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February 19, 1968

**Mississippi Church Sets
Food Stamp Aid Program**

YAZOO CITY, Miss. (BP)--The First Baptist Church here has established a program to help poor people buy food stamps to stave off hunger in this Mississippi Delta city.

The new CARE program will provide funds to enable poverty-stricken families who do not have enough money to purchase the food stamps to do so.

A special bank account has been set up by the church authorizing the Yazoo County Public Welfare to write checks on the account.

When a poverty-stricken family comes to the welfare office to buy the food stamps, but lacks enough money to do so, the welfare department will write a check on the First Baptist Church account to make up the difference.

The CARE program initiated by the church largely is the brainchild of Charles Jackson, vice president and sales manager of the Mississippi Chemical Corp., here and a deacon at the First Baptist Church.

Jackson is chairman of a five-member committee of the church which is administering the program.

"We have recognized all along that there was a great need for some type of program to assist these needy people throughout the year," Jackson said. "With the advent of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Stamp program, it seemed that this could be a vehicle through which some continued assistance could be given to the neediest people," Jackson said.

The problem of hunger in the Delta section of Mississippi got national publicity several months ago when a Congressional committee investigated the situation, and a national newsmagazine carried photographs depicting the conditions.

The Baptist church here became concerned about the situation and the CARE proposal was a practical expression of this concern.

James F. Yates, pastor of the church, commented on the action in an article in the church bulletin saying, "It occurs to me that we are only trying to do what we should do, as indicated by the words of Jesus in Matthew 25: 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'"

Yates explained that under the program, designated contributions from church members will be used in the CARE program. The five-member committee will administer the program and bring regular reports on it to the church.

"Donations to the First Baptist Church CARE Fund are tax deductible and will be accepted from anyone wishing to have a part in this humanitarian endeavor," Jackson explained.

The committee chairman added that there are many other ways in which this fund could be of assistance.

"We envision the establishment of a clothes bank where good clothing could be donated, assorted by sizes in an orderly fashion, and dispensed to needy people who otherwise might not be able to attend school because of lack of clothing. Three such families," he added "were found in our limited experience during the past Christmas holidays."

Another prominent Southern Baptist layman in the church, Owen Cooper who is president of the Mississippi Chemical Corp., said there are churches in every county in the South that could do a similar type thing.

Southeastern Seminary Names
Student Center for Mackie

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees have named the seminary's new student center, now nearing completion, in honor of Dr. and Mrs. George C. Mackie. Dr. Mackie has been the seminary physician since 1951 when the seminary was founded.

Previously, Dr. Mackie was physician for Wake Forest College which moved to a new campus in Winston-Salem, N. C., in 1956. Both he and Mrs. Mackie have participated in the development of the community, church and seminary, said seminary officials.

The board of trustees also elected Mrs. H. Eugene McLeod as director of the Ruby Reid Child Care Center, and approved plans for a second Urban Seminary to be held in Washington, D. C., June 17-July 12 under joint sponsorship by the seminary, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and the District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

The election of Ellis W. Hollon Jr., as associate professor of philosophy of religion, was confirmed, and tenure was granted to Donald D. Cook as associate professor of New Testament.

Sabbatical leaves for the academic year 1968-69 were granted to Ben S. Johnson, B. Elmo Scoggin, J. Carroll Trotter, and James E. Tull.

The trustees authorized a study of theological education, recommended by the president of the seminary, to provide a sound basis for comprehensive and long-range planning in harmony with the nature and purpose of the school.

The following officers of the board were re-elected: Claud B. Bowen, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Greenboro, N. C., as president; James F. Heaton, pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, Raleigh, N. C., as vice president; Nash Underwood, dentist in Wake Forest, as secretary; and A. J. Hewett, business man of Greensboro, N.C., as treasurer.

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Professor Says Some
Students Loose Faith

2/19/68

by Bob Terry

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Do ministerial students lose their faith while at seminary?

One seminary professor says some students feel they actually do.

"However, it is not seminary training that destroys a person's faith," said Harold S. Songer, assistant professor of New Testament at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Rather, he warned, it is the immature way in which a student may react to critical theological study that sets his course.

Songer described in a campus chapel service several inadequate student reactions often seen in a theological seminary. He listed them in four categories:

Protector of the Doctrine: "This student is so threatened by the new insights and questions that come from critical theological study that he decides there is only one way of salvation. He retreats to the fort of doctrinal structure that he inherited before coming to seminary and seeks to defend it against every living idea that dares to wander within his intellectual cannon range. He stands on the premise that he would rather be a fool on fire than a scholar on ice. He has sacrificed his existence as a creative and thinking person on the pagan altar of a misunderstood faith."

Theological Hippie: "This student revels with mystic ecstasy in the number of conflicting opinions that can be assembled with regard to any article of the Christian faith. Because of his receptiveness to new ideas, he is often incorrectly termed 'intellectual.' What the hippie lacks, however, is genuine convictions about anything. He can tick off alternatives, but can not come to a conclusion. To the hippie all things are relative. He has sacrificed the convictions of his traditional faith on the unholy altar of a misunderstanding of intellectual integrity."

Pulpit Pragmatist: "This student is not disturbed by the challenges to faith or the many alternatives posed by scholars. All academic material is tested by one simple question: 'Will it Preach?' The pragmatist sees the entire enterprise of critical theological education as a vast homiletical smorgasbord in which he may take something from Bultmann, Barth, or John R. Rice with equal facility. In this instance both faith and honest study are sacrificed on the poplar altar of secularism."

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A basic error made by each of these groups, the New Testament scholar added, was trying to choose between faith and knowledge.

