

September 27, 1963

### Stewardship Calls On Existing Committees

NASHVILLE (BP)--Existing church committees and officers, rather than specially named ones, will be asked to plan and promote year-round stewardship development and the annual budget in the churches, the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention reports.

"This marks an advance step in our stewardship philosophy," according to Merrill D. Moore of Nashville, commission executive director.

"Church Sunday school and Training Union officers will cooperate in the revised 'Forward Program of Christian Stewardship' and its counterpart for smaller churches, 'Growth in Christian Stewardship'," he said.

This advance step will also change the working relationship of staff members of state Baptist conventions, who work with the churches directly on stewardship activities.

Not only will the stewardship promotion secretary for the state Baptist office assist them, but so will the Sunday school secretary and the Training Union secretary.

Moore also said the commission and the state stewardship secretaries will suggest that churches enter a stewardship development and budget emphasis whenever during the year it's best for a church. Most churches have used the fall for budget promotion and pledging for the following year.

He said this advance step takes effect April 1 next year to help churches in promoting their 1965 annual budgets.

"The present budget pledging committee, canvassers and the special stewardship Sunday school lesson chairman will come under the Sunday school organization in the church by this suggestion," Moore reported.

"Training Unions will be asked to handle the pre-campaign stewardship emphasis and to train campaign committees."

The chairman of the church's stewardship and finance committee will be asked to serve as chairman of the budget steering committee, and to promote stewardship the year around.

Moore credited the development of these advance steps to James V. Lackey, Nashville, director of stewardship development for the commission; state stewardship secretaries, and W. L. Howse, director, education division of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

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### Mississippi Proposes \$2,786,000 Budget

(9-27-63)

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has adopted a Cooperative Program budget of \$2,786,000 for the coming year of 1963-64.

The budget, to be recommended to the state convention in November, is essentially the same as the current budget, according to Chester L. Quarles, Jackson, executive secretary-treasurer.

Southern Baptist Convention causes will receive \$919,500, state causes will get \$1,531,900 and capital needs will receive \$334,600. In each case the amount in the new budget is the same as in the current outlay.

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## Farmer-Rancher Of Year

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--A Baptist Sunday school teacher at Fort Supply, Okla., has been named the Oklahoma farmer-rancher of the year at the Oklahoma State Fair here. He is Glenn Easterwood, who owns a 13,000-acre ranch in the rough rolling country of western Oklahoma.

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Mexico Missions Tour  
Impresses 31 Laymen

(9-27-63)

By Kenneth Everett

MEMPHIS (BP)--Thirty-one Southern Baptist laymen returned from a 3,000-mile bus tour of Baptist missions in Mexico determined to raise their gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to foreign missions and the Cooperative Program.

The men reached their decision to increase their financial gifts and spiritual influence for missions after hearing the testimonies of Southern Baptist missionaries and Mexican pastors and laymen during the 12-day tour of Mexican churches and missions.

The tour, sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, extended 100 miles south of Mexico City to Taxco, west to Guadalajara and north to Durango and Torreon.

One of the most impressive testimonies was given by Lopez Lovera, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church at Durango, who told of how he struggled to become a Christian.

The pastor said his parents, devout Catholics in a 98 per cent Catholic country, worshipped images placed in a special room of their home. Lovera's father, who offered to pay his tuition to college if he would study to become a doctor or engineer, ordered the young man from the house when he disclosed he felt a call to preach.

Van Gladen, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Torreon, pointed out the seminary, which has about 30 students enrolled, is slowly providing much needed pastors for Mexico.

At present, 30 churches and many missions among the 220 churches of the National Baptist Convention of Mexico have no pastor. Laymen now preach at the pastorless missions.

After hearing a report that Mexican pastors often receive less than \$80 monthly, Joseph Brown of Portsmouth, Va., said, "If our churches back home were not so interested in buying bigger buildings and fancier equipment, we could send enough money to secure Mexican pastors."

