



---FEATURES

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New Fellowship Attracts
Dallas Single Adults

By Al Morgan

DALLAS (BP)--A new fellowship with a beat all its own is attracting Christian single adults by the droves here, but its members vow it is more than a cupid club.

The life expectancy of The New Fellowship--its official name--is enhanced because Christian single adults still want to meet other single adults in a Christian atmosphere, its leaders say.

One of its creators, Gordon James, the only married man associated with the group, sums it up this way: "If boys and girls were not interested in each other, then we would have a zoo instead of a New Fellowship."

James is director of Christian social ministries for the Dallas Baptist Association which sponsors The New Fellowship.

Designed especially for people who are single, through with school and now working, the organization "seeks to meet the needs of our modern apartment dwelling generation through contemporary approaches to specific needs of the single adult," said bachelor coordinator Rip Parker, 30-year-old manager of the Frazier Franchise and a member of Park Cities Baptist Church here.

He points out that The New Fellowship does not take away from the church, but rather supplements it. "The church is people--not institutions--and people are our primary concern," he added.

Rip said that one of the results of The New Fellowship is that some inactive members have gone back into their local congregations. He also added some newcomers have found their way to local membership.

It all started last winter when 22 young men and women met for an evening of dialogue at the suggestion of the Dallas Baptist Association office. They were representatives of some of Dallas' largest churches with single adult population.

Advised that the association would not call another meeting, but that future action hinged on their own initiative, they "took the ball and ran with it," added a member.

One of the group's first 'happenings'--which attracted 225 single adults--was held in the decorative Feista Room of the Baker Hotel, one of Dallas' old prestige hotels.

As Parker put it, "The room was really jammed. It was a stand-up affair." It became an evening of free refreshments, records and simply talk.

One young person attending the meeting later said, "It was a blast." A YWCA resident for three weeks, she had "wondered where to go in a strange city to reach other Christian young people." She found where through The New Fellowship.

Its members describe The New Fellowship as a cosmopolitan group. Its ranks are filled with teachers, computer operators and cab drivers; jet airplane pilots to secretaries, and stock brokers to laundrymen.

The group went all out for another get-together. They rented the Penthouse Clubroom of the fabulous Wedgewood Apartments, a luxury, high-rise apartment unit. They stepped up entertainment with a five-piece folk singing group.

The procedure changed. A \$1.00 fee was charged. Table games were included and a conversation area set aside. Still the crowd came.

By design the first two events were very informal. Others have been more formal. One such event included an evening in dialogue with three of Dallas' leading theologians.

Group movers feel they are on the trail of something big. Future 'happenings' will include a midnight caravan to HemisFair, water and snow ski retreats, as well as an under-privileged children's Christmas party.

Its life expectancy? No one really knows. But as one spokesman said, "If it continues to go, then it'll live. If not, it'll die. The main thing right now is that it's reaching single adults!"



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May 8, 1968

**Racism Hit as a Major
Mental Health Problem**

WASHINGTON (BP)--"Racism is the number one public health problem facing America today," declares a statement released by a committee of the Joint Commission on Mental Health of Children here.

The Committee on Children of Minority Groups said it believes "that the racist attitude of Americans which causes and perpetuates tension is patently a most compelling health hazard."

It described racism as "the conscious and unconscious attitudes of superiority which permit and demand that a majority oppress a minority."

Such racism, the committee declared, "directly and indirectly causes more fatalities, disabilities and economic loss than any other single factor."

Declaring that "the country must outgrow its legacy of racism," the committee bemoaned the fact that "there has been tragically little self-examination" on the part of Americans.

The response to efforts by minority groups to deliver themselves from the oppressive majority "by the mainstream culture has not been amelioration of grievances but punitive action," the committee charged.

The Joint Commission of Mental Health of Children is authorized by Congress to develop a report and make recommendations on the mental health of children. The report is not scheduled until a year from now.

The commission has a policy against piecemeal release of its report. However, due to the urgency and importance of the problems of racism now before the nation, it released a preliminary statement in an effort to help the public become aware of the issues.

Specific recommendations for solutions will be included when the full report of the commission is made to the government.

The Committee on Minority Group Children is composed of 14 leading children's workers, sociologists, psychiatrists, and mental health specialists.

The minority groups included in the commission's study includes Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans, impoverished Appalachian residents, the newly assertive Indians, isolated urban dwellers and the Negroes.

"There are indications that the history of black people in the United States will be paralleled by other minority groups in America in the near future," the committee predicted.

"In a shorter order, the Mexican-American, the Puerto Rican, and the American Indian, without social intervention, may travel the same historical path," it continued.

Specifically, the committee called for an outgrowth of the legacy of racism in the country, an acceptance of the fact that the United States is not a white nation, dispelling of mutual distrust between majority and minority groups, and an expenditure of large sums of money to meet the problems.

The committee reported, "the financial cost of eradicating racism in all walks of national life will be obviously immense."

However, it concluded that the investment will be relatively sound based on the increased national production and creativity, development of millions of new consumers, improvement of commercial relations with other nations, and substantial cuts in the enormous costs on the present inadequate welfare programs.

Pioneer Training Union
Leader, Gardner, Dies

DALLAS (BP)--Funeral Services were held (here) May 8 for T. C. Gardner, 80, director of Texas Baptist Training Union work for 40 years and former president and vice-president of East Texas Baptist College at Marshall, Tex.

Gardner died May 6 at Baptist Memorials Geriatric Hospital in San Angelo.

Services were held at the Highland Baptist Church in Dallas where Gardner was a member, with burial at Hillcrest Mausoleum.

