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August 9, 1971

Gideons Present 100 Millionth
Copy of Bible to President Nixon

WASHINGTON (BP)--The recently elected president of Gideon's International, Campbellsville College President W. R. Davenport and the executive director of Gideon's International, M.A. Henderson presented the 100 millionth copy of a Gideon Bible to President Richard M. Nixon here.

Davenport, president of the Baptist school in Campbellsville, Ky., and Henderson, a Presbyterian who heads the international organization with offices in Nashville, made the presentation during a private audience with President Nixon in the White House.

During the six-minute visit with the president, Henderson told of the dramatic conversion of Southern Baptist Convention President Carl E. Bates who became a Christian as a bell-hop at a New Orleans hotel after reading a Gideon Bible in his hotel room. Despondent and discouraged, Bates had contemplated suicide until he found new hope in the Bible, Henderson told the President.

Henderson described the president as "relaxed and genuinely interested" in what he and Davenport had to say, adding that he seemed to be especially impressed by the story of the conversion of the man who now heads the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

President Nixon told the two Gideons representative that "I have a Gideon Bible on Air Force One and it is the best book on the airplane."

The President told the two Gideons that he was acquainted with the work of Gideons International in distributing the scriptures and appreciative of what they do.

Davenport told the President that the Gideons, an organization of 30,000 members in 88 countries, distribute about 1 million copies of the scripture every 46 days in hotel guest rooms, hospitals, penal institutions and to members of the armed forces.

Henderson said the President seemed especially impressed when they told him that on the 20th day of each month, Gideons throughout the nation pray specifically for him as President.

The two Gideons were accompanied to the White House for the presentation by Sen. William Brock (R., Tenn.) who expressed pride in the fact that the national headquarters for Gideons International is located in Donelson, a suburb of Nashville.

The presentation was made during what is commonly called the "congressional half-hour" at the White House for private sessions with the president arranged by members of Congress. Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr. (R., Tenn) and Sen. Brock arranged for the presentation, but Sen. Baker was unable to attend because of duties in the Senate.

After the presentation President Nixon autographed copies of Gideons Bibles for Davenport and Henderson and gave to them a set of cuff links and a desk pen set.

Davenport, president of the Baptist school in Campbellsville, Ky., had been elected president of Gideon's International in Montreal, Canada, only 12 days prior to the presentation at the White House.

Davenport, 45, received a majority vote over three other nominees on the first ballot during the 72nd International Convention of Gideons International.

He had served as vice president of the organization for the past two years.

Pastors' Packet Produced
On Helping Drug Abusers

NASHVILLE (BP)--An intense reading program designed to train Southern Baptist pastors how to help people with drug problems has been produced by the Seminary Extension Department of the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

The packet includes a dozen different books, brochures and periodicals plus an organized reading guide on how to study the materials for best results.

It is part of the newly-designed continuing education program to help Baptist pastors study issues and problems faced by churches that might have developed or intensified since they attended seminary, according to Raymond M. Rigdon, director of the Seminary Extension Department.

The drug-education program was prepared by Harry N. Hollis Jr., director of special moral concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission who formerly taught Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Rigdon said that increasing numbers of Baptist pastors have faced problems and not known how to respond when drug users have been converted to Christ, many of them through the current Jesus Movement, and have come into the church.

He added that the study was also designed to help pastors counsel with teenagers who have been experimenting with drugs and are members of Baptist churches, as well as with members of the families of such teenagers.

The reading program is designed especially to help the pastor understand the scope of the drug problem, ways to identify specific drugs and their symptoms and results, ways to help the family of the drug user, assistance provided by community resources and a biblical understanding and theological perspective of drug abuse.

Rigdon said that the packet, entitled "Helping People with Drug Problems," is the first of a series of non-credit guided reading programs on the "Problems Pastors Face" offered as a continuing education program by the department.

The reading program also includes a guide for group study with the suggestion that three to 15 pastors or other church leaders meet together for six in-depth study sessions on various phases of the drug problem.

The packet includes as resources the following materials: the reading guide by Hollis, *The Drug Crisis and the Church*, a book by Henlee N. Barnette; *The Pastor and Drug Dependency*, a book by Howard J. Clinebell; a 78-page booklet describing common drugs entitled, "Putting the Pieces Together;" a U.S. Bureau of Narcotics booklet on "Drugs of Abuse," *Drug Abuse: Summons to Community Action*, a book by Eunice Jones Mathews; *Drugs on the College Campus*, a book by Helen N. Nowlis; and a U.S. Public Health Service book entitled, "Resource Book for Drug Abuse Education."

It also includes a Christian Life Commission Resource Paper and a pamphlet on drugs and a drug knowledge inventory of questions to test knowledge of drug problems and effects.

Rigdon said that the reading program was designed especially for pastors, but would also be helpful to ministers of education, counselors, youth directors and community and denominational leaders.

-30-

CORRECTION

On story mailed 8/6/71 headlined, "Parker Elected President of Mary Hardin-Baylor change lead graph to read: "Mary Hardin-Baylor College, organized 126 years ago..." (Not 26 years ago as sent). Thanks.

--Baptist Press



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8/9/71

FROM CHICKEN COOP TO PRAYER CHAPEL: As a gift to California Baptist College, the senior class has rebuilt completely what once was an unsightly chicken coop on the campus, converting it to an attractive prayer chapel. Only the tile roof resembles the eyesore that once blighted the area between several main buildings on the campus and a parking lot. (BP) photo

PRESIDENT ACCEPTS GIDEON BIBLE: President Richard M. Nixon receives the 100 Millionth copy of the Gideon Bible in a presentation at the White House by the newly-elected president of Gideon's International, W. R. Davenport (center), president of Campbellsville College (Baptist), Campbellsville, Ky. Also participating in the presentation was M. A. Henderson, executive director of Gideons International, who told the president of the dramatic conversion of Carl E. Bates, now president of the Southern Baptist Convention, at the age of 18 as a suicide-bent bell-hop at a New Orleans hotel. (BP) photo.