

Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

Lottie Moon gifts top \$500-million

By Bob Stanley

RICHMOND, Va. — Without fanfare, the cumulative total for Southern Baptists' annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions shot past the half-billion dollar mark this year.

The offering, which provided \$3,315 the first year it was started in 1888, represents a phenomenal Southern Baptist success story.

It is the envy of many other missionary organizations which has no equal — or even a close rival.

"I know of no other single faith offering for gospel witness overseas comparable to this one," says Gerald Anderson. Anderson directs the Overseas Ministry Study Center in Ventnor, N.J., a nondenominational continuing education service for missionaries.

Since Charlotte Diggs (Lottie) Moon first wrote from China appealing to her fellow Southern Baptists to increase their support of missions, the offering has generated \$541,804,572.

The 1982 goal of \$58-million will provide more than 46 percent of next year's Foreign Mission Board budget. It is a 14.2 percent increase over last year's \$50-million national goal which was exceeded by 1.6 percent for a total of \$50,784,173. It will support about 3,200 missionaries in 96 countries, the largest Protestant missionary force in the world. The board's other major source of financial support is the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified giving plan.

The goal for Tennessee Baptists' share of the 1982 Lottie Moon offering is \$3.6-million.

From the start, the Lottie Moon emphasis has been built on prayer and giving. Goals have increased dramatically in recent years as Southern Baptists em-



WEEK OF PRAYER — This is the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions in SBC churches. Pray for the millions of people of the world who do not know Jesus Christ. Pray for missionaries such as Betsy Tribble (above, left), wife of Chattanooga native Lamar Tribble, who are sharing the gospel. The Tribbles are missionaries to Bolivia.

barked on Bold Mission Thrust, an effort to share the gospel with all people of the world by the year 2000.

For the third year in a row, the entire goal is being budgeted as part of the Foreign Mission Board's 1983 budget. Its primary promoter, the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala., admits this is a bit scary.

WMU Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford says she understands the

urgent needs which require the full amount to be budgeted. But, she says that still puts "quite a bit of psychological pressure on us."

In fact, she explains, it came as a "colossal shock" some years ago when she first realized that the Lottie Moon offering no longer was just providing for the special capital needs on the mission fields. It was now paying a lion's share of the total overseas operating costs of the

Foreign Mission Board.

"I don't think the women have ever taken the Lottie Moon goals lightly," she said. "But it's quite different now that we know that \$46-million of this year's goal is required just to pay for the 'bread and meat' costs of overseas missions."

Despite the increased amounts required to send and support missionaries, the 1982 Lottie Moon offering will provide

(Continued on page 3)

Upper Volta workers return on schedule

Nine volunteers from the hunger and relief project in Upper Volta returned on schedule this past weekend and reported little change in activities at Sanwabo as a result of the Nov. 7 military coup.

The group left Ouagadougou Friday afternoon and arrived in Tennessee about 32 hours later, after a scheduled airline change in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Betty Cavanah of Springfield said that those working at Sanwabo did abide by the dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed by the new government, even though there were no soldiers in the area to enforce it. The curfew has been extended to 11 p.m.

The volunteers did not know of the Nov. 7 early morning overthrow of the government until someone drove over from Diabo to tell the missionaries.

In addition to Betty Cavanah and her husband John, those returning on Nov. 27 were Eileen Fralix, Dandridge; Donna Hancox, Jefferson City; Ross Swan, Cross Plains; Eva Underwood, Knoxville; Windell Westmoreland, Culleoka; and Karen Campbell, Flint, Mich.

Grady Nutt dies in Alabama plane crash

CULLMAN, Ala. (BP) — Grady Nutt, one of the best-known comedians in the country and a highly-visible Southern Baptist, died in a plane crash at Cullman, Ala., at 10:45 p.m. Nov. 23. Two professional pilots with him in the Beechcraft Baron were also killed.

He had spoken to a young people's meeting at First Baptist Church, Cullman, and at a "Farm-City" banquet at the Cullman Civic Center the night of the crash.

Jimmy Gilley, executive secretary at the Cullman Chamber of Commerce, told reporters he had tried to get Nutt to "stay the night — the weather was too bad to fly." However, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Authority in Huntsville, Ala., said weather was not believed to be a factor in the crash.

Unconfirmed reports said the plane apparently developed engine trouble soon after takeoff and turned as if to return to the Cullman airport before crashing.

Nutt had a national following and was a regular cast member of the syndicated television show "Hee Haw" where his comedy routines were often based on his experiences as a Southern Baptist. He joined the cast of "Hee Haw" in 1979, the

first major addition to the cast in seven years. The show claims 35-million weekly viewers across 98 percent of the country.

He regularly spoke at Baptist Student Union conventions and on college cam-



Grady Nutt

pus and addressed the 1980 Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis (with his wife Eleanor) and was featured at a world hunger benefit concert during the 1982 SBC meeting in New Orleans.

He was the author of five books, narrated three record albums, was featured in *People* magazine and appeared on the Mike Douglas show 11 times. He annually made over 200 personal appearances.

Born in Amarillo, Tex., Nutt was licensed as a Southern Baptist minister at age 13. He was a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Immediately prior to launching his entertainment career, Nutt was director of alumni affairs and assistant to the president at Southern seminary.

He was pastor of Graefenburg Baptist Church in Graefenburg, Ky., and earlier was youth director at First Baptist Church in Waco, Tex., and at Gaston Avenue Baptist Church in Dallas and minister of music at Southside Baptist Church in Louisville.

He and his wife made their home in Louisville where he was a deacon at Crescent Hill Baptist Church.

Kansas-Nebraska vote chastises James Dunn

GARDEN CITY, Kan. (BP) — The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and its executive director, James Dunn, have "saddened, shocked, and dismayed" many Southern Baptists according to messengers to the 37th annual session of the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists.

A resolution says unless the BJCPA and Dunn "adopt a public posture on national issues more consistent with currently stated resolutions of the Southern Baptist Convention" then the Executive Committee of the SBC should, "begin the process of severing the relationship that now exists between our denomination and the Baptist Joint Committee."

The 350 messengers agreed overwhelmingly that Dunn showed "little sensitivity for the convictions of the majority of Southern Baptists" when he referred to actions by "ultra-conservative crazies" and he "saddened many Southern Baptists" when he described President Ronald Reagan's proposal of a Constitutional amendment on voluntary prayer as "despicable demagoguery."

The resolution also expressed dismay that Dunn is on the board of directors of People for the American Way, a group the resolution described as one which "attempts to discredit citizens' groups seeking to restore public morality."

The convention also noted that, while the Baptist Joint Committee is a joint effort of nine Baptist groups, the Southern Baptist Convention contributes about 80 percent of its budget (\$312,945 last year).

Maryland abandons plan for 50-50 CP

BALTIMORE, Md. (BP) — The Baptist Convention of Maryland's 50-50 Cooperative Program division plan, adopted at last year's session, was abandoned by messengers to the annual convention meeting.

Instead of moving toward an even division of Cooperative Program funds between the state convention and the national Southern Baptist Convention by 1987, messengers approved a plan to tie increases in contributions to the state convention income and the inflation rate.

The 50-50 committee recommended that for every one percent increase in convention receipts above the annual rate of inflation, one-half of one percent be forwarded to the worldwide mission and educational work of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The 1983 budget will be \$2,148,000 with 39.5 percent for SBC work and 60.5 percent for Maryland work. The 1982 budget included a 39-61 split of money sent in by member churches to the Baptist Convention of Maryland.

Walter D. Agnor, director of missions for the Susquehanna Baptist Association, was elected president.

A resolution on prayer in public schools declared opposition to the proposed Constitutional prayer amendment and stated "we shall work continually for religious liberty which for some is freedom 'for' religious expression and for others is freedom 'from' religious expression."

On Tuesday evening messengers joined visitors and representatives of national SBC agencies for a tribute honoring retiring executive director Roy D. Gresham and to welcome executive director-elect Kim Lyle.

"I think it is important to note that this resolution is not an indictment of the Baptist Joint Committee as a whole. It is not a call to abolish the Baptist Joint Committee and it does not attempt to say what beliefs James Dunn should hold privately," said John Hopkins, editor of the Kansas-Nebraska Baptist Digest. "It asked him, in his public statements, to more accurately reflect the feelings of the majority of Southern Baptists."

In other action messengers approved a record budget of \$2,452,548. The new budget calls for an increase of one percent (to 25 percent) in the amount sent to worldwide mission and educational causes through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program.

The convention's theme, "55 by '85 Toward 200 by 2000," pointed out the KNCBSB's objective of establishing 200 new churches and church-type missions by the turn of the century.

Dunn responds to criticism from Kansas-Nebraska

By Craig Bird

WASHINGTON, D.C. (BP) — James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, has responded to a critical resolution by the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists in a lengthy letter to the editor of the convention's newspaper.

"It is entirely unacceptable to be forced to engage in a defensive debate AFTER the public hanging," Dunn said, noting he was not contacted by the resolutions committee either to check the facts, allow a response, or "at least warning the Christian brother who has offended you."

"The sudden appearance of similar resolutions across the Southern Baptist Convention with identical phrases and flaws of factual error suggest a smear campaign aimed at me and the Baptist Joint Committee," Dunn added. "No other (state) convention has taken this collection of accusations being circulated by some unidentified source and made of them a resolution."

Dunn said the "campaign" seems to rest largely "on an emotional reaction to my strong words about the tactics and motives of those pushing 'voluntary' prayer with an amendment to the Bill of Rights that neither uses the word 'voluntary' nor sets forth the idea of voluntariness and on my guilt by association with someone (Norman Lear) with whom I disagree on several things while agreeing passionately with him on religious liberty as essential to the American way."

In his five-point answer, Dunn said the phrase "ultra-conservative crazies" the resolution objected to, "refers not to Southern Baptists, the school prayer resolution, or even any current event but to a group of Texas political operators who in 1962 were active for the Texas legislature."

He conceded the "so-called 'voluntary' prayer amendment" and support by the SBC resolution (at the SBC meeting in New Orleans last June) "pose serious problems."

The SBC resolution says, "this proposed amendment does not constitute a call for government-written prayer." Dunn pointed out, but the White House briefing paper prepared by the Justice



CHORALE — The Tennessee Baptist Chorale, comprised of ministers of music from TBC churches, sings at the Tuesday evening session of the recent state convention. The group is directed by Julian Suggs, director of the TBC music department.

Baptists in Louisiana approve Nevada, Zimbabwe partnerships

LAFAYETTE, La. (BP) — Louisiana Baptist messengers validated the 1982 convention theme of "Bold Going" by

approving recommendations to enter into partnership missions with the Nevada Baptist Convention and the Zimbabwe Baptist Convention.

Messengers also approved a \$15,850,000 budget for 1983 that includes a \$350,000 challenge goal and 34 percent designated for Southern Baptist Convention-wide causes.

