

BAPTIST FEATURES

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W. C. Fields, *Director*
Theo Sommerkamp, *Assistant Director*

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(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is another in the Baptist Press feature series on executives of SBC agencies and related organizations.)

Hike Important To Son
Of Busy SBC Leader

By Bill Boyd
For Baptist Press

"Mother, is Daddy going to be sick any time soon?" asked a pre-teen age son.

"I have no idea. Why would you ask such a question?" answered the suprised mother.

"I just wanted to talk to him about something, and I thought if he got sick I would get the chance."

He was probably thinking, too, "It's time daddy took me for another hike." He'd come to look forward to these hikes. They were a big event now that he was an old enough fellow to go hiking with dad. Once in a while, they even camped out overnight together.

He and daddy talked things over as they walked. They tried to identify insects that flitted by or lighted on flowers. They listened for the songs of familiar birds. Sometimes the talk of woods gave way to the serious "why?" of a Junior-age boy with problems he was sure daddy had the answers to.

That night, after he'd kissed his son good night and knew he was sleeping, daddy learned from mother the childhood conversation of the day.

Daddy realized then a busy pastor's life can't be too busy for time with his own boy. They soon planned a hike. "I knew if I didn't have time for my own son to talk to me, then I was too busy," the pastor confided.

It was a lesson in the stewardship of time to a man who preached ~~and~~ practiced the stewardship of money, the pastor acknowledged later. "Good use of time is good stewardship," he noted. "Time spent with those you love is never wasted."

The father and minister, who later took an executive position with the denomination, has retained his interest in camping. His son grown, through college and medical school and now a missionary doctor, this denominational leader today is accompanied by his wife on camping trips.

This man who now has the responsibility of directing the nationwide stewardship promotion of Southern Baptists likes to go as far back in the mountains of east Tennessee as he and his wife, Lorena, can drive. There they select a campsite. He learned about east Tennessee when a pastor there.

"I love to get out in the woods, pitch our tent and quietly enjoy God's world," says Merrill D. Moore, who is executive director of the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Of course, Lorena enjoys it, too, especially since it is one time I will get up before she does and cook breakfast."

Camping time is a time of closeness to God for Merrill D. Moore. "I find that in such surroundings as these I truly feel God's presence and seek his counsel," he comments.

Camping trips have lighter moments. Moore recalls an instance when he and a friend who lived in the area were rabbit hunting near their camp site.

"In the kind of old clothes that best fit such an occasion, and with our guns in our hands, we came around an abandoned mountain cabin, very near a cove in a large lake," he recalls.

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"There were two fishermen dressed as if they were from non-country surroundings. Judging from their actions they thought we were two rough mountaineers coming from the shabby cabin behind us with guns in hand.

"One of the men looked in alarm to his friend and they quickly started their outboard and zoomed across the lake to 'safety' away from us rough-looking characters," Moore chuckles. "I have often wondered what tale of near danger they told their friends on the other side."

Time to camp out is still scarce to the stewardship director. He travels 50,000 miles a year in official contacts. This includes most of the U. S. and occasional visits to other countries.

As stewardship leader of Southern Baptists for over a dozen years--first with the SBC Executive Committee before the Stewardship Commission was born--Moore has helped develop the Forward Program of Christian Stewardship used in many of 33,500 Southern Baptist churches to pledge their annual budgets.

His leadership is felt in three areas of Southern Baptist work. His office directs the Cooperative Program promotion--the program of support for all the missionary and benevolent work of Southern Baptists, stewardship development and endowment and capital giving promotion.

Moore shares any credit that might come the way of his department with those on his staff. They have offices in Nashville.

"When I accepted the task of organizing the Stewardship Commission in 1960 I was determined to pick good men and I was then determined to get out of their way so they could work," says Moore. "God has been good in leading us to outstanding men for the staff of the commission."

"I at least understand that good administration is not possible without real delegation of responsibility."

There is no doubt that his plans have worked, as Southern Baptists gave more in 1964 than ever before in the history of America's largest non-Catholic denomination.

