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July 1, 1968

**North Carolina Observes
Traffic Safety Emphasis**

RALEIGH, N. C. (BP)--Hundreds of North Carolina churches of all faiths observed a special Traffic Safety Sunday in an effort sparked by North Carolina Baptists and its state newspaper here.

In a typical program, Highway Patrolman Aaron Cook of Rolesville delivered a strong appeal for Christians to obey traffic safety laws in a Sunday morning message from the pulpit of Rolesville Baptist Church near here.

Police officers and highway patrolmen were guest speakers at several other churches throughout the state on the Sunday preceding the July 4 holiday.

Although there was no way to immediately determine how many churches observed the Traffic Safety Days emphasis, officials stated they felt the observance was a good step in the right direction.

It is believed to be the first time that the governor of a state has called on religious leadership to marshall church concern for death on the highways.

Gov. Dan Moore last March appointed a 16-member committee to direct a special religious concern for traffic safety, with Baptist evangelist Billy Graham of Montreat, N. C., as chairman.

The idea for the emphasis was sparked by an editorial in the Biblical Recorder, official publication of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, last January when Editor J. Marse Grant suggested that "Gov. Moore call key denominational leaders together and see what they think about a Highway Safety Sunday in the churches, perhaps the last Sunday in June."

Gov. Moore took the suggestion and appointed the broadly-based religious committee to coordinate plans for the two-day observance, June 29-30. W. Perry Crouch, general secretary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina here, was among the 16 members.

Graham, chairman of the committee, devoted nearly his entire world-wide radio broadcast on that Sunday to traffic safety, paying tribute to his home state of North Carolina for the emphasis and calling on church people to obey traffic laws.

During the weekend (Friday-Sunday), traffic deaths in North Carolina were down slightly compared to last year, although there was no way to determine the overall effect of the church emphasis. Eleven died in North Carolina highway accidents, compared to 15 for the same period in 1967.

North Carolina Baptists were especially vocal in promoting the highway safety observance.

Crouch, whose predecessor Douglas M. Branch was killed in an automobile accident in 1963, wrote letters to the 3,000 Baptist pastors of the state asking their cooperation in the observance.

One church, Oak Grove Baptist Church of Boone, N. C., sponsored a Defensive Driving Course at the church, with 35 persons taking the study.

The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth produced four radio spot announcements urging observance of traffic safety for use on more than 150 radio stations in the state as a public service.

One of the spots quoted Graham as saying that five times more North Carolinians are killed and injured annually in traffic accidents than are killed and wounded in Vietnam.

Another said that "murder and suicide on North Carolina's streets and highways have reached...alarming proportions", and calls on church members to help "eliminate this senseless slaughter."

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The Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Houston, adopted a resolution submitted by Editor Grant urging Baptists to help eradicate attitudes that contribute to the highway slaughter, to keep governing bodies informed of the relationship between drinking and driving, and to urge stronger legislation "to protect the innocent on our highways."

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Court Shuns
Liquor Ruling

7/1/68

MACON, Ga. (BP)--The U. S. District Court here has refused to rule on a petition seeking to have Georgia's local option liquor law declared unconstitutional.

Judge W. A. Bootle indicated that the recent U. S. Supreme Court decision raised doubts that a Georgia petition would be granted. But, he did clear the way for a quick appeal if the petitioners want to take their case back to state courts.

If local option liquor laws were declared unconstitutional, it could mean legalization of liquor sales in all of Georgia's 129 counties. Thirty counties have approved liquor sales.

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Georgia Association Wins
Tax Exemption Judgment

7/1/68

GAINESVILLE, Ga. (BP)--The Chattahoochee Baptist Association here has won a summary judgment on tax exemption for its property in a case which suggested widespread implications for other such associations.

At issue was whether the city of Gainesville had the right to tax the association for its \$70,000 headquarters building, and whether the building was used as a place of worship.

Judge Joseph H. Blackshear of Hall County Superior Court ruled that "the property is used as a place of religious worship and exempt from taxation," since "the charitable and educational use of the property is a part of religious worship."

