

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
(615) 244-2355W. C. Fields, Director  
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor  
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor**BUREAUS****ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041**DALLAS** Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996**MEMPHIS** Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300**RICHMOND** Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151**WASHINGTON** Stan L. Haste, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

September 17, 1980

80-148

**Allen Urges Communication  
Of Authentic Gospel**

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Warning that Jesus would not recognize some of the things being communicated in His name today, Jimmy Allen urged Southern Baptists to use every available method to share the authentic gospel.

Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, spoke to about 150 persons attending the first Home Bible Study Fall Breakaway at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

Home Bible Study is a Baptist Sunday School Board project which includes the radio and television program, "At Home with the Bible," and a home Bible correspondence course.

Allen charged "the gospel message is being tailored to the marketplace instead of the marketplace being changed by the message." Citing examples of a false gospel he has heard over the airwaves, Allen noted "Jesus never said becoming a Christian would make him rich or free of health problems. We have a task to tell the message as it really is," he said.

In an earlier address, Frank Pollard, host and Bible teacher for "At Home with the Bible," said the Bible will continue to survive all physical and intellectual attacks.

"The Word of God has increased with every onslaught against it. This book is alive and real forever," said Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas.

Allen said Southern Baptists must carefully tie programming to local churches as the denomination moves with greater force into national broadcasting. "No electronic evangelist knows yet what God has given to Southern Baptists in the local church," he said. "God has given Southern Baptists enough trained counselors, witnesses and good neighbors to reach every person in this country," he said.

Allen said he believes the time will come when "anywhere in America a person with a need will be able to call a number and someone in his area will immediately get in touch with him."

More than 300 churches currently promote the use of the monthly Home Bible Study Guide through their broadcast ministries. Robert Young, associate pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., said his church urges viewers of their worship service broadcast to write for the guide and 35 to 50 respond each week.

Morton Rose, vice president of church programs and services at the Sunday School Board, said Southern Baptists have a "fantastic approach" to Bible study through the Sunday school but Home Bible Study was begun to get the Bible and its message to the masses.

### SBC Objectors May Sign With Their Denomination

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Ninety-four percent of the estimated base population of 19-year-old males has registered for a potential military draft, according to Selective Service officials.

A sampling of the 1.5 million registrants shows that 1.8 percent have indicated they are registering as conscientious objectors or are registering under protest.

Registration as a conscientious objector does not guarantee a registrant will be granted that status in the event of a draft, since local draft boards will have to make a final decision. Because of that fact, Selective Service spokesman Joan Lamb says more persons may be conscientiously opposed to bearing arms than indicated.

There are no figures available to compare requests for conscientious objector status during the military draft because the earlier procedure was different. But a survey conducted by the Selective Service from June 1970 through June 1971 shows 121,359 persons requested status as conscientious objectors. Of that number, 44,244 were granted the classification. During the same period, 153,631 were inducted into the armed services.

Under a 1940 action, the Southern Baptist Convention provides for the registration of conscientious objectors with the denomination. Southern Baptists who wish to be formally registered with their denomination as conscientious objectors may do so by writing to the Public Relations Office, Executive Committee, Southern Baptist Convention, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn., 37219.

Registration cards will be provided on request and the signed card then becomes a part of the permanent file maintained by the Executive Committee. This information is made available to the appropriate draft boards on request of the individuals who signed.

The 1940 action, taken at the annual meeting in Baltimore, reads as follows:

"Baptists have always believed in liberty of conscience and have honored men who were willing to brave adverse public opinion for the sake of conscientious scruples. A considerable number of members of churches of our Convention, through their interpretation of the moral teachings of Christ, have reached the position of a conscientious objection to war that prohibits them from bearing arms.

"The Convention ought to accord to them the right of their convictions as it accords to others the right to differ from them, and ought to protect them in that right to the extent of its ability. Therefore,

"Be it Resolved, That the Convention go on record as recognizing such right of a conscientious objection, and that the Convention instruct the Executive Committee to provide facilities for their registration with the denomination, in order that the Executive Committee may be able to make accurate certification to the government concerning them at any time it should be called for."

The registration cards include this preamble: "According to my interpretation of the moral teachings of Christ, I have reached the position of a conscientious objector to war that prohibits me from bearing arms, and, therefore, I desire to register my convictions with the denomination as provided for by the action of the Southern Baptist Convention."

-30-

Georgia Baptists Elect  
Griffith As Executive

Baptist Press  
9/17/80

ATLANTA (BP)--James N. Griffith Jr., 54, has been elected executive secretary-treasurer of the Georgia Baptist Convention executive committee, effective Jan. 1.

Griffith, current president of the Georgia Baptist Convention, succeeds Searcy S. Garrison, who has been top administrative leader for Georgia Baptists for 26 years.

The new executive will be presented during the annual meeting of the Georgia Baptist Convention Nov. 10-12. His election does not require ratification by the convention. He was elected by the executive committee.

Griffith, a native of Macon, has been pastor of Beech Haven Baptist Church in Athens for the past 14 years. He has served on almost every committee in the Georgia convention in the past 24 years, and currently is a trustee of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

He is a graduate of Mercer University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has an earned doctorate from Luther Rice Seminary and honorary doctorates from Mercer and from Atlanta Law School.

Griffith held pastorates in South Carolina and Georgia before going to Athens. Before entering the ministry, he was a sports editor in Georgia, a managing editor in North Carolina and a syndicated newspaper columnist.