What is Moore's philosophy about stewardship?

"Stewardship must not be equated with the tithe, but with total commitment," he replies. "Commitment to the principle of the tithe is one of the early way-stations on the road to the stewardship of all of life."

Missions and missionaries have always been close to the heart of Merrill D. Moore. His brother, John Allen Moore, was appointed a Southern Baptist missionary to Yugoslavia, but is now on the faculty of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

An aunt, Miss Selma Maxville, was a missionary for 30 years in Burma.

His son--the boy who wanted to see more of his daddy--has been appointed a missionary surgeon to Gaza. Merrill Jr. and his wife, Patricia, were to sail for their post in the Near East in September, 1965.

Merrill Jr.'s interest in missions was almost certainly heightened by a trip with his father to South America to see missions fields there when the younger Moore was a teenager.

The stewardship director for Southern Baptists was born in Senatobia, Miss., Nov. 14, 1904. He received his bachelor's degree at Mississippi College (Baptist), Clinton, and his master of theology degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He has served as pastor of the First Baptist Church, Selma, Ala., First Baptist Church, Newport, Tenn., and the Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville. Moore was also for a time president of Tennessee College for Women, Murfreesboro, Tenn., a Baptist school now closed.

Mrs. Moore is the former Lorena Smith, of Sidon, Miss. Merrill, Jr. is their only child.

"However, we are most proud of our favorite granddaughter. She is the cutest, liveliest and most loveable grandchild we have." In fact, she is presently the only grandchild in the Moore family.

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460 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

DR. DAVIS C. WOOLLEY HO
HISTORICAL COMM
127 NINTH AVE N
NASHVILLE TENN 37203

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE

CUTLINES

August 21, 1965

Baptist Press Photo

CAMPER--As a young pastor in east Tennessee, Merrill D. Moore acquired a love for camping out in the quiet areas near the Smoky Mountains. Though over 200 miles farther away now in Nashville, the executive director of the SBC Stewardship Commission still is a camper. Here, he gets ready to pack gear for a trip with Mrs. Moore to east Tennessee.
(BP) Photo by Theo Sommerkamp

(This picture is for use with feature by Bill Boyd mailed separately.)

August 21, 1965

Alaska Told Youth
Work Unchallenging

COLLEGE, Alaska (BP)--Meeting at the University of Alaska campus here, messengers to the Alaska Baptist Convention (Southern Baptist) were told they have been "failing to challenge young people and...compete for their time and energy."

The reminder was from their outgoing president, a layman, James Whisenant of College, a public school athletic coach.

Whisenant, the first layman president of the state Baptist group, added the convention--"the largest Protestant denomination in the state"--has "done pretty well at reaching Primaries and Adults" while failing to get through to young people.

He criticized the negative approach in young people's work, giving them a list of "don't do" rather than offering them "positive understanding."

In a partial response to his message, the convention voted to seek ways to secure a full-time minister to serve the University of Alaska campus.

Other action of the Alaska Baptist Convention included the adoption of a 1966 Cooperative Program budget of \$67,348. 28 per cent of it goes to national and world missions through the Southern Baptist Convention.

The total budget for the coming year is \$176,863, counting supplements from two SBC agencies for jointly promoted church educational and state mission work.

The convention also opposed any more liberal view of gambling and liquor traffic by state lawmakers and enforcement officers. It urged expanded literacy missions.

John Canning, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Anchorage, was elected president for the coming year. Leo Josey, pastor, Greater Friendship Baptist Church, Anchorage, was chosen second vice-president.

Josey, though not the first Negro elected to a state convention office, is the first Negro pastor in the SBC whose church has received pastoral aid from the denomination's Home Mission Board.

A special convention committee will spend the coming year studying Baptist work in social welfare. The action superseded a move to make improvements to the convention-operated children's home. It meant there is a possibility child care work will be altered in scope.

