The Baptist Message is proud to salute G. Earl Guinn, president of Louisiana College, and other educators during National Education Week, Nov. 5-11.
Guest Comments

By C. R. Daley, Editor

Western Recorder

Some Suggested Changes

During the last several years the Southern Baptist Convention has made many improvements which have resulted in much smoother convention sessions. Considering the almost impossible task of conducting a deliberative meeting of 15,000 people, it’s a miracle we do as well as we do. There are still some changes that could improve the convention sessions.

The most obviously needed change is an order of business which allows more time for messengers to discuss reports and attend to miscellaneous matters. We get into a bind because of an impossibly tight schedule.

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee’s report has been a frustrating experience for several years because of its length, and the limited time assigned for the report. There’s much to be done about its length. More and more matters are referred to the committee, and therefore, its list of recommendations grows year by year. Those matters referred to the Executive Committee are often controversial, and this necessarily means its recommendations are subject to debate. Also, the growing complexity of the vast Southern Baptist enterprise under the direction of the Executive Committee will call for more and more recommendations to the Convention each year.

Why not divide the Executive Committee report and use part of two or more convention sessions for it? After all, here is the heart of Southern Baptist business for which the messengers meet each year.

The Executive Committee leadership, on the other hand, could use the time more wisely sometimes. One of these times was this year when the committee chairman read a long speech that could have been printed without being delivered in person.

Because of the provision that a new matter presented at the convention must be assigned a time for debate later, there ought to be an extended

miscellaneous business period early in the convention for presenting such matters, and several other such periods later for the debate and disposition.

The messengers are determined to have time both for discussing reports and to present matters on their own. To fail to provide such a time is to invite frustration and trouble. Messengers get the impression they are being muzzled, and it really amounts to this. To move through the convention program with deliberate speed is necessary; to always be out of time and in a hurry is to give the impression of steamrolling tactics.

Why not also consider a departure occasionally from the traditional use of two choice night sessions for foreign missions and home missions? It is true these are the heart of our work, but other areas of our thrust are more and more important in our present world. An occasional highlighting of other important Southern Baptist work, at choice times, would be proper.

Who knows what to do with Friday of the convention? It’s largely a lost day. The messengers just won’t stay for the last day. If we throw it away completely and ended on Thursday, wouldn’t we do Thursday the same way we now do Friday?

We have tried to hold the crowd by planning top flight programs on Friday night, but this hasn’t worked. This year’s Friday night session promised to be tremendous, but almost 75 percent of the messengers admitted they planned to leave for home before then. Maybe we ought to do with Friday what we do with other things we don’t know how to handle — refer it to the Executive Committee.

There are other changes needed now, and more will be needed later, to make our convention sessions more effective. And, these changes will come because we are flexible and can change. For this we can be grateful.
On To Lafayette

Although conventions are conducted for varied and sundry reasons, the majority of persons in attendance at a convention have one thing in common -- a holiday spirit, for it represents a break in their normal daily routine.

The "clock of routine" in today's pressurized world is, for most of us, so tightly wound that we all covet and need a change of pace, a time to experience informal fellowship with friends, an opportunity to gain new inspiration, a chance to unwind.

This is especially true of ministers. No one as a rule enjoys a convention any more than do ministers. Generation after generation this has been true. It is easy for the writer to recall as a lad how his father took on a new gaiety and air of excitement as he prepared to leave for a convention. This was true, too, of the other ministers with whom he usually travelled.

MINISTERS NOT EXEMPT

Baptist conventions would be profitable if they were conducted for no other reason than to give ministers an opportunity to engage in a warm exchange of fellowship. All men in public life belong to a special kind of Lonely Hearts club, and ministers are not exempt from its membership. They are constantly seeking to give encouragement and inspiration to others when in reality they have the same basic needs, and, at times, their outdistance the needs of those whom they seek to help. Therefore, conventions as a rule are therapeutic to men of the cloth regardless of creed.

