



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

---FEATURES

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PROBLEMS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
(Fifty-first in a series)

STATEMENTS THAT SHAPED A LIFE

By T. B. Maston

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A sentence casually and unconsciously dropped into the life of another may go a long way toward shaping that life. I may be unusually conscious of this potential because of the impact of such statements on my own life. I can visualize even now the places and the occasions when a half dozen such statements were made that left an indelible imprint on my life. It may be that they will have a message for some of you.

Miss Gresham, my high school English teacher, had sent for me. She had heard that I had quit the football team and had resigned as captain. I told her the real reason. I had become a Christian and had felt called to the ministry. I did not feel that I could take any longer the filthy, dirty talk of some of the fellows on the team. The one thing that I remember about the conversation with Miss Gresham was a question she asked. It searched the heart of a seventeen-year-old boy and has continued to influence his life. Her question was, "Do you think Jesus would quit because it is hard?" I rejoined the team that afternoon.

There is a spot on Russell Street, Jefferson City, Tenn., where my brother, Red, who was not a Christian at the time, said to me, "Remember, Tom, folks will respect a fellow who stands for someting." In later years I added to Red's statement the following: "And stands for it in the right spirit."

I can still feel Dad's big rugged hand on my shoulder as we shook hands under the giant oak at the southwest corner of the barn. I was on my way back to the campus of Carson-Newman College. His statement to me that day puzzled me. I believe I learned through the years what he was trying to say to me. His statement was: "My boy, don't let them take your power away from you up there." I believe that my Dad, with his limited formal education, recognized an abiding danger of education. There is the possibility that one may be led to trust his own ability and training and fail to recognize sufficiently his need for the leadership and power of the indwelling Spirit.

Then there was the occasion when Miss Lucy Cooper, a special friend to young people who felt called into church related vocations, came to old Smithwood Church to hear me attempt to preach my first sermon. She waited until all except my immediate family had left the church building. She may have sensed that I would never be much of a preacher, but at least she dropped into my life that night a statement that has tremendously influenced me through the years. The statement was: "Do not forget, Tom, the greatest sermon you will ever preach will be the life you live."

Although I have never been ordained as a minister, I have spent most of my life teaching in a theological seminary. Over and over again I have quoted Miss Lucy's statement and have said to the young preachers in my classes, "You may be able to preach like an L. R. Scarborough or a George W. Truett, but remember that the greatest sermon you will ever preach will be the life you live."

You may want to insert the names of Billy Graham and R. G. Lee or other of your favorite preachers. This will not change in any way the validity of Miss Lucy's statement.

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**Arizona Convention Approves
Committee Study, Resolutions**

PHOENIX (BP)--The Arizona Southern Baptist Convention meeting here approved the initial report of a 25-member study committee appointed to study the convention's total work, retained the committee for future work, and adopted three major resolutions supporting those in authority and the primacy of evangelism.

One resolution urged Baptist leaders at every level to help "irradicate the harsh, destructive, hypocritical statements so commonly directed to all authority" and to "conversely lead all people to a respect for those in authority..."

Two other resolutions commended the Crusade of the Americas evangelistic effort and asked Baptists to recommit themselves "to the principle of the primacy of evangelism" and to the "historic and biblical principle that man needs and must have a new heart before society can be improved and civilization advanced..."

Major business action of the convention was adoption of the initial report of the 25-member study committee appointed last year to study the convention's operation and its institutions and agency.

Although the report of the committee was approved, the committee was retained for further study. Convention officials said that the committee "found things to be in order," and that they did not find "any discrepancies of serious nature."

Several constitutional changes were recommended by the committee and approved by the convention.

One such constitutional change provided for a system of recall or dismissal of any board or trustee members of the convention or institutions "on just cause upon vote of two-thirds of the members of this board." The change was not pointed at any specific situation but was explained as "preventive maintenance" by the committee.

