

May 18, 1962

Church, Helping Others
Task of 1962 'Mother'

By Dave Morris

For Baptist Press

A faithful Alabama Baptist church member who has "lived in the shadow of a Baptist church" all her life is the "American Mother of the Year" for 1962.

Mrs. Mary Celesta Weatherly, member of the First Baptist Church of Fort Payne, Ala., was cited for the honor in New York City by the American Mothers Association in competition with mothers from 50 states. She is the first Alabama woman ever to win the honor.

Candidates were judged in six areas--civic life, home, children, church work, education and ability to represent American motherhood.

Mrs. Weatherly, looking years younger than her 70 years of age, gives much of the credit for a full, rich life to the influence of a Christian home.

She recalls that she and her sister used to be the "janitors" at the Baptist church in Hollywood, Ala., which was right next door to their home. "We swept the floors, dusted, and put out flowers for the services at the church our mother and father helped to build," she says.

Typical of her spirit was the statement she made on her return to Alabama: "I feel very humble and I'm going to need all of your prayers as I try to keep myself humble and represent American motherhood." She proudly displayed to those who welcomed her a diamond pin, a marble statuette and a Bible given to her in New York.

In Fort Payne, several hundred people met her to give her a trophy and a cash certificate to buy books for the public library which she established 32 years ago. Mrs. Weatherly began the library in a small room with 200 books and it has now grown to a total of 24,000 volumes.

The spry, effervescent grandmother who sleeps only four or five hours a night also has spent much of her time teaching illiterates and semiliterates in DeKalb County. She took the Laubach Literacy Course in Gadsden, Ala., and brought untold happiness in the lives of those she has taught to read and write.

Mrs. Weatherly has been active all her adult life in Red Cross, health drives, community, welfare funds, local missions and church activities.

"I thank God for the strength to do all I want to do, but I often wish I were triplets so that I could do more," she commented. "Sometimes I forget I'm 70--I feel like I'm 16 or 17," she said.

Mrs. Weatherly's husband, the late G. I. Weatherly died six years ago. He was president of a bank in Fort Payne and a prominent churchman. "There was never any question about our going to all of the services of the church in our family," she observes. "It was always understood that we'd go."

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One son, Dr. G. I. Weatherly Jr., is a physician in Fort Payne, and a daughter, Mrs. N. Truman Gilbreath, also lives in Fort Payne. Both are active in the local Baptist church.

Another son, Walter Weatherly, bank cashier in Fort Payne, is Sunday School superintendent at the Northeast Baptist Mission, sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Fort Payne.

Walter Weatherly had just recently been named state president of the Alabama Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Fort Payne, Leland Tindal, is rightly proud. He said, "Mrs. Weatherly, a devoted Christian woman and mother, has been a source of inspiration to me, and I feel she is most worthy of this honor."

Tindal pointed out that Mrs. Weatherly had been a Sunday School teacher since she was 16 years old. Her service at the church in Fort Payne includes Woman's Missionary Union president, Royal Ambassador leader, young people's director for the county, and membership on many of the church committees. A woman's circle in the church, the Mary Weatherly Circle, is named for her.

In 1931, Mrs. Weatherly organized a Woman's Missionary Society among local Negro Baptists which is still active.

Mrs. Weatherly already is being called upon to speak before various meetings and groups throughout the nation. Late this summer she will be received by President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy.

On top of all this, Mrs. Weatherly is planning to take a six-weeks library science course at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. When asked about other plans, said, "I'm just going to try to get back to my regular routine--the library, literacy classes, cooking and washing dishes."

In trying to give a word of advice to young mothers who now face the responsibilities of home and family, she quoted a poem which she considers appropriate for all mothers:

"A partnership with God is motherhood;
What love, what patience, what self-control
Belongs to her who helps to fashion
An immortal soul."

Underlying Mrs. Weatherly's entire life is an unquenchable sense of humor and love for life which shows through in her words and actions. Commenting on her middle name, Celesta, she said, "It means 'angel', you know."

Would anyone care to disagree that the name is appropriate?