Perry Webb, pastor of First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, was returned to a second term as president.

Among 14 resolutions approved without comment were statements on creationism, volunteer prayer, and gambling.

The creationism resolution urged Louisiana Baptists to educate their children into belief of divine creation, reject attempts by any school to teach any theory of creation as fact, and take action when the opportunity arises to oppose the teaching of any religious dogma, favored or opposed by Louisiana Baptists, in our public classrooms.

The volunteer prayer resolutions stated "we implore the courts and Congress to stay within the confines of the previous U.S. Supreme Court ruling that declares that only government sponsored and prescribed Scripture reading and prayer is unconstitutional and did not declare unconstitutional truly voluntary expressions of individual faith."

On the subject of gambling, under study by a state committee to explore the possibility of a state lottery, the messengers voted to commend "the legislature for refusing to further legalize gambling" and urged the group to reject any recommendations in the future.

Prior to convening the sessions Nov. 15-17, members of the Executive Board elected Charles Harvey as director of evangelism, effective in 1983. Harvey, pastor for the past 29 years of Sunset Acres Baptist Church in Shreveport, is a past Louisiana Baptist Convention president and past chairman of the SBC Executive Committee. He succeeds Leonard Sanderson who recently retired.

Missionaries 'plant' first church in Bali

DEN PASAR, Bali — Breaking through an intense barrier of Balinese Hinduism, Southern Baptist Missionaries Harry and Barbara Bush have started Grace Baptist Church in Den Pasar, Bali, in Indonesia. About 12 Balinese and 15 others have been won to Christ.

Church attendance has grown from seven to around 45 in the worship service, with an average of 36 in Sunday School.

Department and printed on White House letterhead says, "If groups of people are to be permitted to pray, someone must have the power to determine the content of such prayers."

The paper also admits state governments or local school boards will be free to compose their own prayers, Dunn said. "Most Baptists would hardly consider this arrangement voluntary."

He also noted Baptist state conventions in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia "have passed strong statements this month opposing the prayer amendment."

As for his membership on the board of directors of People for the American Way, Dunn listed financial and membership statistics to show that Norman Lear does not dominate the group and points out former President Gerald Ford, newscaster Walter Cronkite, and Lady Bird Johnson, widow of former President Lyndon Johnson, were co-chairpersons for the group's "I-Love Liberty" activities this year.

Also, an examination of the organization's published literature "would not lead one person to conclude it has the negative impact described in the resolution — yet I doubt that many have examined the materials or investigated," Dunn said.

Finally, Dunn explained his public statements have "faithfully stated the position" set forth last spring by the board members of the Baptist Joint Committee (15 elected by the Southern Baptist Convention) against the amendment that would allow state-written prayers.

"One resolution by one meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, incidentally opposite the position of three previous conventions, does not immediately and automatically supercede the established, ordered ways of doing Baptist business," he said.

Dunn stated clearly that, "individual messengers to the Kansas-Nebraska convention are not to blame (for the factual errors or the smear campaign). A great many of the pastors, I know, respect and believe to be honorable. That makes this situation all the more tragic — that someone could mislead them into a conspiratorial war of words."

North Carolina Baptists support prayer amendment

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.(BP) — North Carolina was the only major Southern Baptist state convention to endorse President Ronald Reagan's proposed Constitutional amendment on prayer in public schools.

Just over 800 messengers remained to vote during the final business session of the annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Nov. 17. At that session, with debate limited to two minutes on each side of an issue, the messengers ignored a resolution presented by the Resolutions Committee opposing the amendment.

Instead a substitute motion favoring the proposal passed 506-308. The action was consistent with a resolution passed by the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans last June but was opposite the action of nine other Baptist state con-

ventions which have taken stands against the amendment.

Messengers also approved a highly-restrictive abortion resolution (sanctioning the procedure only in emergency situations where the life of the mother is clearly in danger); called for an "immediate, permanent, bi-lateral" agreement between the United States and Russia limiting the "testing, production, and deployment" of nuclear weapons; and opposed the granting of tuition tax credits to parents who send their children to private schools.

A resolution asking the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention to convene in special session to consider ways to resolve the differences currently troubling the convention failed.

More than 3,500 messengers registered for the three-day meeting and adopted a budget of \$22.25-million, second largest state convention budget in the SBC (behind Texas). Of that amount, 35.2 percent will be sent to national and worldwide mission and educational causes outside of North Carolina through the Cooperative Program of the SBC. This is an increase of two-tenths of one percent and keeps North Carolina on schedule to send 38 percent of its budget to SBC causes by the year 2000.

All three elected officers of the convention were returned to office. President Frank Campbell, pastor of First Baptist Church in Statesville, was unopposed for a second one-year term. First vice-president Henderson Belk, a layman from Charlotte, and second vice-president Alfred Lineberry, a layman from Greensboro, won against competition.

"Longtime observers said this was one of the calmest, most peaceful and most pleasant conventions in 15 years," Gene Puckett, editor of the North Carolina Biblical Recorder, said. In recent years controversies over construction of a new Baptist building, convention-supported Wake Forest University, and the state paper, the Biblical Recorder, had created disharmony at the meeting.

Cutrer to write lesson comments

Clyde Cutrer, professor of religion at Belmont College, Nashville, will write the Uniform Series Sunday School lesson commentary for the Baptist and Reflector during the next quarter, beginning with a commentary in this issue.

Before joining the Belmont faculty in 1976, Cutrer was pastor of First Baptist Church, Madison, for 10 years. Before that he was pastor of Third Baptist Church, Nashville, for eight years.

A native of Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and Vanderbilt University, Nashville.

Active in Baptist life, he has been president of the Nashville Baptist Pastors' Conference, vice-president of the Middle Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference, and a member of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

He is married to the former Dora Jean Temple. They have two children.



Cutrer



HERITAGE AWARD — Eleanor Yarborough (right), historical consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, presents the Tennessee Baptist Heritage Award to W. Fred Kendall, retired TBC executive secretary-treasurer, for writing *The History of the Tennessee Baptist Convention*.

Kentucky Baptists increase CP giving, honor Owen

LEXINGTON, Ky.(BP) — Messengers increased Kentucky's gifts to national and worldwide Southern Baptist causes and commemorated the upcoming retirement of Executive Secretary Franklin Pearce Owen at the 145th annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

A 1983-84 budget of \$16.5-million was adopted. This includes an operational budget of \$13.5-million (of which 36 percent will go to the SBC Cooperative Program — an increase of one percent from last year), a Bold Mission Challenge of \$2-million (with 36.5 percent to go to SBC causes) and other estimated income of \$1-million.

The increase in the SBC share of the budget was in keeping with a goal adopted last year to increase giving to the SBC Cooperative Program to 40 percent by 1990.

Owen and his wife Sue, honored Tuesday evening before the convention crowd, were presented two books of bound letters from friends, a biographical portrait, a bouquet of roses, and a check for \$15,000.

A day earlier in the November meeting of the Executive Board, Owen's tenure was extended through June 30, 1983, to permit him to be a consultant as needed by the convention. A successor to Owen is expected to be named at a Dec. 2 meeting of the Executive Board. Harold

Wainscott, a retired minister from Covington and chairman of the search committee, said a nominee will be recommended at that meeting.

In a run-off, Curtis Warf, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pikeville, was elected president over Don Mathis, pastor of Corbin's Central Baptist Church. There were five nominees for president including Mrs. Wayne (Lealice) Dehoney of Louisville, believed to be the first woman nominated for the office in the convention's history. Her husband is a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In a rather quiet session the messengers adopted resolutions on repeal of a bill increasing wages and benefits of legislators, in support of those fighting the sale of alcoholic beverages, calling for stiffer penalties against drunk drivers, and urging cooperation with authorities in halting the sale of cocaine and marijuana.

New England sets convention date

NASHUA, N.H.(BP) — Messengers to the annual meeting of the Baptist General Association of New England have set Nov. 3-5, 1983, as the date they will organize into a state convention.

Although the association, which is affiliated with the Baptist Convention of Maryland, met Southern Baptist Convention guidelines for state convention status this year, it was decided to postpone organizing as a convention until 1983, which is the 200th anniversary year of the birth of Luther Rice, a pioneer mission leader.

During the annual meeting, messengers were told the association now has 100 congregations — 69 constituted churches, and 31 church-type missions — and some 12,000 members. Under SBC guidelines, a fellowship must have 12,000 members in 50 congregations or 10,000 members in 70 congregations to be granted recognition.

Messengers also adopted a \$1,408,918 budget for the coming year, of which \$241,188 will come from the association congregations. Of that, 20 percent will be sent to support worldwide mission causes through the SBC Cooperative Program.

Hawaii Baptist budget exceeds \$1-million

HONOLULU, Hawaii (BP) — Its first \$1-million budget and the first increase in the Cooperative Program goal since 1952 were passed unanimously at the 40th annual meeting of the Hawaii Baptist Convention Nov. 11-13.

Messengers amended the proposed budget of \$1,153,604 to include an increase in its Cooperative Program percentage to the Southern Baptist Convention for worldwide missions from 25 percent to 27 percent.

Only once during the convention was there a difference of opinion expressed. This was regarding a bylaw change that would require new churches requesting seating of their messengers to wait one year before approval. This recommendation was tabled indefinitely.

Lottie Moon . . .

(Continued from page 1)

\$12-million for capital needs. This is a 50 percent increase over last year and is the largest sum ever available for such projects in a year. An additional \$1.7-million will come from Cooperative Program funds.

Capital funds pay for such items as missionary housing and vehicles, church buildings, and equipment needed in evangelistic efforts.

Such an increase in capital funds has long been needed. "For years," says Winston Crawley, the board's vice-president for planning, "we have been consistently running \$6- to \$10-million short each year of meeting the field request for capital funds."

The west African country of Benin offers a good example. In 1982 the 14 career missionaries assigned there asked for capital funds for projects totaling \$239,000. Although the 1982 offering topped its goal, only \$119,000 could be provided.

"By the time we provide houses and cars for the missionaries, we're almost out of money," said John Mills, director for work in west Africa.

Rapid expansion of the missions force in recent years has called for greater expenditures for missionary housing. This is because the board has found it can save money by avoiding the high rents charged in most countries.

Cars, too, are expensive. The compact which missionaries use in Benin cost \$12,000 each.

One request that could not be granted this year was \$50,000 to help a 100-member congregation in Abomey construct a church building.

Few places have greater need for the gospel than Abomey, Mills said, because many of its people fear evil spirits and sorcerers.

Mills thinks the \$50,000 could help buy land and then serve as a challenge fund which members would match. But prospects for aiding the church are not too good, he added, unless Southern Baptists step up their level of giving.

Board President R. Keith Parks emphasizes that the worldwide outreach of Southern Baptists has been possible because church members have been united both in prayer and in concerned dedication of their lives and money.

