

Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

Baptist Press poll released

SBC politics ranked as top news story of 1980

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE (BP) — Politics — denominational and secular — and the prayers and noses of Jews headed the Top 10 Baptist Press News Stories for 1980.

State Baptist newspaper editors and personnel of the six Baptist Press bureaus from around the United States were polled to determine their selections of the most significant news stories of the year.

Overwhelmingly, the Southern Baptist journalists said denominational politics was the top news making event of the year.

Religious politicking, always present but seldom mentioned, absorbed more attention as the year rolled along. It was heightened before, during, and immediately after the 1980 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Mo.

Adrian Rogers declined to run for a second term as president of the 13.6-million member denomination, opening the way for Bailey Smith of Del City, Okla., who won the presidency on the first ballot, the second such sweeping victory for organized conservatives in two years.

Politicking continued "hardball" style with charges Rogers "loaded" the committee on resolutions, committee on committees, and committee on boards — those over which he had control — with right-wing conservatives.

Also involved in the political life of the denomination is at least one group which is on the record as "going for the jugular" to control the denomination so it can enforce adherence to its interpretation of Biblical inerrancy. The group is led by Paige Patterson, president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies of Dallas, and Paul Pressler, an appeals court judge from Houston.

However, toward the end of the year,

groups of "moderates" and "friends of missions" staged get-togethers of their own in an effort to stifle the right wingers. These groups, led by Asheville, N.C., pastor Cecil Sherman; his brother Bill, of Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville; and David Matthews of Greenville, S.C., say the issue is not inerrancy, but power and control. They urged interested Baptists to be present for the 1981 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Los Angeles.

Smith, pastor of the 15,000-member First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, a suburb of Oklahoma City, figured in the second top news story of the year. The controversy surrounded highly-publicized remarks he made concerning Jews.

In late August, Smith spoke to the National Affairs Briefing in Dallas, a right-wing religious-political meeting sponsored by "The Roundtable," headed by two Southern Baptists, Ed McAteer of Memphis, and Evangelist James Robison, Hurst, Tex. During the meeting, Smith remarked that "God Almighty doesn't hear the prayer of a Jew." The remark set off controversy when it was circulated by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Within a few days, another Smith remark — this one made during a sermon in his church — was publicized. In it, Smith said he didn't know why God chose the Jews, and added he thought they (Jews) "have funny-looking noses."

The two remarks set off criticism within and without the denomination. Two institutions and two state conventions passed resolutions disagreeing with Smith. The controversy led to a meeting between Southern Baptists — led by Smith — and representatives of the Anti-Defamation League in New York City, in which the misunderstandings created by the

remarks reportedly were smoothed over and passed by.

The third top news story of the year concerned secular politics. The issue raged around the religious right wing — which involved some Southern Baptists — and their influence in the outcome of the 1980 presidential election in which a Southern Baptist president was defeated for re-election.

Two other political stories — doctrinal strife and the St. Louis meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention — placed fourth and fifth in the balloting for the Top 10 stories. Other top stories are:

Six: Baptisms. First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, of which Smith is pastor, became the first church in Southern Baptist history to baptize more than 2,000 converts in a single year. Also, baptisms convention-wide were projected to be up 16.5 percent over 1979, an increase of more than 60,000 for the year.

Seven: Prayer in the public school. Controversy surrounded an amendment to the U.S. Constitution offered by U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms. After much shouting and misunderstanding, the measure died in Congress. And, while it is dead for this term, emotionally it is very much alive.

Eight: Refugees. The influx of refugees from around the globe continued. Indochinese refugees continue to come, as did those from Cuba and Haiti. For some, the golden door was shiny, and Americans — Southern Baptists among them — held out open arms. For others — particularly the Haitians — the door was slammed shut. One political cartoonist remarked the black, French-speaking refugees were "unfortunately, the wrong kind of huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Nine: Church and state issues. Southern Baptists — among other groups — became familiar with governmental initials such as ERISA, IRS, EEOC, FCC, and others. During the year, battles were fought over income taxes on foreign missionaries and challenges to retirement benefits for denominational employees.

Ten: Inflation. The eroding value of the dollar hurt churches at home and abroad. While offerings are at record amounts, inflation hits before the funds can be used to promote missions, education, and evangelism.

The ballots were tabulated according to a statistically weighted system designed for Baptist Press by Martin Bradley, manager of research services for the Baptist Sunday School Board.

E.L. Smothers dies

Eulon Lee Smothers, a Baptist minister for 58 years, died Dec. 28 at Jackson General Hospital after a long illness. He was 75 years old.

He led congregations in Tennessee at First Baptist Church, Newbern; First Baptist Church, Fayetteville; and First Baptist Church, McMinnville. He also served several pastorates in Alabama and Arkansas. Following his retirement, he was an interim and supply pastor in numerous churches in Alabama and Tennessee.

Active in denominational work, Smothers was a member of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist and Alabama Baptist Conventions. Additionally he was on the board of directors for the Baptist and Reflector, and was a trustee for Union University in Jackson and Cumberland College in Lebanon. He was also exceptionally active in evangelistic work.

Funeral services were held at First Baptist Church in Jackson with Trevis Otey, Samuel R. Woodson, and Barney Flowers officiating. Burial was in Hollywood Cemetery.

Smothers is survived by his wife, Mrs. Louise Weldon Smothers, Jackson; one son, William Weldon Smothers, Houston, Tex.; and two grandchildren in Houston.

Tennessee's first volunteers

Milford Shirley, Walt Weber leave for Upper Volta work

Tennessee's first volunteers to work in Upper Volta, Milford Shirley of Memphis and Walter Weber of Martin, left Jan. 1 from Memphis to begin their assignments.

Shirley, a member of First Baptist Church, will serve as a logistics person for the entire project. Weber, of Martin's Southside Baptist Church, will be the cook.

Shirley told Baptist and Reflector that constructing a camp is the goal of the first few men who will travel to Upper Volta. Shirley and Weber will be followed by other Tennesseans beginning Jan. 15.

The Baptists are travelling to the impoverished country as part of a three-to-five-year joint project with the Foreign Mission Board and the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The aim of the program is to construct a dam to create a lake; build health clinics; assist residents in education pertaining to health, farming techniques, and conservation; and to provide evangelistic outreach.

Shirley will be responsible for purchasing equipment and tools which will be used in the

construction of the camp, where all volunteers will eventually be based. The two men will be working about 130 miles southeast of Ouagadougou, the capital of Upper Volta.

Volunteers scheduled to join Shirley and Weber later in January will begin construction on two bunk houses, an eating area and cook house, shower and latrine facilities, and a water tower. Teams coming in February and March will continue work in construction and evangelism until the first phase of the project ends in April or May, the beginning of the rainy season in Upper Volta.

Both "pioneers" in the project told the state Baptist paper that they look forward to the success of the project and to the opportunity of witnessing to the people in Upper Volta. "I am missions-minded and missions-oriented," Weber said. "I hope to gain a better awareness of what the rest of the world is like in order to gain a better view of what Christianity is like." He said that when he returns he hopes to be instrumental in getting others to become more involved in missions.

Meeting announced for evangelists

Memphis, Lebanon, and Johnson City evangelists are scheduled to bring messages to the 1981 Evangelists' Conference, meeting Jan. 19 in Nashville.

Don Womack, Memphis; Terry Wilkerson, Lebanon; and Charles Cash, Johnson City, will speak at Belmont Heights Baptist Church, beginning at 10 a.m. The evangelists meet annually just prior to the State Evangelism Conference, which is also held at Belmont Heights.

Bob Kendig, president of the Tennessee Conference of Baptist Evangelists, said this will be the seventh annual meeting for the men. Music will be under the director of Edsel Bone, Memphis.



SPREADING THE GOSPEL — Sunday, Jan. 11, has been designated Witness Commitment Day — a day when Southern Baptists will consider the challenge to fulfill their obligations to the Great Commission.

Consultation views peace, urges churches' activity

NASHVILLE(BP)— "We have never lived in a time when it was more important to preach peace, practice peace, and do the things that make for peace," Foy Valentine told a Southern Baptist Consultation on Peace with Justice.

Valentine, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, was one of the participants in the consultation, which explored plans for a convention-wide agenda for peace and discussed new ways to help churches deal with peacemaking.

In spite of the seemingly dim prospects for world peace, two denominational ethicists and a South Carolina pastor urged the moral concerns agency to help Southern Baptists concentrate on peacemaking.

Bill Elder, director of Christian citizenship development for the commission, said Southern Baptists must understand the biblical definition of peace. "Peace is clearly linked with a constellation of values which are revealed throughout the Bible," he said.

41 earn degrees at Golden Gate

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — Baker James Cauthen told students at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary that people serving in the ministry today have been called to serve God in one of the most crucial times in history. The former executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board expressed his belief to 41 candidates for graduation, including one Tennessean.

Charles Ray Ratliff Jr., Franklin, who received the master of church music degree, said, "This is the day for Christians to stand full stature." The former missionary to China added, "God needs on this earth people who dare to be Christian."

Cauthen, who is serving as distinguished professor of missions at Golden Gate, listed several things he feels are having a tremendous effect on today's ministry and those in it. Among them were an unchecked runaway population increase, massive world hunger, declining morality; and the growing utilization of violence throughout the world to gain objectives. "These things," the professor said, "make this day critical and because of it, we have no right to be less than our best as we take our places in the ministry."

The candidates for graduation were presented by W. Morgan Patterson, dean of academic affairs at Golden Gate; and the conferring of degrees was done by seminary President William M. Pinson Jr.

Southwestern Dec. graduates represent largest winter class

FORT WORTH, Texas — Fifteen students from Tennessee were among 275 candidates receiving degrees last month from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention, was the commencement speaker.

Seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr. conferred the degrees.

The December graduating class represents the largest number of winter graduates in the seminary's history.

Earning the doctor of education degree from Southwestern was Katharine Courtney Bryan, Nashville. The doctor of ministry degree was conferred upon James Leonard Blaylock, pastor of Frayser



Bryan

"Peace is whatever happens that fulfills God's purpose for humanity. When we work for justice and liberty and righteousness, we are working for peace."

Elder added: "Southern Baptists need to preach and teach about the Biblical basis for peace, and we've got to make clear the relationship between peace and evangelism as well as the connection between peace and discipleship."

Glen Stassen, associate professor of ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, majored on the urgency of working for peace with justice, saying the current move toward ground-launched intercontinental ballistic missiles on the part of both Russia and the United States could lead to an uncontrolled arms race.

"These new weapons are too small to be counted by spy satellites," he said. "They are only 20 feet long, 21 inches wide, and have the wingspan about the length of a man's outstretched arms. They are particularly dangerous because they will be set up in large numbers across the globe and will be controlled by lower level officers. This is very dangerous. We've never before had long range nuclear weapons that you can't count."

The ethicist said Ronald Reagan's election as president still leaves room to hope and work for peace, despite fears to the contrary.

Stassen said that the president-elect can be influenced by individuals and groups committed to peace with justice. "Individual Christians and church groups should not just deplore the arms race, but should start being specific (with Reagan) about ways to achieve peace," he added.

