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Retirement--A Missing Word
In Willard Weeks' Vocabulary

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Retirement for "Dad" Weeks, manager of Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly means more time for community and church involvement.

Willard K. Weeks is retiring after 17 years of service with the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention--which has often constrained him to a life of "second-mile" Christianity.

With the 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians as his covenant, and undergirded by the thousands of Baptists around the world who lovingly and sincerely call him "Dad," he goes about plans for "retirement" as enthusiastically as he pursues his work.

"'Dad' is just a one job man," says Mrs. Weeks. "When he finishes his job here at Ridgecrest, then he'll plan something else." "Retirement" in the usual sense just is not in Weeks' vocabulary.

The little valley of Black Mountain won't lose the Weeks family this fall, for they will remain there and receive the many visits of former assembly staffers in their home designed and furnished by him for the retirement years.

The Ridgecrest manager has been a summer father to almost 7,000 summer staff members since 1950. The staff of 1951 tagged him "Dad" and Mrs. Zelma Weeks, "Mom."

The couple place the hundreds of cards and letters they get from former staff members on Father's and Mother's Days on a dresser mirror in their room "just so we can remember them and enjoy them a little longer."

"We make it a point to answer every letter," says Weeks. "We might not say much, but we do say something."

"What makes the assembly is the people," says Mrs. Weeks. "When nobody is here, it's just a bunch of buildings."

Staffers remember Weeks as the kind of man who eats breakfast with them at 6:45 in the staff dining hall, although he never has to. He could eat at home or with the assembly guests at 7:30.

As one staffer recalls, "'Dad' is always there, if for no other reason than to give reassurance that a calm hand is at the helm and that this day is just as important as the one before."

Weeks makes a point to tell staffers that his home is always open to them. Whether or not a staffer ever visits them, he knows he can always discuss his problems or joys with 'Dad' and 'Mom' Weeks.

Weeks is never without a pocketful of candy or a full candy dish on his desk. One staffer says, "I think giving this candy is a symbolic gesture of his unending desire to give of himself to others." Even those who haven't been staffers for many years aren't surprised when Weeks slips them a piece of candy when they meet.

Born in Clinton, Mass., Weeks formed a partnership with his father as building contractors in the firm of W. E. Weeks and Son of St. Petersburg, Fla., for 16 years. While in Florida, Weeks served 16 years as pastor's assistant, financial secretary, and educational director in two churches--First Baptist Church, St. Petersburg, and Main Street Baptist Church, Jacksonville.

He came to Ridgecrest from Houston, where he was assistant to the pastor of Second Baptist Church for six years and president of the Texas Baptist encampment at Palacios.

Credit for construction supervision of all buildings since 1950 goes to Weeks. Under Weeks' direction, Ridgecrest has grown from 1,200 to 2,000 acres. The annual attendance has increased by 15,000 and the value of the properties has been multiplied over four times.

A trustee of the North Carolina Symphony, he is also president of the Black Mountain Lion's Club.

The people of Black Mountain are not surprised that the couple are staying there. "After all," as Weeks puts it, "when you live in a community for 17 years, it kind of becomes a part of you, and you become a part of it."



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California Baptist Paper
Urges Decision on Vietnam

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--An editorial in the California Southern Baptist suggested three key steps for deciding whether to continue the war in Vietnam, and said if these steps are not taken, the United States ought to get out of Vietnam now.

"Let Congress make a decision, let Thieu and Ky take the Vietnamese case to the U.N., and let the President tell the people exactly what is happening and where we are," said the editorial.

"Otherwise, let's get out of Vietnam, now," declared Editor Terry Young in his lead editorial on Sept. 14.

The California Southern Baptist is the second Baptist state paper in recent weeks suggesting the possibility of a United States pullout in Vietnam. The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine made a similar proposal earlier.

In the past, the Southern Baptist General Convention of California has supported the U.S. policy in Vietnam. In November of 1966 the convention adopted a resolution urging Baptists to pray for the servicemen, and criticizing those who "have taken it upon themselves to destroy the traditional pride and support of our nation and its government."

The editorial said that the conscience of Americans is increasingly uneasy over our involvement in Vietnam, and some are deeply troubled about the morality of our being involved at all.

"We have no easy solution to offer," the editorial said. "We plead neither hawk nor dove for we do not believe that all of the truth about something as complex as the issues surrounding Vietnam can be put into a neat little capsule on one side or the other."

The editorial offered three basic steps necessary to clarify United States involvement and bring about a settlement.

"Apart from these steps being taken, we can see no justification for our continued involvement in Vietnam," the editorial said.

As the first step, Congress should debate the U.S. involvement in Vietnam, and the moral question of whether or not we should be involved in Vietnam.

"We must not continue to wage a full scale but undeclared war," the editorial said. "We doubt that the Tonkin Gulf Resolution voted by Congress is sufficient ground for our present action in Vietnam.

"If we are to continue action in Vietnam, let Congress make a formal declaration of war or take some similar but equally clear stand. If Congress will not so decide, then let's get out of Vietnam," the editorial added.

The second proposal was for the Vietnamese government to take its case to the United Nations.

"The third step is for the administration in Washington to tell the people what is happening in Vietnam," Young wrote.

He added that "many, many of us are deeply disturbed because we do not really know what is happening in Vietnam and have no way of assessing the accuracy of the information that is given to us occasionally.

