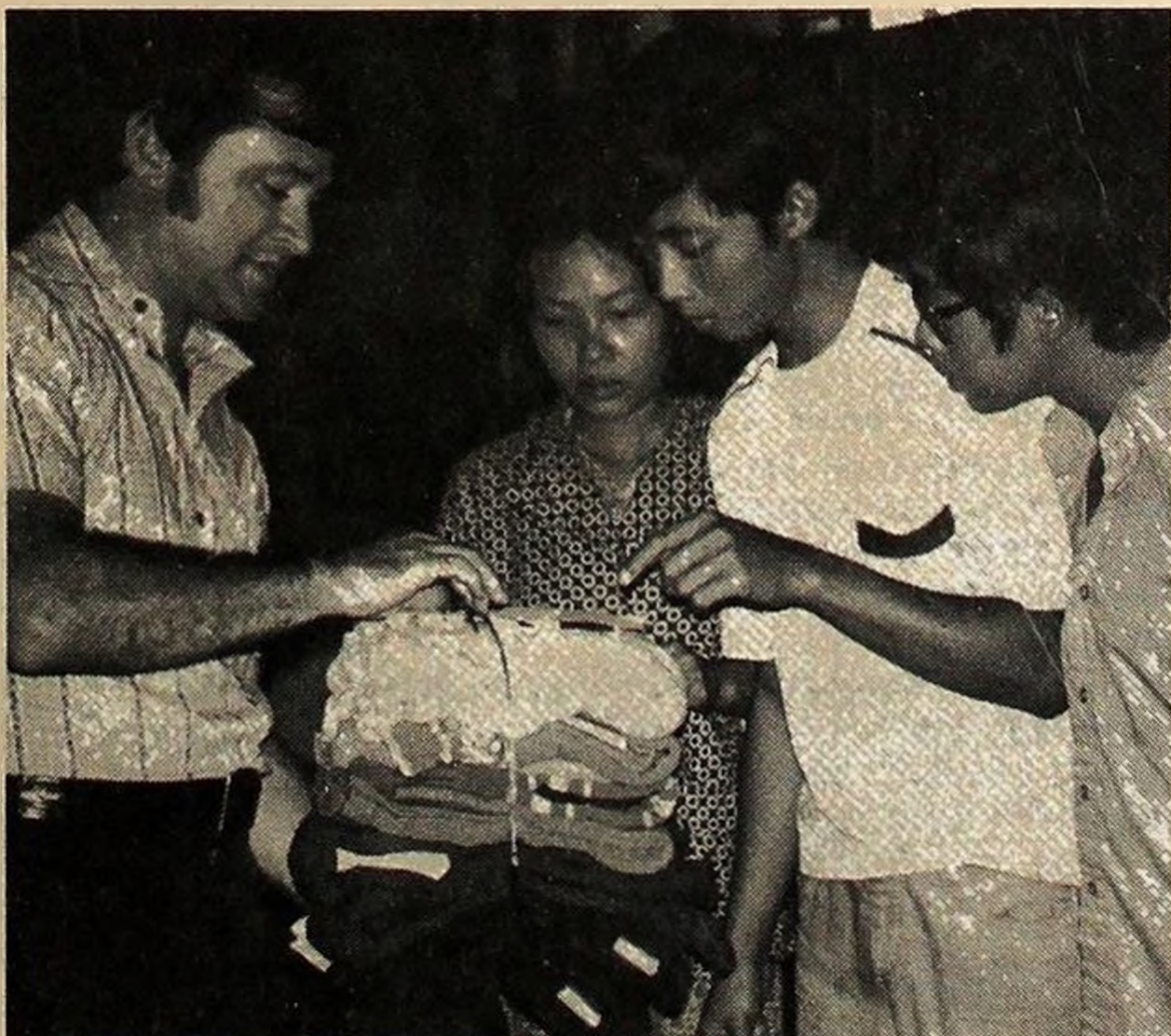
The fourth case turned down by the high court involved a challenge by a college professor in California that a recent state law doing away with compulsory retirement on the basis of age necessarily invalidated an earlier law requiring college teachers to retire at age 67. A California state court disagreed, ruling that the earlier law could remain in effect.

Former Kentucky pastor leads Dresden church

Jack McClain, former Kentucky pastor, is serving as pastor of West Union Baptist Church near Dresden.

A former member of Old Bethel Baptist Church in Palmersville, he served as pastor of churches in Farmington, Clinton, and Fulton, Ky.; McConnell Baptist Church in Martin; and churches in Weakley County Association. He has been active in associational work in both Kentucky and Tennessee.

The Dresden pastor is a graduate of Bethel College in McKenzie and was a teacher for 31 years.



VIET REFUGEES—Southern Baptist missionary Eddie Neese distributes a bundle of clothes to a Vietnamese refugee family in Bangkok, Thailand. The family has been approved for resettlement. Each day, Neese distributes about 50 bundles, which also contains a Gospel of Mark and other Christian literature in Vietnamese.

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NEWS INTERPRETATION—Part 2

TBSC projects met success, problems

By Al Shackleford

The charter and program statement for Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation were approved by the 1974 Tennessee Baptist Convention, after two years of study by committees of the convention and of the Executive Board.

The 15 members of the Board of Directors, who had been elected at the 1974 TBC, held their first meeting Dec. 2, 1974, in Brentwood, and plunged into their assigned tasks.

Already they had a project—Holly Oaks Retirement Village, which was to be constructed on a 175-acre tract on Douglas Lake near Dandridge. The property had been offered to the state convention for this purpose by Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Catlett.

Barber and McMurry, an architectural firm in Knoxville, had been authorized by the Executive Board's Committee on Aging to do some preliminary planning on development of the project.

The TBSC had some funds with which to begin their work. In December 1973, the Executive Board had allocated \$15,000 for the project from Cooperative Program funds which were received over the 1973 TBC budget. In May 1974, the board had authorized an interest-free loan of \$50,000, so that planning could begin. Also, the board had agreed to provide office space for the Service Corporation in the Brentwood Baptist building.

In another action, the Executive Board had agreed to transfer \$46,699 in the 1974-75 state convention budget which had been for the office of the assistant to the executive secretary-treasurer to the TBSC.

\$50,000 asked

At that first meeting (Dec. 2, 1974) the TBSC directors voted to ask the Executive Board for \$50,000 from the 1974 Cooperative Program overage as front money for their proposed projects. The board declined the request when they met the following week, but did authorize an additional \$50,000 interest-free loan to the Service Corporation.

The TBSC printed a survey form concerning ministry to senior adults in the Jan. 23, 1975, issue of the Baptist and Reflector. Later it was reported that 1,652 responses were received, with 71 percent of these (1,172 responses) favoring the providing of facilities for senior adults.

Throughout the planning of the establishment of the Service Corporation, it had been the desire of those involved to create a separate entity to build and to operate such facilities, so that the Tennessee Baptist Convention would not be legally responsible for the indebtedness.

So, when the proposed charter and program statement were presented to the messengers to the 1974 TBC, there was a provision that the Service Corporation would be exempted from Bylaw III, 7(b) which states: "No board, institution, or agency whose trustees, directors, or governing board is elected under these bylaws shall incur indebtedness for current operations or capital needs without the prior approval of the convention in session or, in the interim, of the Executive Board of the convention."

This exemption was questioned at the 1975 TBC by Earl Wilson, pastor of City View Baptist Church, Knoxville, who expressed his concern that the convention had given the TBSC a "blank check" which could embarrass the convention by excessive expenditures and of the moral obligation of the convention to support whatever the TBSC did (1975 Annual, page 96).

Convention 'not bound'

Ralph E. Norton, then TBC executive secretary, responded that his findings from consultation with the convention's attorney

This is the second of a series of background articles on the problems of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation and Belmont Plaza, a high-rise apartment for senior adults in Nashville. These problems have resulted in the TBC Executive Board calling a special state convention for April 5 at Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville.

This article will deal with the progress of the Service Corporation. The third article, which will be presented next week will focus specifically on Belmont Plaza.

were that the convention "is absolutely not bound by any means." He added that the convention gave this exemption on the basis that the erection of facilities for the aging would not in any way, legally or morally, bind the convention.

Tom Madden, then pastor of Tullahoma's First Baptist Church and chairman of the TBSC Board of Directors, agreed with Norton and stated that the convention would receive annual reports of what the TBSC is doing.

This decision, however, was reversed by the 1976 state convention, on recommendation of the Executive Board in concurrence with the TBSC directors. The change was requested, it was explained, because the Service Corporation needed to be under the "umbrella" of the convention in order to secure loan commitments. The TBSC as a new corporation, had no experience or assets to use as collateral for construction loans.

The messengers approved the first recommendation of the TBSC's exemption from Bylaw III, 7(b) (1976 Annual, page 75). In the process, they defeated a substitute motion from James Robertson, Sharon Baptist Church, Knoxville, that the TBSC be dissolved.

A second recommendation from the Executive Board was changed by the messengers. The recommendation as presented stated: "That a debt ceiling of \$15-million for the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation be approved for three initial sites, one in each grand division of the state, and for financing of any future projects, the approval of the convention in session or, in the interim, of the Executive Board of the convention be required" (1976 Annual, pages 79, 90).

Debt ceiling set

Grant Jones, pastor of First Baptist Church of Sevierville, presented a substitute motion, "That a debt ceiling of \$5-million for the TBSC be approved so that they may proceed with their most viable project at this time." The messengers approved the substitute motion, thereby establishing the current TBSC debt limit.

This \$5-million debt ceiling is the reason for the called special convention to be held April 5, 1979. The Service Corporation had issued bonds for that amount to finance construction of Belmont Plaza. Now, the TBSC directors are asking for a letter of credit of an additional \$1.5-million for the project. Since this total indebtedness would then be more than the convention-approved limit, it will be up to messengers to a state convention to alter the previous action.

Next week's News Interpretation will deal specifically with Belmont Plaza.

This week, the focus will be on other projects of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation.

HOLLY OAKS VILLAGE

At its first meeting on Dec. 2, 1974, the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation heard a report from the architects, Barber and McMurry of Knoxville.

Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Catlett, who had offered to give the 175 acres for the project, had specified in the agreement that the land

would be deeded to the state convention in five parcels. Each parcel would be conveyed when the TBC or its affiliated corporate agency (TBSC) submitted to the Catletts "satisfactory proof" of the following:

"(A) Complete design and architectural plans for a proposed retirement village project;

"(B) Arrangements for adequate financing of the project; and

"(C) A firm contract for construction of the project."

The total project would provide living quarters for 1,200 persons.

Phase One was to include 300 garden units and 150 high-rise apartments.

Barber and McMurry gave a complete breakdown of facilities and costs, reaching a total of \$9,714,153.

The following week, Catlett shared with the executive committee his estimates on developing the first phase of Holly Oaks. His projected cost was \$12,170,000.

Contractor chosen

On Jan. 16, 1975, several TBSC directors met in Knoxville to interview prospective contractors. On their recommendation, the full Board of Directors at its Feb. 4, 1975, meeting chose Rentenbach Engineering Company of Knoxville as general contractor for Holly Oaks Retirement Village.

At their next meeting on April 3, 1975, the directors approved a motion "to give the executive committee authority, when they have received necessary information, to expedite building of Phase One and secure money for loan."

On June 17, 1975, the directors met again. Among the items on the agenda were a discussion of a sales firm to market the Holly Oaks units and a presentation by First American National Bank of Nashville concerning a loan for construction. They were told that it would take from four to six weeks to secure the loan for Phase One.

The following week (June 24, 1975), there was a joint meeting of the TBSC's Holly Oaks development committee and the executive committee. The group explored a sales contract with Andy Holt which would pay \$500 commission for each unit sold. They also authorized the borrowing of up to \$15,000 for the sales agreement.

Meanwhile, the TBSC was pursuing other means of financing. On July 13, 1975, the directors were told that Harley Fite, one of the directors, had received approval from the Jefferson County Court to sell bonds for Holly Oaks.

Approved contract, endorsed loan

The next meeting of the TBSC directors was held Aug. 7-8, 1975 in Jackson. The board approved the sales contract with Holt and endorsed the \$15,000 loan to implement the contract.

The seemingly smooth path to the development of Holly Oaks Retirement Village encountered roadblocks at the directors' Sept. 9, 1975, meeting. William Fortune of Rentenbach Engineering Co. presented a contract for Phase One. The initial estimate was \$12.2-million, but Fortune reported that alternatives could be made to reduce this amount to \$10-million. Several directors expressed

astonishment, feeling that the cost should be in the range of \$7-million.

The second blow came from Leroy Norton of First American National Bank of Nashville who said the TBSC "would need endorsement of the Tennessee Baptist Convention to obtain the loan."

During a recess at the meeting, the Holly Oaks development committee met and formulated some recommendations, which were approved by the trustees. These asked that the sales contract not be finalized; that other designs for development be explored; and that Barber and McMurry, the architect, and Rentenbach Engineering, the contractor, cease their work on the project until further instructions by the TBSC directors.

On Oct. 21, 1975, the Board of Directors met again. Barber and McMurry presented changes which would reduce the cost of Phase One to an estimated \$6.4-million. The directors agreed to approach Rentenbach Engineering with this altered proposal, and, if they couldn't meet this amount, that the directors find another general contractor.

Time extension needed

It was also noted that there would need to be a time extension from the Catletts, since an earlier stipulation had been made that Phase One must be completed by Jan. 1, 1976. Catlett, who was a member of the Board of Directors, stated that this could be worked out.

Later in the meeting, the directors voted that the executive committee, Holly Oaks development committee, and consultants be authorized to acquire a loan and also be given authority to expedite necessary steps to complete the project.

The Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation presented its first annual report to the Tennessee Baptist Convention when it met Nov. 11-13, 1975, at First Baptist Church, Chattanooga (1975 Annual, pages 167-168). It stated: "Preliminary drawings on Holly Oaks Retirement Village in east Tennessee are being studied by the board, contractor, architect, consultant, and mortgage bankers and bonding corporations."

On Dec. 2, 1975, the TBSC Board of Directors met and were told that Rentenbach had promised their new contract by Dec. 22, and that Catlett's extension of time would be based on the completion of a pro forma feasibility study.

The directors met again on March 4, 1976. Phase One for Holly Oaks had been revised to remove the proposed high-rise apartments and the health care center (nursing home). Catlett informed the board that he was agreeable to a six-month extension.

An independent consultant, retained by the TBSC, recommended that the Service Corporation needed the deed to the property on which Phase One was to be built (approximately 50 acres), in order to have some collateral to secure the loan for construction.

In other action the directors voted to renegotiate the sales contract with Andy Holt.

Property deed asked

Two weeks later (March 18, 1976) the directors met again. They approved a motion to authorize the executive committee to borrow a maximum of \$8.5-million. Vanderbeck suggested that Catlett deed the land for Phase One to the TBSC for a year's time with a reverter clause to help in securing the loan. Apparently, there was no favorable response from the Catletts. However, at the May 17, 1976, directors' meeting, it was reported that an agreement with Catlett had been reached to extend the time for an additional year.

By the July 6, 1976, meeting of the directors, the TBSC was seeking other means of financing.

(Continued on page 5)

TBSC projects

(Continued from page 4)

ing the Holly Oaks project. A bond firm, Stone and Youngberg, was reported to be ready to sell bonds to raise the needed funds. The money could be available for construction in about 60 days.

Meanwhile, the TBSC was looking elsewhere for the funds.

On July 26, 1976, the TBSC board's executive committee voted to authorize J.C. Bradford and Co. of Nashville to issue bonds for Holly Oaks. A delay was discussed by the Board of Directors when they met Sept. 7, 1976. The TBSC was already working with Bradford to issue bonds for Belmont Plaza, and the bond company wanted to wait until after this issue was sold before issuing bonds for Holly Oaks.

The Service Corporation presented its annual report to the 1976 Tennessee Baptist Convention, which met Nov. 16-18, 1976, at West Jackson Baptist Church (1976 Annual, pages 191-192). It is interesting to note that the report made no reference whatsoever to Holly Oaks.

Involvement ends

The involvement of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation in Holly Oaks Retirement Village apparently ended when Catlett sent a statement to the Dec. 2, 1976, meeting of the TBSC directors.

Catlett noted the "continuing difficulties in financing the Holly Oaks project and the fact that to proceed with this project would exceed the borrowing limit authorized by the convention." He added that he did not wish to extend the present agreement donating the land beyond the expiration date of Dec. 31, 1976.

When the TBSC Board of Directors met on Feb. 4, 1977, they approved a statement that the Service Corporation was discontinuing plans for development of Holly Oaks. The official statement noted the "inability to secure financing" and the TBC-imposed debt ceiling which "eliminated the possibility of pursuing the development of the village." However, many observers felt that other difficulties had doomed the project prior to the TBC's setting a \$5-million debt limit on the Service Corporation.

Thus ended a long, involved relationship with the Holly Oaks Retirement Village. The offer of the property in 1974 had given the impetus which obviously led to the establishment and emphasis of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation. Three years later, the project (as far as Tennessee Baptists were concerned) had ended in disappointment. During this time, the TBC Executive Board and the Service Corporation had invested \$111,291.99 for feasibility studies, architect's fees, and legal fees which were written off in 1977.

OLD UNION CAMPUS

At its Feb. 4, 1975, meeting, the TBSC Board of Directors discussed the possibility of using the old campus of Union University, Jackson, as a retirement center for senior adults. The Baptist college had moved from the old campus in downtown Jackson to its new campus on US Highway 45 bypass.

Although it was felt that the old campus would be too expensive to remodel for apartments, the directors did authorize a feasibility study of possible use of the university's facilities.

When the directors met on April 3, 1975, the minutes noted a statement that the Service Corporation should not make an offer on the property at that time. Two weeks later, however, the executive committee, after meeting with representatives from Jackson, voted to ask Union University to give the TBSC six months to complete a feasibility study and that they propose an offer to the college for a portion of the property.

The executive committee met again on May 8, 1975, and authorized a marketing survey of a retirement facility in Jackson. Consideration was given to purchasing the entire cam-

pus, selling the gymnasium to the City of Jackson, and to seek to sell other unneeded parts of the property.

The full Board of Directors next met on June 17, 1975. Among the items discussed was the construction of a 12-story apartment building on the old Union University campus. They decided to meet Aug. 7-8, 1975, in Jackson to view the property and to consult with various civic and university officials. During that meeting, the directors voted to offer Union \$275,000 for part of the campus.

Offer made, accepted

At its Oct. 21, 1975, meeting, the directors were told that the Union University trustees had accepted the TBSC offer. The TBSC directors voted to proceed with the purchase, conditioned on securing acceptable financing and zoning.

In its written report to the 1975 Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Service Corporation stated that "an offer has been made for some property in Nashville, and the old campus of Union University is under consideration" (1975 Annual, page 167).

The TBSC Board of Directors met Dec. 2, 1975, and discussed several discouragements in securing financing for the Union project. Among the items considered was the possibility of entering into a joint agreement with Union University to sell the old campus. Meanwhile, TBSC had applied to the United States government's Housing and Urban Development agency for approval of the project, so that residents could receive federal subsidies to help pay their rent.

A subcommittee which was investigating the Union campus possibilities recommended that the project be cancelled because (1) it was in a declining neighborhood, (2) financing was questionable, (3) they considered the price too high, and (4) a subsidized rental project "should be run by the government, and not by Baptists."

The directors passed a motion that a TBSC official meet with a Union University official, state the financial situation, and ask to withdraw the TBSC offer.

The Union Board of Trustees met July 30, 1976, and agreed to release the Service Corporation from the contract—thereby ending the TBSC's involvement in the project.

DEER LAKE

Bill Gregg and Harry Rowland, Nashville Baptist laymen, appeared before the March 4, 1976, meeting of the TBSC Board of Directors. Their firm, Retirement Housing Services, was interested in developing a retirement village on 19.5 acres in southwest Nashville.