David Matthews, pastor of First Baptist Church of Greenville, S.C., said Southern Baptists generally need to know the real facts about war and peace. "People in my congregation are largely confused about how to work for peace," he said.

Matthews also called on the Christian Life Commission to work aggressively to find new ways to develop helps for use by churches in educating Southern Baptists about peace and in leading them to work for peace. "Give us some simple, visible, viable programs of involvement in support of peace with justice," Matthews urged.

Other suggestions for developing a Southern Baptist agenda for peace with justice call for the commission to provide helps for churches on how to pray for peace and called for greater use of the Declaration of Human Rights approved by the Southern Baptist Convention in its 1978 annual meeting.

Baptist Church in Memphis.

Others with Tennessee connections are:



Blaylock

Douglas Buck, Lenoir City, diploma of theology; Betty Matheny, Knoxville, master of church music; Judy Kay Carpenter, Memphis, graduate studies in religious education; Donald Glen Petree, LaFollette, Bobby J. Drewry, formerly of Memphis, and Dave Norman Commons, formerly of Memphis, all receiving the master of religious education degree; and Robert Lee Tucker, Huntingdon, Larry Sharp, Tazewell, Harold Arthur Rivers Jr., Clarksville, Clarence Donald Maiden, Jellico, James David Hammond, Brentwood, John Allen Finley Jr., Memphis, and Dana Edgar Bible, Knoxville, earning the master of divinity degree.

Carter signs act restoring missionary tax exclusion

WASHINGTON (BP)— President Jimmy Carter has signed into law a bill restoring an income tax exclusion for missionaries and other charitable workers who are American citizens but serve outside the boundaries of the United States.

The signing followed months of efforts by the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board and other organizations with charitable workers overseas to convince Congress to restore the \$20,000 tax exclusion which had been in effect prior to passage of the Foreign Earned Income Act of 1978.

Congress completed action on the measure just two days before a twice-extended deadline granted by the Internal Revenue Service for payment of 1979 taxes. The tax exclusion cleared Congress as an amendment to H.R. 4968, a bill dealing with real estate investment trusts.

The new law will save the Foreign Mission Board about \$1-million annually. Estimates of savings for all charitable organizations range as high as \$25-million annually.

The overseas tax exclusion is granted to employees of agencies such as the FMB solely because they perform "qualified charitable services" in "less developed countries," and is not related to the constitutional requirement for church-state separation.

Most Americans living abroad pay taxes to the government of the nation in which they work.

Seminaries see high enrollment, doubling of extension pursuits

NASHVILLE (BP) — 1980 fall enrollment at Southern Baptists' six theological seminaries in all degree and non-degree programs rose 4.8 percent, or 445 students, to a new high of 9,695.

Growth in degree granting programs, as reported by the seminaries to the Association of Theological Schools, rose 9.6 percent to 9,033.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary showed the largest percentage increase in a comparison of enrollment figures produced by the seminaries. Its enrollment increased 8.5 percent to 1,348 students in all programs. That includes 1,017 students in graduate programs

and 331 in associate and non-degree programs.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville rebounded from two years of decreasing enrollment and showed the largest numerical increase of 129. That brought its total enrollment to 2,299, including 1,874 in graduate degree programs and 425 in Boyce Bible School, diploma and non-credit courses.

Marvin Taylor, statistician for ATS, said 194 reporting seminaries in the United States and Canada showed a growth rate of 2.4 percent. Enrollment at Southern Baptist seminaries accounted for 18.2 percent of the 49,611 students counted by ATS. In 1979, SBC seminaries accounted for 18 percent of the total.

Elliott begins tenure with Robertsville

Robert C. Elliott began his ministry this week with the Robertsville Baptist Church in Oak Ridge. He comes to the east Tennessee

post from the pastorate of First Baptist Church in Flatwoods, Ky., where he has served since 1972.

A native of Louisville, Ky., he also led congregations in Big Spring, Guston, and Columbia, Ky. Before his service at Flatwoods, Elliott was chaplain-extern for the Kentucky Baptist Hospital at the University of Louisville Medical Center.

He is a graduate of Campbellsville College in Campbellsville, Ky. and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.



Elliott

Kendall joins officers of Baptist Memorial

One Tennessean, one Mississippian, and two Arkansans were elected as officers to the Board of Trustees of Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis for 1981.

Leslie M. Riherd Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church in Newport, Ark. was elected chairman. The board's new first vice-president is William A. Crabill of Marks, Miss. W. Fred Kendall II, pastor of First Baptist Church in Union City, was elected second vice-president; and J. W. Royal, retired Baptist minister from Judsonia, Ark., was elected secretary.

Baptist Memorial Hospital is owned by the Baptist state conventions of Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Each state convention appoints nine members to serve on the hospital's board. The Executive committee of the board is made up of three members from each state.

Alumni director named to work at Belmont

Randall Lee Moser, associate pastor and minister of youth at First Baptist Church in Old Hickory, was named director of alumni affairs at Belmont College in Nashville.

A graduate of that institution, he also earned the master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Active in local denominational work, he is a member of the executive committee, chairman of the youth committee, and on the association council for the Nashville Baptist Association. Before joining the staff at Old Hickory, he was youth director at Eastland Baptist Church in Nashville. Prior to that he held a church staff position in Bloomington, Ind.



REJOICING — Malcolm McDow (left), evangelism director for Tennessee Baptists, discusses the recent upturn in the Southern Baptist baptism rate with C. B. Hogue, vice-president for evangelism at the Home Mission Board.

Religious groups to study government intervention

WASHINGTON (BP) — Southern Baptists will join representatives of more than 50 religious groups in a conference on government intervention in religious affairs Feb. 11-13 at Bethesda, Md., a Washington, D.C., suburb.

With 450 Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish participants representing religious bodies with more than 121-million adherents, sponsors believe the conference will be one of the most inclusive gatherings in the country's history. The conference will focus on a wide range of issues from tax exemption to governmental restraint on "political" activities of religious bodies.

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, cited the importance of the conference, calling government intrusion in religious affairs "one of the most critical issues" facing Southern Baptists and the entire religious community during the decade of the '80s.

"Churches and the denomination must be good citizens," Bennett said, "but we also must be left free to function without govern-

ment intervention."

Bennett said the conference is needed because "in recent months there have been a number of cases where the government has in fact intervened into the religious affairs of several denominations."

"I support strongly the principles related to the separation of church and state and religious freedom," he said.

Other participating religious groups include the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., the United States Catholic Conference, the Synagogue Council of America, the National Association of Evangelicals, and the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A.

The conference will open with a keynote address on "government as big brother to religious bodies" by prominent church-state attorney William Bentley Ball of Harrisburg, Pa.

Among the other topics to be discussed by an impressive list of church-state experts are: regulation of charitable solicitations, lobby disclosure requirements, unemployment compensation taxation of religious agencies, Internal Revenue Service treatment of religious bodies and their integrated auxiliaries, state regulation of parochial schools, and intelligence agency use of clergy as informants.

Bennett expects Southern Baptists to benefit from as well as contribute to the success of the conference. The Baptist executive said actions or recommendations of the conference will be forwarded to the SBC and other participating denominations for "possible consideration and action."

Admission to the conference is by invitation only. The SBC is allowed 35 participants based on a quota system that allows each of the national religious groups to issue invitations on the basis of its membership.

Memphis Southland calls Neb. pastor

Frank Huddleston has accepted the call to serve as pastor of Southland Baptist Church in Memphis. He comes to the position from the pastorate of Chandler Acres Baptist Church in Omaha, Neb., where he has served since 1973.

In addition to his tenure in Omaha, Huddleston has led congregations in Goodland, Kans., Shawnee, Okla., Mineral Wells, Tex., and Maize, Kans. He is a native of Fort Scott, Kans. and grew up in Wichita, where he attended Wichita State University.

He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee and also attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex. and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. He earned the master of divinity degree from Midwestern.

Active in denominational work, he was a member of the executive Board for the Kansas-Nebraska Baptist Convention; was vice-moderator, chairman of evangelism, and Sunday School director for the Eastern Nebraska Baptist Association.

Huddleston's first Sunday in Memphis is scheduled for Jan. 18.



Huddleston

Churches hurt by alcohol, accused of ignoring problem

By Tim Nicholas

GULFSHORE, Miss. (BP) — "We need to quit playing ostrich" with alcohol abuse among church members, a New Orleans missions staffer told a conference on the impact of alcohol and other drugs on contemporary life.

The conference, organized by former Southern Baptist Convention president Owen Cooper, included advocates of total abstinence and of drinking in moderation.

Charles Holmes, who works daily with the physical proof at New Orleans Baptist Rescue Mission, says statistics show one in 10 Baptists has a drinking problem. With each problem drinker estimated to directly affect about 16 other persons, it would be hard for any church to claim it is unaffected by alcoholism, Holmes said.

Jimmy Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, a keynote speaker, said the church must provide a substitute for what alcohol does for the drinker. Alcohol offers instant fellowship, and circumstances that allow one to bare one's soul and express hilarity. "All of these things are what are supposed to be the experience to be found in the local Baptist church," he said.

Doyle Smith, a Jackson, Miss., anesthesiologist, has treated two Baptist preachers for alcoholism. One, he said, traveled extensively, sleeping in a new town most nights and had trouble sleeping. A deacon in a church he visited gave him some

valium which "worked wonders." He grew into a "slow, insidious dependency" on the drug.

Then, said Smith, the preacher, while on a plane, intercepted some "free" champagne passed out in flight. There, "he found his drug of choice."

Ed Lilly, director of the Baptist Rescue Mission in New Orleans, enumerated several of the "great myths" of alcoholism. A person will say "the problem is out yonder on skid row." Lilly said only three percent of alcoholics are on skid row. The rest are functioning at various levels of society. The other myth, according to Lilly, is "there is not a problem with alcohol in my congregation."

On a nationwide basis, of the 100 to 125-million drinkers, 9.5 to 14-million are alcoholics. In 1977, American industry suffered \$19.6-billion in lost production. There were more than 28,000 auto deaths in 1979 directly attributable to drinking drivers. The American Medical Association reports that 50 percent of all fracture cases treated in emergency rooms involve drinking.

In a world where more than 10-million people will starve to death this year, America uses 32-million pounds of grain a day to make beer. One pound of that grain would feed a person for a day.

Holmes cited statistics, now several years old, that estimate 48 percent of all Baptists drink, and that 20 percent of Baptists who drink have drinking problems.

Harold Hughes, former U.S. senator and a recovered alcoholic, claimed that "most alcoholics look at the church as the enemy, not as a friend and a place to get help." He added that if alcoholism is a disease, "why are we not training doctors, preachers, and nurses to deal with it?" Hughes was instrumental in getting the Hughes Act passed which created a national commission on addiction.

Allen took issue with Hughes' premise that the church is not helping. His former pastorate, First Baptist Church in San Antonio, Tex., has a ministry to alcoholics which offers food and spiritual guidance. "The churches do care," claimed Allen, "but don't know what to do."

Allen said Christians have to hold in check this "juggernaut" while trying to uplift its victims. "We need a maximum amount of legal and social restraint on the traffic and have to be concerned enough to act."

Union sets workshop on financial aid

Union University will sponsor a financial aid workshop Jan. 10 for prospective students who plan to enroll in the college's 1981-82 academic session.

