



BAPTIST PRESS

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December 13, 1973

SBC President Advocates Six-Day Business Week

NASHVILLE (BP)--Owen Cooper, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and a retired industrialist, said here that he favors a voluntary six-day business week as an energy-conserving measure.

"The number of businesses open on the Lord's Day, such as energy-consuming shopping centers in full operation and large quantities of gasoline still consumed in pursuit of the secular, not only strikes a blow at the American home but also gives a boost for 'Mammon' at the expense of God," Cooper said.

He indicated that most people work only five days, and the sixth day could be used for shopping and personal business. He called on all people who recognize Saturday or Sunday or any other day as the "Lord's Day" to voluntarily help preserve that day's religious significance for them.

Cooper said he advocates that the six-day business week be brought about as a result of personal religious commitment rather than depending on legislative action.

"If the Christians in this country were to commit themselves to the protection of the Lord's Day, they not only would conserve enormous amounts of energy, but they would also make unprofitable the operation of many business establishments on the Lord's Day," Cooper said.

Cooper continued, "If the efforts of over 34,600 Southern Baptist churches and a large segment of the more than 12 million members were directed toward energy-conserving measures for the Lord's Day, not only would a substantial contribution be made toward the needed energy conservation program, but a significant contribution might be made toward generating spiritual energy."

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College Starts Degree Program for Deaf Students

12/13/73

DALLAS (BP)--Dallas Baptist College will become the first denominational school and only one of five colleges in the country to offer a degree program for deaf students.

The program, scheduled to begin next June, will be operated in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"This degree is being provided because the Southern Baptist Conference for the Deaf and its leadership feel a degree program in a Christian institution would help deaf young people live a more purposeful life, both professionally and spiritually," said Jerry Seale, Texas Baptist coordinator of deaf work, who will also coordinate the degree program.

The college, the Home Mission Board and other deaf organizations will also cooperate in assisting in vocational placement of the deaf students after graduation.

Initially, two majors will be offered--pre-professional and business education. The school, Seale said, will seek to recruit qualified deaf students and those with an English deficiency, needing lab skills to compensate.

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Lester Resigns Tennessee Baptist Paper Editorship

12/13/73

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP)--James A. Lester, editor of the Baptist and Reflector, news publication of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, has resigned, and Mrs. W. Alvis (Evelyn) Strickland has been named public relations coordinator for the convention.

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Lester, who has edited the Baptist and Reflector since Oct., 1968, had been granted a six-month leave of absence, Nov. 1, by the executive board's administrative committee. It would have ended next April 3, the effective date of the resignation.

The convention's executive secretary-treasurer, Ralph Norton, said Lester cited health problems growing out of an automobile accident as the reason for his resignation. Lester earlier had sought the leave of absence on the same grounds, Norton said.

Norton, who had assumed responsibility for the Baptist and Reflector in Lester's absence, said he will continue in that capacity until a new editor is named.

Mrs. Strickland, a news writer in the convention's public relations office since 1965, was formerly employed by the Nashville Baptist Association, the Sunday School department of the California Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist Book Store in Fresno, Calif. Her husband is a consultant for adult work in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School department.

Before joining the Baptist and Reflector, Lester served for 11 years as secretary for promotion and public relations for the Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia. He is a former copy editor and state news editor for the Times-Picayune, New Orleans, La., and has served as pastor of churches in Mississippi, Louisiana and Georgia.

In other developments, the convention's executive board changed titles of department heads in the convention's administrative structure from secretary to director and assigned additional responsibilities for the aging to Gene Kerr, assistant to the executive secretary-treasurer.

The board divided \$400,656, the amount the convention exceeded its 1972-73 budget, between state and Southern Baptist Convention causes--20 per cent to the SBC Cooperative Program.

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Russian Baptists Send
Christmas Message

12/13/73

MASSY, France (BP)--In a special Christmas and New Year's greeting to Christians around the world, Baptists in the USSR have called on "all those who follow Jesus Christ" to reinforce their prayers for reconciliation in 1974 and "to extend cooperation with all people on earth in the cause of strengthening confidence and friendship among nations."

The message from the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the USSR, according to a report by the European Baptist Press Service here, opens with "sincere greetings with words of love and peace on this great festival of the birth of Christ."

The communication offers thanks to God for the past year, EBPS reports, "when His mercy and covenant of peace have been so visibly revealed in the life of nations--the end of the war in Vietnam, the relaxation of international tensions and the warmth in relations between East and West. . . (and) the deep interest of ordinary people all over the world in establishing a just and durable peace on earth."

Citing the theme of the July, 1975, Baptist World Alliance Congress in Stockholm--"New Men for a New World Through Christ"--the message says, "Let us unite our efforts in creation of new men for a new world through Christ as fellow laborers for God."

The message said that in the world of rapid changes, the world of tribulations and suffering, the words in Isaiah 54:10 are important and consolatory for all Christians in 1974: "For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee."

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