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

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**Green Gate to Reopen
As 'Christian Nightclub'**

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ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

By Billy Keith

SAN ANTONIO (BP) -- The Green Gate Club, once well known for its strip shows, reopened here as a "Christian Nightclub" featuring a mod, blond professional singer who performs in Las Vegas clubs and considers herself a "Jesus Person."

"I'm not really associated with any form of organized religion," said vivacious, mini-skirted Karen Blackwell. "I consider myself a Jesus person--a Christian."

Miss Blackwell, who did the "wet and wild" television commercial for a national soft drink firm, was in San Antonio at her own expense to perform portions of her nightclub act when the Green Gate opened its door for the first time as a "Christian nightclub."

The club, once operated as a burlesque house by Mr. and Mrs. Guy Linton has been closed since the Lintons became Christians.

After the Lintons became Christians a year ago, they hung a sign on the Green Gate Club saying, "Closed Forever."

They sold the club to Bob Harrington, a Baptist evangelist known as the chaplain of Bourbon Street in New Orleans who had been instrumental in their conversion.

Jack Taylor, pastor of Castle Hills Baptist Church here, explained that they originally planned to convert the club to a bookstore, but present plans call for it to become a permanent "Christian nightclub." They also plan to sell it to "Christian businessmen in the city."

On opening night, in addition to Miss Blackwell's performance, the film "From Crime to Christ," which depicts the life of J. C. Sullivan of the Clyde Barrow--Bonnie Parker gang, was shown.

The new club, which will be operated by Castle Hills Baptist Church, will open at 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays until 2:00 a.m. on Sunday; and from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. each Sunday.

Miss Blackwell, 28, describes her act as "soul rock." She added that prior to becoming a Christian she concluded each act with "Let There Be Peace On Earth."

"I did not associate peace with God through Jesus Christ; though I was well informed about the dude," she said smiling.

According to Taylor, she became a Christian through the efforts of Tommy Lester who portrays the character "Eb" on the "Green Acres" television show.

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British Baptist Church
Membership Drops 6,000

May 5, 1971

LONDON (BP)--Baptist churches in Great Britain have reported a loss of 6,040 members during the last year, according to the new yearbook of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland.

Total membership in the Union was listed as 268,831 as of Jan. 1, 1970, compared to 274,871 on Jan 1, 1969, according to the current yearbook.

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The membership list includes four independent Baptist unions and covers England, Wales, Scotland, both parts of Ireland and coastal islands.

Gains were noted in the Baptist Union of Ireland, and in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man. Irish Baptists, continuing a 30-year trend, gained in membership from 6,922 to 7,186 while the Island Baptists' membership increased from 330 to 358 members.

Most British Baptists, however, live in England and are members of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland. English membership dropped from 176,222 to 173,350.

Wales, second largest in Baptist population, decreased from 74,681 to 72,097. Scotland Baptist membership dropped from 16,716 to 16,074.

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Hobbs Hospitalized With Blood
Clot, Engagements Cancelled

May 5, 1971

OKLAHOMA CITY, (BP)--Former Southern Baptist Convention President Herschel H. Hobbs pastor of First Baptist Church here, has been hospitalized with a blood clot.

Physicians have asked that he cancel all outside engagements until September, and that he not return to his pulpit until about July 1.

Although he is no longer in intensive care, officials at Baptist Hospital here said Hobbs could not have visitors or phone calls. They anticipate dismissal from the hospital in mid-May.

Hobbs was president of the SBC from 1961-63. He was elected president at the 1961 Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, but will not be able to attend the SBC when it meets in St. Louis June 1-3, 1971.

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Laymen's Forum On Missions
Slated At SBC in St. Louis

May 5, 1971

ST. LOUIS (BP)--A laymen's forum on missions involvement has been planned for June 2 at the Southern Baptist Convention here by a committee of laymen in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

The laymen's forum will be held in addition to a previously-announced Baptist Men's Conference scheduled on Monday evening, May 31. A joint program will be printed for both meetings, said W. J. Isbell, secretary of the men's department for the SBC Brotherhood Commission, Memphis.

The forum, which will be held on Wednesday afternoon during the time scheduled for alumni meetings, will begin with a luncheon at 1:15 at the Lennox Hotel, 125 Washington St.

Isbell and the other members of the group planning the forum said that pastors and laymen and their wives were invited--not just laymen.

"This is not an action meeting, but an effort to exchange some ideas," said Elmin Howell of Dallas, coordinator of the River Ministry for the Baptist General Convention of Texas and one of the planners.

Another committee member, Owen Cooper, a Yazoo City, Miss., businessman and former vice president of the SBC, noted that speakers on the floor of the Southern Baptist Convention are permitted only three minutes to express themselves. This forum, however, is an opportunity for laymen to express their ideas on missions involvement and support in more detail, he said.

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Isbell said the Brotherhood Commission is trying to correlate the work of committed laymen and keep the red tape at a minimum so it won't stymie their creativity and mobility, and so that their efforts can be tied in with the local church effectively within the framework of the SBC.