All high school seniors and their parents, as well as individuals considering transferring from other colleges, are invited to the seminar. The information period will be held from 9-11 a.m. in Union's Recital Hall, said Don Morris, director of financial aid.

Admissions counselors will be on hand to field questions concerning entrance requirements while Morris will explain various loan, grant, and scholarship programs which are available. Financial aid application forms will also be distributed during the workshop.

Filipino ex-convict records Christian songs on cassette

MANILA, Philippines — A cassette tape by a Filipino Christian, the first produced by the Philippine Baptist Mission, is now on sale at Baptist bookstores in the country.

"A Song for my Brother," written by ex-convict Jimmy Lim, contains 13 songs of his Christian testimony and challenge. Lim wrote most of the songs while he was incarcerated at the national prison near Manila.

Seminary professor dies after battle with cancer

FORT WORTH, Tex. (BP) — William Oscar Thompson, 45, an assistant professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, died Dec. 28, in a Fort Worth hospital after a four-year battle with cancer.

Thompson, who had been on the seminary faculty since 1974, was diagnosed as having multiple myeloma, a type of cancer, in September 1976. In the ensuing years, he worked actively as a pastoral consultant for both the Cancer Counseling and Research Foundation and the Trinity Valley Hospice Association in Fort Worth.

He spoke regularly to cancer societies, medical schools, and religious groups about his own experiences, and last year spoke at Harvard University about his ministry to cancer victims.

The professor, a native of Gonzales, Tex., was pastor in Gonzales, Seguin, and Arlington prior to joining the seminary faculty. In recent years, he was interim pastor of MacArthur Boulevard Baptist Church in Irving, and River Oaks Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

Thompson was a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern seminary, receiving his doctor of philosophy degree from that seminary in December 1979.

New lesson writers named

Two new writers have been named to write Sunday School lesson commentaries for the **Baptist and Reflector** during the new quarter.

Danny E. Bush, associate minister of First Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, will write the Life and Work series commentary; and Ira Samuel Perkins, director of missions for the Big Hatchie Baptist Association, will provide the Bible Book series commentary. The first lessons for both writers appear in this issue of **Baptist and Reflector**.

Before joining the staff of the Oak Ridge church in 1977, Bush had served as minister of education for several churches in Virginia for about nine years. Born in Fort Wayne, Ind., he also lived in Charlotte, N.C., while growing up.

Bush is a graduate of Belmont College,

Nashville, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex. He is currently president of the Oak Ridge Ministerial Association and served as moderator of the Clinton Baptist Association, 1979-80. He has written numerous articles for Baptist publications.

Perkins was elected to his position in January 1976. He was a missionary to north Brazil from 1961 to 1970, and has also served as pastor of churches in Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Born in Belen, Miss., Perkins is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He has also written articles for several Baptist publications.

EDITORIAL

1980: important for Tennessee Baptists

1980 was indeed an important year for Baptists in Tennessee. During the past 12 months many things occurred among the Volunteer State's Baptists which were significant victories and milestones for our churches and their members.

To get an indication of some of these meaningful happenings, we reviewed the 51 issues of the **Baptist and Reflector** — and their approximately 1.5-million words — to pull out a few of the highlights of last year.

- State Evangelism Conference meets at Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville; 2,700 attend.
- Belmont College, Nashville, begins construction on a student center.
- Accounts of Baptist institutions invested through the Tennessee Baptist Foundation reach \$8.4-million.
- TBC writes largest check for SBC mission causes from January 1980 church gifts. Of the \$2,623,718.16 amount, \$539,460.12 was for the Cooperative Program and \$1,997,833.35 was for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.
- About 100 foreign students attend the International Student Retreat at Camp Carson.
- 30,000 Tennessee young people cram Vanderbilt Memorial Gymnasium for the annual Youth Evangelism Conference.
- More Tennessee church members (154,269) were reported to have attended World Mission Conferences in their churches in 1979 than in any other state.
- Memphis' Bellevue Baptist Church again leads the state in baptisms in 1979.
- 148 lay persons and seven pastors engage in evangelism efforts in Ohio.
- First state History Workshop held in Murfreesboro.
- Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour, launches Century II campaign to raise \$2-million for the Baptist school. By year's end, pledges and gifts had passed the \$1-million mark.
- Trustees of Union University, Jackson, vote to construct additional dormitory units.
- 1,200 attend national Royal Ambassador Congress in Nashville.
- Tennessee Baptist college students commission 43 summer missionaries at Spring Conference.
- East Tennessee Baptist Hospital, Knoxville, opens lung disease center.
- Memphis' Chinese Baptist Church observes 20th anniversary.

niversary.

- 1,900 young Tennesseans attend Youth Music Festival in Nashville.
 - Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, opens 126-unit critical care center.
 - SBC seminaries begin extension center on campus of Union University, Jackson.
 - Sale of Belmont Plaza completed. Belmont Plaza Inc., a group of interested Baptist laypersons, assumes the ownership, financial liability, and operation of the high-rise apartment for senior adults.
 - Tennesseans are active at 1980 SBC in St. Louis: Adrian Rogers, president; Wayne Allen, chairman of Resolutions Committee; Bill Sherman, chairman of Committee on Boards; Jerry Glisson, chairman of Committee on Boards; John Lee Taylor, chairman of Credentials Committee.
 - More than 250 pastors attend 24th annual Pastors' Retreat at Camp Carson.
 - Sweetwater Baptists oppose construction of Coors Brewery on New Tellico Lake.
 - First state Christian Citizenship Seminar held.
 - Three Tennessee churches (First Baptist Church, Morristown; First Baptist Church, Nashville; Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville) were reported to be among the top 25 SBC churches in earned study course awards.
 - All three Tennessee Baptist colleges experience increases in student enrollment in fall 1980 over fall 1979.
 - Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, completes construction of new music building.
 - Tennessee Baptists vote to enter into a sister-state partnership with the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. TBC churches and association to assist in starting and in strengthening new churches.
 - Messengers to 1980 TBC approve the Upper Volta Project: to work with Foreign Mission Board in meeting physical and spiritual hunger.
 - Trustees of Tennessee Baptist Children Homes vote to begin a maternity home for unwed mothers.
 - Baptist Hospital, Nashville, receives approval for a \$46-million renovation and expansion.
 - Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy publishes a history of the Baptist school, noting the institution's 100th anniversary.
- These are just a few of the 1980 Tennessee Baptist events that we had to opportunity to share with our readers through the pages of the **Baptist and Reflector**. Now, we anticipate the exciting accomplishments of 1981.

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Tom Madden, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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Cicero's comment



By the editor

Two questions:

(1) Have you made your New Year's Resolutions for 1981?

(2) Have you kept any of your New Year's Resolutions?

During recent days, all of us have been hearing a lot about making — and breaking — New Year's Resolutions. Like many others, I think about it, but rarely do I put any of these in writing — lest these become a reminder of my weak will power.

Most of the resolutions I hear or read are of the humorous variety. So, where could one find some serious New Year's Resolutions to consider?

Listed below are a few possibilities which I found in the Psalms. Perhaps you would like to make some of these your "resolves," so I am including a box for you to check by each one.

Resolutions from the Psalms

- ☐ I will not be afraid of ten thousand of people who have set themselves against me round about (3:6).
- ☐ In the morning I will order my prayer to Thee and eagerly watch (5:3).
- ☐ I will give thanks to the Lord according to His righteousness (7:17).
- ☐ I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart (9:1).
- ☐ I will bless the Lord who has counseled me (16:7).
- ☐ I will tell of Thy name to my brethren (22:22).
- ☐ I will not sit with the wicked (26:5).
- ☐ I will rejoice and be glad in Thy lovingkindness (31:7).
- ☐ I will confess my transgressions to the Lord (32:5).
- ☐ I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth (34:1).
- ☐ I will give thanks in the great congregation (35:18).
- ☐ I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle (39:1).
- ☐ I will cause Thy name to be remembered in all generations; therefore the peoples will give Thee thanks forever and ever (45:17).
- ☐ I will teach transgressors Thy ways (51:13).
- ☐ I will trust in Thee (55:23).
- ☐ I shall come to Thy house with burnt offerings; I shall pay Thee my vows (66:13).
- ☐ I will hope continually, and will praise Thee yet more and more (71:14).
- ☐ I will hear what God the Lord will say (85:8).
- ☐ I will walk in Thy truth (86:11).
- ☐ I will sing praise to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being (104:33).
- ☐ I will meditate on Thy precepts, and regard Thy ways. I shall delight in Thy statutes; I shall not forget Thy word (119:15-16).
- ☐ I shall have an answer for him who reproches me, for I trust in Thy word (119:42).
- ☐ I will keep Thy righteous ordinances (119:106).
- ☐ I will extol Thee, my God, O King (145:1).
- ☐ I will tell of Thy greatness (145:6).

If Great Things Are To Happen

"THESE ALL CONTINUED

WITH ONE ACCORD

IN PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION... ACTS 1:14



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.

Obeys laws or God

Dear editor:

In Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles who had been commanded to teach answered, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

The refusal to let civil authority wipe out belief in God was exemplified in the suffering underground church for 63 years in Russia. The suffering began in 1917 and continues today.

Christians of many denominations suffered, but none more universally than the Baptists. Yet, by 1980 one can read that the long suffering was largely unnecessary.

Denominations speaking the truth in love cooperated to send contributions to get Bibles to adults who deserved to hear God's Word for the first time.

Now, some men impressed with the smile which communism presently is turning toward registered Baptists, begin writing their fears that the money went ineffectively to those suffering as in Hebrews 11:35. "Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance."

Aren't Norman Jameson's articles in *Baptist and Reflector* (Dec. 10 and 17) an attempt to set registered Baptists against unregistered Baptists?

Personal perspective

BY TOM MADDEN
TBC executive secretary

As a student in college, I read a message entitled "Five P's in the Missionary Pod." It made an indelible impression upon me and I would like, the best I can, to at least reproduce the skeleton of that message.

Privilege. It is a real privilege to participate in the program of sharing Christ with every person in the world. The story is told of a humble worker who said to a group of tourists who were admiring a magnificent cathedral, "We did a fine job, didn't we?"

"We?" said the tourist. "What did you do?"

"I mixed the mortar," he replied.

Program. We are to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the world. We are to lift up, pray down, and go out; study, intercede, and obey.

Progress. Missions is the burning bush of church life aflame with the presence of God. We have made much progress since the days of Luther Rice and Adoniram Judson. We have over 3,000 foreign and more than 2,500 home missionaries, but we are still commissioned to carry the gospel to every person in every country in the world.

Prospect. Our prospects are tremendous. Many doors are opening to us. Tennessee Baptists have a special opportunity in Upper Volta and a partnership with Michigan. Also, there will be literally thousands moving into our state because of our growing industrial expansion. We will have an opportunity to witness to the millions visiting in Tennessee during May through October of 1982 as they attend the Knoxville World's Fair.

Finally, the plea. The plea of the Macedonians to "come over and help us" is still heard from the billions in the world who do not know Christ as their personal Saviour.



Madden

The articles were incomplete to the extent they dealt with supposed Russian openness to the gospel in recent months only. Nothing significant is included as to the 63 years of Christian struggles.