"We have lived under the shadow of the credibility gap so long that none of us is sure what can be believed."

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The editorial also asked some "practical questions" about the U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Included were such questions as:

"What have we accomplished thus far in Vietnam, and what can we hope to accomplish by continued action? What will it take to bring about military victory or a negotiated settlement? In the light of what we are accomplishing in Vietnam, can we afford the continued neglect of urgently-pressing problems in our own land such as the crises in our cities and the runaway crime rate?"

"These and similar questions must be faced by Congress and a decision made," the editorial said.

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Austin Named To Post
At Southern Seminary

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LOUISVILLE (BP)--James C. Austin, who recently resigned as secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, has accepted a position at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as associate director of the Billy Graham Chair of Evangelism endowment campaign.

Austin will assist the seminary in raising \$500,000 to endow the evangelism professorship now held by Kenneth L. Chafin.

He formerly served at the seminary as an assistant to the president. He went from the seminary to the Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission in Nashville and from there to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation post.

At the seminary, Austin will work with Paul Kirkland, executive director of the Southern Seminary Foundation, as a field representative in the area of special gifts.

Austin's appointment by Seminary President Duke K. McCall is effective Sept. 15. His resignation from the Foundation was effective at the end of the fiscal year, Aug. 31, but he is serving in an advisory capacity until work in process at the foundation is completed.

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Humphrey Urges Whites,
Blacks, "Work Together"

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DENVER (BP)--Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, speaking at the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., called for whites and blacks to continue to work together to solve the nation's civil rights problems.

"We cannot fall into the trap of the extremists, black or white, who want to force us into a dual society based on race--who deny the Christian tenets of human dignity, brotherhood of man, love of one's neighbor," Humphrey declared.

Humphrey had harsh words for black militants who "would retreat into a never-never land of hot, black anger."

He had high praise, however, for Joseph H. Jackson, president of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., for his leadership in race relations.

A group of Negro ministers and delegates to the convention, meanwhile, lashed out at what they called Jackson's one-man rule of the convention.

Claiming to speak for thousands of delegates to the convention here and Negro Baptists across the nation, the dissident members said they did not want the public to think that Jackson's conservative views on racial matters are the views of America's Negroes.

The group, headed by Timothy Mitchell of New York and L. K. Curry of Ogden, Utah, said that anybody with views differing from Jackson's administration is not given a chance to be heard at the convention.

"We tried to use the machinery of the convention to be heard, but with no luck," Curry told the Rocky Mountain Baptist. "I tried to offer a substitute motion during the election of officers, but I was ruled out of order."

Their chief complaint is that Jackson has attacked militant and radical approaches to gaining equal rights for Negroes and has attacked persons who lead these militant activities, including demonstrations and other non-violent forms of protest.

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They said Jackson has led the convention against people who have won many rights for Negroes, especially Nobel Peace Prize Winner Martin Luther King.

Jackson, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church in Chicago, was however re-elected to his 15th term as president of the 6 million-member convention.

In his presidential address, Jackson told the convention that the nation must not tolerate Negroes or white people who would seek to disrupt the nation without due regard to their fellow Americans and the nation as a whole.

Jackson said that Negroes should insist on getting their civil rights--but in a manner according to law and order.

In a press conference, he observed that Negroes are not following the advocates of the Black Power movement, which he said is being kept alive by publicity in the mass media.

"If Black Power had to live in the Negro community, it would die in a week," he declared. He accused Black Power leaders of using riots to further their own cause rather than the cause of the Negro people.

"We should reject such leaders as unsound and unsafe in a government that is of the people, by the people and for the people," he declared.

On the subject of Vietnam, Jackson told the convention that Americans should support President Lyndon B. Johnson's efforts to bring the war to the conference table, and said that those who blame Johnson for the conflict are "unfair, unpatriotic, and unreasonable."

More than 20,000 delegates attended the 87th annual session of the convention here.

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National Church Bond Group
Holds Its First Convention

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ST LOUIS (BP)--A national organization of church bond and financing firms organized with the help of Southern Baptists held its first annual convention here, voting to establish liaison with religious denominational leaders, regulatory agencies, and security trade associations.

The newly-formed group, known as the National Association of Church and Institutional Financing Organizations, was established in June with the assistance of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission, which has no official connection with the group, but offered to invite the firms to the initial meeting.

The first convention here attracted about 30 firms, with about 45 participants in the two-day sessions.

In major action, the organization voted to establish liaison with religious denominations, regulatory agencies, and security trade associations.

"For the organization to be effective," said K. G. Marsden, chairman of the group, "we must seek the cooperation of these key groups" in establishing standards of conduct in the industry.

"Members of the organization believe that religious denominations will find it advantageous to deal with firms who belong to the association and who subscribe to its code of fair practice," Marsden said.

In addition to religious denominations, the organization would have liaison with the securities commissioners of each state, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the National Association of Security Dealers, and other agencies involved in the securities field.

A key point in the organization's program will be the establishment of lending guidelines to aid both the investor and the borrower. The guidelines emphasize complete disclosure of all pertinent facts in ever loan or church bond.

Marsden, senior vice president of B. C. Ziegler and Co., in West Bend, Wisc., and chairman of the national organization's board of governors, said that the national group was long overdue and that it should generate "mutual advantages for the investor, the borrower, and of course, for the securities firm."

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