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NOTE TO BAPTIST EDITORS: Photo being mailed May 21 to you.

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

103 Baptist Building, Dallas 1, Texas
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May 18, 1962

Churches Start Projects Following Mission Study

ATLANTA (BP)--The study by Southern Baptist churches of the birth of the denomination's 30,000 Movement has resulted in the beginning of additional missions.

The Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the convention, sponsored the study on the theme, "New Churches For Our Time," for the annual Home Mission observance. Included in the effort was an adult book, "Glimpses of Glory," written by C. C. Warren of Charlotte, N. C.

Warren's challenge in 1956 to the convention to start 30,000 missions and churches launched the denomination's 30,000 Movement. His book reveals how this challenge was born in his life and ministry. He is now director of the movement for the convention.

Mrs. Tate Stokes of McComb, Miss., told of the experience of Friendship Baptist Church following a study of Warren's book.

She wrote, "The glory Dr. Warren referred to so much became contagious. The expressions, 'you can start a mission...thousands without a church...this is a mission...mother a mission,' and others were like the beat of a drum in my heart. We began to look for a place where a mission was needed."

The mission the church started was in the Matthew's Nursing Home with 15 patients and the management. Pastor Jimmy Hipp appointed a missions committee, and the church now sponsors regular services at the home.

The First Baptist Church of Decatur, Ga., already mother of six churches and grandmother of one, has undertaken sponsorship of five more missions and is considering two more.

Pastor Dick H. Hall, Jr. said, "We doubt if any of these new situations will ever develop into churches, but they have definite needs for aid in a regular worship and teaching program."

The Woman's Missionary Union spearheaded the effort after studying Warren's book, and other organizations have joined in doing the mission work.

The First Baptist Church of Boston, Ga., also started a mission after holding a mission study clinic. This mission, located in the Newark community, has called a pastor and is giving 10 per cent of its receipts to the Cooperative Program.

And in Raymond, Miss., the Raymond Road Baptist Church Girls' Auxiliary started services in a home for the aged. This, too, was the result of the mission study.

"Each of these missions should be counted by their state offices in the 30,000 Movement," Warren said when told of these results from the study of his book. "I want to publicly commend the Woman's Missionary Union and all the agencies of the convention for their support of the 30,000 Movement.

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"And there are hundreds of missions which are unreported, such as these. I urge all churches to send word to their state offices of missions of every type which they have started. California recently checked with their associations and churches and found 74 institutional missions which had not been reported."

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Dutch Hear Speech
About Autonomy

(5-18-62)

AMELO, Holland (BP)--Church autonomy must be taken in a relative sense if it is true to Christianity and the New Testament, said Dutch Baptist Union President H. van der Werf in addressing the national assembly of his denomination here.

Christian freedom is a great truth, continued van der Werf, but he pointed out as one aspect of its meaning, "freedom from self-centeredness, in individuals or groups, which can hinder us from cooperating with other churches when it costs us something."

"This word 'autonomy' is a golden word," the speaker concluded, "provided it is written with the golden ink of true brotherly love that is conscious of being called, in Christ, both for fellowship and service."

The assembly voted to request the reformed church in the Netherlands to remove from its 1690 Confession an article condemning Anabaptists.

Several delegates expressed opposition to Dutch Baptist Union membership in the World Council of Churches, which dates from the beginning of that ecumenical body. They expressed fears that the World Council was developing into an agency for church union.

The assembly decided to vote at the meeting next year whether to continue membership in the Council.

The Dutch Baptist Union, which was organized by seven churches in 1881, is now constituted of 66 churches with 8,700 members. T. Jansma of Arnhem is executive secretary.

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Karl A. Olsson Picked
As Conference Speaker

(5-18-62)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The president of North Park College and Theological Seminary, Chicago, is scheduled to speak during a fall meeting here of the Southern Baptist Conference on Counseling and Guidance.

Karl A. Olsson will speak on "Christian Compassion: Its Dynamics and Structure" at the Sept. 24-26 session, which will meet at the Baptist Sunday School Board, according to Myron C. Madden, New Orleans, conference president.