To say that a convention represents a break in routine for ministers might seem to others to be comparable to a "busman's holiday." It is logical for them to so reason in that conventions deal primarily with matters which are church-related or that which occupy the minister's time and energy, day in and day out. The difference lies in the fact that they are granted the opportunity to view their ministry objectively. It is also a time to re-evaluate church programs and to review future cooperative projects.

50 TO 100 YEARS AGO

Speaking of routine, Baptist conventions today are about as routine as they were 50 to 100 years ago. By virtue of their purpose and nature, they have to be -- up to a point. Institutions and agencies, both state convention and Southern Baptist Convention, still are required to give reports as to the past year's activities and achievements and to solicit continued support for the ensuing year, etc.

Baptist conventions, however, are sometimes too routine. Entirely too much time is spent in looking inward rather than outward. The big issues confronting the church and the denomination are by-passed or too much time is given to a monastic type thinking. Our attitude, consciously or unconsciously, is to draw lines of defense instead of planning offensive strategies. A winning football team has not only a good defense but an effective offense. Churches are playing for larger stakes and to win they must have a better offense than defense. In fact, the more time they spend in offensive maneuvers, the less time they are forced to spend in defensive arguments. All too often, we are so preoccupied with the latter, that we have too little time for the former.

To bury our heads in the sand of non-involvement (ostrich style) is not only a waste of time, but the sand so irritates our eyes that our vision becomes blurred. Consequently, we stumble along and, in a measure, become the blind leading the blind.

ON A CLEAR DAY

The forces of Christianity, one and all, need a clear vision. As the world sings, "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever," Christianity should be extremely busy in clearing the air, so as to help mankind see the true values of life, now and for eternity.

Messengers to the Louisiana Baptist Convention next week in essence should be able to say, "Lafayette, we are here," with the hope that the convention will be so effective that they will leave better prepared to do battle upon adjournment than when they arrived. With hearts encompassing a greater love for God and man by virtue of what has been said and done, no thought will be given to a furlough from reality in their daily vocations. Rather, each messenger will find himself on the frontline as a strong and able peacemaker in a world full of revolt and hate.
Convention Opens Tuesday

Louisiana Baptists, for the first time in 119 years, will hold their annual meeting in Lafayette. The annual meeting is slated for Nov. 14-17 at Municipal auditorium.

The Convention opens Tuesday morning at 9:30 and ends Thursday morning at 11:30.

Founding the gavel at the meeting will be R. L. Rust, president. Also presiding at the president's discretion will be T. Earl Ogg, first vice-president; and Jerry Green, second vice-president. Robert L. Lee, executive-secretary, is the other Convention officer.

Highlighting the opening session will be the presidential address and the convention sermon which will be delivered by M. H. Fields, pastor of the Ferriday First church.

Included on the Tuesday afternoon agenda are reports from the Executive Board and the Baptist Message. These will be followed by an address by Paul M. Stevens, director of the Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Messages to the Tuesday night session will hear reports from Woman's Missionary Union and the Louisiana Baptist Foundation. Most of the evening session will center on world missions.

Agencies, institutions, and boards of the Southern Baptist Convention will fill most of the program Wednesday morning. Featured speaker for the session will be Robert L. Smith, pastor of the Houston First church.

Of major interest Wednesday afternoon will be the election of officers. Since Rust has served two terms, he will not be eligible for re-election.

Other highlights of the Wednesday afternoon session will include reports from the Convention's Public Affairs, History, Nominating, and Committee on Committees committees. Gray Allison, evangelist, will be the featured speaker.

Reporting Wednesday night will be the Children's Home, the Education Committee of the SBC, Acadiana Academy and Louisiana College. Featured speaker for the evening will be Guy Newman, president of Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Texas.

The final session will feature reports from Acadia Baptist Home, Louisiana Moral and Civic Foundation, Committee on Memorials, Evangelism, Resolutions, Committee and Arrangements Committee. R. J. Robinson, pastor of the Augusta (Ga.) First church, will bring the closing address.

