

A BAPTIST NEWS SERVICE

for Southern Baptists' Radio-Television Commission, Fort Worth, Annuity Board, Home Mission Board Division of Evangelism and Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas.

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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January 22, 1965

Richmond Church
Admits 2 Nigerians

By Theo Sommerkamp

RICHMOND (BP)--The First Baptist Church of Richmond has made an exception to its 125-year-old policy on Negro members and voted full membership to two Nigerian students who asked for it.

Action came on a three-point recommendation from the deacons two weeks after the students, both sons of Nigerian Baptist ministers, presented themselves for membership at the 11 o'clock worship service.

The policy, dating to 1840 when African slaves asked to leave the First Baptist Church to set up their own house of worship, stated that Negroes from that year on would be members of their own churches and not of the First Baptist Church.

Any exception to that policy had to be discussed by the deacons for their recommendations to the church. When the two Nigerian students presented themselves it marked the first time the policy had been tested since its adoption, church officials said.

Theodore F. Adams, pastor of the church since 1936, explained to the church and the students that under the policy, he would have to refer their applications for membership to the deacons. He made a personal appeal they be accepted.

The deacons took two votes on the matter before coming in with their recommendations. On the Monday night after the students applied, deacons voted by an unannounced figure -- but a close margin -- to deny their applications for membership.

A few days before the church's annual business meeting, however, at which the membership question was on the agenda, the deacons changed their recommendations to:

1. Make an exception to established policy and let the two students be accepted "under the watchcare of our church."
2. Authorize a deacon-directed study of up to six months of the established policy on Negro members and "procedure of accepting church members in light of changed world conditions."
3. Defer any further exceptions to the established policy until this study had been finished and had been acted on by the church.

The estimated 1800 persons present for the church business meeting made only one change in the deacons' recommendations, but it was a significant amendment. They struck the words, "under the watchcare," and substituted "into the membership" which gave the students full membership standing.

The students are Adedokun A. Oshoniyi and Gideon S. A. Adegbile, both juniors at Virginia Union University, a Baptist school here originally established for Negroes by the American Baptist Home Mission Society.

Officially the pair come into the church by transfer of letters. Oshoniyi comes from the First Baptist Church of Ishokum, Oyo, Nigeria. Adegbile belonged to the Baptist Chapel at Ibadan, which is a mission of the First Baptist Church of Ibadan, Nigeria.

The business meeting was closed to non-members of the church and to the press. After the four-hour night meeting, Adams called reporters into his study for an informal press conference at which he and the chairman of deacons answered some questions.

They declined to disclose the vote counts. Presumably the three-point deacon recommendations were voted on item by item, with discussion pro and con on the floor by church members on each point.

Members of the church disclosed to a Richmond newspaper the ratio was 8 to 6 on the vote to amend the recommendation from watchcare to membership, and 7 to 5 on the vote to pass the **recommendation** as amended.

The decision of First Church, Richmond on the membership applications has been watched with interest throughout the Southern Baptist Convention because of the unique position of the 4200-member church.

It has what is considered to be an outstanding giving record to missions. Of its total 1965 budget of \$420,000, half goes to some form of local, national and world missions.

It gives \$125,000 a year to the Cooperative Program, the unified budget plan of Southern Baptists. Another \$18,500 is allocated to the Richmond Baptist Association of churches. It allots \$25,000 to start new chapels in the area--and it has started six. It makes other gifts to a local Baptist home for women, the state Baptist home for the aged and other denominational institutions.

In recent years, the church has given more to outside missions and benevolences than it has given to its own current expenses, Adams said.

Another significant fact about the church is that it is the closest Southern Baptist Church, geographically, to the office of the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board, which sponsors the work in Nigeria where the two students were led to Christ.

It's about one mile down Richmond's famous Monument Ave. from where a statue of Stonewall Jackson hovers over a traffic circle adjacent to the church to the site of the mission board office.

About 15 of the professional staff officers of the Foreign Mission Board and their families belong to First Baptist Church.

Still further down Monument Ave. is Virginia Baptists' state office location.

The third significant point is Theodore Adams himself. He is a former president of the Baptist World Alliance with a continuing interest and participation in affairs affecting Baptists around the globe.

The First Church of Richmond also is the largest in Southern Baptist Membership in Virginia.

Watchcare ties to the First Baptist Church of Richmond are not rare, especially for college students. Many students leave their memberships in churches back home and ask only for a watchcare relationship, which does not carry voting privileges.

But the church also takes many other students into full membership. In fact they are assumed to be asking for full membership unless they specify a watchcare relationship. The two Nigerians wanted full membership.

