



February 6, 1968

North Carolina Man Pays
Debt To Sunday School

By Toby Druin
Associate Editor, Biblical Recorder

RALEIGH, N. C. (BP)--A Raleigh man who feels that he owes a debt to Sunday School teachers for giving proper direction to his life has set in motion a nationwide campaign to balance the ledger sheet.

Burr Patchell, a local hosiery mill representative, is campaigning to get a week set aside by the President to honor Sunday School teachers across the United States.

Patchell feels a personal sense of mission in working for the week to recognize teachers. The child of a broken home, he got much of his advice about life as an adolescent at the feet of a Sunday School teacher.

"I lived with my grandparents in Ohio," he said, "and they made sure that from the time I was seven until I was 16 that I was in Sunday School. It gave direction to my life that I might not have received otherwise."

Patchell, who also is a dealer in antiques and curator of one of the world's few golf museums, began working at the idea last year and was successful in getting North Carolina Gov. Dan Moore to designate Sept. 10-16, 1967, as "Honor Sunday School Teachers Week in North Carolina."

This year, with the help of the American Sunday School Union in Philadelphia, Patchell is working for a proclamation by President Lyndon B. Johnson setting aside a week nationally to honor teachers.

With the help of the national organization, he will meet with several state governors and congressmen in Washington this spring to give impetus to the appeal to the president.

Currently Patchell is collecting funds to promote the effort and for certificates of recognition to present to the teachers during the week. He feels confident that the presidential proclamation can be obtained.

During his travels for Annedeen Hosiery Mills, Inc., of Burlington, he has lined up support for the project in six other states. Men are now at work promoting the week in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Missouri.

On one of his trips to Philadelphia for the hosiery firm he took time out to seek a Pennsylvania advocate for the project. He asked a cab driver to stop at the Arch Street Presbyterian Church.

"There was no particular reason for asking him to stop there," Patchell said, "The church just caught my eye, and I thought I would stop and talk to the minister about my plan."

As it turned out, the chance stop led to a fortuitous meeting with Galbraith Hall Todd, minister of the church. Todd had just completed a book on the sesquicentennial of the American Sunday School Union. He sent Patchell to the headquarters and now the program is being pushed nationwide.

Patchell works for the project as his time permits on junkets for the hosiery firm. While at home he writes letters and talks to buyers who come in to browse through the offerings of the "Historical Old Brick House Antique Shop," which he and Mrs. Patchell operate.

Even golfers who visit his golf museum are likely to be drawn into conversation about Sunday School instead of the usual things golfers talk about.

Patchell since 1945 has been a member of First Baptist Church, Raleigh, but has also attended Methodist and Presbyterian churches. He taught a class in a Presbyterian church in Lynn Haven, Va., and was Sunday school superintendent there for a year.

But primarily he is just an "attender" who has an uncommon appreciation for those who go to the trouble to teach. And he is working to see that they get some kind of official "thanks" for their efforts.



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February 6, 1968

Hardy Harrell Elected SBC Hospital Executive

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Hardy M. Harrell, acting executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Hospitals, Inc., has been elected executive secretary-treasurer without the "acting" stipulation.

Harrell has been heading the hospital organization since June 1, 1966, when T. Sloan Guy resigned the position.

Action removing the "acting" tag from his title was taken during the annual meeting of the board of directors for the Southern Baptist Hospitals, Inc.

The board coordinates the efforts of two Southern Baptist hospitals, one in New Orleans, and the other, Baptist Memorial Hospital, in Jacksonville, Fla. One board serves both hospitals.

Re-elected chairman of the board was R. Lamar Woodfin, an official of the Avondale Shipyard in New Orleans.

The board also gave a new title to Charles E. Blackmon, who previously has been director of public relations for the hospital and director of the Bethesda Foundation of the hospital. Blackmon was named assistant executive secretary-treasurer of the hospitals.

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January Cooperative Program Gifts Up Slightly, Total Down

2/6/68

NASHVILLE (BP)--Gifts through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program unified budget plan for the month of January increased slightly over January gifts of 1967, but the overall total missions gifts for January decreased.

The SBC Executive Committee here reported that total missions contributions through the SBC for January dipped \$345,895 (5.83 percent) below the total gifts for January of 1967.

Contributions through the Cooperative Program unified budget increased 1.01 percent or \$22,831, over the 1967 Cooperative Program contributions for January.

A total of \$2,272,252 was contributed through the Cooperative Program, and an additional \$3,316,681 was given to specific designated mission causes, bringing the January, 1968 total missions gifts to \$5½ million. Total missions gifts for the same period in 1967 were \$5.9 million.

There was a \$368,726 decrease reported in designated gifts to specific missions causes.

Officials of the SBC Executive Committee here which prepared the financial report were not able to explain why there was a decrease in the total missions gifts.

"I've tried to look at it a dozen different ways, but I can't come up with anything you can nail down to the wall," said John H. Williams, financial planning secretary for the SBC Executive Committee.

"There are so many factors involved--including such things as the way the month ends, the Christmas holidays, the weather which might have prevented some from attending church and making their gifts, etc.--that it is difficult to know the reason for the decrease," Williams said. He explained that January tabulations usually involve funds given in the churches during December.

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Williams said there were 10 states in the SBC which reported decreases in giving totalling \$179,000, and some of them were key states, including Texas, Tennessee, North and South Carolina.

He added that he was not so much distressed over the decrease in designated contributions as he was worried about the small increase (1.01 percent) in Cooperative Program giving. He explained that the Lottie Moon Christmas offering gifts would probably come in during February and pull the designated column up.

Williams also observed that Cooperative Program contributions might pop back up to a higher level during the rest of the year, adding that he was hopeful that the month of January does not indicate a trend.

It had not been since January of 1963 that a decrease had been reported, Williams pointed out.

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Seminary Dean To Return
To Tokyo Church He Helped

2/6/68

FORT WORTH (BP)--An eight-week preaching and teaching mission in the Orient will take Trozy R. Barker, dean of men at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, back to the Tokyo Baptist Church, which he helped organize ten years ago.

The seminary dean will go to Vietnam, preaching a revival in Trinity Baptist Church, teaching a Bible study course in the Vietnam Seminary at Saigon, and speaking in military installations. He also will preach and teach in Hong Kong, Hawaii, and Tokyo.

Barker, a former sergeant in the U. S. Air Force serving for 16 years as physical education director, was stationed three years in Japan. It was then that he assisted in organizing the Tokyo Baptist Church, and served as the congregation's first Training Union director. Mrs. Barker was the first church secretary. While serving in Tokyo he decided to enter the ministry.

Barker is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark. and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he earned a bachelor of divinity degree in 1963. He has been dean of men since 1963.

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Student Directors Slate
"Campus Penetration" Meet

2/6/68

FORT WORTH (BP)--Directors of Baptist student work on college campuses throughout the nation meeting here in conjunction with the annual Student Missions Conference at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will hold a special training session, March 9.

Carrying out the theme, "Campus Penetration," the one-day session will emphasize ministering to international students, the Baptist Student Union role in missions, approaches in campus evangelism, and programming tensions between aiming for the average student and the more intellectual.

Program participants include Miss Eva Marie Kennard of the University of California, Berkeley; Ed Seabough of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board student department; Louis R. Cobbs of the Foreign Mission Board personnel office; Charles Barnes of the University of Alabama; and Southwestern Seminary professors William Hendricks, Bill Pinson, Milton Ferguson and Clyde Fant.

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