The Louisiana Baptist Convention will be preceded by the annual meeting Monday night of the state Brotherhood Convention.
POTPOURRI

Central church choir in Monroe has named the following officers: Bob McGowen, president; Bobby Boyett, vice president; Sylvia Hinton, secretary; Mrs. Doris Wilson, treasurer; Leah McHenry, robe chairman; Mrs. Lenora Smart, social chairman; Charles Tullos, librarian; and Mrs. Joann Key, Mrs. Betty Lanier, Mrs. Ann Dunn, Mallory Banister and Roy Bledsoe, section leaders.

Scott Tatum of Shreveport was guest speaker at a Nov. 2 loyalty dinner at the Natchitoches First church.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Nolan, missionaries to Brazil, were guest speakers Oct. 29 at the Rayville First church.

Paul Roberts of Little Rock, Arkansas addressed a fellowship dinner Oct. 30 at University church in Lake Charles.

Temple church, Winnboro, has approved a record $66,976 budget for next year. Luther B. Hall was guest speaker in midweek services Oct. 25. Randall D. Sledge is pastor.

The Buras-Triumph church Brotherhood has named Ivan Franks as president, Bill White as vice president and Gay Snitker as interim secretary.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Stephens are parents of a daughter born Oct. 25. The proud father is minister of music at Westlake church in Shreveport.

Churhes in Carey association baptized 698 persons and received 1,063 by letter during the last church year.

Caddo association named James BANQUET SLATED

The alumni of Southwestern Seminary will hold their annual banquet Wednesday, Nov. 15, at 5:30 at Emmanuel church, Lafayette, according to James Young, president.

Joc Davis Heacock, dean of the Religious Education school at Southwestern, will represent the school during the banquet.

The program will include singing by Susan Young, accompanied by Charles Fowler, and a skit and chalk drawing by Don Behm.

Other officers are James Carter, vice-president, and Charles Barfield, secretary.

W. Taylor as moderator, W. T. Furr as vice moderator, W. R. Stowell as clerk and Harold C. Abbott as treasurer.

Bossier association officers for the current year include Cliff Waters as moderator, Lavelle Enterkin as vice moderator and Sam J. Smith as clerk-treasurer.

The District Six Pastors Conference has named T. E. Windsor as president, Martin Spell as program vice president and W. P. Mears as treasurer.

M. R. Meggison, Sr. addressed the Oct. 30 meeting of the Brotherhood of Trinity church in Lake Charles.

Trustees of Trinity church, Lake Charles, have named Truett Kirkpatrick as president, Ken Wyrick as vice president and Lewis Spear as secretary.

Joe Kite of Basile was homecoming speaker Oct. 29 at Diamond church, DeRidder, where F. D. Williamson is interim pastor.

St. Tammany association named the following officers: Gayle DeBorde, moderator; Hardy Bennett, vice moderator; Mrs. Melba Gibson, clerk; and J. E. Crutchfield, treasurer.

Monroe City Judge W. L. Crowe, fresh from a stint reprimand to a so-called "hippie" group in the city, urged all parents to "know where their children are, what they are doing and who they are with."

The 14th Judicial District Court in Lake Charles is cracking down on convictions for drunken driving. Judge Jack C. Watson has called attention to the fact that many people do not seem to realize the seriousness of a conviction for driving while intoxicated. Cooperating with the court, the daily newspaper in Lake Charles publishes on its front page the name of anyone convicted for DWI. The judge has pointed out that "this is for all of your friends, neighbors, fellow church members and others to see."

Cooper Waters of Orange, Texas spoke at a fellowship dinner recently at Boulevard church in Lake Charles where T. V. Owens is pastor.

The Children's Home truck will make Fall Food Roundup stops Thursday, Nov. 16 at Parkview church in Baton Rouge, Gonzales, Sorrento, Gramercy, LaPlace, Norco and Luling and Friday, Nov. 17 at Kenner, Riverside, Harahan, Rio Vista, St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, First, Gretna, Oak Park, City Place, Arabi, Franklin Avenue, Gentilly, Lakeview, Mid-City and Metairie churches.

Clarence Powell, director of cottage life at the Children's Home, was pulpit guest Oct. 29 at Memorial Park church in Monroe.