The 1840 policy applied only to Negroes. Adams told the Baptist Press the church has accepted into full membership through the years people of all other races and nationalities.

The pastor did not indicate immediately what influence, if any, he would attempt to have while the 69 active deacons undertake their study of up to six months. He said he will work with the board as they do it. Adams said he was "gratified" the church voted the way it did on the recommendations.

Adams said also, "for the next six months (the study period) we are in the same place we have been since 1840."

Although the church conducts an annual business meeting each January, and does not have regular monthly business meetings as do some Baptist churches, presumably it will call a special business meeting when the deacons are ready to report.

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Brazilian Baptist Calls
For America's Evangelism

1-22-65

DALLAS (BP)--The president of the Brazilian Baptist Convention, speaking to 8,000 Texas Baptists here, issued a challenge for Southern Baptists to take the lead in conducting an evangelism campaign covering the entire American hemisphere in 1970.

Rubens Lopes of Sao Paulo, Brazil, told the Texas Baptist evangelism conference of plans for a nation-wide Baptist evangelistic campaign in Brazil this year, and then said that the United States needs such a campaign even more than Brazil.

He suggested that Baptists of every country in South, Central and North America unite in 1970 for one, huge campaign of total evangelism.

"And if we have an America-wide campaign in 1970, why not a world-wide mass evangelism campaign in 1975," he asked.

Lopes, pastor of the Vila Mariana Baptist Church of Sao Paulo for 24 years and president of the largest Baptist convention in South America, spoke immediately following a message by Southern Baptist Convention president Wayne Dehoney, head of the largest North American Baptist convention.

Dehoney, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Jackson, Tenn., called for the SBC to end a period of self-analysis and criticism and launch the greatest evangelistic and missionary offensive the world has ever known.

Lopes added to Dehoney's plea.

"If the Southern Baptist Convention went into an America-wide campaign in 1970 and a world-wide campaign in 1975, Baptists would have the money and manpower to make an impression on the world even greater than Communism," Lopes said.

He said that the evangelism campaign in Brazil had already been so successful that it would be an even greater blessing to the other countries of America, including the United States.

The campaign in Brazil officially gets underway on Jan. 31 at the close of the Baptist Convention of Brazil meeting in Rio De Janeiro at a giant kick-off rally in a 200,000 seat stadium with Baptist World Alliance President Joao Soren as speaker.

Revival meetings are scheduled in each of the 2,000 Baptist churches and missions of Brazil during March, April and May of 1965.

Lopes, who suggested the nation-wide Brazilian campaign in 1963 to Southern Baptist missionaries, said that the United States needs a similar campaign even more than Brazil for two main reasons. Neither are problems in Brazil, he said.

"There are two big fists pointed at the Baptist heart in the United States," he said. "One is Catholicism, the other is modernism."

He charged that the Catholic hierarchy is staging a long-range effort to take charge and dominate the United States. "You don't believe this?" he asked. Then he answered: "How naive you are."

Later, in an interview, Lopes explained that he saw two "terrible methods" Catholics are using in the United States to gain control: First, by influencing and interfering in the nation's public schools system; and second by stimulating a high birth rate among their church members.

"In the next 100 years, through schools and large families the Catholics will take control of the United States because they realize that the child of today will become the leader of tomorrow," Lopes declared.

Lopes expressed disgust because the Second Vatican Council split over the religious liberty issue and tabled the matter indefinitely.

"But I am not here to say that Baptists should be anti-Catholic," he said. "God is love and we should love Catholics and all other people."

He told the Texas evangelism conference that the United States is the fortress of the Gospel of the world. "If that fortress should fall, woe unto us," he said.

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PHOTO OF LOPES AND DEHONEY BEING MAILED TO STATE BAPTIST PAPERS

Seven Appointed Under
Urban-Rural Missions

1-22-65

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has appointed seven new missionaries to various ministries across the United States.

The January appointments make a total of 2,372 missionaries now serving under this agency, most in cooperation with state Baptist mission boards.

Appointed under the urban-rural missions department, Joe A. Mauldin becomes a pastoral-superintendent of missions to Mesa, Ariz.; Tommy Austin becomes a superintendent of missions to Lancaster; James Rigler, a mountain missionary to Bijou; and James Warren, a superintendent of missions to Ukiah--all in California.

Foy O. King becomes a mountain missionary to Pukalani, Hawaii; Durward Hazzard, a pastoral-superintendent of missions to Taylorsville, Ind.; and Willard Martin, a superintendent of missions to Monroe County, Mich.

Mauldin, a native of Jones County, Tex., served as pastor of the Hi-Way Baptist Church in Mesa, Ariz., prior to his appointment. He attended Texas Technological College, Lubbock, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex.