They proposed to construct a 150-unit village (with units purchased by the residents) building on the property and wanted the TBSC to serve as "sponsors" of the project. It was pointed out that if the TBSC sponsored the project, it would offer the buyers confidence or respectability."

Under the agreement, Retirement Housing Services, upon completion of the project, would give the common ground and activities building to the Service Corporation. At that time the TBSC would be responsible for the maintenance of the activities building, the common ground, the roads, the sidewalks and

the exterior of all housing units.

After examination by the TBSC attorney, the directors passed a motion to participate in the project as sponsors "subject to the endorsement or approval of the TBC Executive Board."

Sponsorship accepted

The Executive Board considered the project at its September 1974 meeting. It was explained by Ralph McIntyre, TBSC board chairman, that the TBSC would have no financial obligation in the project. The Executive Board gave its approval.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for Deer Lake Retirement Village were on Oct. 5, 1976, and construction began immediately.

On Dec. 4, 1978, the TBC directors were told that 50 units at Deer Lake had been sold and were completed or under construction. Retirement Housing Services was entering into construction of the second phase, which would include eight duplex units and the activities building.

This project has by far been the most successful in which the Service Corporation has participated. When it is completed, probably within the next two years, TBSC will become the managers of the facility.

OLD HICKORY TOWERS

When the TBSC directors met Sept. 7, 1976, they were presented with the possibility of sponsoring Old Hickory Towers, a project of Taylor and Crabtree Architects, Nashville.

The facility would be a 12-story high-rise apartment with 200 one-bedroom units and 10 two-bedroom units. It would be located on a 12-acre site in north Nashville.

As proposed, Old Hickory Towers construction costs would be guaranteed by the Federal Housing Authority with residents eligible to receive rent subsidies through the federal Housing and Urban Development agency.

The TBSC members toured the site and approved a proposal to participate in the project.

Because the loan would be guaranteed by FHA, the TBSC directors asked the TBC Executive Board to approve the project and not charge it against the proposed debt ceiling of the Service Corporation. This approval was given by the Executive Board at its Sept. 20, 1976, meeting.

The Service Corporation directors next met on Dec. 2, 1976. They were told that everything seemed "go" on the Old Hickory Towers project, and that \$11,000 had been spent in filing fees. At the meeting, the directors approved additional expenditures of \$1,000 for a site survey; \$4,000 for soil testing; and up to \$12,000 for a feasibility study.

Questions raised

Two negative items were discussed by the directors.

One was that since it was a federally-funded project, would the TBSC be free to provide Christian environment and activities? The directors were told that "residents must request religious services" in the building.

The other problem related to confusion of financing, because the convention at its

previous month's session had set a debt ceiling for the TBSC of \$5-million (the anticipated cost of Belmont Plaza). The confusion came because in September 1976 the Executive Board had agreed that Old Hickory Towers would not apply to the TBSC debt ceiling. However, this was not explained at the convention, when the debt limit was set.

The discussion continued at the TBSC's next meeting on Feb. 4, 1977. McIntyre observed, "I would hate to see us become merely landlords of a government building." Wade Darby, who had become associate executive director, noted that the bonds would not be in the TBSC's name, but some might consider it was a TBSC debt, since the Service Corporation must sign for the loan. The loan would be guaranteed by FHA.

The question remained open until the TBSC directors met again on June 6, 1977. Robert Taylor, attorney for the TBSC and the TBC, gave his opinion that the Service Corporation would be executing a \$5.3-million note and "certainly were legally responsible" for the indebtedness. He added that the placing of a \$5-million debt ceiling on the Service Corporation by the state convention with no mention of the exemption of Deer Lake and Old Hickory Towers "places a cloud" on the incurring of additional debts.

Taylor also noted that the TBC motion referred to the TBSC's "most viable project" and that he and the lending companies' attorneys believed that the TBSC must go back to the convention or the Executive Board for approval of additional projects.

McIntyre responded that this was not brought up to the 1976 TBC because the TBSC already had exemption granted by the Executive Board.

Special session pondered

There was discussion as to the possibility of calling a special session of the Executive Board to approve the project and restate that it does not apply to TBSC debt ceiling or to ask the Executive Board to raise the debt ceiling to \$10-million.

The directors were told that the TBSC had already invested approximately \$30,000 in Old Hickory Towers and were responsible for a contract with the architects.

One director noted that all three projects under consideration (Old Hickory Towers, Deer Lake, and Belmont Plaza) were in middle Tennessee, and the \$15-million debt ceiling had been asked for "three initial sites, one in each grand division of the state."

After a lengthy discussion, the TBSC Board of Directors unanimously passed a motion that the Old Hickory Towers project be "abandoned" and that the officers seek to find some other organization to carry it on and reimburse the TBSC for surveys and studies performed.

It was later reported that the Service Corporation had recovered all but \$12,000 of its investment in Old Hickory Towers. This amount was written off as an unrecoverable debt in 1977.

HEALTH CARE CENTER

On April 21, 1978, the TBSC Board of Directors met in Knoxville to consider a proposal from two Knoxville realtors, Dan Culp and Jim Nixon, that the Service Corporation assume management of the Johnson Health Care Center in Lenoir City.

Culp and Nixon would purchase the center, and the Service Corporation would manage it. As originally proposed, the new owners would gradually transfer ownership to the TBSC as they depreciated their investment. Neither the TBSC nor the Tennessee Baptist Convention would have any financial liability for the center's indebtedness.

After touring the 102-bed nursing home, the TBSC directors voted to proceed with the project, and, after extensive investigation with auditors, appraisal firms, and the Tennessee State Health Department, recommend it for approval to the TBC Executive Board.

At its May 9, 1977, session, the TBC Executive Board approved the project, to be known as the Baptist Health Care Center.

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DEER LAKE—The Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation is sponsor of the Deer Lake Retirement Village in Nashville. The village, when completed, will have about 150 housing units.

New lobby disclosure bills introduced in US Congress

WASHINGTON (BP)—For the third time in the last three Congresses, a House subcommittee is attempting to write a lobby disclosure bill which will satisfy the "right of the public to know" and also to protect the constitutional rights of freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and the right of the people to petition the government.

The House of Representatives passed lobby disclosure legislation in both the 94th and 95th Congresses. The Senate has not followed its lead.

Devotional

A good thing

By Jean Sorrell

Some years ago when our family was having dinner at a quaint, old hotel, the manager, a retired Baptist minister, quoted Psalms 119:11, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against God." He gave us this outline: "Thy Word"—a good thing, "Have I hid in my heart"—in a good place, "That I might not sin against God"—for a good purpose.

A good thing—Peter tells us that "...holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." Thus, the Bible is an authorized Book. God's provision for man through His Word meets man's every need.

One was packing for a journey when he noticed a small corner not yet filled. In that corner he put a guide-book, a lamp, a mirror, a microscope, a telescope, a sharp sword, and a small library of sixty-six volumes; yet all these did not occupy a space of more than a few inches—he had put in his Bible.

A good place—The ancients pictured the heart as a repository of love, courage, intelligence, and memory. The psalmist suggests that we store-up God's Word in this repository. Eliphaz, the Temanite, in counseling with Job suggested that Job "...lay up His (God's) words in your heart."

As the ancients thought of the heart as the source of the emotions, Paul declares that the heart is the source of man's belief unto righteousness: "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

For a good purpose—The psalmist did not say that he might not be tempted, but that he might not sin by yielding to temptation. Sin results when man acts independently of God.

When Satan tempted Eve, he led her to sin as she acted independently of God. Satan used these same tactics on Jesus, but Jesus used the hidden Word and scored a victory over the tempter.

Our temptations are overcome by trusting Christ and resting in His Word.

Mrs. Sorrell is the wife of H.K. Sorrell, pastor of Brownsville Baptist Church, Brownsville.

Student conferences set at summer assemblies

NASHVILLE—Special events for international students, a program for church staff and other church workers with students and an on-to-college seminar for high school graduates are three features of the two student conferences at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers this summer.

Sponsored by National Student Ministries of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, the conferences will be held Aug. 11-17 at Glorieta, and Aug. 17-23 at Ridgecrest.

"The theme of the week is 'Basics and Beyond' and our hope is that students will examine and experience the meaning of discipleship and become so grounded in the basics that they are ready to move on toward full maturity in Christ," said Milt Hughes, NSM consultant.

At least four measures on the subject have been introduced in the House in the new Congress. So far, no Senate bills on lobby disclosure have been introduced.

The Railsback-Kastenmeier bill would require reporting of so-called "grassroots lobbying" efforts, the names of major contributors to lobbying organizations, and the lobbying efforts of the chief executive officer of an organization required to register under the provisions of the bill.

The Danielson-Rodino bill does not have these provisions. The grassroots and major contributor reporting requirements were considered highly controversial during last year's consideration of the subject.

Religious organizations objected strenuously to the inclusion of churches in the provisions of the measures introduced last year. James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, said, "The prophetic role of religion in the life of the nation and the mission of the church to speak out on public affairs (is) integral to the First Amendment's guarantee of 'the free exercise of religion'."

Wood urged both House and Senate committees considering lobby disclosure legislation last year to exclude churches from the provisions of any such measure.

HISTORICALLY FROM THE FILES

50 YEARS AGO

George Hinchey resigned as pastor of Buffalo Baptist Church, Jefferson County. He had served the church six years.

J.G. Lott of Sumner, Miss. accepted the call as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Memphis.

25 YEARS AGO

First Baptist Church, McKenzie, dedicated its \$60,000 auditorium which was constructed in 1949 and 1950 while Walter Miekley was pastor. L.H. Hatcher, who became pastor Dec. 1, 1950, said that the building had been paid seven years ahead of schedule.

Employees of Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, began the hospital's drive for \$1.5 million when they raised \$95,050 as their share to complete the 13-story addition which was under construction. The building was needed to ease the critical shortage of hospital beds in the Memphis area, and it would increase the capacity of the hospital to 800 beds making it the largest private hospital in the south.