Although many Baptist church buildings showed a need for repairs, the Mexican congregations only asked for the laymen's prayers.

One layman observed, "We came to testify, but felt we had been testified to."

Wyatt W. Lee of Guadalajara, Baptist missionary who served as interpreter, said the tours are developing a closer working relationship between Baptists in the two countries. It was the sixth to Mexico the Brotherhood Commission has sponsored.

Tour members by states were:

Alabama--Clarence J. Peacock, Hartford.

Arkansas--O. Parnell Hammons, Forrest City.

Florida--Ben Ash and William G. Brown, Fort Lauderdale, and Marion C. Quattlebaum, Bradenton.

Indiana--Thomas O. Woods, Evansville.

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Kansas--G. C. Hilton, Hutchinson.

Louisiana--A. H. Teague, Bossier City.

Maryland--Hugh T. Peck, Silver Spring.

Mississippi--J. G. Allen, Horn Lake; Hugh T. Bowlin, Gloster, and J. D. Pickett, Columbia.

Oklahoma--B. L. Borden, Shawnee; Vernon C. Walker, Ada; R. B. Knight, Holdenville, and William J. Beck, Wilburton.

South Carolina--Ed Seymour and Donald M. Brunson, Greenwood, and Henry J. Lockhart, Timmons ville.

Tennessee--Thomas E. Bryant Jr., Murfreesboro; John S. Ridley, Smyrna; James H. Ragsdale, Ripley; Wallace E. Lunn, Nashville, and Elton J. Burrow, Galloway.

Texas--Milo Pennington, Elkhart; J. Lewis Morris, Muleshoe; Doyle J. Alford, Littlefield, and J. B. Westbrook, Lubbock.

Virginia--Joseph L. Brown, Portsmouth, and Maurice C. Law, Alta Vista.

Washington, D. C.--Sam E. Holt.

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#### Unchristian Judgments Said Cause Of Failure

NASHVILLE (BP)--Church people fail in helping others when they exercise unchristian personal judgments about those needing help.

Alan Keith-Lucas, a Presbyterian layman who is professor of social work at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, also said a "mature Christian approach" toward the needy is required.

"We (Christians) must give up the idea we are a collection of good people entitled to judge others," he declared. Too often, Christians assert an attitude like the Pharisees.

"The mature Christian agrees the punitive arm of the law may have to be used against welfare cheaters, and against the big businessman who cheats on his income tax," Keith-Lucas said.

Talking to the Southern Baptist Counseling and Guidance Conference here about the poor who are receiving welfare aid, the professor continued:

"Some (of the needy) are lazy. Some are industrious. So are we.

"Some are dependent. So are some of us, in some ways, dependent. Some are moral, some are immoral, also true of those who are not needy. Some cheat; so do some big businessmen; they cheat the same government."

He said he "would hate to rate the Chambers of Commerce against welfare recipients on gluttony, avarice and pride."

Keith-Lucas said cutting off welfare aid would not solve the problem of illegitimate children in America. "You would only affect one in 10 illegitimate children by cutting off relief. Ninety per cent of illegitimate births occur among people who can support themselves," he added.

"The Christian will rely more on helping people face reality rather than taking their problems away from them," he said.

"To a Christian sin is something he has himself. It is not something found just in someone else," Keith-Lucas pointed out. He said this is why Christians are immature when they exercise personal judgments against the poor and needy.

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Christians got "off the track" in their role of helpfulness when "at one point in our history we turned to judgment. We forgot that Jesus came to save sinners, not the righteous. We equated election with human success; we presumed to say we knew who is elected," he continued.

One conference participant, a woman, told of another churchwoman who declined to help someone "because my church is having a revival and I will have to attend every night" and there was some doubt she would have the time to help.

Another person cited the time when help by a church organization was discontinued "because next month we are studying about another subject and have to follow the program."

Keith-Lucas said the role of the social worker who is a Christian should not be confused with that of a personal evangelist. "Being a Christian in social work doesn't mean being pietistic; it doesn't mean dragging the name of the Lord into all our (professional) dealings with clients.