Dr. and Mrs. L. T. Hastings were guests of the Monroe First church Oct. 22 where he served as pastor for many years. The church has approved a record budget of $178,699 for 1968.

Ingleside church, Shreveport, has proposed a 1968 budget of $168,000.

Jack Merritt is pastor.

Membership of various choirs of Queensborough church, Shreveport, has climbed to 425.

Leon Burns, Jr., a member of Queensborough church, Shreveport, was elected boss of the year by the local Business and Professional Women's Club.

Harold G. Gallaspyle, assistant to the District 6 secretary, spoke at the first brotherhood meeting of the new year at Lakeshore church, Shreveport.

First church, Bossier City, has approved a 1968 budget of $298,941.

Chairman of deacons at First church, Bossier City, is Ira Harbuck. Fred Todd is vice-chairman and S. H. Boggs is secretary.

New Sunday school superintendent at Westside church, Shreveport, is M. B. Childress. C. H. Johnson is training union director and C. O. Darsey is chairman of deacons.

New officers of North Caddo association include Jerry Edmonson, moderator; Troy Hall, vice-moderator; James Putnam, clerk; and Mrs. James Putnam, treasurer.

The deacons of the Bossier City First church have elected new officers. They include Ira D. Harbuck, chairman; Fred Todd, vice-chairman; and S. H. Boggs, secretary. The church has approved a $298,941 budget for 1968.

Damon Vaughn is pastor.


Old Saline church has made their original minutes, dating from 1844-80, available to the Louisiana Baptist Historical Society. The church was
of Moses E. Mercer.

Members of Riverside church, New Orleans, recently honored Franklin Atkinson on the occasion of his sixth anniversary as pastor. He was given a cash gift which had been subscribed by individual members.

Clovis Cole recently marked the completion of 25 years as pastor of the Waterproof First church.

BUILDINGS

Baxter Pone, Protestant chaplain at Southeast Louisiana Hospital, Mandeville, has announced a fund raising drive for $125,000 with which to build a Protestant chapel at the hospital. No chapel exists there at present.

Mt. Olivet church at Stanley has recently remodeled its building, adding additional educational and recreational space. The facilities have been airconditioned. A new organ and piano have been given to the church by a small group of interested persons. Billy Burket is pastor.

Franklin Avenue church will dedicate a new auditorium Sunday, Nov. 19, at 3 p.m. H. Thomas Hiers, pastor, said the new structure will replace one destroyed by fire on Dec. 22, 1966.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Debbie Gibbs will represent Shreveport in the Miss Teenage contest in Dallas. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Buck Gibbs of Queensborough church, Shreveport.

A father-son banquet will highlight RA Focus Week in District Six. The banquet will be held Nov. 10 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Shreveport First church. Loren Young, southeastern regional secretary of the Fellowship of Christian Athletics, will be the featured speaker. Others on the program include Cecil Upshaw, pitcher for the Atlanta Braves and John Winters, associate in the state Brotherhood department. Awards will be given to the church with the most in attendance and awards will be given to the best chapter of the year.
750 Baptists at U.S.L.

The University of Southwestern Louisiana, located in Lafayette, the heart of the Acadian country, is noted for its warmth and hospitality, as is the area in which it is located.

The largest of the state institutions of higher learning under the State Board of Education, the university, headed by Clyde L. Rougeou, as president, has established an enviable record of academic excellence, and its students each year garner a record number of national scholarships and teaching assistantships in their pursuit of higher degrees.

College and Schools

Academically, the University comprises the undergraduate degree granting colleges of Liberal Arts, which includes the School of Music and the School of Art and Architecture; College of Education; College of Agriculture, including the School of Home Economics; College of Engineering, College of Nursing; and the College of Commerce. There is also the Graduate School and University College (night and special classes). The work of these colleges and schools is closely coordinated under the general direction of President Rougeou and Ray Authement, vice president.

Among its fall enrollment of 9,352 students are some 750 Baptist students. Full opportunity for spiritual guidance is available to USL students through the religious student centers maintained by the various churches and supervised by full-time directors. The Baptist student center is on Johnston street across from the main quadrangle of the campus. There are religious centers also for Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and a general center for those students of other religions who have not yet obtained separate centers of their own. All religious student centers are on or near the campus.