Austin, a native Texan from Olton, attended Texas schools--Howard Payne College in Brownwood and Southwestern Seminary. For the past 17 years he was pastor of six churches.

Rigler, once a mission pastor in North Fork, Calif., is now a mountain missionary in Bijou, Calif. He studied at the University of Missouri, Columbia, and Southwestern Seminary. He is a graduate of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

Warren, born in Nacogdoches, Tex., was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Sausalito, Calif., previous to his appointment to Ukiah, Calif. He received degrees from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, and Golden Gate Seminary.

King becomes a mountain missionary to Hawaii, after serving as a pastoral missionary in Ely, Nev. A native of Morgan Mill, Tex., he is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, and Southwestern Seminary.

Hazzard, a graduate of two Texas schools--The University of Corpus Christi, and Southwestern Seminary--is a native Texan from De Leon, where he has been the pastor of Comyn Baptist Church for the past three years.

Martin, a native of Dante, Va., attended Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, Ill., and Crozer Baptist Theological Seminary in Chester, Pa. For the past ten years he was pastor of the Livonia Baptist Church, Livonia, Mich.

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Virginia Exceeds Goal

RICHMOND (BP)--For the second year in succession, the Baptist General Association of Virginia has surpassed its Cooperative Program goal. Total 1964 receipts for the state were \$3,710,969, on a goal of \$3,570,000, making an overage of \$140,969. Of this amount, 37 per cent went to the Southern Baptist Convention, according to state officials. The remaining 63 per cent stayed in the state for capital needs in Virginia's educational institutions.

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Ouachita Drops College
For University Title

1-22-65

ARCADELPHIA, Ark. (BP)--Ouachita Baptist College trustees have voted to change the name of the school here to Ouachita Baptist University.

Ralph A. Phelps, Ouachita president, said the change became effective when necessary legal documents were filed with the Arkansas secretary of state.

Ouachita was founded in 1886. It is the largest private college in the state in enrolment, with about 1,400 students, Phelps added.

"This matter had been under consideration by the administration, faculty, and trustees for several years. "The action was taken after a separate School of Nursing was established in Little Rock and after conferring with our consultant from the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools," Phelps said.

"With a graduate program and with two separate schools in different cities, we have the essential ingredients for a university and took the action as an essential step in a developing education program for the state of Arkansas," he continued.

In addition to offering a four-year degree program in nursing at Little Rock beginning next September, Ouachita has operated an extension center at Camden, Ark., since the fall of 1962. The graduate program, begun in 1959, offers master degrees in three areas--religion, study of American civilization and music education.

The trustees also voted to add a master degree in education next September.

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Baylor Dedicates Girls'
Dorm At Dallas Campus

1-22-65

DALLAS (BP)--Dedication ceremonies and open house for a new six-story women's dormitory for Baylor University's branch schools and colleges have been held here.

The \$1.3 million building was given to the Baptist school and Baylor University Medical Center by The Bass Foundation, Harry W. Bass and Harry Bass Jr., and Richard Bass, all of Dallas, as a memorial to the late Mrs. Wilma O. Bass.

The six-floor dormitory will house 246 students and includes a recreation room, concrete porch, shuffleboard, badminton and volleyball courts, and a 25x40 foot fanshapped swimming pool.

It will house women students from the Baylor School of Nursing, the Caruth School of Dental Hygiene, Baylor College of Dentistry, and students of various educational and training programs of Baylor University Medical Center.

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Houston College Dedicates
Library Named for Astronaut

HOUSTON (BP)--Capt. Theodore C. Freeman, an astronaut who was killed during a routine plane flight here, was honored post-humously here during dedication ceremonies of a new Houston Baptist College library named for the late astronaut.

Fellow-astronaut David Scott paid tribute to Capt. Freeman, and to the Baptist school which named the library The Theodore C. Freeman Memorial Library of Astronautics in his honor. The library will contain selected volumes on aerospace and related fields.

Capt. Freeman was killed in a plane crash last October near Ellington Field in Houston while on a routine flight.

His 10-year-old daughter, Faith Huntington Freeman, was presented a scholarship to the Baptist school by president William H. Hinton during the dedication ceremonies.

Hinton also read a telegram from President Lyndon B. Johnson praising Freeman and congratulating the college for establishing the library in the astronaut's honor.

Capt. Scott substituted on the program for Astronaut Gordon Cooper who was scheduled to speak, but unable to attend.

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Urban Fringe Study Finds
Church "Friction Stage"

1-22-65

ATLANTA (BP)--A seminary-directed research project which studies the church in the rural-urban fringe reports a "friction stage" in the development of churches.