"It doesn't mean in your heart of hearts you're a preacher and not a social worker," he told the 75 conference attenders. "His Christian witness is in the insights he brings to his work."

Those who attended the conference included Christians in social work in denominational agencies and outside the denomination. Pastors, seminary professors and other Baptist leaders also took part.

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\$3.5 Million Goal  
Set For Offering

(9-27-63)

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--Goal for the 1964 Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions has been set at \$3.5 million, according to Miss Alma Hunt, executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union here, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Woman's Missionary Union promotes a week of prayer for Home Missions and the accompanying offering each Spring. The 1964 observance is set for March 1-8.

The 1964 goal is a 15 per cent increase over the 1963 offering to date, and the anticipated receipts from now until Dec. 31 when the books close.

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Social Service  
Association Formed

(9-27-63)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Social Service Association was organized here. It will operate as a section of the annual Southern Baptist Counseling and Guidance Conference.

It will "foster and promote enlistment of Baptist young people in the field of human welfare." It will also "interpret the needs for and value of helping ministries throughout the Southern Baptist Convention."

"High standards of practice in Southern Baptist human welfare" will be encouraged, according to the constitution of the new association.

Membership is open to "all who are engaged in or are interested in Southern Baptist human welfare activities."

Attending the meeting which formed the association were representatives of Baptist children's homes, homes for the aged, hospitals, and other human welfare institutions.

L. W. (Bill) Crews, Atlanta, was elected president of the new association. He is assistant secretary in charge of juvenile rehabilitation for the SBC Home Mission Board.

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Detroit Survey Locates  
1/4-Million Prospects

DETROIT (BP)--Four thousand workers from 170 churches located a quarter of a million prospects for church membership in the greater Detroit area.

They found these unenlisted through a mammoth telephone survey.

"This was perhaps the largest religious survey ever conducted," said William A. Powell of Atlanta, director of the survey. Approximately one third of the 3-1/2 million residents of the greater Detroit area were contacted.

Powell is associate secretary of the survey and special studies department of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He said the greater Detroit survey was an all-out attempt to locate prospects for the churches. "Our aim was to uncover the families who did not have any members attending any churches," he explained.

"More than 500 new Southern Baptist churches are now needed in Detroit to equal the national average," he added. "The information gathered in this survey indicates where new churches are needed."

The 170 churches participating included most Protestant groups, and the workers contacted 250,000 families.

"One Presbyterian woman made 1,400 phone calls during the survey," he said, "which means one person surveyed about 4,800 people."

According to Powell, 71.3 per cent of the families of the greater Detroit area are church related, and at least one member attends as often as once a month.

The survey indicated the families of greater Detroit have the following religious affiliations: 49.49 per cent are Catholic; 13.34 per cent, Lutheran; 9.82 per cent, Baptists; 8.18 per cent Methodists; 7.68 per cent, Presbyterian, and 3.53 per cent, Episcopal.

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Tennessee Convention  
Board Adopts Budget

(9-27-63)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Tennessee Baptist Convention executive board here adopted a Cooperative Program budget goal of \$4 million for 1963-64.

It also approved the recommendation of a long-range program which would include a 5 per cent annual increase in the Cooperative Program goal.

The adopted budget, to be recommended to the state convention in November, is an increase of \$175,000 over the previous year, according to W. Fred Kendall, Nashville, executive secretary-treasurer.

No change was made in the distribution of funds--one third to agencies of Southern Baptist Convention and two thirds to Tennessee Baptist Convention. However, any receipts in excess of the budget goal are to be divided on a 50-50 basis between Tennessee Convention and Southern Baptist Convention.

The proposed budget allocates \$497,506 for capitals needs. The three Baptist hospitals are to get \$186,500, and the four children's homes, \$220,000. The total for Tennessee Baptist Convention programs is \$2,666,800.

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