Southwestern is thought of as a "family college." Children and grandchildren of former students are among its student body, and the community has a warm and close feeling towards "its" university. USL has always and will continue to maintain a personal, individual student-faculty relationship. This year a USL Freshman Orientation Committee began a special Freshman Orientation Program aimed at helping the entering freshman student make a successful adjustment from high school to college.

In addition to drawing students from its immediate service area, its student body also includes students from other areas of the state and from all parts of the United States and many foreign countries. Foreign students, although chiefly from the Latin American countries, include those from Europe, the Near East, the Middle East and the Far East.

Noted for the beauty of its 735 acre campus with its camellias, azaleas, native iris and its live oaks, planted by its first president at the start of this century, Southwestern provides students with a wide variety.

(Continued on page 14)
"Every Christian Trained to Minister" is the theme for "M" Night Dec. 4, according to Charles Lowry, director of the Department of Training and Church Administrative Services.

A number of special materials are available to help associational leaders present effectively this theme.

A tape recording is available from the Baptist Book Store for $3. The tape carries both a 16-minute light-hearted promotional feature entitled "Crossed Wires."

In addition, a sound film "I Don't Want To Get Involved" is available from the Baptist Film Center. Many associations will also have a special speaker with a message on the theme.

The "M" Night theme is relevant to the life and work of every church in every association in the state. As leaders from churches gather in associations all over Louisiana, a new day could be dawning in training and developing of our membership to actually get out to where the people are and minister to their needs. It is of interest that the top five associations in attendance at the 1966 "M" Night are as follows: New Orleans, 959; Judson, 764; Bayou Macon, 662; Washington, 627; Caddo, 625.

--------

LARGE TYPE CONCORDANCE BIBLE

King James Version

SUPERB TYPE, extra large and bold. Pronouncing.

MODERATE SIZE, hardly larger than many ordinary type Bibles. 8 1/8 x 5 1/2 in.

INDIA PAPER. Only 1 in. thick.

CONCORDANCE REFERENCES

COLORED MAPS

FAMILY RECORD

4690X: Genuine leather, flexible semi-overlapping covers, gold edges.

$14.00

RED LETTER EDITIONS:

4690XRL: $15.00

4601XRL: Leatheroid, flexible covers; gold edges $9.25

Thumb index $1.75 extra

Order from your BAPTIST BOOK STORE
of intellectual and educational experiences. For more than half a century now, USL's heritage of high excellence has opened doors, provided opportunities and encouraged thought and action on the part of her students.

USL was established by Act 162 of the 1898 Louisiana Legislature. From the year its doors were first opened to students in 1901 up to the present, the University has shown a steady growth. In spite of the fact that the University has made use of every possible means to keep pace with its rapid growth, there is a lag in needed facilities. The growth potential is tremendous. The University draws from a population area of some 450,000 people living within a 50-mile radius of the campus. A student body enrollment of more than 10,500 is projected for 1970.

BROTHERHOOD

Forces Swirling

The powerful forces swirling around Africa and through its millions of citizens form the setting for this year's Foreign Mission study, Dec. 3-10, in Southern Baptist churches throughout the United States.

By completing this study, many Southern Baptists, through prayer and giving, are expected to increase their Christian commitment and express concern for the opportunities Africa offers in expanding Christianity.

Brotherhood units can play a key role in this effort. In many churches mission study leaders in Baptist Men working through planning committees will decide the best way to sponsor the study. Mission action leaders will follow up the study by providing ways for increased concern to be expressed.

The foreign mission study may occur during weekday class periods, a study retreat, book review sessions, family study led by the men, or through individual study of the appropriate book.

Here are some tips to use:

In a weekday study, line up the pastor or another good teacher for about five sessions if possible. Three sessions also work well, if enough time can be allowed for each session.

It's a good idea to hold a fellowship for a kick off.

If the weekday study isn't used, try a retreat. Many Baptist Men's units will start Friday night at the lodge or camp and wind up Saturday afternoon. In a study retreat, don't forget to allow periods for worship, discussion, recreation, and fellowship, in addition to the study itself.

