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August 7, 1968

Sunday School Board Has  
 Negro Professional Worker

NASHVILLE (BP)--Frank R. Kelly became the first Negro professional worker at the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention effective with his promotion to foreman of the shipping unit in the church literature department. Kelly supervises the work of 15 men.

An employee of the board since September, 1954, Kelly is a graduate of Jewell Academy and Seminary, Nashville, with a major in Bible. Prior to his promotion, he was classified as stock clerk.

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Plan For Unified  
 Metro Strategy Set

8/7/68

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--A suggested approach for building unified Baptist mission strategies in metropolitan areas was revealed here during Home Missions Week at Glorieta Baptist Assembly.

The plan is aimed at helping metropolitan area associations provide specific assignments for individual churches, making each congregation an important part of the area-wide strategy puzzle.

The procedures were worked up by Southern Baptist Home Mission Board program leaders and announced at the Baptist assembly here by Russell Bennett Jr., associate secretary of the board's metropolitan missions department.

Outlining the plan before the metropolitan missions conference, Bennett said:

"We need to create a sense of community among Baptists in metropolitan areas and give each congregation a sense of purpose in meeting the needs of entire areas."

"We are offering the resources of the Home Mission Board toward this end," Bennett said.

Heart of the suggested plan is an "equipping conference" on the associational level at which specific metropolitan area needs are hopefully matched to available resources for ministry.

The plan calls for a 24-month countdown, Bennett said, which permits time for detailed survey and evaluation of needs, distribution of the results, enlistment of individual church support, and most importantly--development of the lay involvement that will provide the manpower for resulting ministries.

"Hopefully, the meetings would line up the needs of an area, avoid overlapping of ministries, and provide each church with a specific assignment," Bennett said.

First experiment with the "equipping conference" plan will be later this year in the Baltimore metropolitan area, Bennett said.

Surveys already have been conducted and are being analyzed and distributed, he added.

At the equipping conference this fall, program leaders from the Home Mission Board, the Baptist Convention of Maryland, and the Baltimore Baptist Association will meet with church pastoral and lay leadership to develop specific directions.

The primary objectives will be to equip lay volunteers to render specific mission ministries, to orient them to the specific needs of the metropolitan area, and to promote a regular workshop for sharing experiences, coordinating efforts, and providing in-service training.

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The format for the four-day conference calls for survey reports and analysis; specialized ministry workshops for church educational directors, workers with aged, pastors, etc.; specialized ministry clinics in areas such as literacy work, work with non-evangelicals, counseling, drug-alcohol rehabilitation work, ministries to academic communities, etc.

Bennett said the Home Mission Board probably would set up to provide personnel and other resources for four such conferences a year.

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Caring No Option,  
Missions Meet Told

8/7/68

By Dallas Lee

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--The thrust of Home Missions Week at Glorieta Baptist Assembly here was captured by Bible Study Leader Bill Pinson when he declared: "We are called to be living audio-visual aids for the work of Christ."

And he added: "If being a Christian means becoming like God in Jesus Christ, then we must care---it is no option."

Pinson, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, led Bible study every morning for the 2,500 registrants of the special missions week.

Characteristic for most of the conference, Pinson sought to present a well-rounded Biblical interpretation of the Christian's role in the modern world.

"Why must there be conflict between evangelism and ministry?" he queried.

"Why do people say we can't do both well? People who have more than one child usually love them all," he observed.

Pinson said that too often the man who is told not to stress the social aspects of the gospel---that if he is right with God, those problems will solve themselves---is rebuked as a "social gospeler" when his life reflects "change by the power of Christ."

The emphasis on preachings and the belief that other ministries weaken the impact of narrow evangelism is "logical but unbiblical," Pinson said.

"The best argument for caring--for ministries--is found in the Word of God," he said. "God is interested in transforming human life, not just interested in saving souls."

Participants in the special week chose from a variety of small conferences, including language missions, literacy missions, youth and family services, personal witnessing, how to locate prospects for the Crusade of the Americas, weekday ministries and many others.

About 50 selected a daily conference on Baptist Centers, in which G. Willis Bennett of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., lectured and led discussions on "A Theology of Helping."

"Nothing lies outside the realm of concern of God," Bennett said, "and nothing can afford to lie outside the concern of the church."

Christian social ministries is not a "method" and is more than just another form of evangelism, Bennett said--"ministries of concern are rooted in theology, in the Gospel."

"How can we convince anybody that God is concerned about them if we are not?" Bennett asked.

"How can we convince a minority group that God is interested in frustration and alienation and poverty, if we are not?"

Bennett attacked the inability of many Christians to articulate the meaning of their faith in depth, asking: "What is it we are trying to get God to do with life anyway?"