According to the report, the friction resulted in a clash between the culture of old established residents of a small community with noticeably rural characteristics and the culture of newcomers who are predominately urban in culture and outlook.

Carl A. Clark of Fort Worth reported the project findings to the annual meeting here of the Southern Baptist long range rural church committee.

Clark, professor of pastoral ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, directed the study as a joint project of the seminary and the Urban-Rural Department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The project studied 100 churches in urban fringe areas to determine the effect of the mass influx of new families.

Clark, a recognized authority in rural church matters, led students to gather information by interview and by questionnaire.

Some friction in urban-rural churches, coming with a rapid influx of people, was called normal. The type of cultural pattern in the old community seemed to determine the degree.

The more wealthy and class conscious the "old-timers", the more likely they were to resent the "installment buying" of the newcomers. The friction was less if both groups were of the same background.

The report found if the growth of an area or a church is slow and the "old-timers" have time to see what is happening, they often plan to combat it.

But if the growth is rapid, there is less friction because the older residents become a minority before they realize what has happened.

The "friction stage" cited by the report appeared to be a key to the growth of the church.

Churches with friction while making the transition from a rural to an urban community reported poorer ratios of membership to baptisms and to growth through additions from other churches.

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Churches could avoid friction, the study found, by preparing the church for the influx of new people.

"None of the churches made specific plans to enlarge their program when the subdivision was being built," the report indicates. "Therefore, they were not ready for rapid growth."

Contrary to some popular opinions, and even the opinion of some pastors of churches studied, these rapidly growing rural-urban fringe churches are not growing as fast as the communities.

The basic fault pointed out by the study was the churches failed to plan long range and build in units that can be added to later.

New churches established in the rural-urban fringe area did not report hardships in transition, and thus show better growth records.

The report found other problems for the rural urban fringe church, including lack of sufficient leadership, inadequate finances, the impersonal nature of the church.

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Cooperative Program
Observes 40th Year

1-22-65

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention voted here to make the 40th anniversary of the Cooperative Program a major part of its activity in 1965.

The Cooperative Program, a joint state Baptist-Southern Baptist Convention unified budget plan to support a wide range of denominational work, was adopted by the 1925 Southern Baptist Convention in Memphis.

When the Stewardship Commission makes its annual report to the forthcoming SBC session in Dallas, emphasis will be placed on this being the 40th anniversary year.

The 40th anniversary will also be part of the emphasis during Cooperative Program Month observed next October.

The Commission also endorsed the "Tithe. . .Now" campaign. The goal of this campaign is to enlist more tithers, that is, people giving at least 10 per cent of their earnings to the local church.

The officers of the commission were reelected. W. C. Ribble of Albuquerque, executive secretary, New Mexico Baptist Foundation, is chairman. Preston H. Callison, Columbia, S. C., layman, is vice-chairman and William H. Pitt of Nashville is recording secretary.

Merrill D. Moore of Nashville is Executive Director under commission employment.

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Seminary Choir Tours

1-22-65

FORT WORTH (BP)--The spring concert tour of the Southwestern Singers from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here will take them 3,000 miles through five states.

The 50-voice concert group will sing in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Dates for the tour are March 12-22.

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Waters Asks Home Board
For Early Retirement

ATLANTA (BP)--Leland H. Waters of Atlanta, executive assistant at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, asked the agency for early retirement because of poor health.

Waters, 62, suffered a stroke two years ago and has been under periodic doctor's care since then.

Board president William A. Duncan of Atlanta said the resignation, effective Feb. 1, was accepted with regret and his salary paid through the first quarter of this year.

Waters, a native of Statesboro, Ga., came to the mission agency in 1953 to develop a ministry to juvenile delinquents and broken homes. At the time he was superintendent of missions for the Richmond Baptist Council in Virginia.

As an executive assistant, Waters has worked in the area of investments, wills, and bond purchases with the board.

He was educated at Massey Business College in Richmond, the University of Richmond, and at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Waters responded to the call to the ministry after a business career which included newspaper, selling, and tourist service.

He was pastor of the Hopeful and North Run Baptist Churches in Dover Association, Va.

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Oklahoma Lay Baptist
Leader Mashburn Dies

1-22-65

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--E. V. Mashburn, widely-known Oklahoma Baptist leader, died Jan. 15 in an Oklahoma City hospital which he had helped to build. He was 79.

Mashburn, an insurance executive here, had been hospitalized for a week after suffering a stroke.

A native of Bloomer, Ark., Mashburn was founder and president of the Baptist Layman's Corp. which sold bonds to finance construction of the Doctor's Medical Building adjacent to Baptist Memorial Hospital here.

