



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

---FEATURES

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IS WORLD POVERTY THE RESULT OF LAZINESS?

By Daniel R. Grant

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The citizen who seeks to apply the teachings of Christ to political decision-making about world poverty and foreign aid is usually met with such slogans as "Don't reward laziness!" or "End Operation Rathole!"

The belief that world poverty is primarily the result of laziness is, for Americans, a perfectly natural and understandable myth. In much of American history, certainly until the closing of the western frontier, it is said that there was always a geographic escape from poverty. The slogan was "Go West," and those who were too lazy to go West remained poor.

This was an oversimplification, of course, but the opportunity of the frontier did provide it with a strong element of truth. Today, however, there are many causes of poverty in the United States that are totally unrelated to laziness.

Some of the principal ones are technological unemployment, depression, physical disabilities and the discrimination of the ghetto. American slum children are certainly not born lazy. But the overwhelming majority of them seem to be deprived by birth of equal parental stimulation to stay in high school and go to college--a factor strongly related to poverty.

If this myth is untrue in affluent America, it is far less true for hundreds of millions of people outside the United States. Over 110 million babies will be born in the world this year but over one-half will not have enough to eat. Babies do not go hungry because they are lazy.

Illiteracy is a principal cause of poverty, and it is estimated that 800 million in the world cannot read and write. But illiteracy cannot be blamed on laziness in a country such as India, where 80 per cent cannot read and write. How can they learn without teachers?

Disease is one of the major causes of poverty and it is the constant scourge of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. How can they be healed without doctors?

War causes poverty and hunger, as demonstrated so painfully in Biafra, the breakaway Nigerian state. As thousands are said to have died there every week from a protein deficiency disease, doctors have urged the people to eat insects, bats, lizards, rats, or any other protein food they could lay their hands on. Southern Baptist missionaries in Nigeria can testify that this terrible tragedy among the energetic Ibo tribesmen is not the result of laziness.

A few years ago my wife and I had the privilege of watching a Thai woman weaving beautiful Thai silk. She worked from sun-up to sun-down in a small factory in the middle of a slum area in Bangkok, and still had her housework awaiting her at the end of the day. She could weave approximately three yards of silk in a day. I was told that her wages were three baht (about 15¢) per yard for a product which sold in New York stores, as I recall for approximately \$25 per yard. The Thai woman was poor, but she certainly was not lazy.

On a trip into northern India my car was stopped on a perilous Himalayan mountain road at a point where a rockslide had occurred. While waiting for boulders to be removed from the road, I got out of the car and walked ahead to get a closer view of the work. In addition to the men at work on the boulders, I saw a group of women and children seated around a small rock pile. I have never quite forgotten the tug that came at my heart when I realized that they were all crushing rocks with small hammers to make gravel for road repairs! Laziness was hardly the cause of this particular problem of poverty.

I do not claim to have the answer to the complicated questions of poverty in developing nations, but an important first step is to revise our mythology about laziness as the principal cause of poverty.



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October 3, 1968

**Baylor To Appear
 On College Bowl**

WACO, Tex. (BP)--A team of Baylor University students is scheduled to appear on the nationally-televised General Electric College Bowl, Nov. 30. The appearance will be Baylor's second in eight years.

Baylor first appeared on College Bowl in January of 1961, when they were defeated in the first round by Hobard and William Smith College, Geneva, N. Y.

Glenn R. Capp, chairman of the department of oral communication and the team's coach, said Baylor opponent for the November appearance has not been determined.

From a series of written and oral trials, four Baylor students will be selected to comprise the team. Four alternates also will be chosen. The team will engage in practice sessions with campus groups including the faculty, honors program students and debaters.

Fourteen faculty members representing all fields of study are acting as advisers. Each adviser has submitted five questions that will be used to comprise the written examination.

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**Junior Editor Named
 For Sunday School Board**

NASHVILLE (BP)--W. Mark Moore, formerly primary-junior director, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., has been named editor, children's section, Sunday School department, Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention here.

He will be responsible for the editing of junior-age materials.

Moore, a native Mississippian, is a graduate of Clarke Memorial College, Newton, Miss., and received bachelor of arts and master of education degrees from Mississippi College, Clinton. He received a master of religious education degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Before his employment at Broadmoor, Moore served two Mississippi churches, Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo, and Daniel Memorial Baptist Church, Jackson, as minister of education.

He has also served as associational Vacation Bible School and junior Sunday School and Training Union consultant; as a special worker for the Sunday School and Training Union departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson, and as an officer for the Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association in 1967-68.

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**Killinger To Speak At
 Southern Seminary**

(10-3-68)

LOUISVILLE (BP)--John C. Killinger Jr., professor of theology and literature at Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Nashville, has been named keynote speaker for the 1969 Student Mission Conference at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

The annual conference will be held Feb. 21-23, 1969. Approximately 1,000 students from the eastern United States attend each year. In 1968 more than 80 colleges in 16 states were represented. The students will arrive at the seminary Friday, Feb. 21, and remain through a Sunday morning service on Feb. 23.

Included in conference activities will be several dramatic presentations, a film dialogue, seminars with missions leaders and a talk-back session with mission-board personnel.

Theme for the weekend conference will be "What the World Needs Now." Chairman of the conference is John H. Burrows, a second-year theology student from Montgomery, Ala.

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SBC Missions Gifts Top
\$40 Million In September

NASHVILLE (BP)--World-wide missions gifts to Southern Baptist Convention causes for the first three quarters of 1968 have topped the \$40 million mark.

The record contributions, up \$2.17 million compared to the same period last year, were detailed in a monthly financial statement from the Southern Baptist Executive Committee here.

The \$40,288,853 includes \$19.6 million given through the Cooperative Program unified budget that supports all SBC causes, and \$20.6 million in designated contributions to specific world missions efforts.