10 YEARS AGO

Woodstock Baptist Church, Memphis, called Mrs. Thurman Prewett as director of education and youth. R.L. Fitts was pastor of the Memphis church. Mrs. Prewett's husband was serving as director of education of Shelby County Baptist Association.

W.C. Garland, pastor of First Baptist Church, Humboldt, for more than 10 years, resigned to accept the call of First Baptist Church, Florence, Ala. He had served as a member of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



SEMINAR—Brenda and Sam Steinman, Bartlett Baptist Church, recently attended the Doctrine of Salvation seminar at Opryland Hotel in Nashville. More than 60 church workers from 10 states participated in the conferences which dealt with content and teaching methods for the 1979 doctrinal study.

HMB honors 18 Southern Baptists for work in racial reconciliation

ATLANTA (BP)—Eighteen Southern Baptist leaders who have made "outstanding contributions to racial reconciliation" were honored during the first V.T. Glass Conference on Cooperative Ministries in Atlanta.

Southern Baptists often have recognized great preachers, but this is the first time recognition has been given to men who have fought for reconciliation across racial lines," said Emmanuel McCall, director of the department of Cooperative Ministries with National (black) Baptists at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The awards, sponsored by the department of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists, are named in honor of Victor Thomas Glass, who worked in the department, first as an associate and then as a director, 1957-74.

The first award was presented to Glass for a "lifetime of service to National and Southern Baptist ministries of racial reconciliation." When the award was presented, Glass received a standing ovation from the more than 300 persons who attended the ceremonies.

Also honored were seven other denominational leaders, six retired state convention workers, and four National Baptist missionaries who will retire in 1979.

Building plans offered churches

Baptists from across the state will have the opportunity to participate in two church building conferences to be held in Tennessee during March and April, according to Charles Norton, state church building consultant.

The first conference will be held March 23 at Litz Manor Baptist Church in Kingsport, with the second scheduled for April 20 at First Baptist Church in Cookeville. Both meetings will begin at 9:30 a.m. and adjourn at 4 p.m.

Representatives from churches and associations may take part in training sessions covering energy conservation, money matters, today's building codes, legal matters, and program space requirements. Also under consideration will be the master plan for a church, steps in a building program, spiritual preparation, and alternatives to building.

W.C. Dudley, associate director of the church loans division, Home Mission Board, will guide the groups in study. Glenn Toomey, director of missions for Nolachucky Association, will speak on the help offered a church from an association. Other session leaders will be from the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, and Holston Association.

An award was presented to Roland T. Smith, "the first black to have an executive position with the Home Mission Board." Smith was appointed as an associate to the "director of Negro work" in 1942 and served until his retirement in 1949.

The six other denominational leaders honored are:

T.B. Maston, retired professor of Christian Ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas;

Henley Barnette, retired professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.;

Foy Valentine, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, whose "ministry has been a constant reminder to Southern Baptists that they are not really Christian until they have dealt with the matter of race.";

Guy Bellamy, who served as director of the HMB work from 1949-65 "from the turbulent years after the Supreme Court decision in 1954 into the midst of the civil rights movement";

W.R. Grigg, who was an associate in the department from 1965-75 and served as director of state convention work in Louisiana and North Carolina from 1953-65;

McCall, who has been director of the department since 1974 and is said to be "the first black to really exercise staff authority."

The retired state directors of cooperative work of National Baptists who were honored are Julius Avery, who served in Florida; W.P. Davis, Mississippi; Durwood Cason, Georgia; Tom Pfeiffer, Louisiana; H.O. Hester, Alabama; and Murray McCullough, Florida.

Retired pastor's son dies after shooting

Harold L. Tarpley, a member of First Baptist Church in Nashville and son of a retired Tennessee pastor and director of missions, died in Vanderbilt Hospital Friday, March 9, after he was shot in a south Nashville shopping center.

He was the son of Wayne Tarpley, who served as pastor of North Springfield Baptist Church in Springfield and director of missions for Salem Association.

The young Tarpley, a research assistant at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, was found by police officers near Green Hills Shopping Center Thursday with a bullet wound over his right eye.

Services were held at Jennings and Ayers Funeral Home in Murfreesboro. Burial was in Prosperity Cemetery near Auburntown.

Our People and Our Churches . . .

PEOPLE...

John E. Crawford marked his 10th anniversary as pastor of Siam Baptist Church, Elizabethton, on Sunday, Feb. 25. Since the beginning of his service there, the church has paid the indebtedness on the educational building, dedicated new facilities, observed its centennial, and added other improvements. Total receipts have doubled, and 35 percent of the gifts goes through the Cooperative Program.

Natchez Trace Baptist Church, Carroll-Benton Association, honored Mr. and Mrs. Earl Medlin on their 60th wedding anniversary recently. They are charter members of the church.

Williston Baptist Church, Williston, licensed Gene Price to the gospel ministry last month.

Former Tennessee pastor and Baptist leader W.C. Garland will assume the pastorate of the First Southern Baptist Church of Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, Hawaii on April 1. A native of Erwin, Tenn., Garland was pastor of Ramsey Heights and Valley Grove Baptist Churches in Knoxville and First Baptist Church of Humboldt prior to his move to First Baptist Church of Florence, Ala. in 1969. He was active in the work of the Tennessee convention, serving as a member of the executive board, a trustee for Union University in Jackson, and president of the state pastors' conference in 1963-64.

Tommy Greer and Willie Farris were scheduled to be ordained by the Riva Lake Baptist Church in Winchester on Sunday, March 11. J.C. Carpenter delivered the ordination sermon. Charles Armstrong is pastor.

Lloyd Smith observed his 15th anniversary as pastor of Elkins Avenue Baptist Church in Nashville earlier this month.

Glen Betty, pastor of Grace Avenue Baptist Church in Chattanooga, was ordained to the gospel ministry recently by Westside Baptist Church in Rossville, Ga.

Central Baptist Church, Chattanooga, honored Norman Chase on his 10th anniversary as minister of music to that church. Since the beginning of his service, the music ministry has increased from 141 persons to 395 persons and from four to 16 musical groups. Jerry Songer is pastor.

Garvers Chapel Baptist Church, Cosby, ordained Donald Grooms as a deacon last month. Gene Gorrell delivered the ordination sermon, and J.H. Stogner, director of missions for East Tennessee Association, led the questioning. Horace Davis is pastor.

John Beckner and Randy Armstrong were ordained as deacons by Bluff City Baptist Church in Bluff City recently. Jerry Lyons is pastor.

Deacon ordination services at New Salem Baptist Church in Limestone were held last month for Roy Lee Gillis and Tommy Glea Bailey. The ordination sermon was brought by Pastor Ron Owens.

East Ridge Baptist Church, Chattanooga, elected Henry Preston as pastor emeritus, Mrs. Henry Preston as organist emeritus, and Sue Dearing as pianist emeritus.

CHURCHES...

Center Hill Baptist Church in Counce announced the final payment of the debt on the church building, fellowship hall, and kitchen.

Construction is nearing completion on an

educational building for Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Somerville.

Immanuel Baptist Church in Knoxville observed the church's 75th anniversary earlier this month. Former pastors Homer A. Cate (1952-63), Haven C. Lowe (1964-70), and Stanley B. Rushing (1971-75) brought messages to the membership. The church was organized on March 6, 1904, half way between Mt. Olive Baptist Church and South Knoxville Baptist Church. There were 45 charter members. The church has had 10 pastors in its 75 years of existence. Joe Chandler has served the church since 1975.

LEADERSHIP...

Wayne E. Todd is the new interim pastor at Madison Creek Baptist Church in Goodlettsville.

Riverside Baptist Church in Nashville called R. Lane Easterly as minister of religious education, effective March 1. Bill Beene is pastor.

Rick Nelson was called as minister of youth by First Baptist Church in Oliver Springs. A sophomore at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, he served formerly at Washington Pike Baptist Church, Knoxville, as minister of youth.

Beecher Mize resigned as interim music director at Lincoln Park Baptist Church in Knoxville due to health problems. Ted J. Ingram is pastor.

Allen Carter, pastor of First Baptist Church in Parsons, accepted a call to serve as pastor of First Baptist Church in MacClenny, Fla. His resignation was effective last month.

Leon Riddle resigned as pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church, Bradley County Association, due to health problems.

Balmoral Baptist Church in Memphis called Warren Banks as associate pastor. He will be responsible primarily for visitation in the church, according to Pastor Harold Stanfill.

Indonesia embassy attache denies new law limits religious freedom

WASHINGTON (BP)—The cultural attache of the Indonesian embassy in Washington says that new laws concerning mission work in his southeast Asian nation "are not aimed at limiting religious freedom."

T.M. Soelaiman of the Indonesian embassy told Baptist World Alliance General Secretary Robert S. Denny that "people are free to change their religion. The decisions are to protect the interest of believers in Indonesia and to preserve harmony among them."

Mission boards in the U.S. and Australia are concerned over new laws SK. 70, that says missionary work should not be directed toward those who already possess a religious belief, and SK. 77, which regulates material and financial aid to religious bodies, including aid in the form of personnel.

But Soelaiman assured Denny and associate Charles F. Wills that, "If voluntarily a person wants to change his religion, he is free to do so because he has got the right to do so."

About SK. 77, Soelaiman said, "Foreigners assigned to help religious bodies here should abide by immigration regulations. The government wants to know their country of origin and the duration of their stay here."

He said also that SK. 77 requires information on the nature and form of aid sent from abroad to religious bodies in Indonesia, the country from which the aid comes, and the

Rick Frazier, pastor of Eagan Baptist Church, Eagan, for the past two years, resigned in order to further his education. He plans to enter Morehead State College in Morehead, Ky. to work on a masters degree.

The pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Townsend, Arthur Effler, resigned recently.

John Phillips, interim pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in McKenzie, has assumed duties as full-time pastor at that church.

A.C. McLemore resigned as pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Ooltewah, effective March 1.

C.H. Petty is the new interim pastor at Spring Creek Road Baptist Church, Hamilton County. He came to the post on March 1.