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Bush Named Alabama
Sunday School Head

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--A Southern Baptist Sunday School Board field worker, Ellis Bush, returns Feb. 1 to his home state here to assume the top Sunday School post in the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Bush, coordinator of field services for the SBC Sunday School Board's Family Life Department, has been elected Sunday School secretary in Alabama, announced state Baptist executive secretary George E. Bagley.

Bush was a Baptist pastor in Alabama, Indiana, and Kentucky before joining the Sunday School Department of the SBC Sunday School Board in 1956 as editor of materials for young people. He is a graduate of Howard College (Baptist) in Birmingham, Ala., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

A native of Alabama, Bush is the son of the late W. M. Bush Sr., pastor in Alabama for many years, for whom the Bush Memorial Baptist Church in Troy, Ala., was named.

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Mission Forces Request
70 US-2 Volunteers

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist mission forces have requested 70 US-2 volunteers for two-year terms in Puerto Rico, Panama, and most states in the United States, including Hawaii.

Nathan Porter of Atlanta, associate secretary of the personnel department of the Home Mission Board, released the figures.

He said 25 of the requests will be filled this summer by the first group of US-2 candidates to be appointed by the mission agency. An additional 25 will be added each year.

The US-2 ministry, newly-launched by the Home Mission Board, offers two-year mission duty to college graduates, and is designed to keep 50 students at work continuously by appointing 25 each year. US-2 is designed for the layman, not just the mission volunteer, Porter said.

Requests for the college graduates included nurses, religious education workers, director of an assembly, pastors, a juvenile rehabilitation director, and language-trained volunteers.

"US-2 volunteers will meet critical, immediate needs in missionary personnel," Porter said. "They will work with missionaries or take the place of missionaries on leave or in language school."

Explaining some of the requests, Porter cited Panama's need for two workers, a nurse in the new Baptist medical clinic at Ailigandi, a San Blas island, and a manager for the Cresta Del Mar Encampment on the Pacific Ocean in Western Panama.

Hawaii workers asked for three volunteers to serve as mission pastors, or pastor of a church on Kamuela, Lahaina, and Lanai City.

A circuit-riding missionary was asked for the mountains of Kentucky, and an associational education director for eastern Indiana.

New York and Chicago both want religious education workers to assist with Polish and Spanish churches and missions.

Puerto Rico, a new mission field for Southern Baptists, asks for someone speaking Spanish who would assist in starting new mission work.

Others want a juvenile rehabilitation worker in Oklahoma, a youth and recreation director for a mission center in Albuquerque, and a nurse for Sellers Baptist Home and Adoption Center in New Orleans.

Additional requests ask for a social worker at Johanning Center in Washington, and another social worker for the Baptist Rescue Mission in New Orleans.

Deadline for applications is Feb. 15. Porter said appointees for US-2 must undergo standard screening procedures; be a college graduate, not older than 27, and in good health.

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Southwestern President,
Prof Compose Cantata

1-22-65

FORT WORTH (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Robert Naylor and professor Talmage W. (Jack) Dean have combined talents to write a choral cantata.

President Naylor and Dean, professor of theory and chairman of graduate studies for the seminary's School of Church Music, have written the cantata "Proclaim the Word" for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department.

Naylor selected the scripture passages, outlining them in sermon fashion, and Dean composed the music around the verses.

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Baptist Press

Colson Lectures at Southwestern

FORT WORTH (BP)--Howard P. Colson, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's editorial services section, will present the annual guest lecturers at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

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Missouri Baptists Release
Booklet on Mentally Retarded

1-22-65

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--The Missouri Baptist Convention's office of special ministries has produced a new publication as part of an intensified ministry to the mentally retarded.

The 30-page booklet, entitled "A Church's Ministry to the Mentally Retarded," is an effort to assist Baptist churches in a ministry to both the "severely retarded" in church and the "profoundly retarded" and their families at home.

The booklet offers a general discussion of mental retardation, the responsibilities of the churches, and presents a program for the local church in its ministry to retarded persons.

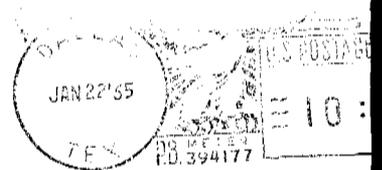
It was compiled by a group of six experienced persons called the "task force for formulating the program" (to the mentally retarded). Editor is Mrs. Robert Eberling Jr., of the State Training Center for Mentally Retarded Children, St. Joseph, Mo.

Free copies of the booklet are available from the state convention's office of special ministries, 211 Adams, Jefferson City, Mo.

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