"Many factors exist today which could discourage us," he said. "But I believe this is a time for us to re-examine ourselves and be led to the kind of sacrificial commitment necessary to tell our world about Jesus."

EDITORIAL

‘...workers to gather in the harvest’

It was a meeting of the Middle Cherokee Baptist Association in northwest Georgia in February 1873. R. B. Headden, pastor of First Baptist Church, Cartersville, Ga., preached an impassioned sermon, based on “Pray to the Lord of the harvest that He will send out more workers to gather in the harvest” (Matthew 9:38).

In response to Headden’s message, the association passed a resolution supporting his plea to pray for more missionaries to the world’s harvest fields. The pastors agreed to preach about missions in their churches and to fulfill Christ’s command to pray for laborers.

Using the same text, Headden preached at the Cartersville church on the need for more missionaries. In that congregation was the principal of the local girl’s school — Lottie Moon.

Headden did not realize that for years Miss Moon had been struggling with a personal impression that God wanted her to take the gospel to a foreign land. She had resisted the idea, feeling that the Foreign Mission Board would not appoint women and knowing that the board did not have funds to send out missionaries at that time.

Later, Miss Moon told Headden that his sermon had caused her to see beyond all obstacles and that she had spent the rest of the day in prayer. She promised God that day that she would go to China.

God blessed her commitment and her preparation, and in August 1873 Lottie Moon left Cartersville for China. As she was leaving, the women of the church organized a mission society to encourage and to pray for Miss Moon. Mission funds from the church began to flow to the FMB.

Faced with the tremendous needs she found in China as she lived among and worked with the women and girls of China, Miss Moon began to write letters to Southern Baptist churches, leaders, and publications. Among the ideas shared over the years was a proposal that women take an offering at Christmas for the purpose of sending out new missionaries. Woman’s Missionary Union accepted the challenge, and the annual Christmas offering for foreign missions has been held since 1888. That first offering provided support for three additional missionaries.

In 1912, China was experiencing a severe famine,

and Miss Moon chose to share her meager rations with the Chinese people. Literally starving, she grew steadily weaker. Accompanied by a missionary nurse, Miss Moon left for the United States in December 1912. On Christmas eve, as the ship was at harbor in Kobe, Japan, the committed life of Lottie Moon left that frail body.

Because of her example of sacrifice and her suggestion for the Christmas offering, WMU named the annual offering in her honor.

It is appropriate that the theme for the 1982 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions is “Look at the Fields.” The Scripture emphasis is the one that God used to lead Lottie Moon to China — “Pray to the Lord of the harvest that He will send out more workers to gather in the harvest.”

Since its inception in 1888, Southern Baptists have given \$541,804,572 to foreign missions through the Christmas offering.

The goal for this year’s Lottie Moon Foreign Missions Offering is \$58-million — a challenging 14.2 percent increase over last year’s offering of \$50,784,173.

The offering will provide about 46 percent of the Foreign Mission Board’s 1983 budget. Of the \$58-million goal, \$12-million is allocated to capital needs and \$46-million to operating expenses — all on foreign mission fields.

Tennessee’s goal for the 1982 offering is \$3.6-million — which is 7.5 percent higher than last year’s goal of \$3,350,000 and 6.7 percent higher than last year’s receipts of \$3,374,366.43

The Foreign Mission Board supports approximately 3,200 missionaries in 96 countries through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions and through the Cooperative Program.

Certainly, the gifts which will be received for the annual offering are important and even necessary, if Southern Baptists are to continue, much less increase, our God-given commandment to “go into all the world.”

Coupled with the offering — and just as important — is the prayer emphasis, as Southern Baptists, privately and collectively, “pray to the Lord of the harvest that He will send out more workers to gather in the harvest.”

Cicero’s
comment

By the editor

A tragic airplane crash on Nov. 23 near Cullman, Ala., has taken the life of Grady Nutt, a Southern Baptist minister and popular entertainer.

Grady, well-known in Tennessee for his many speaking engagements here, made a tremendous contribution to Southern Baptists by teaching us to laugh at ourselves.

I met Grady when I was editor of the Indiana Baptist and he was a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and worked in the seminary’s public relations office. We became acquainted at one of the annual workshops of the Baptist Public Relations Association.

Because of his love to talk and his love for people, it was very easy to become his friend.

Grady was a lifelong Southern Baptist, and at an early age he committed his life to full-time Christian service. Because of his popularity among youth groups, he prepared for some type of youth ministry and served several churches in that capacity.

But Grady faced a decision that has perplexed a number of ministers: “Is there a way to be a minister without standing behind a pulpit twice on Sundays?” As doors opened — which he interpreted to be the will of God — Grady became a Christian entertainer.

Grady Nutt found that Baptists — and especially our pastors — have a tremendous sense of humor. Oh, everyone knew that preachers like to tell jokes, but what if the jokes were on them? Grady believed they could take it — and he proved they enjoyed it!

I will openly admit that Grady’s success in humor was an influence in my decision to begin ‘Cicero’s comment’ in 1975.

Grady was a committed Baptist. Although the money was better on the business convention and Chamber of Commerce circuits — where he was much in demand — Grady seemed eager to speak to Baptist groups, and youth groups were his favorites.

Grady appeared at a number of Tennessee Baptist functions. His last statewide appearance was at the 1979 Youth Evangelism Conference. I recall that on that occasion he used his God-given talent of humor to talk to the youth about family life, dating, and commitment to Jesus Christ. Using the parable of the prodigal son — punctuated with many amusing sidelights — he reminded the youth that God offers forgiveness of sin and that He is ready and eager to grant that forgiveness when we come to Him in repentance.

A very sensitive person, many of Grady’s humorous stories were based on his own experiences and observations — howbeit somewhat embellished. With deep Baptist roots, his stories often were about Baptist churches.

Grady’s humor was always in good taste. He never made fun of the eternal message — only our foibles and “traditions.” He was a faithful churchman, a Baptist, and a Christian. Even in his addresses before secular groups, he made no apology in referring to his personal faith.

Grady Nutt will be sorely missed.

Look at the Fields

Week of
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1982Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
National Goal: \$58,000,000

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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.

What rights, equality?

Dear editor:

It is obvious that the unelected and irresponsible Supreme Court of the United States has created major social problems in our country for the past 25 years. Adding troubles instead of solving them is not a good record. Conditions have become worse instead of better.

The court as a branch of our government has gotten way out of line from that which it was originally intended. It has been long overdue for change.

Social terms like "rights" and "equality" — as pleasing as they are to hear — have been far too much overused. The overuse has drawn a big segment of people out of the mainstream of balanced thinking. Too many like to think of these terms as free pie in the sky. Even legislators, courts, socialists, and others have gone far out on a false notion that passing contradictory laws will somehow bring utopia everywhere.

What kind of rights are people talking about when they try to deal with them? Have not rights that some like to play on always been accompanied with responsibilities? They certainly are not separate, since neither will work well without the other.

What about equality? Almighty God never created anything equal. This fact should stump us all. But, the hardheaded pretends to ignore it as if such does not exist. Likely only a few have ever seriously pondered how it would be if everything were equal.

Unelected people with longtime tenure have seldom worked too well anywhere

Personal perspective

By TOM MADDEN
TBC executive secretary

Exiled, lonely, and facing death on the isle of Patmos, John was greatly blessed by a marvelous experience with the ascended, reigning Christ.

As I have studied again the first chapter of the Revelation, it seems to me that there are at least three facets to that experience which strengthened and encouraged John.

First, John saw something. "I saw the Lord," he says, and then describes the most inspiring pen picture of the Lord to be found anywhere. He saw Christ in His dignity, holiness, love, knowledge, authority, power, glory, and conquest. He saw a living Christ on an imperishable throne.

John not only saw something, he felt something. On the inside, he felt the Spirit, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day" and on the outside he felt the "Lord's right hand upon him."

He also heard something. "Fear not." If John was afraid of living, the Christ was saying, "Don't be afraid to live." If John had fear of death, He was saying, "Don't be afraid to die."

I know you join with me in asking our Christ to give us faith to see Him, feel Him, and hear Him.



Madden

in the world. The system locks out the voices of the people. The majority becomes dispossessed by the minority. They drift into doldrums when they experience unnecessary wrongs every day. Betterment can come only by a change in the system.

Claude T. Turner
3758 Wayne
Memphis, TN 38122

Baptists side with Satan

Dear editor:

This past June the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans voted for President Reagan's prayer amendment. This was a 180-degree turn around from the year before.

The week of Nov. 14, the liberals of the Tennessee Baptist Convention cast their vote on the side of Satan against the prayer amendment. Can you imagine preachers — pastors — being against praying in public schools? I am convinced the main reason they are against prayer is because they do not know the one to whom we pray.

The liberal knows nothing about the God of the Bible. His god is a social god, a leftist god, spelled with a small "g." Woe be unto these leading liberal preachers who have openly attacked God in the school classroom. They have aligned themselves with every communist front organization in the nation: the ERA, the Gay Rights Movement, A.C.L.U., etc.

Their decision was to take a stand against God. They have gone a step further to lead this nation down the road of no return. God's eternal judgment rests upon the heads of these so-called pastors who cast their lot with the enemies of Christ.

It is tragic that we have two parties among Baptist: the liberals and Bible believers. The liberals do not speak for all Tennessee Baptists. There are some of us who believe the Bible and are for Reagan's prayer amendment.

Vaughn W. Denton
3528 Sharpe Ave.
Memphis, TN 38111

'SEEDS' wins hunger award

NEW YORK (BP) — Two editors of a magazine published in the basement of a Georgia Southern Baptist church have garnered the top award for best magazine coverage in the first annual World Hunger Media Awards sponsored by entertainer Kenny Rogers and his wife, Marianne.

Gary Gunderson, editor, and Tom Peterson, associate editor, won for their coverage of women and hunger in the February issue of SEEDS, a publishing ministry of Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga. The \$10,000 prize was one of six first-place awards in recognition of the best newspaper, magazine, film, television, photojournalism, and book coverage of world hunger from July 1981 through June 1982.

SEEDS is the sole religious publication among the winners which include: newspaper — Ann Crittenden, New York Times; photojournalism — Kent Koberstein, Minneapolis Tribune; film — Leigh Wharton/Barbara Gordon, Wharton International Films; television — Gene Reynolds, "Lou Grant"; and book — co-winners Frances Moore Lappe,



GOODWILL AMBASSADOR — Wayne Allen, president of the 1982 Tennessee Baptist Convention, presents a certificate to Archie King, Brotherhood director for Tennessee Baptists. The certificate, presented on behalf of Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander, names King an "Ambassador of Goodwill" for his leadership in Tennessee Baptists' disaster relief program.

Medical-dental fellowship forms umbrella organization for nurses

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP) — "God's spirit is moving across the laity and members of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship are front-runners in a worldwide evangelism," said James H. Smith, president of the Brotherhood Commission, as he addressed 400 people attending the fifth annual Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship in the Lexington, Ky., meeting Nov. 11-14.