The city of Gainesville and its city marshal were permanently enjoined in the decision from levying an assessment for taxes against the association buildings and land.

The city claimed the property was not clearly a place of worship or used for purely public charity and therefore was liable for the \$741 assessed tax.

The association listed its religious functions as including the provision of a chapel for regular worship services, pastors' prayer services, associational conferences and committee meetings, and facilities for other church-related activities. No charges are made for use of the building, the affidavit said.

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\$100,000 Grant For
Houston College

7/1/68

HOUSTON (BP)--Houston Baptist College has been awarded a \$100,000 grant by the Rockefeller Foundation of New York City.

The grant provides for scholarship assistance for nursing candidates in the newly established College School of Nursing which will open next fall.

The four-year baccalaureate degree nursing program was established earlier this year through a grant from Houston Endowment, Inc., and will be conducted in cooperation with the Memorial Baptist Hospital System of Houston.

It is anticipated that the Rockefeller grant will provide about \$940 per student per year toward tuition and room and board expenses, according to the announcement by President William H. Hinton.

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Dean Named Adult
Sunday School Editor

7/1/68

NASHVILLE (BP)--Bob Dean, a native of Nashville, has been named editor of adult Life and Work materials in the Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here.

He will be responsible for editing two adult pupils' quarterlies, a teachers' quarterly, and a pocket quarterly.

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Dean attended Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, Cookeville, Tenn., and received a bachelor of arts degree from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn. He received bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He previously served as pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, Ky., First Baptist Church, Savannah, Tenn., and Victory Baptist Church, New Orleans.

Dean is married to the former Betty Edwards of Nashville, and is the father of three children--David, 14, Daniel, 10, and Thomas, 6.

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Cliburn Attends Florida
Church, Plays, Speaks

7/1/68

TAMPA, Fla. (BP)--Internationally famed pianist Van Cliburn, a Baptist, gave an impromptu sermonette just before playing the piano at a Southern Baptist Church here, urging young and old alike to put faith in "the unseen Christ."

Cliburn was in Tampa recently to perform with the Tampa Philharmonic. While in the city, he attended the worship service at Seminole Heights Baptist Church.

In recognizing the musician, Pastor John S. Wimbish asked him to play for the congregation.

Cliburn, before he played Robert Schuman's "Devotion," gave an impromptu devotional thought to the Baptist congregation.

Recalling a sermon on "The Unseen Christ," Cliburn asked the crowd: "how many times have we sought for the right answer, or the right thought, or the right idea, or the right avenue, and how many times have we wondered if we were doing the right thing?"

"When we go through various stages in our lives, pass through many doors as we make this trek through life; the times when we are young and need certain types of counsel; there stands at our beck and call the unseen, but very visible, Christ," Cliburn said.

In later life, he added, it is "a joy to look back and be aware of what the real truth behind our decisions happened to be."

"So I want to say to you," Cliburn said in conclusion. "That if you are young, you might want to consider this unseen Christ, this Master who can be very real in your life. Then if you are in the middle period of maturity, you have certain other pressures of life and you might enjoy taking that very real person into your heart. Then if you are in the last period of life, it's even more interesting, because you can look back and have assurance that you have walked with the unseen Christ."

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Writing Awards Presented
During Ridgecrest Meeting

7/1/68

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--Three awards were presented during a Southern Baptist writers' conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly here.

The awards were presented for manuscripts judged to have merit and high potential for publication, said Clifton J. Allen, editorial secretary of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, and director of the conference.

Awards for first, second and third place in four categories, covering expenses for the conference, were offered, but only three awards were granted by conference faculty members in each division of writing.

Mrs. R. L. Councilman of Burlington, N. C., received a first place award for her magazine article entitled, "His Name." Second place award in this category went to Mrs. Helen Louise West of St. Louis, for "Family Makes Halloween Different."

First place award in poetry went to Mrs. Councilman for her poem, "For Winter's Bread."

Three honorable mention awards were presented to two Georgia women: Mrs. Frances C. Wakely of Marietta, Ga., for a magazine article and for fiction writing, and to Mrs. Erma Smith Dowis of Stone Mountain, Ga., for a poem.

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