Gardner, known as the dean of Baptist Training Union leaders, assumed the Training Union leadership for Texas in 1916. Training Union was then known as Baptist Young People's Union (BYPU) and had only 16,554 members in 512 unions over Texas.

At the time of his retirement in 1956, the Training Union program in Texas had grown to 424,854 members in 15,485 unions, or 25 per cent of the world's training unions.

After retirement the veteran church worker was named vice-president of East Texas Baptist College in Marshall, which he had served as president during the school's formative years from 1913 to 1916.

Through the years Gardner waged an unceasing fight against sale of liquor in Texas, sought to "reclaim Sunday night for Christ," and worked to make Training Union activities a "family affair" that would attract persons of all ages.

Training Union has two great aims, he believed: (1) to win the lost, and (2) to train and indoctrinate the saved. "The churches that have continued to promote this twofold program have found it easier to win the lost and to secure a matured leadership for real and heroic service," he explained.

Known for his eight-point record system and his grading methods used by Southern Baptist churches throughout the nation, Gardner was an active writer of books, quarterlies and pamphlets for Training Union use.

When he and Mrs. Gardner first started out, they sat up nights writing and mimeographing quarterlies for Texas churches. One of his books, "Modern Training Union Methods," has been revised 16 times and translated into Spanish.

Although Dr. and Mrs. Gardner were both natives of Tennessee, they had lived in Dallas for about 50 years. When Dr. Gardner became ill a few weeks ago he was taken to the Baptist Hospital in San Angelo.

Mrs. Gardner, who survives, suffered a heart attack recently in San Angelo and is in the Shannon Hospital there.

Other survivors are a son, Thurman C. (Jack) Gardner Jr., of Booneville, Miss.; a sister, Miss Sadie Gardner of Memphis, Tenn.; three brothers, Percy and Virgil Gardner of Jackson, Miss., and Hall Gardner of Houston; and a granddaughter, Mrs. John David Price of Booneville, Miss.

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Glorieta Conference Set
For Deaf Interpreters

5/8/68

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--For the first time on a convention-wide basis, a conference for interpreters for the deaf will be held at Glorieta Baptist Assembly here during Home Missions Week sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board ministry to the deaf.

In addition, there will be three other meetings pertaining to this particular language missions field--the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference for the Deaf, a conference for missionaries to the deaf and a sign language class open to laymen.

Carter Bearden, field consultant for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, will direct the interpreters conference.

Bearden (who is deaf) said the conference will feature the interpreter's duties as teacher, counselor, song leader and his relationships to a church and community.

According to Irvin Dawson of the Home Mission Board's department of language missions, more than 300 Southern Baptist churches provide a ministry to the deaf.

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About 300 persons involved in these ministries are expected to attend the Southern Baptist Conference for the Deaf which will be led by Conference President Neal Peyton, missionary to the deaf in North Carolina.

There are about 250,000 deaf persons in the United States and missions to the deaf is a specific phase of the Home Mission Board's division of missions.

State and area Home Mission Board missionaries to the deaf will attend workshops to discuss methods, literature, lay leadership and participation in the national Crusade of the Americas.

The sign language class has been a regular assembly feature for several years. Mrs. James F. Hunker, a worker with the deaf in her church in Clovis, N. M., will teach the fundamentals of finger spelling and the sign language.

More than 3,000 persons are expected to attend the annual home missions assembly.

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Study Materials Released
On Current Social Problems

5/8/68

NASHVILLE (BP)--Deprivation, poverty, race relations, segregation and open housing are dealt with in a new Training Union resource unit to be released June 1 by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Need for the resource unit and picture set "We Hold These Truths," prepared by the board's Training Union department, came about "because of the disorder in our society today which points up a need for special Christian understanding," according to James L. Sullivan, executive secretary-treasurer for the board.

It is the first time that the Sunday School Board has produced a curriculum unit on a two-month accelerated production schedule in order to deal with a current moral issue. Most resource units are produced on a one year schedule.

Sullivan indicated in a letter to pastors and other church and denominational leaders that "we have pushed production schedules to the limit to provide these two literature items for you by June 1." Planning for the project began early in April.

Six sessions of study material are provided. They are titled: Historical Setting, Poverty and Unemployment, Open Housing and Segregation, Race Relations, Destiny of Dissent and Which Way America?

The material will be in magazine form, size 8½ x 11, with 52 pages, including the cover.

The unit will have three main sections: (1) feature articles, (2) training activities that suggest the use of the unit by individuals or family, small church groups or entire church, and (3) list of additional resources to give insight to the nature of the present unrest in America.

The last section includes resource information by such authors as John R. Claypool, pastor, Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville; Max Lerner, former editor of "The Nation," and now a syndicated columnist for the "New York Post;" Bill Lawson, Negro pastor of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, Houston; T. B. Maston, retired professor of Christian Ethics, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth; and Daniel Liu, chief of police, Honolulu.

The picture set includes 11 photographs 14 x 22 inches in size. Pictures illustrate cultural deprivation, poverty and unemployment, slums and ghettos, race relations, dissent and civil disorder, and oneness in Christ.

The resource unit, dealing with current issues for study by individuals, groups and churches will be available from the board's church literature department.

Sullivan's letter, scheduled for a May 20 mailing, contains an order card for the materials. The resource unit itself will cost sixty cents each for one or two copies; fifty cents each for three or more. The picture set will cost \$1.35 regardless of quantity ordered.

One of the resource units will be needed for each individual studying the material. One set of pictures will be sufficient for a group, the letter said.

The literature will also be on sale at the church literature exhibit of the board at the convention in Houston, June 4-7.

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