50 YEARS' SERVICE—Members of First Baptist Church in Adamsville honored Mrs. Orphia Littlefield recently for 50 years of involvement in the work of the Woman's Missionary Union. Above, Mrs. Littlefield receives a plaque from Mrs. Susan Meek, left, WMU director of the church.

Three seminary presidents named as SWBTS distinguished alumni

FORT WORTH, TEXAS—Presidents of three Southern Baptist seminaries have been named the 1979 Distinguished Alumni of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Russell H. Dilday Jr., president of Southwestern; W. Randall Lolley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; and William M. Pinson Jr., president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary were announced as recipients of the seminary's highest honor Feb. 26 by National Alumni Association president Frank Pollard of Jackson, Miss.

A fourth seminary president, Milton U. Ferguson of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, was named a Distinguished Alumnus in 1975.

The three award recipients will be honored at the national alumni luncheon June 13 in Houston.

John Seelig, vice-president for public affairs at Southwestern and national alumni secretary, said the committee felt it was a

"rare and unique opportunity to recognize three seminary presidents at the same time."

"They felt that this would, in itself, focus on the importance of theological education in the Southern Baptist Convention and demonstrate the feeling of cooperation and unity that exists among the six seminaries."

Dilday was named president of Southwestern seminary in November 1977 and assumed official duties in August 1978.

He received the bachelor of divinity degree in 1955 and doctor of philosophy degree in 1976 from Southwestern. The PhD superceded the doctor of theology degree received in 1959.

Prior to assuming the seminary presidency, Dilday was pastor of the Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga. He also has served churches in Houston, Clifton and Antelope, Texas.

Dilday also has served as second vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention; president of the Home Mission Board; first vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; and in other denominational and civic offices.

In addition to his seminary degree, he holds the bachelor of arts degree from Baylor University.

Lolley has been president of Southeastern seminary since May 1974.

He previously served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, N.C. and with other churches in Texas and North Carolina.

Lolley received the doctor of theology degree in 1964 from Southwestern. In addition he holds degrees from Samford University and Southeastern seminary.

He has been a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, the board of trustees of Campbell College, and has been involved in other denominational and civic activities.

Pinson, president of Golden Gate seminary since August 1977 received the bachelor of divinity degree in 1959 and the doctor of theology degree in 1963 from Southwestern.

He also holds the bachelor's degree from North Texas State University.

Pinson served as professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern from 1963-75. He also has served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, and as an associate with the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Pinson served as a vice president of the BGCT and in other denominational offices.

Ooltewah Baptists pick Georgia pastor

Georgia pastor Lamar Barden has accepted the call to serve as pastor of Ooltewah Baptist Church, Ooltewah. He arrived on the new field this month.

For the past five years he has served as pastor of Lucerne Baptist Church in Lilburn, Ga. Prior to that he was associate pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in New Orleans, La.

Barden is a graduate of Georgia State University in Atlanta, and earned the master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

This is his first Tennessee pastorate.

TBSC projects

(Continued from page 5)

Tax credit sought

However, complications resulted in later months as Culp and Nixon sought approval of tax credit depreciation from Internal Revenue Service.

After the IRS ruling, it was decided that Culp and Nixon would retain ownership, and the TBSC would operate the facility. Darby says that it is the intention of the new owners and the former owner, James Johnson, to make it possible for the TBSC to eventually own the facility without cost.

At a Dec. 4, 1978, meeting, the TBSC directors approved a management contract for the Service Corporation to operate the Baptist Health Care Center. The TBSC became managers of the nursing home on Feb. 1, 1979, although the contract has not yet been formalized.

OTHER PROJECTS

These five projects—along with Belmont Plaza, which will be presented in depth next week—have been the major endeavors of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation during its four years of existence.

In its report to the 1976 Tennessee Baptist Convention, it was noted that more than 20 sites for retirement facilities had been investigated throughout the state. "Studies and research have indicated that some were not feasible. Some are still in the process of being studied. Others are being pursued as feasible projects" (1976 Annual, page 191).

These proposed projects have been gleaned from the minutes of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation and its executive committee:

- Parker property, Monteagle.
- First Baptist Church, Chattanooga.
- Green property, Cleveland.
- Shelbyville Motel.
- Sam Bradley property, Dickson.
- Camp Ovoca, Tullahoma.
- Continental Apartments, Nashville.
- Eudora Baptist Church, Memphis.
- 14 sites with Nashville Baptist Association.
- Sparks property, Memphis.
- Maryville property for a "Deer Lake-type" development.
- Memphis, property owned by Baptist Children's Home.

These and perhaps other considerations would indicate that the Board of Directors and staff of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation have not been idle during the past four years. Some have observed that their efforts were spread too thin over too many proposed projects, based on their limited resources and staff.

As you would gather from this News Interpretation, the TBSC directors and its executive committee have met many times in their attempt to fulfill the program statement adopted by the 1974 Tennessee Baptist Convention.

A financial crisis has come because of the recently-completed Belmont Plaza project, which will be the subject of next week's News Interpretation.

This crisis must now be faced by the messengers to the special called session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, which will be held April 5 at Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville.

Filipino tribe responds to Christian witness

M'LANG, Philippines—A Manobo tribal village near M'lang, Philippines, has recorded 300 professions of faith in the past six months.

More than 700 other new believers were recorded in surrounding areas during the same time, according to Thurman C. Broughton of Oklahoma, Southern Baptist missionary evangelist there.

Radio-TV board promises full disclosure

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission will make full disclosure of information to its trustees and the public of its business in the future, said Frederick W. Isaacs, chairman-elect of the commission and chairman of a committee to seek a successor to commission President Paul M. Stevens.

"That's the only way we can operate in today's society and it's the only way we can operate with our stockholders—13-million Southern Baptists," said Isaacs, who will head the effort to name the first new chief executive of the Radio and Television Commission has had since 1953 when Stevens assumed the helm of the then tiny agency. Today, the commission lays claim to being the world's largest producer of religious programming for radio and television.

In February, Stevens, 63, announced he would take early retirement, effective Oct. 31. Stevens was relieved immediately of executive responsibility, which the trustees turned over to Harold E. Martin, the agency's executive vice president, but he will retain the title of president until Oct. 31.

The decision by Stevens followed several closed-door sessions of the agency's trustees and trustee executive committee. The result has sparked a series of stories in Baptist publications and the secular press about what that decision really means.

Isaacs said he believes Stevens took the option to retire early rather than face a vote of the trustees on whether to retain him as president. Stevens said he did so to protect the commission from controversy and "had a legitimate reason to do so because of back pain."

"The trustees have tried to avoid turning this thing into a witch hunt or dealing in personalities," continued Isaacs, a layman from Cosby, Tenn.

Isaacs said the decision involved a move on the part of the trustees to assume their responsibility as directors of the agency because there were "grave misgivings about management policy, disclosure of information and stewardship of resources."

John Roberts, a commission trustee and executive committee member and editor of South Carolina's Baptist Courier, said the commission had "three main grievances" with Stevens' running of the commission besides questionable management and stewardship of resources.

They are "time and money spent on productions unrelated to the commission's task, a special annuity for 16 staff members, and dissatisfaction about some of the commission's 32 programs, particularly television programs, which some trustees feel are so general and non-sectarian that their Christian message is watered down."

On the first point, Isaacs citing one among several examples, said the commission questioned the expenditure of some \$30,000 to film the Fort Worth Symphony. Stevens defended the move as a goodwill gesture because the commission pays no taxes for police and fire protection. He also noted that "Fort Worth businessmen raised \$1-million to give to the commission over a 16-week period during our fund-raising campaign." He said the film focused on the work of the director, a Christian, rather than the symphony itself.

The special non-participatory annuity for the 16 staff persons involves a fund, over and above a regular retirement program, which alone would provide certain top-level people retirement income of 50 percent of their salaries, Isaacs said.

Roberts added, "Trustees had stipulated that any such funds were for retirement only and not for anyone who resigned or left the commission for any cause. The board found that four staff members who resigned and left Baptist work nevertheless had been given the funds accrued to their accounts."

"Fifty percent of retirement for a person who enters young and participates 30 years or more is not unusual and is recommended by the (Southern Baptist) Annuity Board," Roberts said, "but the program in question is

in addition to other annuity benefits and at least two employees who began after age 50 were placed in the program."

Stevens said money was given to two of the four staff members "by pre-arrangement and in writing which was part of the record before they came." As for the other two, he said, "I did what I thought was right at the time, against my better judgment, without checking with the trustees. It was a mistake. I regret it. But it didn't involve a lot of money."

On the third point, Isaacs said, trustees, although they approved of many commission programs, felt others were too watered down.

Much discussion has centered around Stevens' retirement package.

Stevens' salary in 1979 is \$45,234. He also drives a commission-owned automobile, Isaacs said, and has the use of a commissioned-owned house, now appraised at more than \$185,000, with all taxes, utilities, and maintenance paid, for the life of him and his wife.

Additionally, previous commission trustees voted to set up a non-participatory annuity, over and above the regular retirement program, which would pay Stevens 60 percent of his final salary, or \$27,000 per year, on retirement at age 65. Currently, the commission is

funding that program with about \$31,000 a year, said Ray Scroggins, commission chairman. Stevens would have lost the \$27,000 portion of his annual retirement benefits if trustees had voted him out, Isaacs added.

The commission also pays about \$3,500 per year into the regular retirement program, funded jointly by the commission and Stevens, which would produce another \$13,000 per year at age 65, for a total of \$40,000, not including Social Security and other benefits.

"The trustees have no quarrel with Stevens having a good retirement program," Isaacs said, "but we find a program like this difficult to explain to grassroots Baptists and we've had some problems with the way the commission has maintained its annuity records."

A special trustee committee is studying the retirement program and will report to the trustees. The next regular meeting of the commission trustees is in October.

"We don't want to destroy the credibility of a man who has done so much good for Southern Baptists over the years," Isaacs declared. "I wish none of this had happened."

"We should remember Paul Stevens not for the mistakes he made," said Roberts, "but for the good he has done."