Muldoon Road Baptist Church, Anchorage, will be host to the 1966 convention on Aug. 16-18. The Alaska convention is the earliest to meet each year of the 30 Baptist state conventions affiliated nationally with the Southern Baptist Convention.

A few state conventions will meet in October, while most will meet in mid-November.

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War On Gambling, Crime
Urged At Conference

8-21-65

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--Gambling is a moral evil that poses a sinister threat to America and should be rooted out of the country's social structure, conference speakers at Glorieta Baptist Assembly said.

During a conference on gambling sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, gambling was described as being connected with organized crime and the social evils that accompany it.

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Speaker after speaker, most of them ethics professors at Southern Baptist seminaries, urged Christian people and the denomination's churches to become concerned about the threat of gambling and to do something about it.

The conference closed with presentation of a detailed strategy outlining how Southern Baptists can and should take the lead in eliminating the evil of gambling from society.

From the very beginning, gambling was pictured as a "sinister threat to the nation's economic and moral fibre."

The secretary of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, Jimmy R. Allen of Dallas, said in the opening address, however, that most church members and sportsmen just don't realize how dangerous gambling is.

"Testimony before investigating groups indicates that illegal gambling is the major source of income for syndicated crime," Allen charged.

In a later address, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Professor H. Clayton Waddell called illegal gambling "the gold mine of the underworld."

"Men and women who place a two-dollar bet with the corner bookies are unaware they are sponsoring the nation's narcotics traffic, prostitution, bootlegging, gang murders, labor union racketeering, corruption of law enforcement officers, and bribery of college athletes," he said.

Thomas A. Bland, Christian ethics professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N. C., said more than \$50 billion is gambled away every year, twice the amount spent on medical care in the entire nation.

Bland said the \$10 billion profit that goes to professional gamblers is twice the total expenditure for all religious and welfare work, twice the amount spent for all private education and research, and 20 per cent more than the combined net profits of the 100 largest manufacturing concerns in the country.

Several conference speakers called for an all-out war on both legal and illegal gambling, arguing that legalized gambling is not the answer to the problems created by illegal gambling.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Professor G. Willis Bennett of Louisville, Ky., said whenever gambling is legalized, the volume of illegal gambling increases. When this happens, there are also increases in drunkenness, vagrancy, prostitution, lewdness, disorderly conduct, and especially embezzlement and petty theft to cover up gambling losses.

"Thus law enforcement costs go up in areas where gambling is legalized, but the crime rate still increases," he said.

Another argument against gambling was presented by Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Professor John C. Howell of Kansas City, who said gambling creates tensions in the home and causes more divorces than most people realize. It can also cause psychological and emotional problems for children in the family, he said.

Southern Seminary Professor Nolan P. Howington of Louisville said the Bible nowhere says "Thou shalt not gamble" and has very little to say about gambling per se. "But running throughout the New Testament is a structure of moral thought that condemns gambling on count after count," he said.

He added the Bible condemns stealing and dishonesty associated with gambling, commands that men should work for their support, supports more practical use of money, condemns materialism and teaches love for others which does not permit gambling that mistreats and exploits others.

A plea for Christians to demonstrate this love by helping people who gamble, was issued by Henlee H. Barnette, another Southern Seminary professor.

Barnette urged churches to establish a program of pastoral counseling and education on gambling, and suggested that churches allow the organization known as "Gamblers Anonymous" to meet in their buildings.

C. W. Scudder, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, said the compulsive gambler is a sick person with serious emotional and psychological problems. "They need the help of the church," he said.

Most compulsive gamblers start just like everyone who gambles--they are seeking thrills, excitement and fun. But others find an escape from the reality of their emotional problems in gambling, he added.

The church should not only help minister to people who gamble, it should also lead a nationwide campaign to eliminate both the desire to gamble and the opportunity to gamble, said Bill Pinson, also of Southwestern Seminary's faculty.

Christian Life Commission Executive Secretary Foy Valentine, Nashville, remarked the conference had issued a challenge to Southern Baptists to rid society of "this degrading, evil system" of gambling.