The mature Christian does not do this, Songer added.

Mature Christian. "This student is willing to serve when he does not fully understand and is confused. He is not dedicated to an idea or even a cluster of ideas but to the living Lord who calls him to follow. With Paul he confesses that he knows only in part. Yet, to be a follower of Christ is to be a learner, and critical study, thus, becomes for him the handmaid of faith. He knows that properly pursued, critical study points a man to faith just as faith calls him to study and obedience. This student has learned well the lesson that a tree is recognized by its fruit and not by the theological nursery in which it was raised."

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Memphis Baptist Hospital
Dedicates Big New Wing

2/19/68

MEMPHIS (BP)--Baptist Memorial Hospital here has dedicated a new \$18½ million wing, plus a six-floor addition to another wing.

The completion of construction will bring the hospital to a total bed capacity of 1,750, housed in an 18-story X-shaped structure.

Newest addition to the facilities of the nation's largest Southern Baptist hospital were the 18-floor Union-East Unit, and six additional floors to the Madison-East Unit.

The four top floors of the Union-East Unit, and the six new floors of the Madison-East Unit are being left in shell form to be activated as the need arises.

Already, the first 15 floors of the new Union-East Unit, including the original ground floor, have been placed into use.

The new unit includes 14 new operating rooms, a 34-bed recovery room, laboratory facilities, radiology services, central supply and food services, etc.

One year ago, the hospital had a total of 960 beds. The current number is 1,400 beds. When all construction is completed in the current expansion program, the number of beds will nearly double to 1,750 beds.

Baptist Memorial Hospital here is the largest non-governmental general hospital in the nation, with the largest number of patients admitted for any such hospital in the United States.

Management and control of the hospital is vested in a 27-member board of trustees elected by the Baptist conventions of Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas, joint owners of the hospital. Each convention elects nine trustees for three-year terms.

Frank S. Groner is administrator of the Baptist Memorial Hospital here.

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Twin Churches Founded
By Minnesota Congregation

2/19/68

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (BP)--Twin churches were constituted at the same time during services at the Southtown Baptist Church here.

The churches, both former missions of the Southtown church, are the Southgate Baptist Church of Austin, Minn.; and the Crystal Lake Road Baptist Church of Burnsville, Minn.

They are the seventh and eighth churches sponsored by the Southtown church. The Southtown church gave up 69 of its members to the twin churches.

This makes a total of 12 Southern Baptist churches and three missions in Minnesota. Southern Baptist work here is assisted by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and Baptist churches and associations in Texas and other states.

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Georgetown College Gives
Student, Faculty "Good News"

GEORGETOWN, Ky. (BP)--Sixteen hundred copies of the Bible's New Testament translation, Good News for Modern Man, were distributed here on the campus of Georgetown College, a Southern Baptist school.

The mass handout of the popular new Bible text followed a chapel address by the edition's translator, Robert Bratcher, a member of the American Bible Society staff located in New York. The world-renowned linguist and translator is a 1941 alumnus of Georgetown College.

His alma mater purchased the large quantity of the translation several weeks ago. The volumes were distributed by the college in the Student Center following the chapel service. A copy was given to each student, faculty member and staff person.

The school's president, Robert L. Mills, stated at the time he announced the gift of the books, "This copy of Good News for Modern Man is presented with the sincere best wishes of Georgetown College and the desire that it be useful to you as you seek to live good news for modern man."

The work Bratcher has done with the New Testament portion of the Bible has won wide acclaim. More than 7 million copies of the translation have sold in the brief time it has been off the press. It continues to sell at the rate of 30,000 copies per day.

Some religious leaders are saying that his work has done more to popularize the reading of the scriptures than the efforts of any other Bible scholars in our day. Bratcher felt at the time his text was accepted by the press that 10,000 copies might be sold. He had no idea that the translation would attract such great reader interest.

Bratcher is the son of missionary parents. His father, the late L. M. Bratcher, was a 1914 graduate of Georgetown. His mother attended Georgetown until 1915, when she and Bratcher were married. The L. M. Bratchers settled in Brazil where they served under the sponsorship of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for more than forty years.

Following Bratcher's graduation from Georgetown in 1941, he attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, where he earned the Doctor of Theology degree in 1944. He continued with the seminary faculty until 1949 when he was appointed to teach at the Brazil Baptist Seminary in South America.

He took his current position with the American Bible Society in New York in 1957, where he has been a translation consultant.

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C O R R E C T I O N

2/19/68

On Baptist Press story of 2-2-68, headlined, Virginia Editor Honored for 30 Years Service, last paragraph, second sentence should read: Virginia Baptists accepted the paper in 1950 when the Religious Herald Publishing Association became an institution of the state convention. (Pickup rest of graph.)

Colorado Elects Foundation
Director, Missions Director

2/19/68

DENVER (BP)--Two official boards of the Colorado Baptist General Convention have elected an executive director of the Baptist Foundation of Colorado, and a director of missions and stewardship for the convention.

The convention's Executive Board named Robert E. Lambert, pastor of Belmont Baptist Church in Pueblo, Col., as missions and stewardship director. He assumes the position March 1, succeeding John Baker who is the new executive secretary of the Northern Plains Baptist Convention.

The convention's Foundation board elected Bill Landers, president and treasurer of the Colorado Southern Baptist Church Loan Corp., as director of the Baptist Foundation of Colorado, effective immediately. He succeeds Chester A. Ramsay who died in October.

Landers will continue to serve as president and treasurer of the Bond Corp., handling the foundation duties in addition to his current responsibilities. He has held the position since 1957, coming here from McKinney, Tex.

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