Tennessee missionary plays part in Brazilian evangelistic effort

CURITIBA, Brazil (BP)—The Brazilian Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board has launched one of its most promising evangelistic projects in the Amazon jungle area. And Tennessee missionary William Morgan is helping in the endeavor.

Project Transitaipu will reach more than 22,000 people in the residential area of the expansive hydroelectric Itaipu Dam, being built on the Parana River, the eighth longest river in the world.

"These people can be reached readily with the gospel because they have not put down roots," said Morgan. "They're seeking friendships and want to find their place in the new area."

Transitaipu is part of the Transtotal series of evangelistic projects begun in 1974, in the transamazon area where workers are slicing a highway through the Brazilian jungle.

The series' name means spanning the Amazon area with total evangelism.

In phase one, 29 students in teams from five Brazilian Baptist seminaries surveyed the Itaipu Dam area for six weeks, conducted Bible studies, did personal witnessing, held open air group activities and weekly meetings. The team was encouraged when a woman accepted Christ as Savior on the second day of their trip.

"By the end of 1979 we hope to have a strong mission established and possibly be organized

into a church as a result of the work we are doing now," said James Loyd Moon, recent graduate of South Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary, who led the first phase. Most of the students have returned to seminary, but Moon and four others plan to stay for a year to consolidate the team's work.

Transitaipu will cost almost \$40,000, including the expense of supporting the permanent team for a year or until the Brazilian Baptist Home Mission Board can send permanent missionaries to the area.

During the last five years of Transtotal, 10 churches have been organized and about 700 people baptized. Several new Christians are preparing for the ministry.

"I feel more fulfilled now because of having the opportunity to help plant churches and do pioneer work," said Morgan, a 15-year veteran missionary. "It never gets old. We're always moving into new areas."

"The experiences the young people are having are giving them a new concept of missions that just can't be learned in the class room."

Annuity Board set for Ridgecrest

DALLAS, Texas—Darold H. Morgan, Robert E. Naylor, Stuart Grizzard, and Hines Sims will help lead this year's Annuity Board-sponsored Annuity Board Conference in Ridgecrest, N.C.

"Reach Out," inspired by the Southern Baptist Convention's Bold Mission Thrust, is the theme of the May 7-11 conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, says Frank G. Schwall Jr., conference director and assistant to the Annuity Board president.

Special features of the week include worship, Bible study, share-prayer groups, seminars and crafts. A concert and an annuity talent show will be included in the activities.

Morgan, Annuity Board president, will speak at a Thursday night (May 10) banquet. Naylor, president emeritus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, will serve as Bible teacher.

Grizzard, retired pastor of National Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., is to be conference preacher.

Music will be led by Southern Baptist musician Hines Sims of Shalimar, Florida.

Reservation information is available through Frank G. Schwall Jr., Annuity Board, SBC, 511 North Akard Building, Dallas, TX 75201.

Whiteville Baptists name James Daniel

Sunday, March 6, marked the beginning of service for James S. Daniel as pastor of Harmony Baptist Church in Whiteville.

Daniel came to the position from the Alton Baptist Church in Adrian, Mo., where he pastored for over two years.

A graduate of Union University in Jackson, he completed work for a master of divinity degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

He comes back to Tennessee after having served pastorates at Springhill Baptist Church in Dyersburg, Lavinia Baptist Church, Lavinia, and Holladay Baptist Church in Holladay.



Daniel

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.

Who laid the egg?

Dear editor:

I am wondering who laid the egg at Brentwood and now wants to raid the Cooperative Program to hatch it.

I am just one member of First Baptist Church of Maryville, and we are not the largest church, but we gave \$100,000 to the Cooperative Program, and I strongly object to raiding for Belmont Plaza.

Who is (Wade) Darby and who gives this authority to spend Cooperative Program money?

Otha A. Gibson Sr.
2338 Sevierville Road
Maryville, TN 37801

Belmont Plaza funds

Dear editor:

I am confused and troubled over the plight of Belmont Plaza in particular and Baptists' continuing relation to our institutions, agencies, and boards.

Must we wait for the courts to determine the actual relationship of a Baptist institution to its sponsoring body, in this case, the Tennessee Baptist Convention? Who owns Belmont Plaza? Are the directors or the Tennessee Baptist Convention legally and/or morally responsible for its success or failure—and its debts?

We were promised repeatedly by TBC leaders that Cooperative Program funds would never be used in the construction or operation of Belmont Plaza. But recently the TBC Executive Board earmarked \$180,000 of Cooperative Program money just to temporarily bail the project out of deep financial waters.

Now we are being asked to provide "a minimum of \$100,000 per year from the state's Cooperative Program budget, beginning in November 1979" for Belmont Plaza. For how long, how many years?

The Executive Board appears to have authorized expenditure of precious Cooperative Program funds (mission dollars from the pocketbooks of Tennessee Baptists) for a cause (Belmont Plaza) not originally intended.

We are on dangerous ground when Cooperative Program funds are diverted from their intended purpose, including the padding of retirement income for highly paid Baptist executives or to provide them working vacations in such exotic places as Alaska and Hawaii. Somewhere down the road the reins must be tightened on such practices, lest there be a continuing erosion of confidence in Baptist leaders, boards, and institutions.

It is obvious that Tennessee Baptists walked into this tragic fix with eyes wide open and that the first called session in TBC history is the result of a mess of our own making. We will be fortunate indeed if we learn from experience and not repeat past mistakes.

Ralph Duncan
Box 394, Old Hickory Blvd.
Antioch, TN 37013

Retirement income

Dear editor:

I read the letter of J. Harold Stephens (Jan. 3) concerning the action of the SBC Executive Committee in regards to \$500 per month supplement to the retirement of Porter Routh. I understand this was taken because Routh's retirement pay would only amount to 38 percent of his salary.

I would be happy if my retirement was more than 15 percent. I will soon be 70, and I did not retire at my wish or the wish of my

church in Indiana. I retired at the suggestion of the executive secretary of the Indiana convention because of a serious health problem.

I do not single out Routh, but any others who unjustifiably get what many of us who are retired feel is unwarranted, unjustifiable, and certainly such action of the Executive Committee are without foundation and without the desires of many in the convention. Routh and any others should reject the same. It is my opinion that Routh should consider the home given to him, and the mortgage paid off should be sufficient.

Stephens' letter states that several years ago he offered a motion at the SBC designed to aid victims of depression. This motion was referred to the Executive Committee at the request of Porter Routh, but nothing ever really came of this motion other than a survey.

Has the committee forgotten? Has or does Routh have any recollection?

As for me and my retired fellow ministers, one more organization is needed. We should present ourselves with unmistakable language that a halt be brought to such actions of the SBC Executive Committee on this and other important matters. Put it on the floor, and you will immediately see what happens.

Why hasn't the Executive Committee made some move for those of us who have paid into the retirement plan and receive so little?

J.B. Metheny
Rt. 4
Martin, TN 38237

Were these women?

Dear editor:

In the Feb. 28 issue of the Baptist and Reflector under "Our People and Our Churches" is why I must write this letter.

There is an announcement from Broadway Baptist Church in Knoxville about some people being ordained into the deacon ministry. In these names are the names of two women (Ruth and Clarice) that were ordained.

I think the Bible is clear on this subject as to the qualifications of such a man—not a woman. I want to know if the Southern Baptist Convention and the Tennessee Baptist Convention approve of these things. And if they do, where in the Bible do they get the authority to do so.

Some of our churches and pastors let anything go on in the church. See I Timothy 3 for the qualifications of the man. If we approve of these things, God is not pleased, when we go directly against the Word of God.

Please find out if these were women and answer as soon as you can.

Also, I would like to know your position on this.

Bill Smith
Rt. 1, Box 476
Crossville, TN 38555

Deacons and ministers are ordained by and under the authority of a local Baptist church—not by or under the authority of the Southern Baptist Convention or the Tennessee Baptist Convention. In fact, both the SBC and the TBC constitutions emphatically state that these conventions have no ecclesiastical jurisdiction or authority over churches. I agree with this Baptist principle, and believe that only a local church has the authority to choose who it will ordain. (editor)

BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR

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Gays demand equal time

Remarks on homosexuality cuts evangelist's TV show

DALLAS (BP)—A weekly television program of James Robison, Southern Baptist evangelist from Hurst, Texas, has been cancelled by WFAA-TV in Dallas because of remarks he made about homosexuality on his program.

At a news conference, the 35-year-old Robison, who expressed shock, recalled the program and said, "I pointed out the fact that homosexuality is a sin, and I also stated that we must love those who are guilty of sin, including homosexuality. I was told by the management at WFAA that this went against their policy."

WFAA-TV station manager Dave Lane said the syndicated program, which for several years has been aired from 8:30 to 9 a.m. on Sundays, was cancelled because of a "continuing problem" with Robison making statements "about other religious organizations and community groups."

Lane said, "These statements subject Channel 8 to the personal attack and controversial public issue provision of the (Federal Communications Commission's) 'Fairness Doctrine.' In these cases, we have made time available to the groups and organizations attacked by Robison."

After Robison's program aired, Lane said the station received a call from the Dallas Gay Caucus demanding equal time to respond to the evangelist's charges. Lane explained the transcript of the show was evaluated by the station's law firm, which "concurred that the homosexual community had been attacked and should be given free time to respond."

"We believe our religious programs should not deal with such matters," Lane said. "We cover these type controversies in our news and public affairs shows where we can balance both sides of the issues. Our position has nothing to do with our own religious beliefs and does not reflect a lack of respect for Robison."

Personal perspective

BY TOM MADDEN
TBC executive secretary

Three times in the book of Exodus God created an unusual fire. In the third chapter, the "bush burned with fire and was not consumed." Chapter thirteen contains the account of "the pillar of fire," and in chapter nineteen "the Lord descended upon it (Mt. Sinai) in fire."

Some of the sparks from the burning bush fell into the heart of Moses. The pillar of fire emphasized that whatever the Israelites needed, God would provide. If they needed shade by day in the desert, He would provide a cloud. If they needed warmth, light, and protection by night, He would give a pillar of fire. If they needed laws for the kingdom they were establishing, God would provide them.