Mid-state pastors to hear Draper

James T. Draper Jr., president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will speak during the Dec. 9 Middle Tennessee Pastors' Conference at Belmont College, Nashville. The 11:00 a.m. meeting will be in Harton Concert Hall, with a noon luncheon in the Sara Grigsby BSU Building.

While in the area, Draper will have two other speaking engagements: Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville, Dec. 9 at 7:00 p.m. and Belmont College's chapel service, Dec. 10 at 10:00 a.m. in Massey Auditorium.

Draper is pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Tex.

"I foresee the day Baptist attorneys and men in agriculture, construction, communications, transportation, and government band together as you have done to proclaim the gospel of Christ. Our eyes are on you. You are modeling this for us," Smith said.

The Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship is an independent, spiritually-oriented professional organization working in cooperation with the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention. Its purpose is to provide Christian professional fellowship among the membership and to strengthen individually and collectively their relationship and commitment through Jesus Christ.

The membership, open only to doctors and dentists, has mushroomed from 231 members to 935 since Henry Love, executive director, assumed his position 22 months ago.

In a major action of the annual meeting, the doctors voted to form an umbrella organization, the Baptist Health Care Fellowship, which would include fellowships for nurses, hospital administrators, pharmacists, and allied health professionals. Plans are in motion to incorporate the Baptist Nursing Fellowship by the next annual meeting in November 1983.

Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship officers elected at the meeting include: Joseph M. Pipkin of Orlando, Fla., president; Franklin Fowler, medical consultant, Foreign Mission Board, president-elect; John McKiver Hodges of Memphis, finance chairman; G. Dewey Dunn of Nashville, membership chairman; Merrill Allen Winchester of Whitley City, Ky., service chairman; and Wilbur C. Lewis of Oklahoma City, Okla., program chairman.

Portuguese convention elects youth leader

LISBON, Portugal — Maria Lourdes Nunes has been elected the first full-time executive secretary of the Portuguese Baptist Convention Department of Youth.

Mrs. Nunes was elected to the post at the convention's 49th annual assembly. The former teacher of Christian education at the Baptist Theological Seminary, Queluz, Portugal, will lead the youth program for the convention's 54 churches.

Tennessee

LEADERSHIP . . .

Lamar Barden has resigned the pastorate of Ooltewah Baptist Church, Ooltewah.

Flatwoods Baptist Church, Holladay, accepted the recent resignation of its pastor, Johnny Reynolds.

Calvary Baptist Church, Johnson City, recently called Terry Phillips as interim pastor.

Dan Shotts was called as associate pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Erwin. Shotts, who came to the church from First Baptist Church, Lamar, Colo., will work in the areas of music and youth. A native of Dallas, Tex., he is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Fred M. Womack is the pastor of the church.

Davis Memorial Baptist Church, Dresden, accepted the recent resignation of Pastor John Hazelwood.

James Castleman resigned as pastor of Northwestern Baptist Church, Martin.

Guy Wilkerson resigned the pastorate of Sidonia Baptist Church, Sharon.

Donelson View Baptist Church, Nashville, called Wayne Wilson as minister of music.

Citizen's Corner

By Jerry M. Self
Public affairs and Christian life
consultant

Public Opinion polls are often used to support pro-gambling positions. Many people have the attitude that gambling is a victimless crime. Since "nobody gets hurt by it," making it legal so it can be taxed would probably help the state, they reason.

These and other myths float freely in our society. The legislator who is looking for an excuse to vote for gambling can simply tap public opinion for support of his position.

You and your church can take it upon yourselves to correct this problem by informing the public before they have the opportunity to respond to these polls.

Gambling is far from a victimless crime. Even people who do not gamble and stay far away from racetracks can be hurt by the loss of business, inability to collect bad debts, and increase in petty crimes that result from racetrack gambling.

Society has never had much luck in attempting to legislate immorality. Nowhere does the tax money from pari-mutuel gambling represent as much as one percent of the state income. Nowhere has a tax on gambling eliminated any other tax on the people.

For help in informing yourself and others about the problems of pari-mutuel gambling write for the new brochure, "Why Doesn't the General Assembly Pass Racetrack Gambling?" Send your request to me at P. O. Box 347, Brentwood, TN 37027.



Self

Gerald Stallings accepted a call from Lea Springs Baptist Church, Blaine, to come as interim pastor.

The congregation of Briar Thicket Baptist Church, Bybee, recently accepted the resignation of its pastor, Ray Ezell.

Jack Parker submitted his resignation as pastor of Concord Baptist Church, Mohawk, which was effective Oct. 31.

PEOPLE . . .

First Baptist Church, Ridgetop, ordained Patrick Johnson, Larry Littlefield, and J. D. Phillips as deacons Oct. 31. Participating in the ordination service were Pastor Douglas Adams; Frank Evans, director of missions for the Robertson County Baptist Association; Alex Littlefield of Hill Crest Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, Ky.; and the deacons of the Ridgetop church.

Capps receives Mullins award

NASHVILLE (BP)—George E. Capps Jr., associate executive director of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, has received the first E.Y. Mullins Human Relations award from the American Baptist College of the American Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS).

ABTS is a predominantly black school sponsored jointly by the Southern Baptist Convention and the National Baptist Convention of the U.S.A. Inc. for the training of ministers and church-related workers.

The award honors Mullins, former president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and the Southern Baptist Convention (1921-24), who was instrumental in the founding of American Baptist Theological Seminary. Odell McGlothlin, ABTS president, said the award committee searched for someone who embodied the spirit of Mullins and shared his dream for the institution.

The E.Y. Mullins Human Relations award will be given annually to a Southern Baptist who has demonstrated outstanding qualities in human relationships.

Indiana Baptists set \$1.27-million budget

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (BP)—Though Baptists in Indiana faced several provocative issues, the 24th State Convention of Baptists in Indiana Nov. 9-11 in Terre Haute proved to be an arena for conciliatory action.

The 270 messengers passed a Cooperative Program budget of \$1,271,246 with 31.5 percent to be forwarded to national and worldwide Southern Baptist Convention mission and educational causes.

Carver Tinsley, pastor of States Street Baptist Church in Hammond for over 25 years, was elected president.

In the 1981 convention a Constitutional study committee was appointed to study each area of the Constitution, creating the potential for major changes. However, few major changes were suggested and the ones proposed passed with only minor alterations. The changes must be approved in the 1983 convention by two-thirds majority.

Guy Dickson and Bobby Roach were ordained into the deacon ministry of Mount Zion Baptist Church, Decaturville, on Oct. 17.

King Springs Baptist Church, Johnson City, ordained J. B. Taylor as a deacon Sept. 27. Participating in the ordination service were Pastor Darrell Slagle, Holston Valley Baptist Association Director of Missions James Harris, George Conley, Jack Dykes, Carl Ferguson, Halder Miller, Albert Spaller, and Tom Franklin, who delivered the ordination sermon.

REVIVALS . . .

Scott Price, a senior at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, led a Sept. 24-26 youth revival at Beulah Baptist Church, Kingsport. Lyndle Taylor, the pastor of the church, reported several rededications and one profession of faith.

Center Grove Baptist Church, Tullahoma, held revival services Oct. 31 through Nov. 3. Jim Gaines, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dresden, was the evangelist, and Wayne Alexander, Center Grove's minister of music, led the

D.C. messengers address justice

WASHINGTON (BP)—Messengers to the District of Columbia Baptist Convention approved a 1983 budget of \$807,020 and addressed several public issues during the 106th annual session.

Resolutions ranging from a call for economic justice to a strong condemnation of the Ku Klux Klan were approved by the convention, which registered 321 messengers.

Recognizing "the Bible teaches Christians are to be actively involved in feeding the hungry and assuring justice for the poor and destitute," the economic justice statement called on the convention to "communicate to the president of the United States and the members of Congress representing our constituency our desire that they give full attention to defending the rights of every citizen to the basic necessities of food, clothing, shelter, and adequate medical attention."

In a statement on individual liberties, messengers reaffirmed their historical stand for separation of church and state and the "individual right for freedom of choice" while expressing their concern over the "eroding of federal protection against sex discrimination," and the "reversal of the justice department's stand on the use of the courts to uphold the law of the land concerning busing and integrated classrooms."

Messengers also addressed the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan in the D.C. area, expressing their "outrage" over "un-Christian acts" by the KKK and other "hate groups."

Resolutions in support of public education and efforts to alleviate hunger were also approved. A resolution opposing capital punishment was referred to a study committee.

As the only state convention dually aligned with both the Southern Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Churches in the USA, 21.5 percent of the 1983 D.C. budget will go for SBC causes while 6.5 percent will go to the ABC.

revival music. David Wall, pastor of the Tullahoma church, reported one profession of faith, one new member by letter, and one new member by statement.

A Sept. 19-26 revival at Twin Oaks Baptist Church, Cedar Grove, resulted in 26 professions of faith and 13 new members by letter. Howell Gossett was the evangelist for the services; Jim Gerhardt is the church's pastor.

CHURCHES . . .

Fellowship Baptist Church, Sharon, had a note-burning service as part of "Harvest Day" on Oct. 24. The service signified the end of payments on the church's property and building. Tommy Harrison is the church's pastor.

Hurricane Grove Baptist Church, Shelbyville, is in the process of constructing a new educational building. The pastor of the church is Bob Ruehling.

Don Rutledge, a photographer with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and former pastor of Maney Avenue Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, returned to that church Nov. 7 to speak during a note-burning ceremony. The ceremony signified the church's completion of payments on the note. John Hall is the pastor of the church.

Oak Hills Baptist Church was organized in Jefferson City Sept. 26, with 46 charter members. Participants in the organizational service included Pastor Gary Marshall, Jefferson County Baptist Association Director of Missions Carl Ogle, and Paul Hall, associate department director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's missions department.

The members of North Fork Baptist Church, Shelbyville, celebrated the completion of payments on its church building during a recent note-burning ceremony. Bill Smith, pastor of Lincoln Heights Baptist Church in Tullahoma and a former pastor of North Fork, was the guest speaker for the service. Mike Bayne is the pastor of the Shelbyville church.

Utah-Idaho adopts long-range plan

WEST VALLEY CITY, Utah (BP)—Messengers to the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, during their 18th annual meeting Nov. 9-10, adopted a five-year plan which emphasizes reaching people, congregational development, and pastoral support.

The 192 registered messengers also adopted a \$1,179,615 budget of which \$379,227 will come from the 82 congregations affiliated with the two-state convention. From local contributions, 20 percent will be sent to support the worldwide missions and evangelism effort of the Southern Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program.

The budget includes a stipulation that staff salaries be increased. When presented, the budget included a recommendation from the staff that salaries be frozen at 1982 levels. However, messengers adopted a recommendation from the floor that the budget include a 10 percent increase, with five percent to be granted in January and the other five "if and when" the budget is met.