To me the articles were an attempt to end contributions to evangelists. Is this not a form of persecution?

Carl Chapman
205 Lancaster Ave.
Chattanooga, TN 37415

Bold Mission Thrust

Dear editor:

Seventy years ago, when the New York State legislatures granted the American Baptists' Charter of Incorporation, one of the purposes listed was "the evangelization of the world."

For 75 years, the Baptist World Alliance has been "inviting the whole world to praise God, and to participate in and become members of the Church, the body of Christ." The BWA continues to work for the building of the church in the entire world.

Anabaptists since 1525 in Europe and the other Baptists beginning in 1609 in Amsterdam have recognized the right and responsibility "of every individual" to make his own religious decision. Thirty-three million Baptist church members live in at least 140 countries and attend about 140,000 Baptist churches.

With that as prologue, I offer these observations:

(1) Legitimate, recognized Islam is dedicated to "winning the world" to their particular religious persuasion. In America, in men's prisons, we Christians are "losing" many black inmates to Islam.

(2) We had better adopt a higher degree of basic ethics in dealing with other cultures and peoples of other living faiths and ideologies than we have ever practiced in our "witness" to Jews. Those of the house and lineage of David are not going to become Christians. Jesus never did. He was and always remained a Jew. We need to accept and respect that fact.

(3) As we pursue Bold Mission Thrust at home, we might, as local congregations, consider the expanded ministry open to us by becoming dually-aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Churches. Internationally, we could increase our Baptist World Alliance support, and lend our good will, if not our actual aid and comfort, to mainstream Christianity's World Council of Churches.

Owen Meredith Smaw
1612 Sixteenth Ave., South
Nashville, TN 37212

Layne Lecture Series given by Paschall

NEW ORLEANS, La. — H. Franklin Paschall, pastor of First Baptist Church in Nashville and former Southern Baptist Convention president, recently presented the annual Layne Lecture Series at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Paschall challenged the seminary students and faculty to excel in study and service, and through that study and service, be faithful to the Lord's Great Commission through the convention's programs and throughout the world through Bold Mission Thrust.

The first of these lectures was presented in 1924 by M. E. Dodd, who was influential in the establishment of the Baptist Bible Institute in 1918. That institution became New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1946.

The lecture series was originally established with a gift of \$10,000 in 1924 from Mrs. Robert Layne of First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.

Washington aide Bob Maddox tells of plans to assume college posts

WASHINGTON (BP)— Bob Maddox, President Carter's assistant for religious affairs, will assume a college administrative position and take on a teaching assignment for a second institution upon leaving the White House in January.

Maddox, who came to the Carter White House 19 months ago to coordinate the president's relations with the religious community, will become assistant to the president of Pitt Community College, Greenville, N.C. During the 1981 spring semester he also will be visiting lecturer at East Carolina University, Greenville.

In an interview with Baptist Press, Maddox said his plans also include writing a book about his White House experiences, lecturing at Baptist colleges and seminaries, and doing television work locally in North Carolina.

Maddox came to the White House staff from the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Calhoun, Ga. He told Baptist Press he considered going back into the pastorate upon leaving Washington, but said he has felt led to the field of college administration.

Asked to assess the impact of the religious right on this fall's election, Maddox said that while fundamentalist preachers such as Jerry Falwell and James Robison had a pronounced effect on some senatorial and congressional races, they did not topple Carter. He attributed the president's surprisingly poor showing to economic factors.

The religious right, he believes, was a direct by-product of old-line right-wing political organizations. Its leadership, he predicted, "is not going to be satisfied with Ronald Reagan." Although he said the movement will give the president-elect a "better shake" than it gave

Carter, "it's only a matter of time" before the new president fails to live up to its leaders' expectations.

Maddox went on to say he now sees the religious right as a real and present danger to the nation, although he agrees with some of its positions. He assessed its leaders as being confused "about law and grace. A lot of these people are trying to be saved by works," he declared.

What hurt Carter personally about religious right attacks, Maddox said, was the view that his positions on several so-called "moral" issues amounted to a denial of his faith. "That really pained him," Maddox said. Such a transfer was "an unfair leap and unfair connection," he said.

Maddox identified Carter's primary achievements as a renewed emphasis on human rights in foreign policy, his continued efforts to negotiate arms limitation agreements with the Soviet Union, the achievement of the Camp David framework for peace in the Middle East, and a comprehensive energy plan for the nation. He predicted historians will treat Carter "rather well."

He also said Rosalynn Carter "will go down in history as one of the great first ladies." The Carters as couple, he emphasized, "set a tremendous example of a husband and a wife."

He said further that Carter genuinely wants Reagan to succeed. The president's position has been "to make it as easy as possible on the new administration," Maddox said.

"I want him to succeed," the president's aide concluded. "I pray for him. I'm going to be more supportive of him than they (opponents) were of Mr. Carter."

Nashville urban studies center gets Waco, Tex., man as director

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)— Larry L. Rose, executive director of the Waco (Texas) Baptist Association, has been named to direct the new Center for Urban Church Studies, to be located in Nashville.

Rose's appointment, effective Jan. 1, was announced by G. Willis Bennett, chairman of the board of directors of the new center and professor of church and community at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

The center, created through cooperative efforts of five Southern Baptist Convention agencies and six seminaries, will assist denominational agencies in their efforts to more effectively reach people for Christ and to congregationalize believers in the urban areas of the world.

Participating are the Baptist Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union,

Brotherhood Commission, and Southern, Southwestern, Southeastern, Midwestern, New Orleans, and Golden Gate seminaries.

The center will conduct urban studies which can be used by denominational and church leaders in program development, engage in research related to specific needs and problems of urban areas, and provide consultation to staffs of SBC agencies and institutions.

The Center for Urban Church Studies will be a separate entity, and will be housed in facilities provided by the Sunday School Board.

"The board of directors wanted to make it clear," said Bennett, "that the joint venture will not assume the program assignments of the various agencies and seminaries, nor will it duplicate any research being done." He further indicated that the board views the experiment "as an effort of the agencies and seminaries to cooperate so as to enhance the common concern all have for urban mission."

Members of the board of directors designated by agencies and seminaries are: Morton Rose for the Sunday School Board, James Nelson for the Home Mission Board, Winston Crawley for the Foreign Mission Board, June Whitlow for the Woman's Missionary Union, Norman Godfrey for the Brotherhood Commission, and Bennett for the six seminaries.

Rose, director of the Waco Association since 1974, has been active in urban ministries for several years, and is a member of the advisory committee of the Urban Training Cooperative and a consultant on urbanology to several state Baptist conventions. Currently, he is president of the Southern Baptist Convention Directors of Missions Association.

He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College in Marshall and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also has done graduate work in urban studies at the University of Texas at Arlington.



Larry Rose

Arizona Baptists adopt plan to aid new, dying churches

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP) — Concern about the birth and death of churches has led Arizona Southern Baptists to adopt a two-pronged approach to starting new churches and to prolonging the life of older ones.

"We're losing churches faster than we're starting them in some areas," Jack Johnson, executive director-treasurer, told the executive board at its December meeting. "I'm deeply concerned."

The discussion about new and old churches was prompted by concern over the disbanding of three churches in Phoenix — Central, Southern Avenue, and Ingleside — within the past several months.

"Sometimes it is easier to die than to struggle for life," Johnson said of the churches, adding Baptists "cannot condone the indiscriminate closing of churches...and we have to come up with some kind of strategy to help these churches that are in difficult times."

One of the prongs was proposed by Richard

Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, one of the strongest congregations in the West. Directors adopted a Jackson motion that the denominational cooperation committee of the ASBC make a study of how the convention can help troubled local churches, through the associations.

Jackson said: "We close churches only because we've forgotten what the purpose of the church is. We've talked ourselves into saying, 'The purpose of this church is to minister to the social ills or the human ills or whatever of this community.' The purpose of the church is to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ and along the way we minister to other things, but anytime you lose where the priority is, you've lost it."

Jackson was critical of denominational agencies for what he says is lack of support of older churches, and cited North Phoenix Baptist Church as an example.

"Any time you turn to any denominational

agency to even give you a word of encouragement, it was deaf ears because they don't work with established churches. They only work with those that are storefront missions or new work."

The pastor also encouraged churches to use the resources available, including ministerial students from Grand Canyon College, a four-year school affiliated with the ASBC.

"There was a time," he said, "when churches, little bitty churches, used Grand Canyon College students to pastor them, and those churches prospered and are now strong churches. But all of a sudden we...got so sophisticated that a church that's got 30 members has decided a college student can't handle it. These Grand Canyon College students can pastor churches."

Johnson presented the second part of the plan as he outlined a goal of starting 75 new churches in the next 10 years, emphasizing they will be strong churches, not church splits or

fellowship Bible studies. The plan calls for establishing five new congregations a year for the first five years and then 10 a year for the second five years.

Each new work, he said, will be started with a minimum of seven acres and a building of between 5,200 and 10,000 square feet, to take care of between 150 and 400 people. Leadership, including a pastor and, in some cases, an educational director, also will be provided.

The state convention, a local church, the Home Mission Board, and others will work together to compensate the budget of the new church for five years.

"Those churches will be some of the strongest churches we have in Arizona," Johnson told the board.

Jim Thweat, vice-president for promotion and development of the Baptist Foundation of Arizona, said his organization will help by purchasing sites for new churches and financing the first church building on the site.

Johnson said he hopes to have the first new work in operation by November.

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Outreach '80 reports early success signs

NASHVILLE (BP) — Preliminary results of Outreach '80, the nationwide simultaneous campus evangelism program launched this fall, indicate students are attending revivals and other events in large numbers and many are making professions of faith, rededicating their lives, and making vocational commitments.

Outreach '80, part of Bold Mission Thrust, is designed to give every student on the 1,138 college and university campuses which have Baptist Student Unions the opportunity to hear the gospel and become involved in a local church during the 1980-81 school year.

Benton Williams, evangelism consultant in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's National Student Ministries, said 708 campuses have committed themselves to some type of evangelism emphasis this year. Of the more than 50 campuses which have already reported, he said, results have been even better than expected.

The University of Tennessee at Knoxville is one of the many campuses holding semester-long emphases. Outreach activities, in addition to regular BSU programs, include 12 witnessing seminars, a prayer retreat, luncheons, and guest speakers. According to BSU director Bob Hall, more than 1,000 students are involved in the various BSU activities each week on the UT campus.

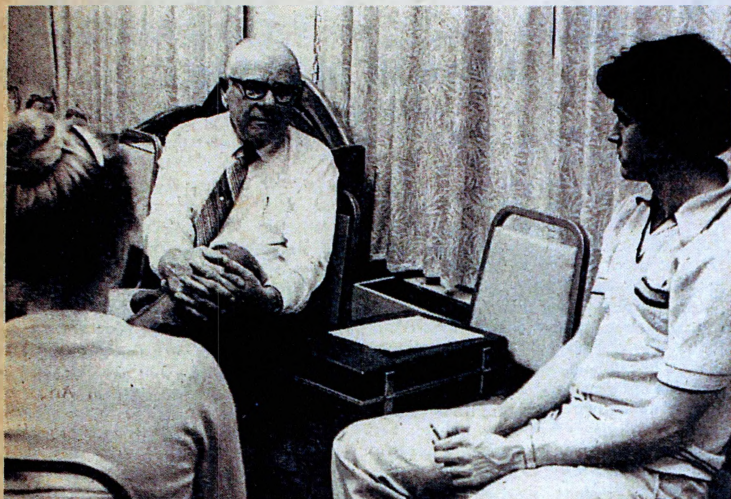
The idea for a simultaneous nationwide evangelism emphasis originated about three years ago when state directors met and voted to launch the program. Newer state conventions will be conducting their Outreach '80 campaigns in the spring.