Cooperative Program gifts increased \$817,065 over similar gifts for the same period in 1967, an increase of 4.35 per cent.

Designations were up \$1.35 million, or 7.01 per cent, for the same period in 1967. The overall grand total of \$40 million was an increase of 5.7 per cent compared to 1967.

For the ninth consecutive month, Cooperative Program contributions for September topped the \$2 million mark. If the trend continues for the remainder of the year, 1968 will be the first time in the denomination's history that Cooperative Program gifts exceeded the \$2 million mark each month of the year, said John H. Williams, financial planning secretary for the Executive Committee.

Of the \$40 million total, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has received \$25.3 million during the nine-month period for world-wide missions work, and the SBC Home Mission Board has received \$9 million for missions in the United States.

The Cooperative Program supports the work of 19 Southern Baptist Convention agencies, including both mission boards, six seminaries, six commissions, and five other agencies.

The \$40 million total does not include amounts given by the denomination's 34,000 churches and 11 million members to support local and state missions programs, but only reflects contributions to the national and world-wide efforts.

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Two Deans, Scholars
To Lecture at Southern

(10-3-68)

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Walter Harrelson, dean of the Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, and Krister Stendahl, dean of the Harvard Divinity School, will headline a slate of visiting lecturers during the current academic year at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Harrelson will speak Nov. 19-20, 1968, and Stendahl March 27-28, 1969. They will be featured in the Gheens Lecture Series. Others scheduled in the series are:

Clarence Jordan, founder of the Koinonia Farm in Americus, Ga., and translator of the "Cotton Patch" version of the New Testament, Sept. 30-Oct. 2; Jean Berger, professor of music at Temple Buell College in Denver, Col., for the Church Music Institute, Oct. 21-22; Elaine Dickson, assistant to the promotion division director of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union, Nov. 19;

Douglas V. Steere, professor at Haverford College in Haverford, Pa., who will share the spring conference platform with Mullins Lecturer Jack Finegan, author and professor at Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, Calif., March 4-7; C. Ellis Nelson, Skinner and McAlpin Professor of Practical Theology at Union Theological Seminary in New York, March 11-12.

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Seminary Professor
Suffers Heart Attack

(10-3-68)

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Derward W. Deere, professor of Old Testament interpretation at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here, suffered a heart attack and is in "very serious condition" at a nearby hospital.

Deere, professor at the seminary since 1950, is in the heart unit of Marin General Hospital, San Rafael, Calif. He suffered the coronary attack Sept. 26.

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Accident Claims N.C.
Sunday School Secretary

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--Claude W. White, secretary of the Sunday School department of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, was killed Oct. 2 here in a traffic accident.

White was alone in his Volkswagen when it crashed almost headon with a U.S. mail truck at a sharp curve on a downtown boulevard.

Police said the Volkswagen, failed to make the curve, crossed the median strip traveling 77 feet and struck the van type truck. The driver of the truck was not injured.

White came to his present position in June, 1967, from Virginia where he had served as an associate in the Sunday School department.

A native of Elizabeth City, he was 52 years of age. He attended Campbell College at Buie's Creek, N.C. where he later taught for a year. He also attended West Texas State College in Canyon, Tex. and earned both his master's and doctor's degrees in religious education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth.

He had served a number of churches as minister of education, including First Baptist Church, Canyon, Tex.; First Baptist Church, Gatesville, Tex.; Grey Stone Baptist Church, Durham, N.C.; First Baptist Church, Mineral Wells, Tex.; and Ashley River Baptist Church, Charleston, S.C.

During World War II, he was an Army chaplain.

He was a past president of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association and was currently serving as an officer in the Southeastern Religious Education Association.

Surviving are his wife, the former Blanche Campbell of Greensboro, N.C.; two daughters, Mrs. James Tapp of Richmond, Va. and Rebecca of Raleigh; two sons, Perry who was a student at Purdue University until recent surgery and Morris, a student at Mars Hill College.

Funeral services Oct. 4 were at New Hope Baptist Church, Raleigh, with internment at Raleigh Memorial Park.

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New York Fellowship Plans
Beginning of New Convention

(10-3-68)

NEW YORK (BP)--The Baptist Fellowship of New York meeting here Sept. 27-28 reaffirmed Jan. 1, 1970 as a realistic date to establish the New York Baptist Convention and began plans for a constitution meeting to be held in Syracuse Sept. 25-26, 1969.

The 163 messengers from 55 churches and chapels across New York and Northern New Jersey passed a measure to begin the new organization with four staff members. Those forming the nucleus of the state leadership will be (1) executive secretary-treasurer-editor-evangelism secretary, (2) secretary of church program ministries, (3) secretary of missions-stewardship-brotherhood, and (4) a part-time WMU secretary.

Membership in the 98 congregations now total 9,500, according to Roger Knapton, chairman of the executive board. Based on this figure, he said, "the goal of 10,000 members to be reached by 1970 can be attained."

A record budget of \$8,700 was approved for 1969, and a reserve fund has been established by the Maryland Convention in which one-third of 1969 cooperative program gifts given in the fellowship territory will be held for the new convention.

In other action, the fellowship elected as president for the coming year Paul James, superintendent of missions for Metropolitan Baptist Association. First vice president is Hartmon Sullivan, pastor of LaSalle Baptist Church, Niagra Falls; Quinn Pugh, pastor at Bergen Baptist Church, is second vice president.

Reelected for a third year as recording secretary was Curtis Porter, pastor of Amherst Baptist Church. Mrs. Roger Knapton, assistant recording secretary, and LeRoy Stewart, treasurer, were reelected for their second year of service.

The Baptist Fellowship of New York voted to recognize all churches affiliated with the various associations that seek a cooperating place in the fellowship.

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