At the present time the convention is running 12 percent behind budget, reflective of depressed economic conditions.

In the long-range plan, goals outline increased mission activity, a 40 percent increase in baptisms, and a strong emphasis on family ministries.



TENNESSEANS AT SOUTHWESTERN — Tom Madden, executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, talks with Memphis LeRoy James during a Tennessee Club banquet at Southwestern seminary. Also greeting Tennessee students are Mrs. Madden and Mrs. James Eaves, wife of the seminary's evangelism professor.

Florida Baptists continue toward 50-50 CP budget

TAMPA, Fla. (BP) — Florida Baptists continued to be the boldest givers to Bold Mission Thrust, the Southern Baptist Convention effort to present the message of Jesus Christ to the entire world by the year 2000.

The more than 1,700 messengers to the 121st annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention increased the percentage of budget collections to be sent to the national and worldwide mission and educational programs of the SBC to 48 percent — highest of the 34 state conventions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In 1980 Florida Baptists adopted a five-

Georgia meeting called harmonious

ATLANTA (BP) — The most harmonious annual meeting of the Georgia Baptist Convention in many years saw adoption of a record 1983 Cooperative Program budget of \$19.1-million.

Georgia Baptist Convention messengers also elected Nelson L. Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, president.

The \$19.1-million budget will be divided equally between Georgia and SBC causes, each receiving 45 percent (the same as last year) after deduction of about 10 percent in shared, administrative and promotion costs.

Not a word of debate came when Georgia Baptists were asked to approve a motion asking SBC Executive Committee to call a special session to seek solutions to doctrinal controversies in Southern Baptist life. Similar motions have been presented in other states.

Messengers also approved a motion praising governor-elect Joe Frank Harris for statements that he would veto any legislation seeking to legalize parimutuel gambling. The Georgia General Assembly has debated legalized gambling for almost 20 years and Baptists have been leaders in opposition.

The Georgia Baptist Executive Committee was instructed to investigate the feasibility of creating a sister relationship with a foreign country where Southern Baptists have missionaries. Georgia already has established a relationship with the Baptist Convention of New York.

year plan to move to a 50-50 division of the basic budget between the national SBC and Florida mission and educational programs. The one percent increase this year keeps the convention on schedule to reach the goal.

In 1981 the convention voted to change the financial year from October-September to January-December. Therefore, two budgets had to be adopted this time — a basic budget of \$3,427,336.50 for October-December 1982 and a record-basic budget of \$14,556,660 for 1983 (January-December). The 48 percent share for the national SBC will apply to both basic budgets.

One of the convention's most far-reaching actions was to establish clearly the autonomy of the Nominating Committee in nominating its own State Board of Mission members. The associations are still permitted to suggest nominees but "the Nominating Committee will not be bound to accept the suggested nominees from an association."

The convention also authorized a feasibility study for a proposed south Florida satellite assembly. They also designated \$250,000 for the purpose of a potential site and gave the State Board of Missions permission to place earnest money on a site, subject to the approval of the Florida state convention.

A resolution for establishing a world hunger committee and a resolution supporting the raising of the legal drinking age in Florida from 19 to 21 were passed by the messenger.

Arizona Baptists feed 6,500 free Thanksgiving dinner

By Elizabeth Young

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP) — The skies were cloudy over Phoenix Nov. 20 but according to one television reporter the sun was shining over "God's restaurant" at Grand Canyon College as 6,500 people from throughout the Valley of the Sun accepted the Central Association of Southern Baptists' offer of a free Thanksgiving dinner.

With a ton of turkey breasts and all the trimmings, the Baptists prepared the "Feast of Plenty" for 10,000 as a gift of love for the greater Phoenix area.

The association placed advertisements in the city's morning and evening newspapers and on six radio stations inviting everyone to come. The dinner became a media event and received news coverage, both before and after, on the three major television stations, several radio stations and in the city newspapers.

The wide exposure helped Baptists achieve their purposes, said Charles Brannon, director of missions for Central association, to "demonstrate to the community that Southern Baptists are here and we are a caring people." Southern Baptists have been in the valley 40 years, he said, and "this is the most publicity we've ever gotten."

Although the crowd was below expectations, Brannon said the dinner was a success. "We really didn't know how many to expect," he said. "If we had had 5,000 I would have been pleased." The Feast of Plenty did more than was anticipated because of what it did in the lives of the workers, he added.

About 800 people from churches throughout the association set up tables and chairs, made centerpieces, helped prepare the food, and served at the sit-down dinner. Head chef was C. Orby Anderson, a member of North Phoenix Baptist Church and founding president of the American Academy of Chefs.

The Feast of Plenty gave lay people a concrete way to show their love for their community and they appreciated that opportunity, Brannon said. One worker who is moving out of state soon promised to fly back to help in the Feast of Plenty if it becomes an annual event. Another said working in the Feast of Plenty was "the most fun I've ever had in my life."

Coca-Cola bottlers give \$5,500 to C-N

JEFFERSON CITY — A \$5,500 gift from the Roddy Manufacturing Co., bottlers of Coca-Cola in eastern Tennessee, has been presented to Carson-Newman College.

The gift was unrestricted and has been added to the general fund of the college.

BSPH receives revision of John

EL PASO, Tex. — The Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Tex., has received the first 100,000 copies of its new Reina-Valera version of the Gospel of John: El Dios de Amor (The God of Love).

The revision is the publishing house's first of the classic Reina-Valera (Spanish) version of the Bible in the institution's 77-year history. Revision of the entire Bible is projected for publication in 1985.

Moises Chavez, a Presbyterian minister in Lima, Peru, prepared the text in consultation with 15 scholars in 11 countries. The publishing house engaged Kingsport Press, Kingsport, to do the printing.

The format of the revised gospel features bold subtitles, brief paragraphs, simplified language, and large type for easy reading. A section of individual study activities shows the reader how to become a Christian and follow Christ's teaching.

The publication has been subsidized by interested persons so it can be sold inexpensively throughout the Spanish-speaking world.

Brannon said he believes the event was just "the beginning of a long-term miracle Southern Baptists are going to do in this valley."

The Feast of Plenty included testimonies by former football coach Dan Devine and his wife Jo; a message of love from Frank Case, pastor of Church on Millin Tempe, Ariz.; and music by Grand Canyon College chorals and Bill Risinger from Los Angeles.

A brief invitation was given at the end of the program and three professions of faith were recorded. In addition local churches will have many prospects to follow up from the registration cards filled out by those attending the dinner.

Trudy Johnson, director of Rio Vista Baptist Center in South Phoenix, said the Feast of Plenty gave workers at the center a new contact with people in the community. Individuals and families with whom Rio Vista had no previous contacts rode buses from the center to attend the dinner.

Already the dinner has opened doors for witnessing. The flier advertising the dinner pictured Christ, five loaves and two fishes, and a Thanksgiving meal. At one home, Johnson said a child pointed to the drawing of Christ and asked if He would be at the dinner. Johnson explained who Jesus is and said many people who knew Him would be there.

Brannon, who got the idea for the Feast of Plenty from First Baptist Church, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., which held a similar dinner for 3,000 last year, said the event cost between \$17,000-\$18,000. The project was not included in any church or associational budget but was funded through contributions from churches, individuals, and businesses.

'Prayer' survey encourages Dunn

WASHINGTON (BP) — Baptist church-state leader James M. Dunn reacted optimistically to a new poll by George Gallup Jr. showing a bare majority of Americans would approve requiring prayers in public school classrooms.

The survey, conducted by the Princeton religion research center, a polling organization set up by Gallup to conduct annual polls on Americans' attitudes toward religion, showed 53 percent of the people favor required prayers in public schools while 44 percent disapprove. Three percent said they had no opinion.

Dunn, who heads the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, said he was "encouraged" with the Gallup findings.

"Informed citizens are catching on to the hidden dangers of state-written prayer," Dunn said. "Folks are seeing that government at some level — classroom teacher, school board, or state legislature — unavoidably would become involved and entangled in religion. Baptists, of all people, will continue to stand for church-state separation as a necessary safeguard for religious liberty."

Dunn applauded the wording of Gallup's question on school prayer in the new survey which asked if the public favors "requiring prayers in the public schools."

He noted that "too often" pollsters have asked if Americans favor "voluntary" prayer in schools, a question he said invites an affirmative response. "Gallup's latest survey gives us a more realistic indication of people's true feelings on the issue," he added.

Bible Word Search

By Mrs. Virginia Poehle
Answers on page 10

SECURE!

T C L L A A P E R S U A D S
Z H O O B N O D E P T X T E
L R I L V G Y E L L A H S I
D I E N L E B D H E I G H T
U S F N G L S A N N E T H I
A T R E O S H U G H T E F L
N J W E D F P S A M A O T A
G E H S W R T R D E R W Q P
E S I I O O B E E T A H T I
S U C T C M P P P S P D H C
H S H O H E R U T A E R C N
A E M U F E N S H A S N O I
R E W R O N R I T H I R T R
L P R I N C I H E I G H J P

Able	For	Love	Separate
Am	From	Neither	Shall
Angels	God	Nor	That
Any	Height	Of	The
Be	I	Other	Things present
Christ Jesus	In	Our	Things to come
Creature	Is	Persuaded	To
Death	Life	Principalities	Us
Depth	Lord	Powers	Which

These words come from two verses in the eighth chapter of Romans. Know what they are? No word can be found completely within another word or words.

Baptists assist landslide victims

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (BP)—Baptists were among the first to aid victims of a landslide in Tegucigalpa that destroyed more than 150 homes. Two Baptist families lost their houses and almost all of their personal effects.

A shift in the earth's crust along a geological fault line was blamed for the landslide which occurred in a hillside slum area close to First Baptist Church.

Baptists from several churches helped Missionaries Larry Elliott of Virginia and Jim Palmer of Georgia haul people and their belongings to shelters provided by the government. More than 8,000 people had to be evacuated.

Samuel Venis, pastor of First Baptist Church, helped distribute more than 14,000 square feet of black plastic which had been donated to help provide temporary shelter for victims of such emergencies.

As a result of Baptist participation one church was invited to show movies and hold services in one of the emergency shelters.



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Penn-South Jersey encourages CP gain

MECHANICSBURG, Pa.(BP)—Messengers to the annual meeting of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey adopted a resolution calling for the churches and chapels of the convention to increase gifts to worldwide mission endeavors.

The resolution, presented during the meeting of the convention Nov. 4-5 at the Country and Town Baptist Church in Mechanicsburg, called on congregations to establish a goal of increasing gifts through the Cooperative Program by at least one percent.

The 218 messengers adopted a \$1,572,632 budget, an increase of \$150,000 over the 1982 budget. Of the budget, the congregations of the convention will contribute \$434,500. The budget recommends that 26.5 percent of the contributions will be sent to support worldwide missions through the SBC Cooperative Program.