A third member of the committee, James Johnson, president of a volunteer mission action group known as Action for Christ, Inc., of Arlington, Tex., said "There is a growing interest on the part of laymen to get more meaningfully involved in Christian lay ministries within the local church and beyond.

Six laymen and a pastor, who have led out in Christian ministries involving thousands of laymen, will speak, allowing time for discussion at the end, Cooper said.

The moderator will be SBC First Vice President Fred Rhodes of Washington, D.C., deputy directory of the Veterans Administration.

Speakers will be:

--Johnson, a computer analyst with General Portland Cement Co., Dallas, on using vocations for Christ;

--Dr. Charles Green, Lawton, Okla., M.D., on a proposed hospital ship to serve as a base for medical personnel to minister to needy areas around the world;

--Gene Triggs, Yazoo City, Miss., secretary of the Agricultural Missions Foundation, on the use of agricultural assistance in world missions efforts;

--Dr. Jasper McPhail, Md., a member of Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark., and a former Southern Baptist medical missionary, on the church at work in the local community;

--George Carkeet, pastor of the Greenwood Baptist Church near Shreveport, La., on church builders. Carkeet has led laymen and their families to spend vacations in building dozens of churches in pioneer missions area;

--Howell, who is coordinator of the River Ministry for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, on ministries that have led thousands of people from upstate churches to spend vacations and holidays building churches, digging wells and conducting Vacation Bible Schools along the Rio Grande River; and

--Cooper, president of Mississippi Chemical Corp., Yazoo City, Miss., who will speak on giving as a response to mission support resulting from missions knowledge and involvement.

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West Texas SPIRENO Crusades
Result in 2,000 Decisions

May 5, 1971

MIDLAND, Tex. (BP)--The mass response among young people that resulted in 4,000 professions of faith at First Baptist Church, Houston, was repeated in the West Texas oil cities of Midland and Odessa, with nearly 2,000 professions of faiths in two weeks.

At Midland, 1,381 people accepted Christ during a week-long SPIRENO (Spiritual Revolution Now) Crusade sponsored by the churches of the Midland Baptist Association. In Odessa, 610 people accepted Christ during a week-long revival at Sherwood Baptist Church.

Youthful evangelist Richard Hogue, who led the record-breaking SPIRENO campaign in Houston, conducted both West Texas crusades.

In Midland, Hogue spoke at rallies before and after school although in Houston, he spoke in public school assemblies on a non-religious basis. A crusade leader said that about one-third to one-fourth of the students turned out for the rallies here.

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In Odessa, Sherwood Baptist Church Pastor Lenard Hartley said crowds were so great during the revival that the church had to hold two services nightly to accommodate the crowds. Later, the services were moved to a nearby gymnasium.

Giving their testimonies at the Midland Crusade were former Miss Teenage America, Debbie Patton of Odessa, and Roger Staubach and Terry Bradshaw, quarterbacks of the Dallas Cowboys and Pittsburg Steelers professional football teams respectively.

The chairman of evangelism for the Midland Baptist Association, Bill V. Cathey, said that Hogue uses a rock folk music group to attract interest of the youth, and that while much of the so-called "Jesus movement" is outside the church, Hogue's approach is within the church with a sound and solid message.

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Campers on Mission
Membership Jumps

May 5, 1971

ATLANTA(BP)--Campers on Mission (COM), a fellowship for Christian campers formed in January by Southern Baptists, has skyrocketed to 1,300 members, and its growth rate is 15 to 40 new members a day, officials of the organization said here.

The organization was formed by four convention agencies to provide a continuing ministry in resort areas. Christian campers who are members place a blue fish emblem on their trailers or cars for identification.

Not only can they be spotted by other members, but hopefully the emblem will spark the interest of fellow campers and thereby give members a chance for Christian witnessing, an official of the group said.

The main objective of the organization, said John McBride, associate director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Division of Associational services, "is to bear witness to the saving power of Jesus Christ, to communicate through word and deed the good life in Christ, and to be genuine and sensitive in our relations with other people.

"No other nation in history has had such leisure enjoyed by the middle working class," McBride said. "Our conviction is that where there are people, there ought to be someone there who knows the Lord and is communicating it."

Joel Land, assistant secretary of the department of special mission ministries, and Larry Haslam, camping consultant for the church recreation department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, and McBride are now planning special Glorieta-Ridgecrest conferences on Christian camping.

The conferences will seek to awaken Southern Baptists to what McBride calls "the quiet revolution" going on in the work and play patterns of Americans.

"We fear that Southern Baptists may sleep through the revolution," Land commented.

Campers on Mission is sponsored jointly by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, the Woman's Missionary Union, the Baptist Sunday School Board and the Brotherhood Commission.

Members are now being sent newsletters and packets with the objectives of the fellowship. Land is in charge of membership.

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Convention Tour of St. Louis
Inner-City Baptist Work Slated

5/5/71

ST. LOUIS (BP)--A bus tour of Baptist work in the inner-city of St. Louis and major tourist attractions of the city has been scheduled during the Southern Baptist Convention on Wednesday afternoon, June 2.