Argentine pastors meet

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — More than 173 pastors and missionaries attended the annual pastors' conference this fall at the International Baptist Theological Seminary, Buenos Aires.

Included were 106 alumni of the seminary. Bobby E. Adams, associate professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., was the main speaker.

**BAPTIST
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COUNSELING MISSIONARIES — "Cotton" Wright has counseled almost 6,000 new missionaries since he became business manager of the Foreign Mission Board in 1953. Here he talks with Kim and David Cheyne who were appointed in April to serve in the Windward Islands.

'Cotton' keeps 'em laughin' while moving missionaries

By Mike Livingston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — E. L. "Cotton" Wright has been a moving force in foreign missions for 27 years.

Since coming to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board as business manager in 1953, Wright estimates he's handled moving arrangements for 6,000 missionaries going overseas.

"But the actual figure may not be that high because I learned to count from some of my minister friends," jokes Wright with a boyish grin, demonstrating one of the two tools — humor and understanding — which he says helped him do the job.

Wright, who retired Dec. 31, came to the board after successful careers in both teaching and real estate. "I was never happy in those other jobs," he says, explaining, "I felt the Lord had a place for me somewhere and I just couldn't find it."

The son of a Baptist minister, Wright never felt called to seminary, but feels everything he had done before was preparation for his work at the board. His early duties — manager of board offices and property, supervisor of all shipping and mailing, and home office personnel manager — could have been fulltime jobs in themselves.

That was only the beginning, however. He also handled travel arrangements for missionaries, personally acquiring the necessary documents and permits, and he purchased all items needed by missionaries after they arrived on the field. Wright's concern has always been to free missionaries to do their jobs: "The rest I want you to leave to me," he told them.

He has counseled with every missionary appointed since he came to the board. His style has been personal; his interest genuine. And, of course, there is plenty of humor thrown in.

"I always told all new missionaries that they needed to have a 'manana' philosophy," chuckles Wright. "The Spanish word 'manana' translates 'tomorrow.' But it doesn't always mean tomorrow. Everybody doesn't operate on a time schedule the way Americans do. In some of the places these young mis-

sionaries are going, manana might mean next week or it might mean a year from now."

Every missionary needs three things. "The first is patience, the second is patience, and the third is patience," he says.

Frank Means, retired area director for Latin America, says one of Wright's greatest assets may be his ability to work through problems. "On more than one occasion missionaries have packed their passports away with their overseas freight, but nobody ever missed their departure schedule, even if 'Cotton' had to send a runner to New York to retrieve their passports."

Many of his board reports are legend. "The Divine Swine Project" was a continuing report at several board meetings which detailed the introduction of a new bloodline of pigs and the way Wright worked through problems encountered in shipping six of the new breed for an agricultural project in Brazil.

Wright's circuitous journey in becoming business manager of the largest Protestant missionary sending organization in the United States began after he graduated from the University of Richmond in 1933. He clerked in a Richmond bank and studied banking at Virginia Mechanics Institute. He taught and coached high school athletics while playing baseball in semi-pro leagues around Richmond, where he grew up and received his nickname. After naval duty he entered the real estate business until he went to the board.

While at the board, not many scares equal a close call he had on a trip to Yemen early in his career. Revolutionaries were still at war in the country when he encountered a machine-gun-bearing soldier and raised his camera to photograph him.

Suddenly the soldier turned and pointed his weapon at Wright. But then, even the fiercest-looking warrior fell victim to his humor and erupted in laughter when Wright began backing away with outreached arms, saying, "Down, boy."

Nearly a quarter of a century later, the easy-going Wright was even cooler under fire. Last summer in Bogota, Colombia, when he went to sleep in an automobile at a heavily guarded military checkpoint and was awakened by an armed soldier, Wright just smiled and said, "Hi, y'all," and the guard walked away laughing.

As he packs away 27 years of such memories from an exciting career in shipping and transportation, Wright gives the same benediction he has given to 6,000 missionaries: "May the good Lord — and your luggage — go with you."

Kansas pastor helps police locate escaped parolee

HAYS, Kan. (BP) — Bill Bush admits few people passing through this western Kansas town stop to leave a donation to his church.

"Usually, it's the other way around," laughs the pastor of First Southern Baptist Church.

So, when a stranger called Bush and offered a contribution, Bush decided to check it out. He met the man, elaborately dressed and with a checkbook in hand, in a hotel restaurant.

It was his dress that made Bush more suspicious. "You just don't find that many men wearing burgundy tuxedos at 10 a.m. in a hotel restaurant," the pastor said.

The check was already dated and signed. The man introduced himself and pushed the

check across the table to Bush. "Here, you just fill in whatever amount the Lord leads," Bush quoted him as saying. He said he was making the contribution in memory of a close friend, a Baptist minister, who had died recently.

Bush returned the check to him, suggesting he might like to designate the amount himself. "So he wrote it out for \$5,000," Bush said. During an hour and a half conversation, the man told Bush that he was vice-president of a Louisiana oil company, that he had married recently and that his bride, his childhood sweetheart, died on their wedding night five days previously in the Las Vegas MGM Grand Hotel fire. "He didn't seem particularly upset about it, and I knew the fire was more than five days ago," Bush said.

"He said he was 35, but he didn't look any older than 25 to me," Bush said. "He was just a kid, and he said too many things that just didn't make sense."

As they left the hotel, Bush took down the license number from the stranger's car and phoned it in to Hays police. He then took the check to police headquarters. In addition to his pastoral duties, Bush also is chaplain to Hays and Ellis County law enforcement officers.

Within hours, the "generous stranger" was identified as a 21-year-old parolee with four jail escapes on his record. Police say he was using credit cards stolen from a man who befriended him when he was released from an Alabama prison less than a month earlier.

The stranger was arrested in Junction City, Kan., and was held for questioning by authorities in Virginia, California, and Kansas.

If he ever returns to Hays, Bush said, "I would like to talk to him again, if it wouldn't interfere with my being a witness in his case."

Citizen's Corner

By Jerry M. Self
Public affairs and Christian life consultant

On Tuesday, Jan. 13, the 92nd General Assembly of Tennessee will convene. For two weeks the general Assembly will organize itself. That means committees will be named and the chairperson and other officers of committees will be named. Since the democrats control both houses, committees will be organized in such a way that democrats control each committee and a democrat will be named to the chairmanship of each committee.

The following Tuesday after the organization is completed begins the working session of the General Assembly. They will have 90 working days to complete their business during the next two years.

A legislative day occurs when the General Assembly meets in full session. Tuesdays are usually given to committee meetings and are not counted as legislative days. Work days are generally Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

With three working days a week plus a two week organization session, the General Assembly will meet about 17 weeks this year and use half of their working days. Next year they will meet about 15 weeks and use the remainder of their legislative days.

According to that schedule the General Assembly should be in session until the first week in May. During the next five months you may have occasion to write either your state representative or state senator. They will receive mail addressed to Legislative Plaza, State Capitol, 37219. The telephone number of the legislative switchboard in Nashville is (615) 256-1022.



Self



HAPPIEST YEARS — E. L. "Cotton" Wright, who says the last 27 years have been the happiest of his life, is retiring as business manager of the Foreign Mission Board.

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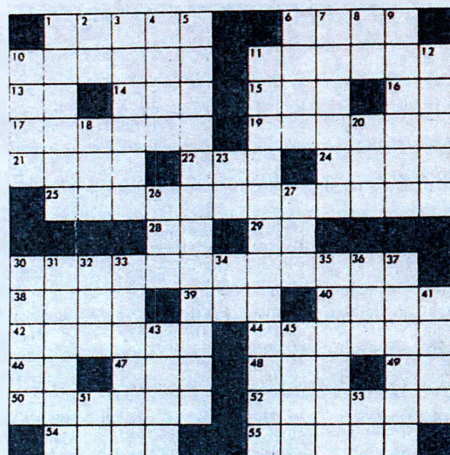
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Bible Puzzle

Answers on page 10



ACROSS

- 1 Abishur's son
(1 Chron. 2:29)
6 Colonnade
10 "Give —" (Matt. 14)
11 He cried aloud
(Dan. 3:4)
13 Given to Lot's children
(Deut. 2:9)
14 Roman highway
15 Historical period
16 Chinese measure
17 "— the devil" (Jas. 4)
19 in the church at Antioch
(Acts 13:1)
21 "— — daily"
(Matt. 26:55)
22 Crested hawk-parrot:
So. Amer.

- 24 Canary's home
25 "But while — — every
one" (Luke 9)
28 Assam language
29 Hawaiian swordfish
30 "Therefore shalt thou
— —" (Mic. 1)
38 "had a face as —"
(Rev. 4)
39 Old Japanese province
40 Corrodes
42 Job rent his (Job 1:20)
44 Baruch's father
(Jer. 32:12)
46 For example: abbr.
47 Rodent
48 Rude violin: Scot.
49 Egyptian god

- 50 "— a piece of new
cloth" (Mark 2)
52 Bursts forth
54 Dirk
55 "— round about"
(1 Ki. 6:6)

DOWN

- 1 Barest
2 Exclamation
3 Barnabas (Acts 4:36)
4 Flower
5 "So then — — in us"
(2 Cor. 4)
6 Antitoxins
7 "he fell into a —"
(Acts 10)
8 Diphthong
9 Adduce
10 Old Russian area
11 Son of Joel
(1 Chron. 6:33; 3 words)
12 "So when they had
—" (John 21)
18 Most of sahib
20 Rhine tributary
23 Hawaiian hawk
26 Bark
27 Kind of reward
(Luke 23:41)
30 Tag and others
31 Exact likenesses
32 Vehicle
33 Entrance
34 Each: abbr.
35 Saluted one
(Rom. 16:15)
36 Japanese fish
37 Begins
41 Shinto temples
43 New
45 Department of France
51 Which: abbr.
53 Liquid measure: abbr.

CRYPTOVERSE

NFOWXUGI DRGT TDZU EJUGILK
OI LFG WDUX CDU LFOK OK
UOSFL

Today's Cryptoverse clue: W equals L

Interpretation

Love in attitude

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"Love suffereth long, and is kind, love envieth not, love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up" (1 Corinthians 13:4).

In verses 1-3 Paul has shown the absolute necessity of love. Now in verses 4-7 he shows the nature of love. In these verses he uses 15 verbs, but the subject "love" is written out only three times (v. 4) even though it is the understood subject of all the verbs. Largely he presents love in a negative nature. This is not because it is a negative quality. Rather it is Paul's way of showing that love is everything that the Corinthians were not (Brown, *Broadman Bible Commentary*).

