

April 11, 1969

PROBLEMS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
(Another in a series)

VENEREAL DISEASE

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"There is a silent epidemic in the land." This was the opening sentence in a recent article on venereal disease in a daily paper.

In recent years there has been a marked increase in cases of syphilis and gonorrhea, with 100,000 new cases of syphilis and 400,000 of gonorrhea in the United States in a single year. Furthermore, it is estimated that only one in four cases of syphilis and not more than one in ten cases of gonorrhea are reported.

The United States Public Health Service estimates that there are at least 800,000 persons in this country who are in need of treatment for syphilis. If these go untreated the Health Service says that one in 13 will develop heart disease, one in 25 will be crippled, one in 44 will develop syphilitic insanity, and one in 200 will become blind.

The American Medical Association has recently stated that "venereal disease is spreading so rapidly that it now represents the nation's most urgent communicable disease problem."

The most rapid increase in venereal disease in recent years has been among teen-agers. Teen-agers and adults should know that many authorities claim that venereal disease is the most communicable disease of mankind. It is communicable, however, only through skin contact.

It has been suggested that the only way to avoid venereal disease is to steer clear of venereal disease carriers. The added word is: "Who can be sure who that is?" This is one valid reason for premarital chastity and postmarital faithfulness.

Unfortunately, many Christians are a part of "a conspiracy of silence" regarding venereal disease. They think it should not be discussed "in polite society."

It should be recognized, however, that there is nothing polite about the way venereal disease operates. It is no respecter of persons. It is found among all classes and colors. Even innocent babies can be infected before birth by a mother who has venereal disease.

What are the reasons for the recent upsurge in venereal disease? One writer has placed the blame primarily on the war in Vietnam. Another, a doctor, says that the "pill" must share the responsibility. He suggests that married and unmarried need to remember that "the pill does not prevent venereal disease." Another doctor has suggested that the "boundaries of sexual freedom have blurred." A public health official recently said that "one of the real reasons" for the marked increase in venereal disease among teen-agers is the breakdown in morals in the home, school, and church.

The latter means, among other things, that these three institutions have important contributions to make to the meeting of the challenge of venereal disease. One contribution that the Christian home and church can make is to seek to build into the lives of young people some relevant basic convictions.

Parents and workers with youth should inform themselves concerning venereal disease. They can secure pamphlets from their county or state department of health. The church librarian should consider having available pamphlets or books for circulation among parents and teen-agers.

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Belmont Approves Plans
For Business Building

NASHVILLE (BP)--Architect's plans plus a \$1½ million fund campaign have been approved for a new business administration building at Belmont College here, with hopes that the Baptist college can develop a top quality business school comparable with those of quality educational institutions in the East.

Trustees of the school, with approval of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and its Executive Board, have launched a \$1½ million fund campaign called T.N.T., or "Today Not Tomorrow."

The fund drive will seek to raise \$500,000 to match a half-million dollar gift by Jack Massey, chairman of the board of Kentucky Fried Chicken, and the Hospital Corporation of America. Massey and his wife said one year ago they planned to give the school a total of \$1.2 million.

The Massey gift includes \$500,000 for the business administration building provided Belmont can raise another \$500,000 in matching gifts; \$500,000 over a 10-year period to supplement cost of faculty salaries in the business school; and the site for the proposed building, with property valued at \$200,000.

Of the \$1½ million fund campaign planned by Belmont College, \$500,000 would match Massey's gift for the building, \$500,000 would upgrade Belmont's total academic offering for a well-balanced curriculum, and \$500,000 would acquire additional adjacent property for future development, and would develop property and facilities already acquired.

Herbert C. Gabhart, president of the Baptist college, said that already he had received three pledges for gifts totalling \$125,000. The campaign is scheduled to end Oct. 31, 1969.

The building will include two five-tiered pit classrooms seating 125 each, 12 classrooms with a capacity of 50 each, a computer center, offices, lounge, and snack area.

Gabhart said it would serve not only the college but also the business community, and will be available for seminars for executives and sales schools, and classes in management, selling, real estate, and other related subjects. Total cost of the building itself is estimated at \$1 million.

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Florida Music Associate,
W. Herman Mikell, Dies

(4-11-69)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--W. Herman Mikell, 59, associate secretary of the church music department of the Florida Baptist Convention here for 9½ years, died in a Jacksonville hospital.

Funeral services were conducted at Main Street Baptist Church here, with memorial tributes delivered by Pastor E. C. McDaniel of the church, Roy D. Gresham, executive secretary of the Baptist Convention of Maryland; and Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention.

Special music was rendered by the Florida Baptist Singing Men, composed of ministers of music from Baptist churches throughout the state, a group with which Mikell had often worked.

A native of Georgia, Mikell was a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and was minister of music for Baptist churches in Delhi, La.; New Orleans; Jackson, La.; and Baltimore, Md. He was minister of music and education at Riverview Baptist Church here before joining the state convention staff.

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