He has maintained his writing interests by writing a column, "Pulpit to Pew," which has been a weekly feature in the Christian Index, Georgia Baptist paper, for almost 25 years. The column also is carried in Tennessee and North Carolina papers.

Griffith has written two books published by Broadman Press and has written extensively for other religious publications.

Mrs. Griffith is the former Mildred Scott Roads of West Palm Beach, Fla. She has served on the Southern Baptist Convention's Committee on Committees. They have three daughters.

In another personnel action, the Georgia Baptist Executive Committee elected R. Robert Riddle Jr., minister of education at Rehoboth Baptist Church, Tucker, Ga., as state Sunday school secretary.

Also, J. Estill Jones of East Point was elected consultant to head a new department on the state convention staff, dealing in three areas—Christian ethics, family life and church administration.

-30-

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers.

## Georgia Baptists Approve \$15 Million in New Projects

ATLANTA (BP)--Almost \$15 million in new construction projects for benevolent institutions was approved by the Georgia Baptist Convention executive committee, meeting in quarterly session in Atlanta.

Georgia Baptist Medical Center was given permission to borrow up to \$6 million to erect a 146-bed convalescent and nursing home facility across from its major buildings in downtown Atlanta. The expansion will include doctors' offices, parking and other medical facilities.

The medical center also was authorized to buy a 50-bed hospital and a 50-bed nursing home in Ellijay, Ga., to operate as satellite units of the Atlanta medical center. Purchase price of the Ellijay facilities is \$1.5 million. Ellijay is a mountain town about 90 miles north of Atlanta.

Georgia Baptist Homes Inc. was given approval to borrow up to \$6 million to erect a high-rise apartment building adjacent to its home for the elderly now operated in the Buckhead section of north Atlanta.

Also approved was a \$1 million loan to renovate a large building in south DeKalb County, just east of Atlanta, as a nursing home with 154 beds. The property was owned by the Harvest Heights Baptist Church, which disbanded in 1978. The congregation gave the property to the convention for development as a nursing home, but public officials have been two years in giving zoning approval.

The committee also reaffirmed a long standing policy about abortions at Georgia Baptist Medical Center. That policy forbids abortions except in cases of rape or incest, or "where the life and health of the mother is or will be jeopardized." Some churches in Georgia had questioned the hospital's abortion stance.

-30-

Tulsa Baptist Women  
Sponsor Help Shelter

By Elaine Hobson Miller

Baptist Press  
9/17/80

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--The women hammered, they painted, they wallpapered. They scrubbed and they hauled furniture for at least six weeks.

When the occupants began moving in, the women were right there every day with food and every night with Bible study.

The Baptist women of Tulsa, Okla., were serious about sponsoring a refuge for troubled women. The result was the Tulsa Baptist Association's Women's Shelter.

The shelter provides free room and board for women escaping domestic violence. It also aids women with alcohol and drug problems, transients, those just released from prison, and any other women with emergency needs.

It has been filled to capacity almost every night since it opened in February. Women stay as long as they need to.

-more-

The shelter, the only such facility in Tulsa, is in a two-story church building that had stood vacant several years. The floor plan shows 13 bedrooms, including a small children's nursery, plus a kitchen and auditorium. There is also a playground outside for children who accompany their mothers.

"We have 97 Southern Baptist churches and 4 missions in Tulsa, and I would say a third of them are actively involved in the new shelter," says Sue Smith, secretary to Rick Hagar, Community Ministries Director of the Tulsa Association.

"Except for the shelter director, Sheila Deweese, who is paid by the (Southern Baptist) Home Mission Board, we have an all-volunteer staff," Mrs. Smith says. "We have two Mission Service Corps volunteers, Mary Foerter (Lacombe, La.) and Jackie Huber (Laurel, Md.), who live there and supervise things."

According to Mrs. Smith, thousands of volunteer hours have been given by Baptist women --all members of Woman's Missionary Union from local churches.

Volunteers spend two or three hours each day at the shelter helping with food preparation and service, or anything else that needs to be done, according to Mrs. Smith, herself a former associational WMU director.

"Other schedules are set up for the different WMU groups to bring food to the shelter each month, and our pantry is very well stocked," she adds. "The women who stay here are required to attend evening Bible studies, which are taught by WMU volunteers and/or their husbands, and sometimes by local pastors."

Women who seek shelter there must attend Sunday worship services, too, but the response to these services has been favorable. "There have been a number of rededications and several decisions for Christ made," Mrs. Smith says. "The women seem to be eager for Bible study... there's no rejection of it."

More than \$25,000 cash and \$5,000 in labor and materials have been donated so far by members of the Tulsa Baptist churches. They have renovated and furnished the shelter, including all kitchen and laundry room appliances. Many existing walls had to be torn down inside and new ones erected to make separate bedrooms. WMU members worked right alongside the men when manual labor was necessary.

"The daily operating expenses for the shelter come from the associational budget, which in turn comes from the Tulsa churches," Mrs. Smith adds. "This (shelter) is something so many of us in Tulsa have looked forward to for years. It's an associational project that supplies a need no one else was meeting here."

"When we need additional funds or assistance, we put out the word through the churches and pastors' conferences. Recently we needed air conditioning, and somebody donated that."

Clothing for the women sheltered is provided by various WMU groups. The groups furnish transportation to medical appointments and job interviews. "We're encouraging the different WMU groups to make contact with these women, to form personal relationships, and follow through with them after they leave the shelter," Mrs. Smith says.