"Suffereth long" renders a compound Greek verb from *makro*, long, *thumos*, passion. It means to suffer long evil done to it without striking back or to have a long fuse on your temper. "Is kind" goes one step further. It means to seek to do good to those who do evil to you. This is the opposite of vengeful retaliation. It means to return good for evil (Matt. 5:44).

"Love" does not envy others. "Envieth" comes from *zeo*, to boil. It may be good or bad according to the context. From it comes our

word, "zeal" — which is a good quality. When expressed wrongly it becomes envy. "Vaunteth" renders a verb which means to play the braggart. Not only does love not boil with envy over another's good fortune, but it does not boast about its own.

"Is not puffed up" translates a verb with the negative particle which is related to a bellows. Christian love is not puffed up with pride like a bellows is puffed up with air. The resultant sense is puffed up with empty pride.

The negative aspect of these qualities characterized Paul's readers. They were quick-tempered and vengeful toward each other. Some boiled with envy toward others because they felt that their spiritual gift was less important than those of others. Still others boasted about their gifts as they looked down upon those of others. They were inflated with empty pride because of their gifts (1 Cor. 12).

It is a sad thing to see Christians so abuse Spirit-bestowed gifts. Christian love does not act that way.

Cothen, Allen discussion slated for "At Home with the Bible"

NASHVILLE — Two Southern Baptist agency presidents will discuss salvation, the second coming of Christ, prayer, and the Great Commission during four segments of "At Home with the Bible" which will air on radio and television early in 1981.

Sunday School Board President Grady Cothen and Radio and Television Commission President Jimmy Allen, whose agencies jointly produce the weekly program, will discuss the four topics with Frank Pollard, the program's host and Bible teacher. Pollard is pastor of

First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex.

"At Home with the Bible" Executive Producer Don Fearheiley said the six-minute dialogues represent "another way to add a dimension to the Scriptures so people can understand the verses and apply them to their lives."

Noting that the Great Commission was Christ's "marching orders to the church," Cothen said Bold Mission Thrust represents Southern Baptists' efforts to apply the commission and take the gospel to the whole world.

"This is the heartbeat of where evangelical Christians have been and are — to be sure that everybody knows," Allen said.

Cothen said he believes Christians should spend their time in ministry rather than speculating about the time of the second coming.

Carson-Newman holds spring registration

Registration and the beginning of classes are underway this week at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, with college officials anticipating a spring enrollment jump of five percent over the same time last year.

Roy Dobyns, academic dean, also commented that the east Tennessee school has added 12 classes to the spring curriculum.

New courses are being offered in the areas of biology, education, English, humanities, history, political science, home economics, fine arts, and communications.

Ghana gets hymnal

ACCRA, Ghana — The Ghana Baptist Convention dedicated a new Twi language hymnal during its annual meeting. Carolyn Houts, Southern Baptist music missionary from Missouri, spent two years compiling 175 local songs and standard hymns.

She translated most with the help of a local language teacher. At the dedication she challenged the convention to use the new hymnal to God's glory and honor and led the convention in singing a hymn from the new book. An initial 3,000 copies were printed locally.

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland — Biblical studies will be the only adequate foundation for persons entering the pastorate in the next two decades, a Baptist educator told graduating students at the international Baptist Theological Seminary.

Arthur L. Walker Jr. of Nashville, executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Education Commission, also urged those who make up the local congregation to become "a part of the accountability network" because the studies of the preparing minister must fit him or her to "speak to the listeners with a new depth of understanding of their problems and the Biblical response to these problems."

Preparation for the preaching ministry must begin with a study of Biblical backgrounds, Walker said. This usually will require "a working facility in the Biblical languages, since linguistic study often is necessary for adequate sociological understanding of place and time."

He also called for renewed emphasis on basic Biblical content, including familiarity with historical detail and the contents of individual books. He added that Biblical studies further must prepare the student to work intelligently with literature produced by Biblical scholars.

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Rocky road leads couple from fanaticism to faith

By Bonita Sparrow

FORT WORTH, TEX. (BP) — For Hazel and Tommy Whitfield, the road from fanaticism to faith led through a landscape dotted with despair, disillusionment, and dashed dreams.

They were caught up in a cult whose members follow a self-appointed messiah and believe they, instead of Israel's present citizens, are the actual chosen people of that "promised land."

At first they were as committed to their leader, Rabbi Ben Ammi Carter, as the members of the Guyana cult were committed to Jim Jones. They left their homes in Chicago for Israel where they expected to take over the land. They believed without question when they were told Ben Ammi was the messiah.

"Even when my mother died in Israel, I always felt someday Rabbi Ben Ammi would bring her back to life," Mrs. Whitfield says. "But when two of my children died, and I saw other people dying, I began to doubt."

She and Tommy, a musician who had played with B. B. King, James Brown, the Pharaohs, and with musicians who later formed Earth, Wind, and Fire, went to Israel in 1971. They joined members of the black Hebrew cult in a commune in Dimona, a city near the Negev Desert. In the next several years they renounced their American citizenship to keep the Israelis from deporting them, saw one of their children starve to death and another die of inadequate medical treatment, and themselves suffered great mental and physical harassment.

They have shared their story on an hour-long NBC-TV special produced in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and on two commission radio programs, "Black Beat" and "Master-Control." They have written a book about their life in the cult, *From Night to Sunlight*, by Broadman Press.

By renouncing their citizenship, the Whit-

fields lost their passports and their right to return to the United States. Disillusioned and "eaten up with bitterness" toward cult leaders, who were not living the sacrificial life they demanded of their followers, Whitfield was determined to show them he could make it on his own. On a friend's credit card, he ran up a tab of nearly \$28,000 for travel, clothes, food for the cult children, and to rent flashy automobiles.

The spending spree landed him in jail without bond on charges of conspiracy, forgery, and criminal fraud. If convicted he faced years in prison. With a prison record, he could not hope to return to the United States.

Mrs. Whitfield, six months pregnant, was left alone on the streets of Tel Aviv with no money for her or her children. She begged for help and found none. Then a lawyer told her that missionaries at the Baptist Village in Petah Tikvah might help.

She called them only because there was no place else to turn. "It was Friday, the stores would close soon for Sabbath and I had no money for food, not even milk for the baby," she says. "We were sitting down to starve to death."

Then Missionary Jim Burnham arrived, gave her \$20 for food, and promised that members of his church would return the next day. They brought more food and clothing than Hazel Whitfield had seen in years.

"All I could do was stand there and cry," she says. "Here we had been living with flesh and blood members of our own family in a group that preached love and wouldn't lift a finger to keep us from starving. And these people who didn't even know us were helping. I had never in my life seen anything like that."

Mary Ann Burnham took Mrs. Whitfield to the jail to see Tommy. Mrs. Whitfield moved to the Baptist Village and her baby was born in the Baptist Hospital at Gaza.

The people at Baptist Village worked with

the Whitfields on their immigration papers with special help from Jimmy Allen, president of the Radio and Television Commission, who was then president of the Southern Baptist Convention. His influence with both the Israeli and U.S. governments was instrumental in getting the Whitfields' immigration permission.

The Baptist Village missionaries also worked to get Whitfield out of jail on bail released into their custody. "But they mainly showed us how they felt about us," says Mrs. Whitfield. "I learned more about love than I had ever learned in my life. They didn't talk about love. They lived it. They were concerned about me, about my children. I couldn't turn away from it. I had no intention of accepting Christ, none. But I couldn't get away from all that love."

Whitfield, out of jail, was convinced it was all real when he and his wife saw their three-year-old son, who had been subjected to so much mistreatment in the cult that he had never talked, wrap his arms around Jim Burnham's knees and announce, "I love you."

"We wanted to be Christians, to be a part of that love," Whitfield said. It means a great deal to them that they were baptized in the Jordan River.

"How could we have been so taken in by the cult?" Mrs. Whitfield asked. "Ben Ammi Carter convinced us America was going to be destroyed and we should flee from its destruction. He said we were the chosen people of Israel. He promised we would all live together in love, we would be equal, and we would have an identity as people."

"That had never been said to us before. We wanted to live where we wouldn't have to worry about our kids being involved with drugs, or our daughter being molested walking down the street. It seemed like a haven."

But living conditions were poor. There were 25 to 30 people living in each two-bedroom apartment. There was no real hygiene, no privacy. The Whitfields got used



A PAINFUL STORY — Tommy and Hazel Whitfield told the story of their life in a cult in Israel during a recent visit to the Radio and Television Commission.

to never being alone. They were not allowed to question anything. Because they did not always behave as the cult leaders decreed, the Whitfields saw their marriage annulled, and their children cared for and punished by other people. Some cult children were beaten until they bled for such things as eating scraps from the table.

"I saw the cult leaders not living the songs they sang," he said. "People were starving and their tables were full. They were living well and we were supporting it. The leaders were using my music to draw others to them but when we did some of the things the leaders did, we'd be punished for it."

Today, thanks to miracles the couple relate directly to prayer, they are back in Chicago Heights. Whitfield is working at Stauffer Chemical, "not getting rich but not going hungry."

They are involved in Faith Tabernacle Baptist Church, where members practice the same kind of love found in the Baptist Village in Israel. Their pastor, Don Sharp, has just been elected a vice-president of the Illinois Baptist Convention.

They are having a sunlight experience with Christ, but they are still concerned about family members remaining in the cult in Israel. "We want to let everybody know that God lives within us. That the Messiah has come and is in the hearts of His followers," Whitfield sums up.

Student worker lauded after 24 years' service

by Gail Rothwell

NASHVILLE — Doyle Baird retired last month after 24 years at the Baptist Sunday School Board, but his influence and his contributions to Southern Baptist student work will remain.

Nell Magee, Art Driscoll, and Bill Junker agree it was Baird's persistent influence that convinced them to join the board's student department (now National Student Ministries).

"I'm at the board today because of his refusal to accept no as an answer," explained Miss Magee, consultant, international student ministries. "Doyle told me that if I did not come at least for an interview I would be cheating myself, the board, and the Lord. So, I came and stayed."

Driscoll, NSM consultant in organization and program development, said, "He (Baird) is a friend and challenger, who gave me a feeling of personal worth by insisting I should come to work for the board."

Baird, who came to the board in 1956 as director of administration in the student department, has been in student work since 1939. In his position as consultant, church ministries to students, Baird dealt with strengthening the relationship between the local church and Baptist Student Union.

"Baird has a very unusual and accurate insight into Southern Baptist churches and their leadership," said Charles Roselle, NSM secretary. "He is committed to the concept of every church developing a meaningful ministry to college students."

Baird says the one thing he enjoys most about student work is the "informal, personal contacts with students and workers."

In addition to Baird's work at the board he has been a teacher, coach, and BSU director at

North Texas State University, Denton, and Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

"Doyle is one of those basic people you call on for expertise in student work," said Junker, former board employee, now director, promotion department, Home Mission Board. "He was on the ground floor of a lot of things that are now going on in student work."

Baird has been instrumental in planning for all four national missions conferences for college students — the 1956 Student World Missions Conference, Mission 70, Freedom 76, and the 1979 Student Conference on World Missions.

It is a consensus among those who work with Baird that he is concerned with details. As Roselle jokingly explained, "Baird likes to plan planning."