Because it is difficult to understand, he said, "we have reduced our answer to an ABC plan of evangelism, which does not exist in the Bible."

"Evangelism is not a once-and-for-all incident that can be lifted out of three verses in Romans and then done with and forgotten," Bennett said.

If we follow this procedure, he said, "we do God an injustice and contract a man with a less than whole relationship with God."

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"Christ wanted to introduce man to a new way, a more perfect way, to a realization of a more abundant life, an eternal life present oriented as well as future oriented," he said.

"Eternity is predicated on the contemporary," Bennett said.

In the Metropolitan Missions Conference, several suggestions were outlined for churches to follow up on the "Crisis in Our Nation" statement, endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston.

Suggestions included:

- \* Formation of "new will" groups to view relevant television programs and read relevant literature and discuss, with a bent toward mission action.
- \* Desegregation of all work supported in any way by the Home Mission Board.
- \* Development of lay groups for businessmen and others to hear prominent persons speak to issues of the day.
- \* Development of new and more effective liasons with local and federal governments.
- \* Encouragement of seminaries to restructure curriculum especially toward practical urban field experiences.
- \* Development of more creative and experimental approaches to worship in urban life, reemphasizing the importance and value of worship.
- \* Development of a crash program for the creation and implementation of a metropolitan strategy, emphasizing the inner-relatedness and co-responsibility of all areas and groups in metropolitan areas.

Preacher for the special week was John McClanahan, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, Ark.

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Texas Baptists Plan Bible  
Distribution To Each Home

8/6/68

DALLAS (BP)--Texas Baptists plan to distribute during a six-week period more than one million copies of the Bible in popular English or Spanish as part of a movement to saturate every home in the state with a copy of the Bible.

To facilitate the mass Bible distribution plan, about 4,000 Baptist churches in Texas are being offered an opportunity to purchase modern English and Spanish translations of the New Testament at a greatly reduced cost, said T. A. Patterson, executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

To be distributed are copies of "Good News For Modern Man," and "Dios Llega Al Hombre," published by the American Bible Society. Both versions have received popular public acceptance with over 10 million copies of the English version having been sold since it first appeared in 1966. About one million Spanish versions have been sold.

The mass distribution of the scriptures, planned for the past two years, is part of the over-all theme of the Texas convention, "The Bible--Foundation for Ministry," which emphasizes a return to Bible study by all peoples, said Patterson.

The plan was officially endorsed earlier this year by the convention's 192-member Executive Board after unanimous approval of the convention's associational and area missionaries.

Patterson cited the Bible as a special book to Baptists. "It is God's written revelation of himself to man. It is our rule of faith and practice as well as our final authority in all religious matters," Patterson stated.

He added that he felt that this was an appropriate time for such a Bible distribution movement, observing that there has been a breakdown of religious and moral standards which have made America a great nation.

The plan comes as a major emphasis of Texas Baptists' participation in the 1969 Crusade of the Americas, an evangelistic thrust encompassing North, Central and South America.

As part of the churches' preparation for revivals next spring in connection with the crusade, many Texas Baptist churches will make free mass distribution of the Bibles on a door-to-door basis to as many homes as possible, Patterson said.

Delivery of Bibles to churches is scheduled between Feb. 1 and March 15, 1969, with distribution slated for March 3 thru April 18.

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Texas Baptists Name  
Audio-Visuals Director

8/7/68

DALLAS (BP)--Bryan Price of Dallas has been named to the newly-created position of audio-visuals director in the public relations office of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, effective Aug. 8.

Price, former minister of music and youth at Lake Highlands Baptist Church in Dallas, is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College, Marshall, Tex., and former staff member for Baptist churches in Granbury, Jefferson, Marshall, Fort Worth and Longview, Tex.

The Dallas photographer and church worker will be working in the areas of photography and radio music programming, said Billy Keith, director of public relations for the Texas convention.

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Alexander Named Vocational  
Consultant at Baptist Board

8/7/68

NASHVILLE (BP)--David K. Alexander, formerly secretary of the student department for the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, has returned to the board after a six month's study leave to become vocational guidance consultant in the board's Training Union department.

Earlier this year, Alexander resigned from the student department to do advanced study in special areas and indicated that he would return to the board in another capacity or enter a different field of service.

Alexander, who has worked with young people and has edited youth publications, will place emphasis on editorial work and channeling of vocational guidance materials through all Southern Baptist Convention publications, according to Lloyd T. Householder, manager of the Training Union department.

Prior to his work at the board, Alexander had been Baptist Student Union director at Vanderbilt University and Peabody College, both in Nashville, Texas A & M College and the University of New Mexico.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE BOARD

DATE: 8/1/68

TO: BOARD

FROM: [Illegible]

SUBJECT: [Illegible]

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RE: [Illegible]

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