Honduran retreats show record growth

LAKE JOYOA, Honduras — Record attendance at three retreats at the Lake Yojoa Baptist Encampment may reflect growth trends in churches of the Honduras Baptist Convention, says Joyce Harms, Southern Baptist missionary and president of the Honduran Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

Nearly 180 women attended the national women's retreat, a 50 percent increase over last year. More than 300 youth and leaders taxed the camp facility a week earlier during a national youth retreat, and more than 200 boys, ages 8 to 16, attended a Royal Ambassador program there a short time before.

S.C. discusses institutions, doubles budget in five years

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (BP)— A move to make the abortion policy of Baptist hospitals in South Carolina more restrictive was rejected by the South Carolina Baptist Convention but messengers did recommend all Baptist institutions be very careful to check the religious preferences of prospective employees.

South Carolina Baptists completed a five-year drive to double the budget by 1982 by adopting a budget of \$17-million (the 1978 figure was \$8.5-million). Of that amount 38.31 percent (a reduction from the 38.71 percent in the 1982 budget) will go to worldwide mission and educational ministries through the Southern Baptist

Convention Cooperative Program.

A proposal to limit abortions at the two hospitals operated by the General Board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, "to cases of extreme emergency when the physical life of the mother is clearly in jeopardy" was defeated by a standing vote after debate.

Convention officials stressed the hospitals perform only therapeutic abortions under the existing policy which allows the procedure when it is necessary to protect the "physical or mental health of the mother." Cases of rape and incest are considered under the "mental health" part of the policy.

The successful resolution called on Baptist institutions to give preference to qualified Southern Baptists and other evangelical Christians (in that order) when hiring and to require a statement of religious commitment and a statement of commitment to the institution's purpose.

The resolution was apparently in response to recent publicity about a professor at Furman University, a South Carolina Baptist institution. A tenured member of the music faculty at Furman is a Christian Scientist and, on three occasions, has used facilities at Furman to host Christian Science meetings.

Messengers elected a recently retired state convention executive, B.F. Hawkins of Greenville, president. Hawkins retired last year as director of Cooperative Program promotion and stewardship development for the convention after a decade at that post.

California opposes tuition tax credits

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)— California Southern Baptists went on record against tuition tax credits for parents who send their children to private schools and called on Christians to be aware of their responsibility toward undocumented aliens and world hunger.

Messengers to the California Southern Baptist Convention adopted a record budget of \$8,542,701 of which \$4,550,000 is expected to be contributed by member congregations. The remainder will come from national Southern Baptist Convention agencies, primarily the Home Mission Board.

Of the \$4.55-million, 27.75 percent will be sent to the national and worldwide mission and educational programs of the SBC, an increase of one-fourth of one percent from last year.

A resolution concerning the ordination of women was expected to spark active debate but it was withdrawn from the floor. All other resolutions were adopted with little debate. Messengers passed resolutions on strengthening families, television programming, and separation of church and state.

The only clash in the business sessions came over a motion to upgrade the convention's state assembly at Jenness Park. Ultimately, messengers adopted the Executive Board's recommendation to set a state missions offering goal of \$185,000 and then give all money above the goal to Jenness Park.

Messengers also asked the Executive Board to re-examine the items in the state missions offering to see if they are genuine state mission offerings and allocations. They also approved the hiring of professional fund-raising consultants for a feasibility study on the potential of providing funds for new church sites.

Oklahoma to study 'morals' agency

DEL CITY, Okla.(BP)— Oklahoma Baptists elected a new president, increased by one percent the amount of undesignated funds going to Southern Baptist Convention causes, and referred for study a motion to establish an agency on Christian moral concern.

Meeting in First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, messengers elected William H. (Bill) Cook, pastor of First Church, Bartlesville. He was nominated by host pastor Bailey Smith, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Messengers approved a record \$15.25-million budget including a challenge section of \$1,674,050. The SBC Cooperative Program is scheduled to receive 46 percent of all undesignated income including the challenge section. The largest appropriation, in excess of \$2-million, will go to Oklahoma Baptist University.

An effort to establish a department of Christian moral concerns was referred by the messengers to the convention's board of directors with instructions to report to the 1983 convention. The move was prompted by the recent vote on parimutuel racetrack gambling which was won by gambling interests and the threat of numerous county option votes on the issue.

Resolutions were approved calling for establishment of a committee on hunger, challenging churches to combat parimutuel gambling, and urging individuals and churches to renew their commitment to Bold Mission Thrust.

Arizona Baptists urged to start 300 missions

TUCSON, Ariz. (BP)— Messengers to the 54th annual meeting of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention quickly handled convention business and turned their attention to the meeting's theme "God's Challenge: Reaching Arizona for Christ."

The only ballot vote taken was during the election of the convention president, Clark Johnson, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Flagstaff.

The 456 messengers adopted a record \$3.4-million budget marking a 12.5 percent increase over 1982. In keeping with the five-year plan adopted by the ASBC Executive Board, 25.75 percent of the budget will go to Southern Baptist Convention causes, a .25 percent increase over 1982.

Jack Johnson, executive director-treasurer of the ASBC, challenged the churches in the convention to start 300 church-type missions in the next seven years and to begin by starting 50 each year for the next three years.

Volunteer credits God with 'care' after fall

By Lynn P. Clayton

ZACHARY, La. (BP) — Max McDaniel volunteered for a mission trip to Honduras to help construct a church building. He returned to Zachary, La. with a broken back, paralyzed from his waist down.

But McDaniel's retelling of the experience is not a morbid dwelling on the tragedy last March; it is his testimony of God's love and protective grace.

Mission tours had long been part of McDaniel's life. He took groups of 10 people to Rochester, N.Y., for 12 years to conduct Vacation Bible Schools and participated in other such jaunts.

McDaniel took early retirement last year with his wife Wilma and bought a new self-contained camper so they could go wherever the mission call led. It was only natural he would volunteer when his church, Zachary First Baptist, began organizing the construction trip to San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

"It was the last day we were to work," McDaniel recalled. "There were four men on the roof. We were taping across the roof to make sure it was straight, and I reached over the edge to get the end of the tape. I was familiar with the roofing material (they were using to cover the roof) and knew not to trust it too much. But I guess I was in a hurry and put too much weight on it."

The whole outer edge of the long tile broke, plunging him 18 feet to the ground and smashing his back onto a concrete block. "Initially I couldn't feel anything and couldn't move my legs. I knew my back was hurt, but I didn't know how bad," he said.

It was from that minute he could see God's care for him.

"We were about four miles out of town. We only had two trucks and 10 minutes later they would have been gone. The Lord was looking after me all along," he said.

He was placed in the back of a truck and the drive began. McDaniel said the men, none of whom spoke Spanish, knew one of three hospitals in the city was superior in its staff and care, but they did not know which one. "We just finally had to choose one, and it turned out to be the best."

When they arrived at the hospital, there was an excellent neuro-surgeon there, "and in a few minutes his associates were there and an anesthesiologist. Within an hour after I was hurt I was in surgery," McDaniel said.

McDaniel has only praise for the hospital staff. "The surgeon, Dr. Dias, charged only half a normal fee, because, he said, 'you were down here helping my people.'"

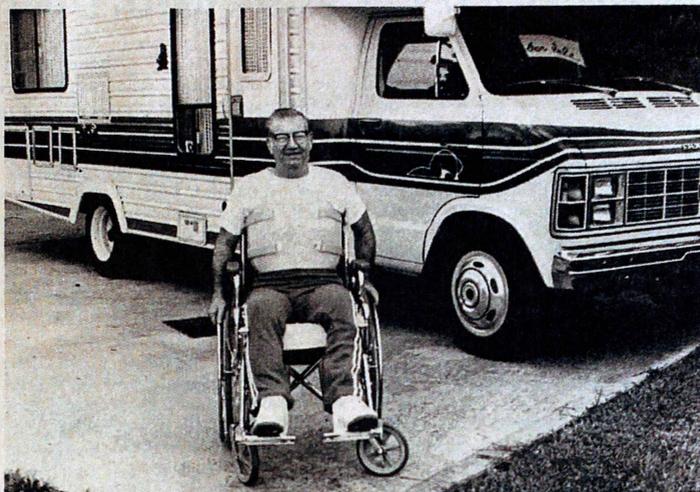
Even then McDaniel's concern was with the project. "I was upset that it would stop the work. But they kept working and stopped every 30 minutes to pray for me."

New Mexico Baptists elect Gallup pastor

ROSWELL, N.M. (BP) — The Baptist Convention of New Mexico elected Calvin Partain, pastor of First Baptist Church, Gallup, as convention president.

Convention messengers approved a Co-operative Program budget of \$2,036,904 of which 29 percent will support worldwide mission ministries through the Southern Baptist Convention. Contributions from Southern Baptist agencies, state agencies, and mission offerings will swell the overall budget to \$4,132,794.

In a convention marked by harmony, messengers were challenged to begin 120 new missions in the state by 1990.



A CHANGE IN MISSION — When Max McDaniel bought this camper, he planned on using it for mission trips. A back injury while on a mission trip confined him to a wheelchair, so the camper is for sale. But McDaniel continues his mission work, sharing the love of Jesus Christ with those he meets.

In addition, many groups of Honduran Baptists came to the hospital to show prayerful concern. "One group didn't know what to do because they couldn't speak English, so they sang for me," he remembered with a smile.

Mrs. McDaniel, who had stayed in Zachary, shares the testimony of God's care. She was able to have an emergency passport only four hours after receiving word of his accident. The next day she was beside her husband in Honduras.

In spite of what McDaniel considers his excellent care in Honduras, where he stayed for eight days, he continued to lose ground physically. "The pain was so great I couldn't eat," McDaniel explained.

Again God's provision became apparent. Zachary FBC pastor Wayne Barnes had also gone to be with McDaniel. They worked to get tickets on a "sold out" airliner, have a stretcher sent from Zachary and get moved from the

hospital to the plane. The seemingly impossible was accomplished with people working on the project in Louisiana and Honduras.

Incredibly, when Mr. and Mrs. McDaniel boarded the plane to New Orleans, 25 doctors and nurses returning from a South American mission tour were on board. One doctor, an Episcopalian from Kalamazoo, Mich., "just took over," Mrs. McDaniel recalled.

When the plane landed in New Orleans, John Womack, a member of FBC and mayor of Zachary, met the McDaniels with a neuro-surgeon. McDaniel was taken immediately to Oschner's Clinic where he had surgery to replace the two 10-inch steel rods in support of the broken spinal column and to protect the spinal cord. That greatly relieved the excruciating pain.

Doctors predicted McDaniel would remain in Oschner's for four to six weeks. Ten days later he was moved to the Hebert Rehabilitation Center. He spent April 5 - July 11 there "learning a new way of life."

Wright to supervise BMH art services

MEMPHIS — Bruce Wright, art production supervisor for the University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences, has joined the office of communications at Baptist Memorial Hospital as supervisor of art services.