But those who work with him also agree it is his consistent fairness, understanding, and strong devotion to his family that characterize Doyle Baird.

"When I think about what it means to be a friend to someone, I think about Doyle Baird," said Junker.

Baird's plans include teaching, some writing, and spending more time at his favorite hobby — horticulture.

At present Baird and his wife, Rose Lee, work in the college department of Nashville's First Baptist Church, where they are members.

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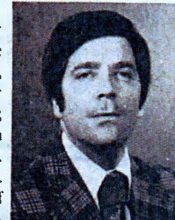
One Tennessean received a doctor of ministry degree in recent commencement exercises at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La. John R. Gordy, a native of Chattanooga, was joined by six others from the Volunteer State who earned degrees.

Awarded the master of divinity degree were Robert Lebron Patty, Chattanooga, Olney, Chattanooga, Patty, Chattanooga, Maryville; and Phillip Dean Adams, Goodlettsville.

James M. Gregg Jr. earned the master of church music degree. A native of Nashville, Gregg was called recently as minister of music at the First Baptist Church of Trussville, Ala.

Two candidates were awarded the master of religious education degree. They are: Jeffrey Roach, Memphis; and Delbert W. Johnson, Covington.

The Tennessee candidates were part of a graduating group of over 120 persons.



Gordy

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BIBLE BOOK SERIES

Lesson for Jan. 11

Immature Christians

By Ira Samuel Perkins, director of missions
Big Hatchie Baptist Association, Covington

Basic Passage: 1 Corinthians 3:1-4:21

Focal Passages: 1 Corinthians 3:1-7, 9, 11-13, 16-17; 4:1-4

Corinth was a strategic city politically, commercially, and religiously. The church, however, was not an ideal fellowship and most people would not have chosen it as a spiritual home. Paul, a tent-maker by trade, spent a year and a half in the city during his second missionary journey. He made his home with Aquila and Priscilla who were apparently already Christians when they were expelled from Rome by Claudius in A.D. 49.



Perkins

Divisions in the church (1:1 to 2:16)

The groups in the church centered around the strong personalities of Paul, Apollos, Cephas, and those who said, "I belong to Christ" (1:12).

The message of the cross had cut across cultural, racial, and social barriers bringing them into one fellowship and a right relationship with God. The preaching of Paul was a demonstration of the power and wisdom of God even though it was offensive to the Jews and foolishness to the Greeks. Spiritual truths are only understood as the Holy Spirit interprets them to those who are the children of God.

Immature Christians in the church (3:1 to 4:21)

The church divisions were the results of immature or childish actions. They were acting like unredeemed persons rather than men who were controlled by the Spirit of God. Mature Christians work together rather than as competitors; therefore, rewards and honors are enjoyed by all.

In September 1980, five of us went to Brazil on a preaching mission. One of our group preached from Wednesday through Sunday in a church with no visible results. However, the following week, some were saved on Wednesday, others at the youth meeting Saturday

night, and still others on Sunday.

One plants the seed, another cultivates, and finally God brings the fruit to maturity because we are servants of God. Our lives are to reflect God's ability, rather than our capability.

The foundation of the Christian life is Jesus Christ, but we are responsible for the building placed on that foundation. A 13-story apartment building in Sao Paulo, Brazil, fell just before occupants were to begin moving in. The building fell because of a faulty foundation.

The Christian life is founded on the solid rock, Jesus Christ. But the materials used in constructing a useful, faithful life are of utmost importance. "Gold, silver, and precious stones" were indestructible, but "wood, hay, and stubble" were easily destroyed. Fire will test their durability.

Likewise, a life founded on Jesus Christ and built by honesty, faithfulness, and sacrificial service will be made stronger and purer by trials and testings.

We belong to Christ and because our wisdom comes from Him, the world does not understand and thus misjudges our motives, purposes, and accomplishments. Our accomplishments past, present, and future will be judged by God; and rewards will be given according to performance. Our material and spiritual gifts come from God. Therefore, we cannot boast as though they were deserved, rather than gifts of grace.

The Corinthians apparently thought they had arrived at a spiritual level above everyone and thus boasted of their accomplishments. In contrast, Paul and the apostles were weak, foolish, despised, hungry, homeless, and the worst of men according to the world.

Paul knew himself to be a servant of Jesus Christ in a hostile world and called them to follow his example. He called them "brethren" and "beloved children" and hoped soon to visit them and to know first hand if their lives demonstrated the power of God. The kingdom of God is demonstrated not in how we talk, but in how we walk.

Christians are to grow because of the Spirit of Christ who lives in them and to be faithful stewards of the gifts entrusted to them as members of the household of God.

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UNIFORM SERIES

Lesson for Jan 11

Build on the solid rock

By Ircel C. Harrison Jr., director of campus ministries
Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City

Basic Passage: Matthew 6-7

Focal Passage: Matthew 7:13-29

Browsing through a bookstore, especially one specializing in Christian books, is an enjoyable way to spend a few minutes of leisure time. There are always new titles on a variety of subjects.

The real challenge is to decide on the ones worth purchasing. One title which this writer has never seen is "The Christian Life Made Easy," but it certainly would not be worth the purchase price. The title would be a contradiction in terms.

The person who accepts the lifestyle of discipleship described by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount will find purpose, fulfillment, and direction for his life. But he will not find an easy way. There is no "short cut" to Christian discipleship.

The major portion of the sermon is devoted to teaching about the nature of the Christian life. In the section we study today, the emphasis turns to decision and a challenge to commitment. Jesus has described the Christian walk. Now He calls for His hearers to make four decisions.

The two paths (7:13-14)

The first decision to be made is, "Which path will you choose?" Man's freedom to choose is clearly taught throughout the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Joshua 24:15). Each person is free to choose Christ or reject Him. After one accepts Christ, he must make decisions about his Christian walk. A person may select the broad and easy way, the way which demands little. Consequently, he will receive little. On the other hand, he may select the way that is narrow and difficult. This will bring rich rewards.

Jesus never claimed that discipleship was easy. The words "discipleship" and "discipline" come from the same root. The disciplined Christian life will not produce salvation, but it will give the believer victorious life.

The two types of leaders (7:15-20)

The second question is, "Whom will you follow?" Jesus' warning here is as relevant today as it was for the first believers. False prophets or teachers do not wear signs identifying themselves. They pose as friends. They quote Scripture freely and use the language of the faithful. Despite their attempts to identify with believers, their purpose is to subvert the faith and steal away the faithful.

The test of a true prophet or teacher is not what he says, but the results of his teaching in his own life and in the lives of others. As Martin Luther wrote, "It is not good works which makes a good man, but a good man who does good works."

The two types of disciples (7:21-23)

This observation of Jesus is a natural consequence of the previous warning. He asks,

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"What kind of disciple will you be?" Jesus wants His hearers to know that He is not limiting the test of a fruitful life to prophets; he applies it to all who call themselves believers.

Simply reciting words and going through rituals is not enough. According to Jesus, the believer is one "who does the will of My Father (verse 21). The will of the Father is that each person make a personal commitment to Him and walk with Him daily. No good deeds or religious acts can take the place of the basic relationship with God.

The nature of Jesus' authority and His future role as judge of mankind is clear. The day of accountability will come. In that day, the Son of God will perceive the inner intentions as well as the outward actions of each one who professes Christ with his mouth.

The warning of verses 22-23 (as well as verse 15) is particularly applicable to those who preach or teach in the church. Note the advice in James 3:1: "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, for you know that we who teach shall be judged with greater strictness." Such a responsibility should be accepted prayerfully with humility.

The two responses (7:24-27)

Finally, Jesus asks, "What will be your response to My teaching?" It would be ridiculous to pay an architect for designing a building, then disregard his plans. Jesus is the architect. He has laid out plans for Christian discipleship in the Sermon on the Mount. Now His hearers must decide whether they will follow them or not. The true proof of discipleship is obedience. Without that ingredient, the believer cannot be all that God would have him to be.

The houses Jesus describes here would undoubtedly look alike from the outside. The difference is in the foundations. When the time of testing comes, the nature of the foundation will be the one deciding factor in whether the house stands or falls.

Two responses are possible. A person may hear, but do nothing; or he may hear and do something about it. The decision he makes will become clear in the time of testing and trial.

The only authority (7:28-29)

The scribes taught by appealing to the authority of earlier rabbis, much as legal decisions today are made on the basis of judicial precedents. Jesus did not cite prior authorities; He spoke with authority. His authority was not mediated through men but came directly from the Father.

Some have called the Sermon on the Mount a "new Sinai." There certainly is justification for this. The same God Who spoke His message to Moses has now spoken through His Son. It is not a new message, but the old message "filled full."

Such teaching is the basis for the statement made in John 7:46 that "No man ever spoke like this man!" His authoritative teaching was clear, and His call to decide was unmistakable!

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LIFE AND WORK SERIES
Lesson for Jan. 11

A neighbor to the needy

By Danny E. Bush, associate minister
First Baptist Church, Oak Ridge

Basic Passage: Luke 10:1-37
Focal Passage: Luke 10:25-37

Have you ever been exhausted after a day of work? What about church work? Have you ever been to the point of being tired of church work?

For too many Christians, many of them Baptists, doing things in the kingdom has taken the place of being a child of the King.

This may sound like a plea for fewer meetings and less responsibility for the people of God. In some cases this may be a serious need. But the real question I am driving at is, "Why do you serve Christ?"

Last week's lesson from Luke 9:37-62, set the stage for this week's study. The disciples were not clear as to what kind of kingdom Jesus had in mind. They had difficulty grasping the idea of a suffering Messiah.

Jesus used the example of a little child to express the style of service His followers should emulate — humble service. It is characterized by joy in ministering to others with no thought of reward or recognition. Christian compassion was also emphasized in chapter nine.

Luke 10 records a discussion Jesus had with a lawyer. "Lawyer" in this context is a man trained in Jewish law. Jesus was always being questioned by religious leaders. Some questions were meant just to try to trick Him, while others came from sincere searchers for truth. This lawyer may have been most sincere with Jesus.

Jesus didn't beat around the proverbial bush. He went straight to the heart of the matter.

Basic to a Jew was the earning of religious rights and blessings through preforming many acts or doing certain pious things. The skill of Jesus in this situation is unmistakable. Jesus, the Master Teacher, answered a question with a question. The approach makes a pupil think — and think he did for he quickly responded.

In this teaching, one sees very clearly that loving God with your total being is essential. Also, a good self image, yes, love for self is important. All this is wrapped up in the valuable practical application — all this love for God and self should lead to love for your neighbor. This seems simple enough to the lawyer, but Jesus went on to give an example of what He meant by "neighbor" when the lawyer asked.

It is possible for Christians today who are familiar with this parable to leave out the most important purpose. The purpose of this parable is to challenge you to really analyze yourself. You may not be prejudiced against a particular race of people, but how about peo-

ple of your own race who are not as well financially, educationally, or even physically? What about the needs of persons around you when you are busy?

Once in a crowd of people Jesus took time to notice the need and faith of one woman. Jesus even noticed a small hated man up in a tree, and He showed mercy to a prostitute.