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Tickets will be available at the Home Mission Board booth at the convention, according to Martin L. Pratt, director of inner-city ministries for the St. Louis Baptist Mission Board. Cost of the tickets is \$2.00, plus a box lunch.

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Presidential Panel Urges
More Aid to Private Schools

5/5/71

WASHINGTON (BP)--The President's Panel on Nonpublic Education, a unit of the Commission on School Finance, made its first interim report to President Nixon recommending increased federal aid to private and parochial schools.

The panel, chaired by Clarence C. Walton, president of Catholic University here, said it is convinced "that some measure of public revenue support for nonpublic pupils is urgently needed" to supplement private funds for these schools.

The panel made six recommendations to President Nixon who had asked the group to study the problems facing private and parochial schools. They are the kinds of recommendations, the group said, which "will serve to arrest the decline of nonpublic schools." All the interim recommendations fall within existing legislation or program proposals presently under review by the administration.

Among other things, the panel recommended that present laws and regulations authorizing federal aid for nonpublic pupils "be vigorously enforced by federal agencies." It asked also that nonpublic schools receive a part of the proposed \$1.5 billion emergency education funds planned to stabilize racial integration.

Administration proposals for consolidating existing aid to education programs should include guarantees that all currently eligible private school pupils will continue to participate, the panel urged.

Further, the report continued, a division should be established in the Office of Education to deal directly with nonpublic schools.

The recommendations from the four-member panel on nonpublic education were presented to President Nixon, along with other reports, by Neil McElroy, chairman of the President's Commission on School Finance. McElroy said the full commission, made up of 16 members, is in "general agreement" with the panel's recommendations.

In its 11-page interim report to the President, the panel identified a number of probable consequences to the "interlocking set of problems" faced by nonpublic schools. Among these, the panel noted the following:

* "Parental choice in their children's education will erode as nonpublic schools vanish in large numbers.

* "Educational diversity will be submerged into educational uniformity which can breed a bland conformity in curricula, teaching methods, teacher incentives, and the like,

* "Creative competition between public and nonpublic schools will decline, rather than being fostered.

* "Moral and spiritual values will receive less attention.

* "The Urban disadvantaged will lose the services of many dedicated teachers whose commitment to them remains firm within present institutional arrangements but who may be driven from their posts as the resource base erodes.

* "Ethnic groups in urban areas will be deprived of schools which have served the community as stabilizing agents and enculturating institutions.

* "Taxes will rise to defray costs for capital investment and for instruction. What is crucial here is taxpayer reaction among those who feel deprived of choice," the panel said.

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In a larger "progress report" on its activities, the full commission said that it is "the public service aspect" of the nonpublic schools which is "most germane" to its deliberations.

"The fact is that they educate, mainly at private expense, 5.6 million American children who would otherwise be educated at the general public expense," the 61-page progress report said.

The commission noted the various programs of federal and state aid to private schools that are being tested in state and federal courts and said that it is "extremely conscious of two basic and interrelated principles in this area:

They are (1) "that all children in the United States share equitably in the national resources available for education, and (2) that no public program be undertaken that will violate the constitutional prohibition against any governmental establishment of religion, or the guarantee of free exercise of religion."

The full and final report to the President will be submitted by March 3, 1972, a date set by President Nixon when he appointed the Commission last March, 1970.

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Cooperative Program Gifts
Continue 1971 Upward Swing

5/5/71

NASHVILLE (BP)--Contributions through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget continued an upwards swing for the first four months of 1971, a monthly financial report from the denomination's Executive Committee disclosed here.

Cooperative Program gifts for 1971 increased 7.8 per cent, or \$747,786, over contributions for the same four-month period in 1970, the report indicated.

Total Cooperative Program contributions for the year reached \$10.3 million, compared to \$9.5 million in 1970, according to the report.

Giving through the denomination's unified budget during the month of April reached \$2.4 million, an increase of 6.52 per cent over contributions for April of 1970.

The 1971 budget adopted by the convention last year requires an income increase of 7.72 per cent for the year in order to meet the total operating budget plus capital needs that were not met in 1970. To meet the total 1971 operating budget, plus 1970 and 1971 capital needs, an increase of 11.48 per cent will be required by December, 1971.

In addition to the \$10.3 million in Cooperative Program contributions, \$17.4 million in designated gifts to specific Southern Baptist causes has been received during the year, an increase of \$918,058 or 5.4 per cent.

The combined Cooperative Program and designated contributions totals \$27.8 million, up \$1.6 million or 6.37 per cent.

Of the \$27.8 million total, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has received \$21.5 million, including \$16.3 million in designated gifts and \$5.2 million in Cooperative Program funds. Most of the designations were in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

The SBC Home Mission Board received \$3 million of the total, including \$1.8 million through the Cooperative Program and \$1.1 million in designated gifts. Funds from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions are just beginning to arrive in Nashville for distribution to the board.

Amounts included in the financial report do not reflect contributions to local and state Baptist mission programs, but only include Southern Baptist Convention causes.

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*460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219*

LYNN MAY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 9TH AVE. NO.
NASHVILLE TN 37203

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