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460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
Telephone (615) 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, Director  
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

**REGIONAL OFFICES**

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 1350 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041  
DALLAS Billy Keith, Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996  
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

**BUREAU**

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,  
Telephone (615) 254-1631

June 27, 1969

**Senators Ask For Food Stamp  
Reforms To Benefit Disabled**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Elderly shut-ins who are unable to prepare meals for themselves because they are too sick or do not have kitchen facilities would be the beneficiaries of a major provision proposed in Congress to reform the food stamp program.

The measure would make it possible for churches and other non-profit organizations to accept food stamps in exchange for meals prepared for the elderly disabled and served in their homes or in a "common dining room."

The amendment to the Food Stamp Act is sponsored in the Senate by a bipartisan group of 16 members, led by Sen. Hugh Scott (R., Pa.). In the House of Representatives a similar proposal has been introduced by Rep. Joseph M. McDade, also a republican from Pennsylvania.

When he introduced the bill, Sen. Scott said the provision would eliminate one of the inequities of the present food stamp program which denies stamps to persons without cooking facilities in their own homes who are otherwise eligible.

Scott praised the work of some churches and denominational groups for the "Meals on Wheels" program developed in some metropolitan areas to provide well-balanced, nutritious meals to the elderly poor in their homes.

Such an amendment to the Food Stamp Act would encourage these efforts of private, voluntary groups and would enable them to expand their efforts, Scott pointed out.

This is in keeping with the current focus of relying more heavily on private initiative to solve "the pressing national problems, of which one, certainly, is hunger," Scott said.

Under the proposal the food stamps would be issued to the individual who in turn would exchange them for meals served by the charitable groups. The stamps would enable the non-profit organizations to buy food at a cost much less than that of the market price.

In addition to Scott, other Senators sponsoring the measure are: Alan Bible (D., Nev.), Edward W. Brooke (R., Mass.), Thomas J. Dodd (D., Conn.), Hiram L. Fong (R., Hawaii), Philip A. Hart (D., Mich.), Vance Hartke (D., Ind.), Mark O. Hatfield (R., Ore.), Ernest F. Hollings (D., S.C.), Daniel K. Inouye (D., Hawaii), Edward M. Kennedy (D., Mass.), Warren G. Magnuson (D., Wash.), Winston L. Prouty (R., Vt.), William B. Spong (D., Va.), Ted Stevens (R., Alaska), and Edward J. Gurney (R., Fla.).

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**Baptist Center Reopens  
With Aid of Police Group**

6/27/69

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--Vandals who broke into the Good Neighbor Baptist Center here may have opened the door to an enlarged ministry of the center, with the help of an organization of policemen called the Guardians.

The center, without a director, had been closed for three months, when it was discovered that windows were broken, Bibles and materials were piled on the floor and covered with ketchup, and that a typewriter, lawnmower, recreation equipment and a television set had been stolen.

One of the two officers sent by the Indianapolis police department to investigate the crime was public relations director for the Guardians, a group of 85 policemen, mostly blacks, who use their off-duty time to aid worthy community projects.

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The Guardians decided that Good Neighbor Baptist Center would be their first project. The group was organized only last January.

Five Guardians went to work as carpenters, repairing doors and windows. Working by their side were laymen from local Southern Baptist churches, who painted the center.

With the arrival of a summer missionary couple from Virginia, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Moore, the center is re-opening to provide a place of recreation and Christian instruction on the north edge of downtown Indianapolis.

The Guardians plan to clear off the vacant lot adjacent to the center for basketball, horseshoes, and other recreational activities. Classes in arts and crafts will begin soon, along with a modified Vacation Bible School program.

"This center has the potential of becoming the hub of the whole area, as far as social work, recreation and church ministry is concerned," said Officer Willie Larkin.

Larkin, who is the Guardian PR director who investigated vandalism at the center earlier, said it is the first time that a police group in the country had undertaken such a project, to his knowledge.

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Seminary Prof Wins Top Award  
In SBC Theme Sermon Contest

6/27/69

NASHVILLE (BP)--A Baptist seminary professor has won top honors in a sermon contest to encourage preaching on the Southern Baptist Convention's 1969-70 theme, "Living the Spirit of Christ in Belief and Relevance."

The top award went to J. Winston Pearce, professor of preaching at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

Second place went to Robert J. Hastings, editor of the Illinois Baptist, Carbondale, Ill., and third place was awarded to Mrs. Joe (Edna) Hawkins of Marietta, Ga., nursery director of First Baptist Church of Marietta, Ga., and writer for several SBC publications.

The project was sponsored by the 70 Onward Committee of the Southern Baptist Inter-Agency Council in an effort "to encourage thoughtful people to search out and communicate the significant implications of the SBC Theme, "Living the Spirit of Christ in Belief and Relevance."

All of the sermons used the convention theme as the subject for the messages.

In addition to the three top winners, which earned cash awards of \$150, \$100, and \$50 each, five sermons were selected by a panel for judges for "honorable mention ." Th five honorable mention winners received \$25 each.

Those receiving honorable mention were William N. McElrath, Baptist missionary to Indonesia on furlough in Raleigh, N.C.; Jerry M. Windsor, pastor of Midway Baptist Church, Thomasville, Ala.; William J. Furr, pastor of Chadbourn Baptist Church, Chadbourn, N.C.; T. O. Spicer, Jr., pastor of Webster Park Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.; and Paul D. Brewer, professor at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.

There were a total of 99 entries submitted in the competition. About a half-dozen each came from women and from laymen.

The judges for the contest included a denominational editor, a pastor, a preaching professor at a Baptist seminary, and a housewife.

One of the persons who entered the contest wrote saying that he wanted to preach his sermon to the Southern Baptist Convention if he won, instead of receiving the prize money. He was not one of the winners, however.

Written sermons submitted in the competition were 1,500 to 2,000 words each. Foy Valentine, executive secretary of the SBC Christian Life Commission, Nashville, was chairman of the 70 Onward committee which sponsored the competition.

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