There are to be no limits on loving. It is no particular credit to any Christian to reserve his or her expressions of love for those who love them. Notice in the Good Samaritan parable that it took effort and time and finances for this loving man to give this total stranger the assistance he needed.

How much of your church program time is devoted to helping neighbors? How much of your daily life is devoted to being on unselfish aid to others? What portion of your church budget is marked for benevolence?

Bold Mission Thurst is a comprehensive program both foreign and domestic. It is not a matter of either/or, but a matter of both/and.

From out of my past echo the beautiful words from a hymn, "Others, Lord, yes, others. Let this my motto be, Help me to live for others, That I may live like Thee."

The hated Samaritan exemplified unselfish, Christlike love for a total stranger. He truly lived like Jesus.

Our church janitor and his wife recently adopted a boy who has some physical and emotional problems. In speaking with them about their plans, I came to realize that they were looking at the needs of the boy, and not some idealistic set of circumstances. They have grown children and a foster child at home already. Surely, these lovely people know who neighbors are.

It may be inconvenient and take time and money, but the rewards are great when you seek to meet your neighbor's needs.



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HMB sets policy on bivocational

ATLANTA (BP) — The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has outlined a new policy on its relationships with bivocational pastors.

The new policy was necessary, according to James Nelson, director of the associational missions division at the board, because the numbers of bivocational pastors has mushroomed in the past five years.

Currently, there are about 9,400 bivocational pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention and some predictions indicate as many as half of the pastors in the convention may be bivocational by A.D. 2000.

Bivocational ministers support themselves financially in secular occupations but devote major priority to missions and ministries.

Nelson said the new policy was developed because a great deal of confusion has developed concerning the ways in which the board relates to pastors, education directors, and other ministers who work secularly but serve churches as well.

The new policy makes a bivocational subcommittee of the Home Mission Board's Rural-Urban Council responsible for coordinating all inquiries and policies concerning the work of bivocational ministers relating to the board.

Quentin Lockwood, director of the rural-

urban missions department for the Home Mission Board, will be the key contact person and coordinator of response to requests concerning bivocational pastors, Nelson said.

Two staff persons in different departments will continue to work with bivocations, Nelson said. J.T. Burdine, national consultant on bivocational ministries, works under Lockwood in the rural-urban missions department; and William Slagle, associate director of the board's church extension division, works to recruit and place bivocational pastors as "church planters" to start new missions work.

Nelson said two national conferences for bivocational ministers are planned for next year, one at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Aug. 8-14, and the other at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, July 11-17, 1981.

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Pair of pants shows quake victims' plight

By Helen Ruchti

ROME (BP) — As the man and his wife looked through the pile of rubble which was once their home, the man leaned over and picked up a pair of pants. He shook them to dislodge the dirt and folded them.

"My wife and I have lost everything. We're trying to salvage what we can," he explained.

This couple were only two of seven-million touched by the November earthquake in southern Italy. And they were only two of those seen by Southern Baptist Missionaries Bob Holifield and Stanley Crabb on a survey trip through the area.

This trip prompted the Italian Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) to ask for and receive \$276,000 of hunger relief money from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

In Bisaccia, Holifield and Crabb found pastor Donato Castelluccio well and in good spirits. His church's recent renovation had been only slightly marred. Though winter's usual bitter cold had Bisaccia in its grip, the church had just acquired heat.

When he felt the tremors, Castelluccio just went to bed. There was not anything he could do about it. But he was one of the lucky ones. In heavily hit areas, those who ran into the streets were the ones who survived.

In southern Italy, farm after farm was destroyed. "Usually when an American farmhouse burns or is destroyed, at least the chimney remains standing. But there is nothing left of many farms — nothing but a pile of rocks," explained Crabb.

Word had reached Rome, where Holifield and Crabb are stationed, that several Baptists living in Calitri had left their homes just in time to avoid being buried alive. One Baptist walked out, closed the door, and the house fell in.

Fearing the worst, the Americans parked outside town and walked in. Calitri had no Baptist church, but nurtured several persons who have become outstanding workers in Italian Baptist institutions. Now a landslide threatens to finish off what the earthquake left of the town.

In Lioni, Holifield and Crabb saw garages in which cars had been compacted to a height of no more than two feet. They talked with a couple who had been buried in their home for one and half hours before someone dug them out. But the couple knew they were the fortunate ones. Their home was beyond repair, but the bruises and cuts on the woman's face would heal.

Another woman searched for salvageable items where a crane was clearing away debris. She grabbed some sheets, explaining that the house belonged to her brother-in-law and it was necessary to save from the wrecker whatever was still usable.

Her race against the machine continued as the men walked away to see more buildings — some crushed, some cracked and uninhabitable; some old, one new. Only in recent years have Italians built with structural steel. The centuries-old stone structures had no structural support to withstand the quakes. The penthouse of an eight-floor building was sliding, hanging precariously from the top floor of another structure.

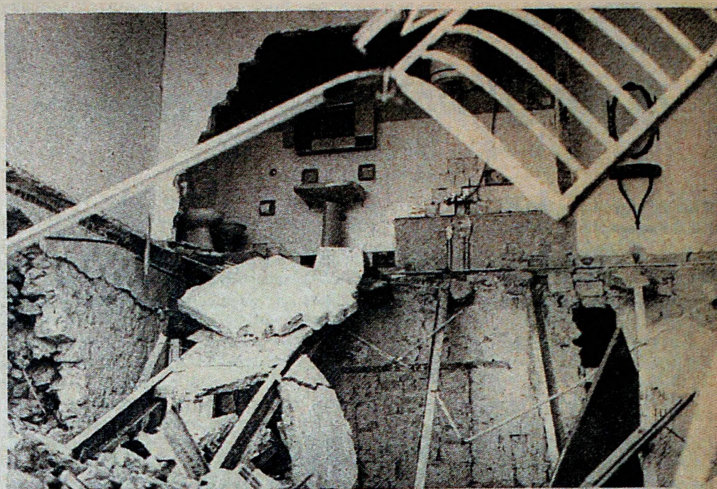
Teora looked as if it had been bulldozed. It may join the Mediterranean area's list of cities which are no more and wait for some future archaeologist to uncover its secrets.

Finally, Holifield and Crabb arrived in Senerchia, where evangelicals have erected a tent under the town's only remaining light. The tent, which was used successfully for evangelistic crusades in Turin, has become a community center where people come to warm their hands in front of gas heaters, have a cup of tea or coffee, and find relief from the chilling rain and snow.

Italian Baptists, who will feed 600 a day for the next six months with the Foreign Mission Board appropriation, chose to aid Senerchia in spite of discouraging advice from civil authorities. They realized it was a community which needed help. Living in a hilltop town at the end of a road, Senerchia residents had long been accustomed to being ignored. Their first rescuers did not appear until two days after the quake.

Led by men such as Italian Baptist pastors Pino Mollica and Bruno Colombu, volunteers have been spending several days each in Senerchia to cook, counsel with people, and distribute goods sent by other Italians and people around the world.

Helen Ruchti is a Southern Baptist missionary to Italy.



A SUDDEN INTERRUPTION — Bathroom fixtures left intact in this bathroom in Lioni, Italy, serve as a reminder that the lives of thousands were disrupted when a Nov. 23 earthquake shook southern Italy. Baptists responded to aid the homeless.



DISCUSSING RELIEF — Missionary Bob Holifield (center) discusses relief operations in Senerchia, Italy, with (from left) two Swiss relief workers, a local Methodist minister, and Italian Baptist Pastor Bruno Colombu.

Devotional

How can I say thanks

By Jerry Songer

"How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me?" So goes a popular song. Indeed the voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude.

I am so indebted to Southern Baptists.

How thankful I am that Bob and Murrell Lashbrook encouraged me to go to Belmont College.

That is how it all began for me.

There I received my education, found my denomination, and met my life's companion.

I am indebted to Roy and Marguerite Babb for their example of leadership.

I am so indebted to the patient people of God at Mitchellville, Huntland, Greenbrier, Cleveland, Waycross, and now Chattanooga.

How can we say thanks? We can do so with our words. We also can do it with our works.

Lifeline Southern Baptist work at home and around the world is the Cooperative Program. Through the Cooperative Program we share and support a work beyond our own church fields.

Children's homes, hospitals, colleges, seminaries, home missions and foreign missions all depend upon the Cooperative Program dollar for support.

This year let us show our appreciation for what our denomination is doing for the cause of Christ at home and abroad.

Let us do so by investing more than ever before in world-wide mission causes.

Jerry Songer is pastor of Central Baptist Church, Chattanooga.



SEX ON TV — "Nine out of 10 TV characters don't have children; 85 percent of all TV women are under 40; 70 percent of all allusions to intercourse on TV occur between unmarried couples or involve a prostitute; much of TV's erotic activity involves violence against women. These are some of the findings of a comprehensive project studying television's role in the sexual education of children conducted by Harvard University's Project on Human Sexual Development. The project has examined a decade's worth of studies concerning TV and sexuality as part of an update of the 1971 Surgeon General's report on television and social behavior." ("Media Watch," Summer, 1980)

INTIMATE CRIME — "A large share of crime in this country is committed by people who knew their victims well. More than 20 percent of the rapes, robberies, and assaults in the years 1973-76 were committed by relatives and friends. A national crime survey reveals that of 17.9-million attempted or completed violent incidents during that period, 3.8-million (or 21 percent) happened between friends and relatives. A free copy of the report 'Intimate Victims: A Study of Violence Among Friends and Relatives' may be obtained by writing the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850." (THE TENNESSEAN, Aug. 10, 1980)

Foundation

Services provided

By Jonas L. Stewart

The Tennessee Baptist Foundation provides services and materials to assist in promoting "Make Your Will Month." All materials are free and gladly provided to those who request them as long as they last. January is the designated month for this but the materials listed are not dated and can be used anytime.

Two excellent movie films are available. They are in color, entertaining, and inspiring. Twenty minutes in length, they are appropriate for use at watch night programs, prayer meeting, assembly in Sunday School, church training or other church groups. The only requirement is that they be returned to our office. The titles are "A Better Way" and "A Train Goes By Our Town."

A new bulletin insert is available together with posters that remind the people to get their wills made. There are also several excellent tracts that tell about the services of the Foundation.

A brochure entitled, "The Lawyer and His Baptist Client" is available for attorneys or for those who will go to their attorney for preparation of their wills. Prepared by an attorney, it gives legal names and language to be used to include our Baptist programs and institutions in wills and trusts.

The personnel of the Foundation is available to go to any church, church group, or association meeting to discuss Christian estate planning as long as time permits. They are available for personal counsel on the same basis. There is no charge for their services.

A work sheet is available to help organize information for a Christian will. It will be sent to all of those who write asking for information about preparing a Christian will. For any of the things mentioned above write: Tennessee Baptist Foundation, P.O. Box 347, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027.

Open heart surgery performed at Brazilian Baptist hospital

FORTALEZA, Brazil — The first successful open heart surgery at the Everett Gill Jr. Baptist Memorial Hospital in Fortaleza was performed recently.

A medical team of five performed the three and one-half hour operation in the 40-bed hospital located in this port city in the northeast Brazilian state of Ceara. The hospital, which is completely administered and staffed by Brazilians, was named for a former Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board area director for Latin America.