The material can be presented in a book review (one or two sessions). More than one person can take part by letting each man review a specific chapter.

Where these ways aren't used, men still may take part in the foreign mission study by leading their families in the study at home. In many cases, children will be studying about Africa in school, so they can add interest by giving background.

The books also are available from Baptist book stores for individual study.

For men and young men, the book is "Africa, Arrows to Atoms," by V. Lavell Seals. For Royal Ambassadors, order "Out of Shango's Shadow," by Barbara Epperson; for Crusaders, "Black Eagle," by Marjorie Jones; Pioneers, and "So Sure of Tomorrow," by Carl F. Whirl. There is a teacher's guide for each.

There are several ways Christians can express their concern for foreign missions through prayer. A prayer breakfast appeals to men. However, prayer, not fellowship or the meal, should dominate. Midweek services offer another way for Brotherhood units to emphasize foreign missions in prayer. The Sunday worship service also is a good time to pray for missions and to have a special speaker.

Many missionaries will be available in December for special programs in a Brotherhood unit, at midweek services, or on Sunday.

LAND of SPORTS

"Where Sportsmen Serve Sportsmen"

Dennis Welch, Owner
Bogalusa
A campaign has been launched to raise the funds to construct a new $300,000 Baptist Student Center at Northeast Louisiana State College in Monroe.

The new building will be located at the corner of College Ave. and Evangeline St., seven blocks north of the present structure and nearer to the center of the campus. Construction is expected to start in the near future and is scheduled for completion by the fall of 1968. The construction schedule will depend on the availability of the necessary funds.

Half of the money will be provided by Baptist churches and individual donors in northeast Louisiana, and the other half by the Louisiana Baptist Convention. Much of the $150,000 goal assigned to northeast Louisiana Baptists is to be subscribed by Baptist churches through slight increases in the amounts they allocate to the BSU in their budgets. It is estimated that this will amount to an increase of only about 50 cents per resident member per year over a ten-year period. In addition, it is expected that certain individuals will be led to offer designated or memorial gifts, and some churches or individuals will wish to make love gifts dedicating certain rooms or facilities at the new Center.

The new 15,000-square-foot structure has been designed for versatile usage with facilities designated for worship, study, music, recreation, classes, library, prayer, projects, conferences, a married student apartment, a nursery and a cafeteria-style kitchen.

Dave Woodman, chairman of the BSU Board of Development, which is leading the campaign to obtain the funds from northeast Louisiana Baptists, said the new center is needed because the present facility has been outgrown.

"The existing 3,000-square-foot building was erected back in 1954, when Northeast's student body totaled only 1,600 and there were but 600 Baptist students on the campus," he said. "The student body has since more than quadrupled to nearly 7,000 and the number of Baptist students to 3,000.

"Northeast is the fastest-growing college in Louisiana. Its enrollment is expected to double within the next decade to more than 14,000, with the number of Baptist students increasing to some 6,000. So the need for a new Baptist Student Center is now critical and, in fact, long overdue."

He pointed out that today's college campus has been termed by evangelist Billy Graham as the "greatest mission field in the world." He noted that "the growing secularism and the satanic pull of worldly influences to which our young people are being subjected make it imperative that we provide our Baptist Student Union with the necessary facilities to exert a strong, effective witness for Christ on the campus."
21 Students Listed

Twenty-one Louisiana College students have been named to "Who's Who in American Colleges" for 1967-68, according to Carroll C. Gates, dean of students.

These students were selected from a student body of 1149 on the basis of scholarship, leadership and general citizenship. Each student must be in the junior year of college or above.

Six of the students have been included for the second straight year. They are Miss Janet Marie Anding, a senior from Houma; Miss Judy Ann Griffin, a senior from Little Rock, Ark.; Miss Susan Lynn Sills, a senior from Arlington, Va.; Mrs. Danelle Turner Traxler, a senior from Pineville; Mrs. Jo Bains Baker, a senior from Shreveport; and William Robert Lawrence, a senior from Plaquemine.