It seems also that there is here a planned, definite, progression—a bush, a pillar, and the mountain. God always wants us to progress and to move forward. First, there was Abraham, then a family, and then a tribe and finally a great nation. Our Savior gathered the twelve, and then there were 120, and then 3,000.

I think it is possible that God is always calling His people to a new Exodus.

Robison said his sermonette was based on the Romans 1 Scripture, and the Bible, he said, "does indicate that homosexuality is a sin."

"It's a controversial issue," he said, "and many people treat it as a political issue. It is a moral issue. It is a Biblical issue. It is a Christian principle, and I feel that as a preacher I have the privilege as well as the responsibility to preach what the Bible said and, frankly, it's breaking my heart."

He also insisted, "The gay community has no right to demand equal time any more than I have a right to demand equal time on prime time because 'Soap' (an ABC weekly television show) has a tendency to gain sympathy for gay activists." (WFAA-TV is an ABC affiliate.)

Robison's show was cancelled by WFAA-TV three years ago after a church in Fort Worth demanded equal time and again in 1977 for his attacks on homosexuals and Playboy magazine. Each time it was reinstated, but Lane said this time the cancellation is "permanent."

Citizen's Corner

By Jerry M. Self
Public affairs and Christian life consultant

Senate Joint Resolution 23 (SJR23) calls for a constitutional convention to amend the United States constitution to protect the rights of unborn persons. Already 29 states have called for a constitutional convention and with five more the required two-thirds will be met.

Most want an amendment to balance the budget. Others are asking for an anti-abortion amendment. But no one really knows what would happen to our constitution if such a convention were called. How would representation be decided? By state units as in the senate? By population as in the house? What would the convention do? Could it dismantle the bill of rights? It is not likely the agenda would be limited to a fiscal amendment or an anti-abortion amendment. The whole idea of a constitutional convention deserves more thought before a resolution is passed. By the way, a joint resolution is voted on by both houses. A senate joint resolution originates in the senate and the house initiates a house joint resolution. Resolutions are not law but have the power to create committees and do possess the power of influence.

Pari-mutuel bills SB44 and SB50 (allowing race track gambling) failed to pass the senate state and local government committee by a vote of 4 ayes, 1 no, 4 passes. The failure was due to a lack of an affirmative majority of those voting. Either bill might be reconsidered but that is not likely. HB373, the companion to SB50, failed to receive a second to the motion that it pass out of the house commerce committee. HB1028, companion to SB44 is in the house government operations committee.

The same senate committee also killed SB200 which would have raised the alcohol access age. Senators Cutrer, Hooper, Moore, and Thomas voted aye. Senators Ashe, Ed Davis, White, and Williams voted no. Senator Albright had left the room shortly before the vote.

Senator Dunavant will probably reintroduce this bill next year with the expectation of compromising on the age.



Self



Madden



RETIREMENT GIFT—Tom Madden (left), executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, presents a picture of Tennessee's state bird, the mockingbird, to Porter Routh, retiring executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee. The presentation was one of several made from state conventions at last month's Executive Committee session.

Leaving Iran, journeyman reports he never faced danger, threats

DALLAS (BP)—Mike Sowder, former missionary journeyman to Iran, said he never felt any personal danger nor was he ever threatened personally during the recent violence there.

Sowder returned to the United States Feb. 2 from Tehran where he had been youth director of the Baptist church serving American business families and military in the Iranian capital. Henry Turlington, pastor of the church, and his family, were evacuated Feb. 18 from Tehran.

Sowder said he never felt in any serious danger, even when the first mass march by anti-Shah forces passed immediately under his apartment window.

"The Iranians were never belligerent

toward us," he said. "As more and more of them got caught up in the spirit of the revolution, they became anti-foreign and occasionally someone would shout at you, but I never felt any threat."

Sowder at first stayed in an apartment operated by Iranians. They were torn, he said, by feelings of opposition for the Shah but were not entirely sympathetic to the idea of an Islamic state. "We were sympathetic to their problem and tried to express our concern," he said.

Later he moved in with a military family and returned to the United States with the women and her two sons when they were evacuated. The two boys were the last of his youth group—the rest had already returned to the United States.

Sowder said the experience had been a valuable one for him. "It has made me more aware of things in the world—broadened my view—especially in the area of seeing other people's needs."

Sowder is awaiting reassignment as a missionary journeyman, the SBC Foreign Mission Board program that sends young college graduates to foreign missions posts for two years.

UNIFORM SERIES

Lesson for Sunday, March 18

Discipline in Fellowship

By Carolyn D. Blevins

instructor, religion department

Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City

Basic Passages: 1 Corinthians 5:9-6:8; 2 Corinthians 2:5-10

Focal Passage: 1 Corinthians 5:9-6:8

How often do you recall hearing, "I'm doing this because I love you" when you were being disciplined? Did you believe it? Do you believe it now?

Appropriate discipline is an act of love. Undisciplined children begin to wonder if anyone cares. Sometimes they do strange things just to see if anyone does care. Discipline is one way of caring.

Some techniques of discipline restore the offender. Unfortunately, other methods of discipline destroy the erring person. Paul believed in discipline. But he believed only in the kind that restored.

The individual is not the only beneficiary of discipline. The group also profits from sound correction. Maintaining certain standards distinguishes a group. When one member falls below the norm, a shadow is cast on all members of that group.

Christianity was new to the world and different from other first century religions. High moral standards set Christianity and Judaism apart. Weak discipline within Christian churches would seriously hamper the spread of Christianity.

In 1 Corinthians 5:9-6:8 Paul was very clear on two matters. The Corinthian church needed to be continually aware of the distinctions between Christian and non-Christian standards of behavior. Furthermore, believers needed to learn to settle their own differences. Non-believers settling problems between believers was absurdity!

Formula for discipline

Then in 2 Corinthians 2:5-10 Paul gave specific instructions for restoring church members through discipline. It is most interesting that Paul never identified the person who was the offender in this passage. Obviously, pointing a finger was not of prime importance. The restored individual and unity in the church were the urgent matters. Paul's attention was in rebuilding rather than accusing. The first principle of discipline: Focus on restoring, not accusing.

Not only did Paul fail to identify the offender, he did not explain the offense either. Did Paul expect Christians to ignore the juicy details in their effort to restore? Obviously so. More than likely, the problem concerned slander against Paul. Was Paul carrying out a personal vendetta to discipline his attacker? To the contrary. Paul was sure the injury was not merely to him but to the church as well (v. 5). Sin rarely affects only one person. Sin tends to echo beyond its source. The church was affected. She had a responsibility to discipline the one in error.

Paul indicated the church had already exercised the responsibility of correction (v. 6). Notice that discipline was a majority decision. The problem involved the Christian family. So the discipline was a family matter. It was not the result of a tirade or crusade of a few hotheads. This discipline was a majority consensus. The second principle of discipline: The discipline authority is the church as a whole.

The guilty person apparently acknowledged his error and repented. Guilt often follows confession. People who wallow in guilt need comfort and assurance. Paul reminded the Corinthians (v. 7) to be sensitive to this need.

It was all over. The correction was lovingly given. The sinner repented. It was all over. Or was it? Paul didn't seem to think so. The responsibility of restoring didn't end with the acts of discipline. Love needed to be continually reaffirmed (v. 8). "Reaffirm" indicates love was affirmed earlier in the process. Once was not enough. It was necessary to confirm love over and over. Restoring an offender takes continual love. Correction is most effective when confidence is expressed. The guilty person needs to know others still believe in him. The third principle of discipline: Effective discipline is responsive to the guilty person's many needs, such as assurance, confidence and love.

Curiously, Paul continued to direct his attention to the church rather than the slanderer. His concern in verse 9 was whether the church had responded properly. Was genuine Christian fellowship evident in all parties throughout the entire process? Was their Christian community stronger as a result of maintaining high standards of fellowship?

Jesus had an even more disturbing word about the errors of others. In Matthew 7:1-5 he laid a heavy responsibility on those who discipline: Take care to clean your own life before you take on the task of cleansing another. Discipline then begins with self-examination. Perhaps in the process more than one person is restored.



Blevins

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LIFE AND WORK SERIES

Lesson for Sunday, March 18

God's Saving purpose

By Bob C. Hardison, pastor
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Basic Passage: Romans 10:14 to 11:36

Focal Passages: Romans 10:14-16, 21; 11:1, 25-26a, 30-36

"I don't think God is going to condemn anyone for believing something that is wrong if they are sincere in what they believe." "I don't believe that a God of love will send anyone to hell." "I don't believe in a hell because people suffer enough for their wrongs here in this life." If one listens closely to what people are saying today, he will hear similar beliefs to these, which result from sentimentalizing God.



Hardison

The belief that everyone will ultimately be saved results from an exclusive emphasis on divine mercy. This study will help us distinguish between what Paul taught concerning salvation and the doctrine of universalism. As in last week's lesson, Paul again deals with the status and destiny of Israel.

Israel's unbelief (Rom. 10:14-16, 21)

In these verses Paul builds a charge against Israel. He begins by promising that all (Jew or Gentile) who call upon the Lord will be saved (v. 13). In verse 14 he points out that people must hear the gospel in order to believe it. But hearing it is not enough. The Jews had heard the gospel but had not obeyed (v. 16). Israel had heard the prophets and even Christ but had not believed.

Verse 21 is a quote of Isaiah 65:2. The "all day long" does not refer to a twenty-four-hour day. It covers the centuries through which God had "stretched forth His hand to them." They had not responded. They were a "disobedient and gainsaying people." Instead of obeying, Israel had acted like a disobedient child who talked back to his father.

Paul's words in verses 14 and 15 provide us with a great missionary and evangelistic challenge. People cannot believe until they have heard the gospel. And they cannot hear unless someone tells them. The gospel must be proclaimed afresh to each succeeding generation. If we do not share the gospel in our world, it will return to stark paganism. It is every Christian's task to take the word to every person who hasn't believed.