Wright, succeeds Judy Felker who resigned to offer art services on a freelance basis.

A graduate of the Memphis Academy of Arts, Wright also attended East Tennessee State University in Johnson City and Memphis State University.

Born in McMinnville, Wright was a creative designer at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, for three years before taking the UTCHS position in April 1980.

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He also continued missionary endeavors. He soon started a Bible study among the patients and points to a number of spiritual, emotional, and physical improvements in patients as further signs of God's provision.

McDaniel is home now, slowly building a new approach to life. The camper bought to go on mission trips is for sale and he talks about the new tool sharpening equipment he has just bought. But there is no bitterness in his soft-spoken, precise voice. His gentle smile seldom leaves his lips.

He refuses to blame God in any way for the accident. "He took care of me so well afterward. It was my own carelessness that caused it," he pointed out. McDaniel and his wife say simply that they are glad the accident, if it had to occur, did not happen to one of the younger men on the work crew.

He shows visitors a letter from the Honduran pastor of the congregation on whose building McDaniel was working. "Your efforts and sacrifice will not have been in vain, dear brother, and I promise to preach until we have brought the Lord to the whole community."

As for the future, McDaniel says, "From now on, I'm leaning on the Lord."

His church is raising money for a specially equipped van for him and the community of Zachary has joined the effort with a Catholic lady contributing \$1,000. "We couldn't have made it without the love and prayers of our church. We owe so much to them," the couple insisted.

One thing is sure. Mr. and Mrs. McDaniel's strong faith will guide them. As he stated with conviction, "We realize we really can trust God to keep us — physically and spiritually."

McDaniel is an uncle of Drew Thigpen, minister of music at Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood.

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BIBLE BOOK SERIES
Lesson for Dec. 5

Paul's claims of authority

By Ronald K. Brown, associate pastor
First Baptist Church, Columbia

Basic Passage: 2 Corinthians 11:16 to 12:13
Focal Passages: 2 Corinthians 11:22-23; 12:2, 4-5, 7-13

This selection from the 2 Corinthian letter may be some of the most difficult material Paul ever had to write because he was writing about himself. Paul did not like to do that and he did not want to do it, but under the circumstances, he felt compelled to adopt this approach.

Why? His detractors had attacked him on several fronts. His sincerity (10:10) and even his physical appearance (10:10) were just some of the things about Paul that had been questioned. Was there no let up in sight? Must Paul stand by and take the abuse?



Brown

Paul decided he must respond. While his defense was given in personal terms, his concern exceeded self-vindication. Paul justified himself and his actions on the basis of his commitment to Christ. The questions that came to him were an affront to the integrity of his apostolic calling, the message of the gospel, and the Christ he served. He would sacrifice himself, but these things had to be upheld.

Paul felt foolish for having boasted about who he was (11:16-18, 21, 23; 12:1, 11). Perhaps he was concerned that some would see only the personal references and use egotism as another issue against him. At the same time, this boastful tactic had been used by the "super-apostles" who caused the problems in Corinth (11:16-21). Paul wanted to establish that he was equal to them, thus, he admitted that he, too, would use this "way of the world."

There was a major difference, however. Paul wanted his boasting to be seen from the perspective of what Christ had done in his life. His detractors sought self-glory; Paul desired glory to Christ.

Read the whole passage again. Try to feel Paul's emotion, the embarrassment of promoting self. While what he said was the truth, it was awkward to say it.

Paul is a most interesting character. In his humanness he had to deal with hurt, rejection, physical pain, pressure, mental anguish, and all else that is a part of being mortal. He responded with in-

tensity and conviction, speaking bluntly when necessary. But Paul also was a sensitive, compassionate person who wanted the best for others. He was a man of incomparable spiritual depth and very much in touch with the struggle with self.

Paul's defense of his authority included comments on his heritage (11:22) for those who felt that was important. His racial, cultural, and religious backgrounds were equal to that of his critics. As a servant of Christ, he stated he had done more than his detractors. To prove that, he cataloged his sufferings (11:23-29).

He continued his defense by telling of a spiritual experience (12:1-6) that had occurred about 14 years earlier. Paul provided no details and declared that he did not know if it happened bodily or in a vision. Whichever, he was sure it was of God. It was such an uplifting experience that it could not be described. If anyone could boast of visions and revelations, Paul also could boast.

All of this boasting was tempered by telling two other events in his life. These two events "boast" only of Paul's weakness. They were humbling experiences that reminded him of who he really was. It speaks well of Paul that he was not afraid to admit his weaknesses. His willingness to do so provided the opportunity for Christ to be glorified.

The first event is a summary of his secret escape from Damascus (11:32-33; Acts 9:19-25). Such a means of avoiding opposition was a demonstration of weakness, at least in Paul's mind. He seemed embarrassed by the occurrence, but nevertheless, he did not avoid telling it.

The second event is the "thorn in the flesh." Extensive debate to determine what Paul meant by this phrase has been held. Regardless of what it may have been, to Paul it was a pointed reminder of his insufficiency apart from the grace of God at work in his life (12:7-10).

This realization did not come easy. According to Paul, he prayed about the matter three times, asking for the "thorn" to be removed. Finally, he came to understand that any weakness in his life became another occasion for the strength of Christ to be demonstrated. In that case, Paul would gladly suffer.

Paul rested his case. If he needed defending, if his authority needed explaining, let it be seen in his love and loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ. Therein was his sufficiency.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES
Lesson for Dec. 5

The nature of Luke's gospel

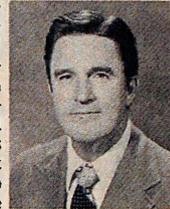
By Clyde Cutrer, professor of religion
Belmont College, Nashville

Basic Passages: Luke 1:1-4; 5:29-32; 8:19-21; 9:18-22
Focal Passages: Luke 1:1-4; 5:29-32; 8:19-21; 9:18-22

Luke, often referred to as the "beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14), addresses a certain Theophilus as he begins his gospel. Although it is not clear just who Theophilus is, it may be surmised that he is a representative of government because of the use of the phrase "most excellent" in describing him. Whoever he is, as Luke sets forth his message, the particular nature of his gospel begins to unfold.

Announced purposes (1:1-4)

First of all, Luke is concerned to present an orderly account. His use of the phrase "in order" may refer to his intention to present an account which is arranged in a logical order. By this means he will set forth the gospel so that it can best be understood.



Cutrer

Moreover, Luke is writing to let Theophilus know "the certainty of those things wherein thou hast been instructed." He is not writing to explain a supposition, or to speculate about what might have been the case. He is writing to share with Theophilus the "solid truth" (Moffatt) about a historical event.

What he says to his reader and readers happened in history. It was bound up with the fabric of life and reality in every way. It was rooted in what "eyewitnesses had seen" and passed on. His purpose in part was to deal with "the certainty of those things."

Unannounced purposes

Beyond these purposes announced in his preface, there are further purposes which Luke apparently pursues but does not announce.

One of these is the intention to reveal Jesus as a friend to the outcasts (5:29-32). For example, the publicans served the Roman authorities as tax collectors, and "sinners" were those who did not conform to the normal religious practices of the Jews. Both groups therefore, were outcasts to the scribes and Pharisees, who murmured against Jesus' disciples for eating and drinking with them.

Jesus used the occasion described in 5:29-32 to indicate that his ministry was directed to those who were aware of their

need and were open to receive help — a condition not at all descriptive of the scribes and Pharisees, but rather of the outcasts. Jesus was concerned with these people and their need.

His second unannounced purpose is to show Jesus as the Saviour of all people who believe (8:19-21).

All can become members of the family and no one is arbitrarily excluded. Each one has the opportunity to join the family of believers, dependent only upon his willingness to "hear the Word of God and do it." Luke's exclusive emphasis upon the sending out of the 70 (10:1-12), is probably an extension of the purpose.

Israel is meant to comprehend and apprehend the gospel. At the same time all nations, symbolized by the 70, are to be evangelized. As they become aware of their need, they too can receive the help of Jesus' ministry.

His family is a family of faith. It is not limited by physical kinship. It is not limited by geographical, social, or racial kinship — or any kinship other than the bond of a common faith. The opportunity then for all men to become members of the family is found and continually emphasized in the gospel.

Also, Luke wanted to reveal Jesus as a suffering servant (9:18-22). He was not a king clothed in the rich trappings of his office, and He was not an Israelite military monarch. He was Isaiah's picture of a suffering servant personified (Isaiah 53).

But this was no easy teaching to convey, especially when there were those who found it easy to think of the Messiah as a mighty earthly king who would conquer their enemies.

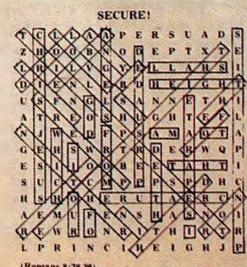
Jesus' question to His disciples apparently was tied to misconceptions of the Messiah He wished to correct. Thus, He asked "Whom do men say that I am?" and then "Whom do you say that I am." The answer of Peter (perhaps echoed by the other disciples) "The Christ of God," was a high tribute.

However, Jesus, wanting to correct any wrong ideas about the Messiah preferred the title "Son of Man," to convey the picture of a victorious Saviour for all men. Luke therefore presented a Christ who would fulfill his purpose not through earthly conquest but through redemptive suffering.

Other interests

However, these announced, as well as unannounced purposes do not appear to fully describe the nature of Luke's Gospel. There are other interests which the author apparently develops. Included among them are an interest in showing that Christianity is not a subversive religion, and a special interest in social concerns, women, and the perils of wealth.

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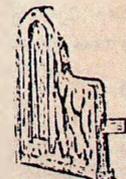
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LIFE AND WORK SERIES
Lesson for Dec. 5

Faith and repentance

By Ray E. Fowler, pastor
Highland Heights Baptist Church, Memphis

Basic Passage: James 4
Focal Passages: James 4:1-4, 7-12, 17

Divided allegiance cannot promote neutrality and peace. Only strife results when a Christian's heart is divided between loyalty to this world and loyalty to God. Repentance to God is the only answer to such strife.

Friends to the world or of God (4:1-4)

Chapter three closed with a call to peace. Chapter four opens with the account of divisions and disputings among the believers. Strife and disagreements were not uncommon among the members of the early churches (1 Corinthians 3:3; 6:1-8; 2 Corinthians 12:20, Philippians 4:1-3).



Fowler

James deals first with the cause of strife. The cause must be pinpointed before the cure can be prescribed. Religious quarrels are most always rooted in the lust or desire for prominence, power, and possessions. Greed and selfishness cause strife (vv.1-2) and halt the progress of any body of believers (Galatians 5:17). Uncontrolled desires for pleasure and possessions are destructive of peace.

Greed and selfishness in the heart lead to wrong actions (v.2) and wrong praying (v.3). Desires for pleasure, preeminence, and possessions fill us with envy and jealousy which produce bizarre behavior. They wage ceaseless warfare against anything or anyone that stands in the way of their gratification.