Olsson has established the "covenant counseling center" on North Park's campus. Psychiatrists, clinical psychologists and social workers are employed at the center to help college and seminary students who have problems in these areas.

Another featured speaker at the three-day conference will be Winborn E. Davis, Baton Rouge, assistant director of Louisiana state hospitals. Davis is a Baptist layman.

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Topics for the conference will be pastoral counseling, vocational guidance, the chaplaincy, social work and clinical pastoral education. There is no membership requirement for attendance at the conference.

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Baylor Students Evaluate
North Carolina Papers

(5-18-62)

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Baylor University journalism students have completed an evaluation survey of associational news letters for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Ten students in the church public relations course taught by Dave Cheavens gave the publications an exacting professional study at the request of J. Marse Grant, editor of the Biblical Recorder in Raleigh, N. C.

Grant will use the findings of the students as the basis for a summer seminar in a program seeking to improve denominational publications.

He asked the class, part of Baylor University's new course sequence in religious journalism, to list favorable points in the publications, points in which they seemed to need improvement, and finally to make suggestions.

Individuals and teams of students spent a month as a term project making the studies. The individual reports were then considered in class.

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Folks and facts.....

(5-18-62)

.....Ellis Neece Elsey, head of the music department at Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., for the past three years, has been promoted to the new administrative position of director of public services. Elsey, who worked in a similar field at Mississippi College (Baptist), Clinton, will be in charge of college representation on the field through programs in churches, civic clubs, and schools, as a part of the Texas Baptist school's public relations program. A native of Oklahoma, he is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. (BP)

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Newsfilm Coverage Slated
For Baptist Convention

(5-18-62)

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)--Up-to-the-minute news film covering sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting here June 3-8 will be flashed by jet to a score of television stations in at least half-a-dozen states.

The wide news coverage of the annual Southern Baptist Convention comes as a result of cooperation between the Southern Baptist executive committee in Nashville, the Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, and individual state Baptist conventions, said Paul M. Stevens, director of the Baptist Radio-TV Commission.

Gordon Newsfilms here will shoot, process and distribute various scenes of the convention, including registration of messengers from each participating state, speakers, election of officers, and major business session developments.

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Each film will be personalized to fit the needs of the television station receiving it.

This year marks the first time in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention that newsfilm coverage will be available to television stations other than that carried by network television newscasts and local convention city stations.

Costs of producing the newsfilms will be shared by the two Southern Baptist agencies and the state conventions. The films will be available at no cost to the television stations selected to receive them.

States taking part in the television coverage include Texas, four stations; Louisiana, seven stations; South Carolina, two stations; Georgia, two stations; Mississippi and Missouri, uncertain as to number of stations.

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**Twister Rips Off Roof
Of Pecos Baptist Church**

(5-28-62)

PECOS, Tex. (BP)--A tornado ripped off the steeple and caved in the roof of Calvary Baptist Church here just three months after members of the church had hammered the last nail into their new \$50,000 sanctuary, the church's pastor said.

Pastor I. C. Caperton estimated the damage at about \$20,000, and said that hail "big as baseballs" accompanied winds up to 70 miles per hour.

When the roof caved in, a thundershower flooded the new sanctuary, soaked the church's new hymn books, and ruined a new piano.

Pastor Caperton, a carpenter and contractor before being called to the ministry, had led the 220 members of the church in building the new sanctuary. They had finished the building after a year's labor only three months before the damage was done.

Caperton said he did not actually see a tornado hit the building, but added that he did not believe high winds could have possibly done that much damage to the structure. News reports said tornados were sighted 10 to 15 miles from Pecos, and that a twister touched down in the southern part of town where the church is located.

Caperton said he had driven to the school to get his young daughter. When he arrived at the school, his daughter's teacher had instructed the students to take cover under their desks to protect them from the $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch hail shattering the windows and peppering the classroom.

The church was lying in rubble, he said, when he returned to the building.

Insurance covered only part of the cost of the building, he said. The pastor was not sure what the church would do now.

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