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460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

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REGIONAL OFFICES

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 161 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, Telephone (404) 523-2393
DALLAS Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

BUREAU

Restudy of Student Work
Requested by Baptist Board

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,
Telephone (615) 254-1631

NASHVILLE (BP)--The 64-member Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting here requested that a depth study of the program of student work be made to see if it is properly placed.

The request was made that the program committee of the SBC's Executive Committee conduct the study because of its objectivity.

State executive secretaries and student leaders asked the board to recommend this study to the SBC's Executive Committee. The request came following a joint meeting of the two groups called by James L. Sullivan, executive secretary-treasurer of the board in late December, 1967.

Sullivan said that there is a need for a definition of the program of student work. He said that student work has largely dealt with projects rather than a unified program.

"American college campuses will never be conquered by guerilla warfare," Sullivan said. "It must be done by mass blitzing---unified under one purpose."

The recommendation from the board's plans and policies committee requesting full board approval sounded a note of urgency.

Howard Reaves, chairman of this committee and pastor of First Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., told the board, "Campus needs are urgent. Some campus situations are turbulent. The study therefore takes on a degree of urgency lest additional time be lost. At the same time, due and deliberate consideration must be given before the launching of a new Convention-wide offensive in student work."

W. O. Thomason, assistant to W. L. Howse, director, education division, is serving as acting head of the student department pending the selection of a successor to David K. Alexander. Alexander's resignation will become effective after completing a study leave which began Feb. 1. He has served as the department head for six years.

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Baptist Board Income
Reaches \$32,711,000

2/1/68

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention had a 2.4 percent increase in sales over last year, according to James L. Sullivan, executive secretary-treasurer. Sullivan's report was given to the 64-member elected Sunday School Board meeting here.

Sales for the year totaled \$32,711,000, an increase of \$733,000 over the previous year's total, Sullivan reported.

The board's major income producing programs are the programs of church literature and book store operations.

The presentation of a new name for Training Union was delayed pending further study regarding the specific name to be recommended. The matter is now slated to be brought before the board when it meets in August, according to Philip B. Harris, secretary of the Training Union department.

Certificates for outstanding service were presented to nine members who are completing terms on the board. They were John L. Cottrell, Robert A. Mowrey and Henry F. Todd, Nashville; J. V. Case, Pikeville, Ky.; T. Earl Ogg, Monroe, La.; B. J. Martin, Pasadena, Tex.; E. J. Speegle, Casper, Wyo.; Leroy M. Snyder, Bethel, Kan., and E. W. Springs, Hammond, Ind.

Samuel E. Maddox, pastor of First Baptist Church, St. Joseph, Mo., is president of the board.

The next scheduled full board meeting will be Aug. 14-15 at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Assembly.

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Houston Baptist College
To Begin Nursing School

HOUSTON (BP)--Houston Baptist College has received a grant of \$667,635 from Houston Endowment, Inc., for the formation of a School of Nursing.

Spread over a four year period, the grant will fund Houston Baptist College's bachelor of science degree in nursing program, the first to be initiated in Texas in recent years, officials said.

Classes in the four year program will be held on the college campus and clinical courses will be held in the Memorial Baptist Hospital System in Houston.

Miss Glendola Nash, in charge of nursing education of the Memorial Baptist Hospital System, will join the college faculty March 1 as coordinator for the new division, according to W. H. Hinton, president of the college.

The hospital system consists of the nine-story downtown hospital and three satellite facilities located on major freeway routes in the Southwest, Northwest and Southeast sections of the city.

College officials anticipated that classes in nursing at the college will begin in September, 1968, pending approval by the State Board of Nursing Examiners.

Classes will include courses normally needed for the bachelor of science degree and will be taught by members of the college faculty.

Adding the necessary nursing faculty, renovation of some existing classrooms, nursing scholarships, increased library holdings to fortify the nursing curriculum and teaching aids are provided for in the terms of the grant.

"For several years, a study has been underway to utilize the educational resources of the college and the clinical facilities of the Memorial Baptist Hospital," said Stewart Morris, chairman of the college board of trustees.

The Lilly Jolly School of Nursing now being operated by the Memorial Hospital System will accept students through the fall of 1968. Plans call for the Lilly Jolly program to continue until those presently enrolled have completed their course of study.

"This grant by Houston Endowment Incorporated, the graduation of our first class last May, and an earlier grant from the Moody Foundation of Galveston for the construction of a new library building are all indications of a new awareness by community leaders of the contributions being made by Houston Baptist College," Hinton said.

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Texas Baptists Slate
Education Seminars

2/1/68

DALLAS (BP)--The Texas Baptist Christian Education Commission has endorsed seminars on higher education on state Baptist campuses during April and May.

William R. Carden, coordinator of institutional programs for the commission, recommended the study sessions and urged that Baptist Pastors and laymen be invited to attend a meeting in their part of the state.

Texas Baptist schools involved will include Baylor University, Waco; Dallas Baptist College, Dallas; East Texas Baptist College, Marshall; Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene; Howard Payne, Brownwood; Houston Baptist College, Houston; Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton; The University of Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi; and Wayland Baptist College, Plainview.

No specific dates were mentioned for the seminars, patterned in a similar fashion to the Baptist Education Study Task seminars conducted by Southern Baptists. Details will be worked out with the school administrators, Carden explained.

The recommendation for the study sessions came at a quarterly meeting of the commission.

Another highlight included a progress report on the proposed Associated Baptist Colleges of Texas.

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Woodson Armes, newly elected commission secretary, said that "two or three" boards of trustees of Texas Baptist schools have already approved the by-laws and organizational plans of the association and the remaining boards will consider the question at spring meetings.