Another constitution change was passed making it possible for the convention to conduct business outside of the state of Arizona. It was explained that this would make it possible for the convention to meet in Nevada, where churches in the southern half of that state are cooperating with the Arizona convention.

Referred back to the committee was a proposal that asked for study of the possibility of Grand Canyon College in Phoenix setting up a working relationship with two Baptist hospitals in the Phoenix area to establish a nursing training center.

The 25-man committee was asked to study the possibility and bring a report back to the convention next year.

Budgets for the convention, the three Baptist hospitals, college, children's home and foundation were approved. The total of all budgets was \$12.3 million.

The 1969 budget administered for the state convention by its Executive Board totaled \$386,000, an increase of \$26,000 or seven per cent, over the 1968 budget.

Elected president of the convention was J. D. Marler, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Globe, Ariz.

Reports presented to the convention indicated the best year of growth in the history of Arizona Baptists. Baptisms for the year totaled 4,380, an increase of 432 over the number of baptisms last year. There are 320 churches and missions in the convention with a total of about 65,000 members.

Indiana Board Declines
Baptist College Affiliation

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--The Executive Board of the State Convention declined an invitation to establish a cooperative relationship with Campbellsville College in Campbellsville, Ky.

The Baptist school's trustees and president, J. K. Powell, had extended an invitation for the Indiana convention "to become affiliated with Campbellsville College through a cooperative relationship as your institute of higher learning until a time when Indiana has its own (Baptist) college."

The board, however, "respectfully" declined the invitation. Most of the discussion dealt with the implications of endorsing one Baptist college and not all Baptist colleges.

During the week prior to the board meeting, the state convention had asked for a re-study of long-range guidelines, one of which would have delayed consideration of an Indiana Baptist college for at least 20 years.

In other actions, the board re-elected its officers, including Tom Woods, a layman from Evansville, Ind., as chairman, and created a state-wide prayer retreat for Baptist women in the state. The first such retreat will be held Jan. 31-Feb. 1 in Indianapolis, with Miss Lucy Wright, former missionary to China and Korea, leading. -30-

Fall Enrollments At 53
Baptist Colleges Increase

(11-19-68)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Fall enrollments at 53 Southern Baptist senior and junior colleges throughout the nation rose to a record 66,593, a statistical tabulation of enrollments compiled by the Southern Baptist Convention Education Commission disclosed here.

Enrollments of regular, full-time students increased 1,945 over the 1967 fall enrollment figure of 64,648.

In addition to the enrollments of 53 Baptist junior and senior colleges, the Education Commission also reported enrollment figures at four Baptist Bible schools and at seven Baptist academies.

Enrollments at the seven academies was 2,490, down by 11 from the 1967 figures; and was 605 at the four Bible schools, up 24 from 1967 enrollments.

Grand total enrollments for the 53 Baptist colleges, seven academies and four Bible schools (64 institutions) was 69,688, an increase of 1,958 over the 1967 fall enrollments.

Of the 53 junior and senior colleges, 34 colleges and universities reported enrollment increases over the fall, 1967, figures; while 19 of the schools reported enrollment decreases.

Of the 34 with increased enrollments, 26 were senior colleges and eight were junior colleges. Decreased enrollments were reported by 13 senior colleges and six junior colleges.

The largest increase in enrollment was reported by Baptist College at Charleston (S.C.) where the number of students jumped from 937 to 1,349, an increase of 412.

Biggest of all the Baptist schools is again Baylor University, Waco, Tex., with 7,748 full-time students enrolled, an increase of 101. Next in size is Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C., with 3,152 students, slightly down from last year's 3,163.

In addition to the "net enrollment" of "regular" (full-time) students, the Baptist colleges reported 7,167 "other" students enrolled in correspondence, night, and extension classes. This brought total enrollment at the 53 schools to 73,760.

In addition, the 53 Baptist colleges and universities graduated 12,971 students last year, the report indicated.

The report was based on statistics supplied by the registrar at each school.

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