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Hurt To Florida, More
Panama Changes Made

8-21-65

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here asked the dean of its Theological Institute in Panama to become its first general missionary to language groups in Florida.

Hubert O. Hurt, a native of Louisville, Miss., and a former missionary to Cuba, was to take the position effective Sept. 1, leaving the Panama work at Arraijan where he has been since 1961.

At the same time, the mission agency announced other changes of personnel for the Republic of Panama. Wendall Parker of Santa Clara, an area missionary and encampment director, moved to the Panama City area. The Parkers and their daughter will live in the Canal Zone.

The Parkers, who have been in Panama since 1957, will continue to work with the Spanish-speaking people of the Republic in an evangelistic ministry.

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Treadwell, missionaries at the Friendship Center of Albuquerque, N. M., moved to the Canal Zone, where he will be pastor of the Cocoli Baptist Church. The Treadwells have four children.

The Cocoli Church serves military and other Canal Zone personnel from the United States, but the church sponsors a number of missions among the Spanish-speaking within the Republic.

The Treadwells, both natives of Texas, served as missionaries to Brazil for eight years. He was an associational missionary in New Mexico for two years.

In Florida, the Hurts, who have two children, will work with the many language groups of the state. Southern Baptists now have extensive work with the Spanish-speaking, many of them Cuban refugees. Other work is with Italians, Russians, Polish, Chinese and Seminole Indians.

Hurt will assume some of the work of Robert Fricke, now appointed a missionary in Mexico, and former director of Spanish work for the Miami Baptist Association in Florida.

However, he will serve with all of the state's associations which have language missions needs and opportunities.

"Hurt's extensive missions experience will enable him to lead in discovering needs and opportunities, and in meeting these needs by enlisting the churches to witness through classes or other organizational units," said Loyd Corder of Atlanta, secretary of the language missions department for the board.

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Milton S. Leach Sr.,
Home Missionary, Dies

KINGSVILLE, Tex. (BP)--Milton S. Leach Sr., 60, pioneer missionary to the Spanish-speaking people of New Mexico, Arizona and Texas, died here Aug. 12.

Funeral services were held Aug. 16 at the First Baptist Church in Kingsville. Loyd Corjer, secretary of the department of language missions for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, officiated.

Leach is survived by his wife and four children--Milton Leach Jr. of Puerto Rico, Charles Seth Leach of Chicago, Dorothy Marie Athinson of Antigua, West Indies, and Mrs. Norvel (Hattie) Welch of Brazil.

Leach, born in Weatherford, Tex., was an orphan at 2, when his mother and father both died. He was reared in Buckner Baptist Children's Home, Dallas, where he was converted at the age of 11. When 17 he entered the ministry.

He attended Wayland College (Baptist), Plainview, Tex.; Howard Payne College (Baptist), Brownwood, Tex.; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

He began his work with the Spanish-speaking in 1939. During two of his pastorates of Anglo-American churches, he won and baptized more Latin people than Anglos. In 1944 he was appointed by the Home Mission Board to serve with the Latin Americans of the Blanco Association with headquarters in Beeville, Tex.

From Beeville he went to New Mexico in 1950 to serve as promotional secretary of the Spanish-American Baptist Convention of New Mexico. In this work he was supported by the mission agency and the Baptists of New Mexico.

Still holding this office, Leach assumed new responsibilities as coordinator of Spanish mission work in Arizona and New Mexico. In this enlarged work, Leach was jointly supported by the direct missions department of the Home Mission Board and the state mission boards of New Mexico and Arizona. Later he served as coordinator of all language mission work in New Mexico.

Six years later, Leach became pastor of the Mexican Baptist Church in Kingsville. He held this post until this year, when he became the associate pastor to the Spanish-speaking people of the First Baptist Church in Harlingen, Tex.

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News Bureau Director

8-21-65

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP)--Robert L. Cox, news writer in the office of public information at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, is becoming news bureau director and assistant in publications at Oklahoma Baptist University here.

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