The remnant and the prospect (Rom. 11:1, 25-26a)

It is true that Israel as a body had repudiated God. It also must be kept in mind that God had not rejected Israel as a whole. In verse one Paul reminded his readers that God has a remnant of Jews who have believed in Christ, of which he was an example. While many Gentiles had believed by the time Paul wrote his letter, many Jews were still prominent in the leadership of Christianity, particularly in Jerusalem.

Paul warns the Gentiles not to "be wise in your own conceits" (v. 25). They owed a lot to the Jews. They had learned much from the old Jewish faith. The Jews' blindness in part had come about so the Gentiles would be saved. If Christianity had remained primarily a religion of Jews, possibly very few Gentiles would have been saved.

The reference to the "fullness of the Gentiles" and the salvation of "all Israel" are difficult to understand (vv. 25b, 26a). The "fullness of the Gentiles" can be interpreted as when a certain number (full quota) of Gentiles are saved or as when times or situations are right in God's mind. The word "fullness" can refer to time just as well as to number. It is difficult to understand it as a certain number, because God will save all who believe. Paul used it in Galatians 4:4, "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His son" to mean a given time. The "fullness of the Gentiles" refers to a time which the Father has put in His own authori-

ty. We are not told when that given point in time will be.

Verse 26a "And so all Israel shall be saved" has been the basis of much debate among interpreters. The "all Israel" indicates a great turning of Israel to Christ, without specifying the conversion of every individual Israelite. Paul was not referring to a collective conversion of the Jews before the end of the age. God has only one plan of salvation for both Jews and Gentiles, it being "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." But each individual must accept Him personally. Paul's previous statements help us to understand this clearly. In Romans 9:6 he tells us not all of the Israelites are of the true Israel and in 9:30 to 10:10 indicates that Jews must receive God's righteousness through faith just like the Gentiles.

Mercy for all (Rom. 11:30-32)

In a sense, verses 30-32 are a summary of Paul's doctrine of salvation for the Jews and Gentiles. It is God's purpose to extend mercy to all people. The Gentiles who "in times past" were disobedient to God had now received the mercy of God. Paul felt that the Jews' rejection of Christ had aided the Gentiles in receiving the gospel (v. 30). Now it is the Jews who have not believed. Paul hoped that the Jews through jealousy or otherwise might obtain mercy because the Gentiles had obtained mercy (v. 31b).

Verse 32 has been used as a proof text for universalism to show that all people ultimately will be saved. The verse tells us it is God's purpose to show mercy upon all, both Jew and Gentile. But the verse is not teaching universalism. While it is God's purpose to extend mercy to all, it also infers the universal guilt of all. Everyone is an unbeliever who needs the mercy of God. The mercy of God is offered to all, but it is conditioned upon man's response of faith. God has given a universal invitation not universal salvation.

Verses 30-36 are a doxology of praise lauding God's redemptive purpose for all people. What a fitting way to end the doctrinal portion of the epistle to the Romans!

Feb. CP increase said 'encouraging'

NASHVILLE (BP)—A 17.7 percent increase in February's national Cooperative Program receipts raised the total after five months of the fiscal year to \$26,133,395.

Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee, called the increase "encouraging." He added that a computer problem in a large state prevented Cooperative Program funds from arriving in February, or the increase would have reached nearly 27 percent and pushed a single month's receipts over \$6-million for only the second time ever. The first \$6-million month was January 1979.

February's \$5,592,262 put 1978-79 totals \$2.6-million or 11.1 percent ahead of last year's receipts. The \$64-million operating and capital needs goals of SBC agencies require an 11.5 percent increase over 1977-78.

Designated giving, which Routh said was largely represented by the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, totaled \$17,780,440 or 14.7 percent ahead of the same month last year.

Designated giving for the year totals \$25,991,799, or 7.6 percent ahead of last year.

Gifts received in the Nashville office, both undesignated through the Cooperative Program and designated funds, total \$52,125,194, which is \$4,443,169 or 9.32 percent ahead of the same time last year.



DISASTER RELIEF STUDY—Examining disaster relief equipment at a national training conference in Oklahoma recently are (from left): Laddie Adams, Oklahoma City; James Hatley of Memphis; Russell Griffin of Jackson, Miss.; Bob Dixon of Dallas; Cal Jones of Alexandria, La.; and Norman Godfrey of Memphis. The conference was sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission, Home Mission Board, and state Brotherhood departments.

Disaster relief program draws two Tennesseans for training

Two Tennesseans, representing the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, were part of a national training program for disaster relief specialists held in Oklahoma recently.

James Hatley and Norman Godfrey, both of the commission's staff, joined 82 persons from seven states for the program.

Seven disaster relief experts oriented half of the men on how to work effectively in meeting disaster needs as part of a state response team while training the others to organize and train associational teams to respond meaningfully following disasters.

The goal is to organize disaster response teams in every association of Baptist churches in 1979, said Norman Godfrey of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, co-sponsor of the conference with the Home Mission Board and state Baptist Brotherhood departments.

About 4,000 Southern Baptist men re-

sponded to disaster relief needs after tornadoes, flash floods, ice, and hurricanes in 1978, Godfrey estimated.

Besides specialized training, the men from Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee heard presentations on Southern Baptists' response to disaster relief. They also learned about the disaster relief roles of the American Red Cross, Federal Disaster Assistance Administration and volunteer organizations.

The state response teams were drilled in how to prepare for response, on-site and public communications, mass feeding, relating to volunteers, shelter management, and damage assessment.

Associational trainees learned how to organize volunteers, determine needs and resources, conduct church and manpower surveys and develop training resources.

FMB magazine receives subscription for China

RICHMOND, Va.—Even though it may be years before Southern Baptist missionaries will be able to serve in China again, The Commission magazine, Southern Baptists' foreign missions journal, is now being mailed there. The order, requested through a subscription agency, is from the periodical department of a publishing company in Peking.

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Walker sees schools regaining meaning of Christianity

ATLANTA—"The basic proclamation" of the church-related college must be aimed at helping recover the real meaning of Christianity in a secularized society, Arthur L. Walker Jr. told a recent meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

Walker, executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Education Commission, suggested four approaches church-related colleges should take in expressing "confidence in the sacred" as they confront a society in which respect for the Christian world view has eroded.

First, he said, "examination of the body of basic human knowledge must be in light of the Christian world view and the Christian view of man...The study of all subjects is influenced by the instructor and if a subject is examined in the light of a Christian view, the study must be directed by one who holds such a view," declared Walker, who spent 23 years

as a professor and administrator in Baptist higher education before joining the commission.

Church-related colleges must, in the second place, he continued, have a concern for values in enhancing the sacred aspects of life.

"Our headlong rush (as a society) into pluralism has included the acceptance of everyone's value system," he said. "But if we are to hold an egalitarian view of values it means that Christian values are respectable too."

Noting the glut of options which society faces, Walker conceded that other choices must be possible, but declared, "I demand the right that in this condition...there must be a place for a lifestyle which considers Christian values."

"Polarization of ideologies is not wrong in itself," he added. "Particularly is this true in regard to values. If we leave the field uncontested, the result is obvious."

Speaking out of a background of years in student-oriented administrative experience, Walker made a third plea that church-related colleges provide a caring environment for students who face tremendous pressures from peers and society and who struggle for identity.

"No truth is more basic to the Christian gospel than God's concern for the individual," Walker emphasized. "President Carter's emphasis on human rights for all persons in all countries is an admirable concern. This is equally true for campuses. The caring must be as valid a consideration as the fiscal, academic, and effectual. The student is still our main reason for being."

But, he noted, "We do not have to provide the place for all the activities seemingly demanded by all the pressures our students face."

Fourth, he declared, "I believe that if we are to successfully face the desacralized

society, we must view the church as a significant aspect of today's society."

Noting that some of his listeners might consider that controversial, he nevertheless declared, "It is apparent that the reciprocal support of the local church, the church organization, and the church-related college is a necessity."

"The church," he said, "needs that environment in which its youth and leaders can be trained and made aware of the significant role of the church. In fact, the time may soon come upon us when the leaders of the church who do not have a church-related college background will have even greater deficiencies to overcome."

"Grady Cothen (president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board) has reported a conversation with a leading philosopher who said that there are only two leading graduate programs in philosophy where God is taken seriously," Walker said.

Noting that technical training for a vocation is not adequate for education, Walker called for broader involvements which help students sharpen ability "to develop attitudes and knowing how to know."

"Our ties with the church teach by implication," he said. "Our ties with the church at the same time provide parameters which can guide philosophies. Our ties with the church provide the opportunity to speak to and guide the church."

"Far more important than the financial contributions (from the church) are the other values which accrue to the college and the church by close ties," he said. "Little can be gained in most instances by severing the ties. Much can be lost both to the church and to the college (by doing so)."

"Among the things to be lost is the opportunity to teach the importance of the church in today's world."

Plane saves day for mission work

CABOT, Ark. (BP)—First Baptist Church in Cabot, Ark., gave missionary Gilbert Nichols "an extra day each week" that he is on the mission field.

When Nichols said the greatest need for his work in Paraguay was an airplane, First Baptist's pastor Keith Loyd and the deacons started a drive among the members that raised \$15,000 for the airplane in 10 days.

Nichols directs a seminary in Asuncion, the capital, that has four extension centers in the country's interior. Because of distance and unpaved roads, it takes 10 hours by car to get to one center. An airplane can travel the distance in two hours.

"I think, in all, it will give me about one day a week more in which I can work," Nichols said.

He has been getting to the centers about once every two weeks, but, with the plane, will be able to make the trip every week.

Carson-Newman plans workshop on drama

JEFFERSON CITY, TENNESSEE—Carson-Newman College director of drama, John Lee Welton, will conduct a series of workshop-demonstrations in the art stage movement for a conference in church drama called Creations, to be held in Gatlinburg, March 16-18.

Over 1,500 persons are expected to attend the conference representing churches from all over the country.

Other performing and lecturing participants include Ken Medema, recording and concert artist; the King's Players Drama Team; and Keith Miller whose books have made him a spokesman for the church renewal movement.

Persons interested in attending the conference should contact King's Players, 200 West Farthing Street, Mayfield, Ky., 42066 for further information.

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