

October 3, 1959

### Counselors Suggest Family Life Goals

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Practical marriage and family life goals for Southern Baptists, to be won through legal reform and denominational action, have been proposed here by the marriage and family counseling section of the Southern Baptist Counseling and Guidance Conference.

Drafted by Joe W. Burton, secretary of the home education department of the Baptist Sunday School Board here, the goals are designed to encourage trends toward legal reforms that safe guard the family, and to accelerate action by Southern Baptists.

Goals for the denomination are:

1. An adequate marriage education and counseling program to train young people for Christian marriage.
2. A family life education and counseling program to train Christian family members for their role and function in the home.
3. Increased efforts to enlist families in daily worship in the home.
4. Recognition that while churches must maintain an aggressive program, individual response will be in light of other worthy responsibilities, especially in the home.
5. A Christian interpretation of sex which emphasizes sacred responsibility in language, attitude, and behavior.

Goals for legal reform include:

1. More uniform marriage and divorce laws.
2. Domestic courts which deal constructively with marriage and family problems.
3. Juvenile courts which rehabilitate and/or care for juvenile offenders and dependent-neglected children.

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### West Virginians Meet For Third Fellowship

BELLE, W. Va.--(BP)--Southern Baptists in West Virginia met at Witcher Baptist Church here for their third statewide fellowship meeting. 116 were present from various areas of the state.

The program included organization of a West Virginia conference of Southern Baptist pastors and a climaxing address by C. C. Warren of Charlotte, N. C., director of the Southern Baptist Convention's effort to establish 30,000 new churches and missions.

W. L. Jenkins, pastor of Mary Burke Memorial Baptist Church, Princeton, W. Va., was elected president of the Pastors' Conference. Other officers included D. D. Elwell, pastor, Cross Lanes Baptist Church, Nitro, vice-president, and Charles Stewart, pastor, Grace Missionary Baptist Church, Ceredo, secretary-treasurer.

Southern Baptists now have 44 churches and 11 missions in West Virginia. These are affiliated with 10 associations and border on state Baptist groups in Ohio, Kentucky, and Virginia.

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Commission To Hold  
Conferences On Aging

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission announced here that it will conduct three regional conferences on the church's responsibility toward the aged.

The conferences will be held in the Fall of 1960, at dates and places to be selected later, according to A. C. Miller, Nashville, Commission executive secretary.

The purposes of the conferences will be to acquaint Baptist leaders with problems faced by the elderly, and to outline ways in which churches and church members can cope with the problems.

"We hope through these regional conferences to awaken an interest among the Baptist people in the problems facing the aged," Miller said. Among these problems are employment, retirement income, housing, social life, old-age stigma, illness, and church relationships.

The conferences will consider what Southern Baptists both at national and state levels are presently doing in work among the aged. Miller reported Southern Baptists have 14 homes for aged in 11 states. The homes have a combined capacity of 723 beds, 32 buildings, and property value of \$6.1 million.

National attention will be focused on conferences for the aging next year because of joint federal-state conferences around the nation, leading up to a nationwide White House Conference on the Aging in early 1961.

The Baptist regional conferences would be led by a team of authorities--religious and secular---in the field, Miller said.

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'Message Of Love'  
Not Getting Through

NASHVILLE--(BP)--"We have the message of love but we have not learned to communicate that love to disturbed and delinquent people," a Baptist professor affirmed here at a meeting of counseling and guidance specialists.

Edward Thornton of Houston said many adults are "friends without influence" in working among hard-core delinquents.

Thornton is professor of pastoral care at the Institute of Religion, Texas Medical Center. He spoke to the Southern Baptist Counseling and Guidance Conference.

He said love needs to be expressed through "creative imagination," and that Baptist counselors should pioneer in finding ways to meet needs of delinquent children and disturbed families.

A training program of at least two years to teach specialists how to communicate with delinquent and disturbed people was suggested.

He said Christian love must not be frightened by recent research which showed alarming facts about juvenile delinquency. One survey quoted by Thornton found that emotional disturbance which begets juvenile delinquency is "deeply set" by the time a child is 8. By the first grade, a delinquent child can be spotted, Thornton quoted the survey.

Some sociologists guess that even to "catch" the pre-delinquent child in kindergarten is too late, Thornton continued.

Another survey reported that delinquency's principal cause is not neighborhood, nor school, nor frequency of church attendance, but "under the roof" (or home) environment, he stated.

Another survey declared that the prospective delinquent child must be reached between ages 5 and 8 to divert the child from delinquency.

Christian love reaching out to disturbed children "must be instructive and must possess the wisdom to discriminate levels of needs and response," Thornton concluded.

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September Meetings  
Weigh Vital Problems

By the Baptist Press

Something Baptists are well-known for---meetings---claimed the limelight in Southern Baptist Convention activity during the month of September.

The meetings focused church attention on several vital problems before it today---religious liberty, tax exemption of church property, church advance, and church obligations toward emotionally-disturbed people.

Here are the kernels of Baptist thought and action on main subjects at the meetings:

**RELIGIOUS LIBERTY:** The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs sponsored its annual religious liberty conference in Washington. Although an unexpected event---seeing Russian Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev arrive in the United States---came during their meeting, the topic of concern was "The Place of Religion in Education and the Relation of the Churches to the Public Schools."

Texas Baptists braced for meetings ahead when the matter of church-state separation will be widely discussed. At issue is whether the Baptist General Convention of Texas shall accept for management a hospital in Texarkana built partially with federal funds. Leading Baptist pastors and laymen are found in both "pro" and "con" camps.

**TAX EXEMPTION:** The City of Nashville sent a bill to the Baptist Sunday School Board in that city for a year's taxes amounting to \$4,000. The properties put on the tax rolls have previously been considered tax exempt.

Acting on request of the Sunday School Board, the SBC Executive Committee set up a committee to undertake "exhaustive research" into the matter of tax exemption for property owned by Baptist agencies and churches. The committee will deal with the principle rather than a specific case. Meantime officers of the Sunday School Board were talking with City of Nashville government officials about the tax statement.

The Executive Committee also made preparation for an organization manual which will describe the responsibilities of each Convention agency. The Stewardship Commission came a step closer to being an active agency with a tentative outline of its work being presented.

**BAPTIST ADVANCE:** Convention President Ramsey Pollard of Knoxville, Tenn., sounded a call for the "spirit of conquest" at two meetings in Nashville. The first was at a conference of 450 associational superintendents of missions sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

"If you don't have the spirit of conquest, you aren't going to make the grade as associational missionaries," Pollard told them. Later, in addressing the Executive Committee, he said "One of the most hopeful signs among Southern Baptists is the spirit of conquest."

A committee working on the 30,000 Movement heard that Southern Baptists have thus far established 2825 new churches and formed 5632 new missions since the movement started over a year ago. The goal of the 30,000 Movement is for Southern Baptists to establish 30,000 new missions and churches by the end of 1964.

**COUNSELING MINISTRY:** The Southern Baptist Conference on Counseling and Guidance met in Nashville. Present were 125 specialists from the pastorate, seminaries, and Convention agencies to discuss the church's responsibility to persons with special problems. The ministry to delinquents, emotionally disturbed, elderly folks, couples before and after marriage, and other special groups was on the agenda.

Nolan P. Howington, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, said juvenile delinquency is not a problem with a one-track solution.