Each board of trustees of the nine schools must okay the association's structure before the new organization comes into existence.

The association will attempt to secure funds from foundations and other sources for the schools for specific projects.

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J. D. Grey Elected
Crime Commission Head

2/1/68

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--The pastor of the First Baptist Church of New Orleans, J. D. Grey, has been elected president of the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans, Inc., an organization which Grey called "the watchdog of the community" on crime and corruption.

Grey, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, is the only minister ever elected as head of the Crime Commission, and is the only minister to serve on its executive committee.

The Metropolitan Crime Commission is a "non-partisan group of citizens voluntarily financed to improve law enforcement and the administration of justice through education and responsible action," Grey said.

In accepting the position, Grey said he did so "with a sense of mission . . . Believing in the objectives of the Metro Crime Commission, I feel that my service as president can give more force to the position I have taken on community matters for over 30 years in New Orleans as pastor of the First Baptist Church," Grey said in a statement to his church.

Asked what this position was, Grey replied, "I hit this town fighting crime and collusion between public officials and the underworld." He added that since the crime commission was founded, the situation has improved somewhat.

He repeatedly pointed out that the Crime Commission is non-political, and "we don't take stands on elections and things like that."

The former Southern Baptist Convention president observed that some Baptists might think churches and preachers "ought not to be bothered about" such things, "But I tell you, we need to hold up a high standard."

"If we don't do it, who is going to? The underworld forces will take over if we don't do it," he said.

"Every community needs somebody to serve as the watchdog in the community, and to constantly call to the attention of the public irregularities in the administration of public office," Grey said.

As president, Grey is responsible for appointing 15 members to the executive committee of the commission, which meets twice each month. The full commission of more than 100 members meets annually. Grey was elected president at the annual meeting.

The commission operates with a budget of \$72,950 raised through voluntary contributions of citizens. Aaron Kohn, a former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent, is the managing director.

Grey has been pastor of the 4,000-member church since 1937. Previously he was pastor of churches in Denton, Ennis, and Dallas, Tex. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and has been awarded an honorary degree by three Baptist schools. He was president of the SBC in 1951 and 1952.

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VISTA Director Says Church
Delinquent In Poverty Work

By Dallas Lee

LOUISVILLE (BP)--The church has not been a failure in ministering to the poor, but it has been delinquent, a Southern Baptist who heads the domestic Peace Corps program said here.

VISTA Director Bill Crook said that the church has forfeited its authority as teacher, and now must assume the role of listener and learner as it tries to reach back into the inner city.

Speaking before 160 Baptist ministers and mission leaders in a conference on problems of urban America at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, the former Southern Baptist pastor said:

"Christ himself is the greatest of experts on poverty and its attendant miseries.

"But since by spiritualizing Christ's utterances on poverty we have robbed his words of revolutionary impact, it now becomes necessary to follow those whom we should have led and seek reliable expertise outside the experience of the modern church," Crook said.

The War on Poverty leader said that federal concern for poverty probably grew out of the church's teaching on Christian ethics, but that the government had to step in and fill the void when the church did not take action.

He said the church is making "the beginning of a beginning" to meet the needs of the poverty-stricken inner city, but he warned:

"The forces of revolution are not likely to pause while the church catches up."

Crook said the church could effectively participate in government programs without compromising traditional Baptist tenets. "I am a strong advocate of separation of church and state," he said in a news conference, "but the use of a church building, for example, does not defy that principle.

"For situations where War on Poverty programs such as Head Start use church facilities, government guidelines are strict in regards to religious symbolism or evangelism," he said, adding that these guidelines are to protect separation of church and state.

"I am not advocating that the church enter into government," Crook said. "What I am saying is that the church is healthy and intelligent enough to have its own program."

Crook, former pastor of First Baptist Church in Nacogdoches, Tex., said that most Baptist churches in suburban areas have skilled laymen who could be used effectively in inner city areas, such as doctors, lawyers, and recreational specialists.

"The church needs to realize that its great resource is in people, not money," he observed. The government would be able to pull out of some poverty areas if the churches would effectively use their resources.

"Enough energy and resources are expended in one sweetheart banquet to move six families out of poverty permanently," he declared.

Crook said that attempts to remedy poverty since the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 have uncovered insights about the poor that "have caused great trauma in the land, and still most of them are rejected."

"For example, exploitation in the slums is a fact---a fact in which the church itself is too often participant.

"Economic resources do not remain in the slums. The man who owns the pawn shop, the landlord with tenements, the loan shark, all live in the suburbs, as do most pastors of slum churches and missions."

Another factor which is hard for middle-class America to accept is that poverty, like wealth, is inherited, Crook observed. "The slums, which once were migratory paths to opportunity, a place where immigrants lived for a while and then moved on, have now become traps," he said.

Another factor Crook spelled out was that present welfare systems are inadequate, and in many cases, oppressive because they sabotage motivation.

"If I have learned anything in my personal experiences with the Office of Economic Opportunity, I have learned beyond any doubt that most people prefer work to welfare, and dignity of the pay check to the degradation of the hand-out."

He said the churches need to understand this in their efforts to communicate with the poor, since condescension in any form will repel instead of attract the poor today.

The VISTA director added that the poverty program's emphasis on maximum participation of the poor in community programs has brought personal dignity in many cases for the first time to poor people who finally were able to voice their opinions and their dissent.

Crook, who was president of San Marcos Baptist Academy in San Marcos, Tex., before entering War on Poverty work, said the church needs to approach the poor humbly and be willing to re-evaluate its criteria for success.