Our prayer life is also adversely affected by greed and selfishness (vv.2b-3). First, prayerlessness - "Ye ask not." Then, unanswered prayer - "receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." Anger and frustrations over such unanswered prayer are then taken out on fellow believers.

To the list of things that cause strife, disturbance, and turmoil among believers, James adds "friendship of the world" (v.4). He compares such friendship with the world to adultery. His Jewish readers well knew that he refers to spiritual adultery or unfaithfulness (Jeremiah 3:1-5, Ephesians 2:3; Hosea 1-2). Christians cannot fraternize with the evil world-system and expect to be at peace with God and one another.

The remedy of repentance (4:7-12)

In 3:1-4, James states the cause of strife and war among believers. Here he states the cure and solution to such warring. If we would enjoy peace instead of strife, we must give heed to the instructions of verses 7-10.

The first step every backslider must take is submission to God (v.7). The word "submit" means to "get into your proper rank." Unreserved surrender to God is the way to peace with God and others. Then we are to "resist the devil" (v.7; Ephesians 4:27). The combination of submitting and resisting assures victory.

"Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you" (v.8). Comfort and courage is experienced by every believer who

feels the nearness of God. How do we draw nigh to God? James admonishes: "Cleanse your hands . . . and purify your hearts" (v.8). Deal with the sin in your life that keeps God at a distance. There must be outward cleansing ("cleanse your hands") and inward purification ("purify your hearts").

James says that mourning and heaviness and weeping must accompany our repentance to God (v.9). This is a call for genuine repentance (see Matthew 5:4; Romans 7:24). Finally, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up" (v.10). James reflects

upon the teaching of our Lord concerning humility (Matthew 23:12). Self-exaltation breaks down our relationship with Christ and others.

What is promised to the backslidden believer who repents? The devil "will flee from you" (v.7). God "will draw nigh to you" (v.8). The Lord "shall lift you up" (v.10). God's help is promised if we will only submit ourselves to Him and live in humility before Him.

All strife among believers would end quickly if Christians would cease speaking evil of others and attempting to play God in judging others (vv.11-12). No man is faultless, therefore if we desire to judge, let us commence with our own life (Matthew 7:1-5). Judgment has been committed to God's Son (John 5:22), not us.

Failure to do what is right (4:17)

Many Christians today would not think of doing things God has forbidden them to do. At the same time, they think nothing of failing to do some things God commands them to do. You might not be

chargeable for committing what God has forbidden, but you might be guilty of neglecting what He has commanded.

Apply verse 17 to what James says in verses 13-16, in which he deals with the subject of the Christian and God's will. He deplores the sin of side-stepping God's will while planning for the future. We commit sin when we shut God out of our plans.

We must not only cease to do evil, we must strive to do what we know is right. Regular worship, Bible study and prayer, faithfulness in giving of our time, talents, and possessions are things all Christians know to do. Neglect of any of them is sin. "To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

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Howard Payne president displays versatility

By Mede Nix

BROWNWOOD, Tex. (BP) — For months while Howard Payne University President Ralph A. Phelps Jr. was keeping an eye on the education of students at the school, he was also watching over the construction of a Bible building — not as an onlooker but through the surveyor's

glass as general contractor and job supervisor.

The building which bears his name was dedicated in October but for a while it seemed the project would never get off the drawing board.

It had been in the talking stages for 12 years and two efforts at fund raising had

been attempted. There were two "official" groundbreaking for what would have been an Institute of Christianity complex. Finally with about \$500,000 on hand, Phelps received permission from the HPU board of trustees to proceed with only one building. A building permit was issued May 26, 1981.

The building was redesigned using colonial architecture instead of the original Spanish design and to include not only the chapel, which had been planned as the first building of the complex, but also a classroom and office wing. The trustees stipulated that no money could be borrowed for what was to be built.

"Since there was not enough money on hand for a full job and no guarantee any would come in, it was impossible to award a turnkey contract for the building," said Phelps. "We had to serve as contractors and let sub-contracts for specialties as work progressed to that point.

"We started with another foreman but when he was called back without notice

by his former employer, I took over as job supervisor as well as general contractor and continued in that dual role for the last year of the project," he explained. "Fortunately, money came in when people found out that a reality was replacing an ancient promise and we never had to miss a day's work for lack of funds.

"Having grown up in the building business and having built the approximate same building at another school where I was president (Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark.), I was conversant with the problems of construction although I was not knowledgeable about the suppliers of materials and services in this part of the United States."

Many times during the months of construction, visitors would find Phelps keeping office in the construction shack on the building site rather than behind his presidential desk.

"Running a major construction project and serving as chief executive of a university simultaneously will provide one with a full day's work every day," he said.

Emmanuel C. McSween of the McSween/Parker architectural firm, said, "Phelps has done a tremendous job in the construction administration of this project by successfully accomplishing the two main goals of construction, scheduling and cost. The cost factor is the more remarkable of the two, a possible savings to the university of approximately \$25 per square foot."

The building is to be the focal point of Howard Payne's master plan and is in keeping with the main campus architecture of red brick. The chapel seats 250 persons. The classroom/office wing has five classrooms, nine offices, and a small prayer chapel. It is the first building constructed on the main HPU campus since 1963.

—Mede Nix is director of public relations at Howard Payne University.

Foundation

The way was hard

By Jonas L. Stewart

It is not unusual to find people whose early days were filled with difficulty, but one man seemed to have it even worse than most. School teaching was his profession. He loved it because he tried to help students discover a life less difficult than his.

He went to college without money, lived in the stock room of a hardware store, wore shirts made from fertilizer sacks, and hid from his abusive father when he came to town. Tuition was paid by janitorial work on the campus. His food consisted largely of discarded scraps found in the garbage cans.

His early days of school teaching paid \$35.00 per month, but he saved a little from each check. The purchase of some real estate with a down payment came at the right time. Property values increased almost immediately. Today he is moderately wealthy.

He has made a will leaving his entire estate to the Tennessee Baptist Foundation as trustee, designating that the income is to be paid to one of our colleges "so that others might get an education without going through the hardships I had."

Pastors would do well to inform their people about the possibility of endowing our schools through such trust funds. For more information about preparing a Christian will, write the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, P. O. Box 347, Brentwood, TN 37027.

New pastor to plant gospel where he sowed wild oats

By Tim Nicholas

JACKSON, Miss. (BP) — A young Mississippian is going back to where he sowed his wild oats to plant different seed.

Lennon Brown, a student at Mississippi Baptist Seminary in Jackson, recently began serving as pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church at Glendora, a quarter town church.

Brown says he was once a "hometown playboy" in nearby Swan Lake and Greenville. Working part-time as a disc jockey, Brown "sold dope, drank whiskey, used women like a person uses a tool, gambled — I was rotten, selfish."

In 1977 he decided drug dealing was foolish and, though never a churchgoer, was ready to listen when someone offered a witness.

A woman peddling clothes on the streets of Greenville talked to Brown about people who do not think of anything but themselves. She told him about prayer and how to pray.

During the conversation an old woman asked him for money to buy one of the dresses.

"Something went through me then," Brown recalled. He "broke down in tears," and gave the woman the \$15 he had in his pocket. He had never given money away before.

"That's when I started seeking God," he said. "I went out on Lake Ferguson to pray." He started reading Genesis in his "dusty" Bible but it made no sense. Asking God to help him understand, he was inspired to read Bible helps and the Living Bible, along with his King James Version.

As he read, "I began to understand

myself more — how rotten I was — the Lord told me to join a church." At a camp meeting he heard former rhythm and blues singer Little Richard tell how his life had changed through Christ.

"That was encouraging to me," Brown admitted. "That's when I got school on my mind."

He met E. E. Evans, a trustee of Mississippi Baptist Seminary, and attended classes at the Greenville extension center for nine months. Joseph Sutton, retired dean at MBS, told him the school would help him get his high school diploma (Brown had only finished the 10th grade) and Dick Brogan, MBS president, wrote him about job possibilities in Jackson.

In 1979 he came to Jackson, passed his G.E.D., and entered Hinds Junior College in electrical technology while attending classes at MBS. Though he dropped out of Hinds he had enough background "and through prayer" got a job as a trouble-shooting maintenance mechanic.

Bethlehem church averages about 35-40 in attendance. "I see them needing more or less professional leadership," Brown said. "I practically grew up in this community and they need to know some of the things I learned at seminary — like stewardship, worship, bookkeeping . . ." He plans to start a Sunday School and begin work on the building which is in bad shape.

Brown believes the seminary has helped him to mature. "Even when I became a preacher I was still selfish. The seminary taught me to be kind and thoughtful like Jesus . . . I used to be afraid to talk to people, used to look down on myself. I learned self-confidence in the classes."

Brown is working on his bachelor of theology degree at MBS which is supported by black and white Baptists across Mississippi. He is anxious to share an important lesson: "God can use me like He can anybody else."

Redefine vocation speaker exhorts

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Christians need to redefine "vocation" to describe their relationship to God instead of the way they earn a living, according to a pioneer in study of development of faith.

James Fowler, professor of theology and human development at Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, made the claim during the annual Norton Lectures at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"Our vocation is to be partners with God . . . finding a purpose for one's life that is part of the purposes of God," Fowler said.

Christians are partners with "creator" God as they create families and contribute to the arts, agricultural and technological development, and other productive areas of life, he said. They are partners with the "redeeming and liberating God" as they offer healing and deliverance from oppression to those who need it.

Vocation for Christians is the response a person makes with his or her total self to the calling of God, as service to God and fellowman.



CONSTRUCTIVE ADMINISTRATOR — Ralph Phelps might not have dressed the part of university president while doing double duty as general contractor, but he accomplished presidential goals — better facilities and wise use of money.

Church pays salary after 49 years

RUBY, La. (BP) — Forty-nine years after R.H. Whittington served as pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church, the church paid his salary.

Whittington, who was to preach the special 86th homecoming sermon, was called to the platform by Gene Wilson, pastor. Then A.B. Porter came to the front and said, "We have something for you."

Porter read from the minutes of 1933 which showed the church was behind in Whittington's salary. "We owe you \$75 and this morning I have a check here to pay our debts."

Whittington, who retired from the Louisiana College religion faculty in 1970 after 25 years of teaching, recalled the story.

He became pastor in 1931. In 1933 they were behind in the salary of \$15 per month. "I remember one time they proposed to pay \$7.50 on the salary and \$7.50 on the debt. I tried to get them to cancel it. But the debt remained through the years."

When Whittington finished college in 1933 he entered New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary and completed studies there in 1935. During this time he was pastor of four churches, one of which was Pine Grove. All the others had paid, he said.

When Whittington received the \$75 back pay, someone in the congregation asked if that included interest.

"No," Wilson said, "we wouldn't have enough money."