

June 12, 1953

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

THE YEAR AHEAD
by J. W. Storer, president
Southern Baptist Convention

He would be both presumptuous and foolish who would predict what lies ahead of us, unless it would be that in affairs mundane, uncertainty is the word.

Our material prosperity about which we boast is geared to war and not to peace. It is a debatable point whether, put to the economic test, this country actually wants peace. Witness what happens when the threat of curtailment of any war expenditure affecting any local situation bobs up its head.

Let none of us say that this has no bearing on our Southern Baptist mission program; the vastly increased dollars pouring into our treasury, would they, could they, continue to pour in if peace were to come overnight? I do not pretend to have the answer, but I feel sure we would do well to be as realistically prepared as we can for what could be a very, very serious threat to expanded budgets.

I am afraid there are cases where we delude ourselves into thinking we have no debts because present income will amortize our indebtedness. It is to be devoutly hoped that present incomes will continue, even increase, though with hesitancy I raise the gruesome thought of the present basis of our prosperity. I am concerned most for our mission causes - knowing too well from past experiences, that the mission causes are the first to suffer.

It would be illuminating, if not happily interesting, to know how much is the indebtedness, present and projected, which rests on the churches making up our constituency. I am sure it would be amazing and arresting in its total. Not to mention our varied projects, educational and eleemosynary, for which our several state conventions are responsible.

In all our advance programs, it is the part of wisdom to keep faith and facts in heart and mind. Nor would this in any sense prevent us from attempting great things for God and expecting great things from him.

We must lengthen the cords. But it would be well to know the cords are strong, and that put to the test they would not part, strand by strand.

As one who has tried to do his full share in paying off the crippling debts of the early thirties, and at the same time to help his brethren move out into a far-flung mission obedience to the Great Commission, I know it is well that we

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think on these things. Such thinking is not easy, nor perhaps is it at all popular. But it is wise to do it before trouble develops, rather than afterwards.

One of our great defects is that we are too given to post-mortem thinking; we are too much given to stationing an ambulance down in the valley, rather than erecting a fence at the edge of the cliff.

This is but one phase of Southern Baptist Convention life--and what I here set forth must not, I again insist, be construed as sounding forth any call for retreat. That is contrary to every throb of my heart; who, having seen even a small portion of the world of lost men, and having looked upon the wretchedness of our so-called civilization's failure, can but cry out, "More, O Lord God, more of everything for Thee!"

Yes, I trust God, and my hope is in him. That very trust impells me to keep my powder dry; which is not evidence of distrust of him, for he made the powder, and he trusts me not to waste it, but to have it ready for use when occasion shall arise.

If the brethren will allow me, not because I think there is anything omniscient in what I have to say, but because I have it on my heart, and to stir up their pure minds by way of remembrance, I should like to use the media of our denominational papers to share from time to time my thinking on other phases of our Convention life.

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EVANGELISTIC CRUSADE DATES SET FOR 1955

DALLAS, Tex.--(BP)--The official 1955 dates for the Evangelistic Crusade, sponsored by the Department of Evangelism of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, are as follows: March 6-20, tropical zone; March 27-April 10, middle section; April 10-24, northern section; and April 17-May 1, Alaska.

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SANTA FE CITIZENS GIVE AID TO GLORIETA

SANTA FE, N. Mex.--(BP)--Santa Fe citizens will give a total of \$15,000 to \$20,000 to Glorieta Baptist Assembly, John Parker, Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce president, announced. This amount is go to the erection of New Mexico Hall. The first payment will be \$3,500.

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OKLAHOMA EMPLOYS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLICITY

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.--(BP)--Arthur S. Davenport, Oklahoma City public relations and advertising consultant, has accepted the position of publicity and public relations director for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma effective June 1, it was announced by Dr. T. B. Lackey, executive secretary.

In making the announcement, Dr. Lackey said, "Davenport is ideally qualified and experienced in the four fields in which he will function--publicity, public relations, radio-television and audio-visual aids."

In addition to serving the various departments and agencies of the convention, he will be available to assist individual churches in any of these fields of endeavor and to accept engagements as a lay speaker, Dr. Lackey explained.

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ILLINOIS BAPTISTS ORGANIZE
80 NEW CHURCHES IN 8 YEARS

CARBONDALE, Ill.--(BP)--Since 1945 Southern Baptists in Illinois have organized eighty new churches according to a statement by Noel M. Taylor, executive secretary, Illinois Baptist State Association.

This is an average of one new church per month for the past seven years.

The new churches began with a total charter membership of 1900 and today have more than 5,000 members with 7,000 in Sunday school. More than 2,000 persons have been baptized since the churches were organized.

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BROTHERHOOD SECRETARY TO
SPEAK IN SWITZERLAND

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--(BP)--George W. Schroeder, executive secretary, Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, will deliver a series of lectures at the European Baptist Layman's Conference in Zurich, Switzerland, July 2-8, 1953.

Before returning to the United States, Mr. Schroeder will speak in Frankfurt and Berlin, Germany.

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LOTTIE MOON OFFERING
TOTALS \$3,280,372

RICHMOND, Va.--(BP)--The Lottie Moon Christmas offering for 1952 reached a final total of \$3,280,372, Everett L. Deane, treasurer of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, reported. This is an increase of \$612,321 over 1951.

Texas reported \$1,249,769, which was the largest state offering. North Carolina was next with a total of \$263,241, and Virginia was third with \$201,732.

The books close each year on May 1.

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CHRISTIAN COLLEGE TO OPEN
IN HONOLULU THIS FALL

HONOLULU, Hawaii--(BP)--Next fall, Honolulu Christian College, sponsored by the evangelical churches of the city of Honolulu and by the World Evangelical Fellowship, will open its doors to students.

Dr. A. E. Prince, former president of Hannibal-La Grange College in Missouri, will serve as president.

The college has included in its charter a declaration of faith which every member of the Board of Trustees, and every employee of the college is required to sign. This declaration states that the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God and the supreme authority in matters of faith and practice. It sets forth the virgin birth of Christ, his death, resurrection, and ascension. It states that salvation is only by grace through faith in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ.

Included in the thirty-six member board of trustees are four local Baptists.

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ERMA GIBBONS APPOINTED
CHURCH LIBRARY CONSULTANT

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Erma Gibbons has been appointed church library consultant in the Nashville Baptist Book Store, R. Maines Rawls, manager, announced.

Miss Gibbons, a native of New Mexico, received a B.S. degree from the Southwest Missouri Baptist College.

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McCOLLOUGH TO EDIT
YOUNG PEOPLE'S QUARTERLY

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NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Thomas E. McCollough, of New Mexico and Louisville Seminary, is editor of Young People's Sunday school lesson materials in the Department of Sunday School Curriculum, Baptist Sunday School Board. He assumed his duties June 1.

A native of Birmingham, Ala., McCollough served in the navy V-12 program during World War II. In 1947 he graduated from the University of Texas. In 1950 he received his B.D. degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and since that time has been working toward his Th.D. degree.

McCollough served as Baptist student secretary at New Mexico A. & M. College and associate pastor of the First Baptist Church, LasCruces, in 1947. He has served in pastorates in Hatton and Murray, Ky.