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**Baptist Education Called  
Key To Church Growth**

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By Robert O'Brien

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)--A decal on the rear window of an automobile in Vincennes, Ind., illustrates the far-reaching influence of Southern Baptist education in the United States, a Southern Baptist editor said in an address here.

The illustration came at a meeting of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) to show how the products of 54 Southern Baptist undergraduate schools play a major role in developing church leadership in states where no Southern Baptist schools exist.

Alvin Shackelford of Indianapolis, editor of the Indiana Baptist, noted that of 33 state conventions in the SBC (which cover the territory of all 50 states), 16 have Southern Baptist colleges and 17, including Indiana, do not.

Citing an Education Commission sponsored survey on the educational attainment of Southern Baptist pastors, Shackelford noted that "62 percent of college-trained pastors in 14 non-Baptist college state conventions attended a Southern Baptist college.

This is only about 10 percent below the total Southern Baptist Convention," he continued, "because the survey indicates that 71.5 percent of the college-trained pastors attended a Baptist college."

Three other state conventions, beyond the 14 cited, also do not have Baptist colleges, but were not included in the survey, he said. They are Hawaii, Alaska and the District of Columbia.

As for the decal, Shackelford said it reveals an unsurveyed contribution of Baptist schools to smaller and newer state SBC conventions--laymen.

"Because of...the seeming thrill industry gets in transferring their employees around the country, quite a few Baptist laymen, who are graduates of our institutions are relocated in northern areas," Shackelford said.

He related repeatedly unsuccessful attempts of an Indiana Baptist area missionary in 1959 to start a mission chapel in Vincennes, a city which then had about 18,000 population.

Then one day the missionary, driving through the city, noticed a car with a Baylor University sticker on the rear window.

Investigation showed, Shackelford said, that it was owned by a young Baptist layman who had just come to Vincennes to serve as administrator of a local hospital.

"Through the immediate interest of this family, a fellowship Bible class was begun in their home. Soon Sunday services were started in a rented store-front building. Ridgecrest Baptist Church was formed in 1961 and now has 350 members."

The Indiana editor said transplanted lay-graduates of Baptist colleges "usually make outstanding church members. They recognize the importance of our Baptist heritage. They have the training and poise which equips them to be active leaders in these congregations. And their financial commitment to their churches has enabled some mission chapels to move quickly to become self-supporting."

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Speaking from his observations of pastors in Indiana, Shackelford noted: "Obviously pastors who have no formal education are making a significant contribution to the work of God in Indiana...and 'success' is a relative determination.

"But it is my personal opinion that a pastor who has the benefit of education in a Baptist college is generally better equipped to relate to the total work of his church and our denomination.

"I also feel that studying art, science and religion in a religiously oriented atmosphere helps prepare a pastor for his difficult task of relating religion to a secularly oriented society," he said.

Examining the image of Baptist schools, Shackelford noted, "Too many of our constituents view the college as a respectable reformatory where the maturing youths can be protected from society--and vice versa--for four years.

"Too many of our pastors do not want youths of their churches to hear anything that differs from what they have heard from the home church pulpit," he continued.

"Too many of our church members are suspicious of modern education and are looking for chinks in your armor. And unfortunately, too many of our students are willing from insincere motives to react to half-truths and attack the Christian education establishment.

"Baptists," Shackelford continued, "are very experienced at 'group inspecting.' We are quick to judge the fruits of politicians, other denominations, the pastor of the largest church in the association and all those powers which we generally group as the 'establishment'."

But the Indiana editor added, "We somehow never seem to apply this concept of judging something by its fruits to our Baptist colleges and seminaries."

He said, "The individuals who come out of our colleges and seminaries are, after all, the reason that these institutions were founded. And it is my contention that these fruits more than justify these institutions," he declared.

Shackelford suggested ways that Southern Baptist schools can assist newer Baptist state conventions.

They included distribution of information on the schools at annual state convention meetings, faculty speakers at state gatherings, short courses in continuing education for pastors in new conventions, updating of Baptist history courses with information about new conventions, student mission projects and tours to inspire youth in churches in new areas, display of Baptist state papers in school libraries and up-dated communications efforts to new work areas.

Noting criticism Baptist schools must face from their constituents and the meager budgets they get from state conventions, Shackelford said: "I am sure at times you must feel that you are doing your work in spite of the denomination.

"But I would ask that you take these young students and help them gain an education with the proper priorities in life in this materialistic age. Help them understand that there is more to life than making a living.

"Life that is committed to God and mankind will reflect favorably on your institutions and be a great service to our denomination."

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Family Relations Added  
to N.C. Baptists' Program

6/24/74

THOMASVILLE, N.C. (BP)--A "Division of Child Development and Family Relations" is being established by the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, W. R. Wagoner, agency president has announced.

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The division will be headed by Mrs. W. R. Wagoner of Thomasville, who was instrumental in developing the agency's Child Development Center on the Mills Home campus in 1965 and who has been its director for the past nine years.

The division is a new area of work for the agency and will seek to offer preventive counseling and programs for families not yet to the crisis situation. It will also offer aid to churches across the state in family life, parent education and child development areas.

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**Annie Armstrong Offering**  
Million Ahead of '73 Pace

6/24/74

ATLANTA (BP)--Annie Armstrong Easter Offering receipts for 1974 are presently running almost \$1 million ahead of the 1974 pace.

Southern Baptist Home Mission Board Executive Director Arthur B. Rutledge, said that as of June 21, the offering had totaled \$6,443,800, an increase of \$980,708 over the same date a year ago.

The 1974 goal for the offering is \$7.2 million.

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**Baptist TV Films**  
To Be Re-Aired

6/24/74

FORT WORTH (BP)--Two television documentaries produced by a Southern Baptist agency have been included in television's summer repeats.

"Time and the Cities" and "Legacy," both produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in cooperation with the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) will be shown "back to back" on the network July 14 and July 21.

"Time and the Cities," aired by NBC in February, 1972, and August, 1973, will be repeated July 14. "Legacy," seen in May, 1973, will be shown July 21.

"We're especially pleased about 'Time and the Cities'," observed Truett Myers, the Commission's senior vice president, television production. "This is the first time that one of our television productions has ever been repeated more than once."

"Time and the Cities" tours the seven ancient cities of Asia mentioned in the Bible's Book of Revelation and compares their history and problems with the history and problems of modern cities.

Myers said Miss Doris Ann, director of NBC's religious programming department, reported that mail response to the show was among the largest response the network had received for a religious documentary.

"Legacy," filmed in the Netherlands, traces the contribution that the 17th Century Dutch made to American and the world. The story is told through the works of modern artists, Old Masters, and external locations such as Pilgrim's Church in Amsterdam and Ann Frank's house.

Both films are narrated by Alexander Scourby. Miss Ann was executive director of the films which were written by Philip Scharper. Joseph Vadala was director and photographer. Paul M. Stevens is president of the Radio and Television Commission.

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