Other students are: Miss Judith Amedla Robinson, Miss Donna Gall Price and Thomas James Godfrey, all seniors from Pineville; Sherrie Frances Hansen a junior and Tobi Sue Lindsey a senior, both from Shreveport; Richard David Cowart, a junior from Bossier City; Terry Lynn Brown, a senior from Denham Springs; Susan Kay Bolton, a junior from Rayville; Michael Elden Brunet, a junior from Oakdale; Constance Jean Deal, a senior from Lafayette; Karen Faye Eichelberger, a senior from Ringgold; and Dorothy Jean Nelson, a senior from Mansfield.

Students from out of state are: David Harold DeRousse, a junior from Mascoutah, Ill.; Robert Adolph Heritage, a junior from Newton, Miss.; and Malda Liu, a senior from Kowloon Hong Kong.
What Is Happening To Our Pastors?

(Note: The following article is a condensed version of an address by Franklin Atkinson, delivered to messengers attending a recent meeting of New Orleans Associated Baptists.)

A deacon quickly listed a page full of names. These names represented pastors whom he knew who had left the pastorate for other types of work: some to another religious field; others to secular employment. Now that it is mentioned, the reader might remember some this.

This fact is currently a startling, shocking reality. To ignore it is cowardly. My theology never permitted me to consider it before because of my strong conviction of a "God-determined Ministry." But the multitude of my friends who are thus affected forced me to recognize God's primary will and his permissive will. I Samuel 23:7-15.

My disturbance springs from the cause of so many dedicated, devoted men leaving the pastorate (not necessarily leaving the ministry). Quality men, well-trained with an abundance of experience and investment in the pastoral service (not beginners) are finding other kinds of religious or social work to be institutes for the pastorate.

I. EVIDENCES

The following list should convince that something is happening to our pastors.

1. The reader's own list of such good men. And some will know the inside story as to why.


3. In the last twelve months, fifty-four pastors have written our Educational Commission to inquire about a teaching job. That Commission has had as many as 300 persons with Th. D. degrees registered with them.

4. The Annul Board was disturbed enough to make a frank investigation as to why 1.1% of its participants (616 individuals) cashed out their retirement savings in a 3 1/2 year period.

5. Our Chaplin's Division approved 319 endorsements in 1966.

II. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. More genuinely spiritual positions of service outside the pastorate exist today than ever before even within religious denominational fields.

2. More places of service to humanity in the secular structure can genuinely be God's place for some individuals.

3. The pastorate can legitimately be a good pre-

IV. CONSIDERATIONS FOR CORRECTIONS

1. By some means, lead the church to recognize the divinely-appointed position of the pastor. This will result in the following practical activities:
   A. Evaluate his duties as to priority requirements.
   B. Accept his limitations and provide other resources to accomplish where he is deficient.
   C. Cultivate gratitude and its many methods of expression.
   D. Provide adequately for his existence in a materialistic world.

   E. Provide some occasional "leave-of-absence" other than his family vacation for recreation physically, emotionally, and spiritually. By this gesture magnify his ministry of the Word for a refresher study, alone, off the field, or back to school.

F. Make sure that he knows that individuals are glad that he is their pastor. Convince him by your prayer, cooperativeness, and thoughtful remembrance.

2. Develop a program that the membership will support to accomplishment. A friend left the pastorate for another reason but he informed me that the Church Council and deacons had projected 20 activities in the last two years. Fifteen and failed. No membership would not function properly. He was exhausted and without enthusiasm to try again.

CONCLUSION

The vastness of this subject makes this address like so much ocean water. Perhaps, you will add to its research and solutions for the honor of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and for the redemption of a great orchestra of our God that was on tour. A certain town was situated along the road in the Western United States. To help escape the orchestra needed to perform. But only a church provided a sizable auditorium. The crowds filled the church, and the orchestra was magnificent in the majesty of God. Afterwards, a church member was joking with the pastor when he said, "Pastor, when are you going to fill the building again?" The pastor replied immediately, "Just as soon as I get 100 qualified, cooperative, willing members following my conducting." May it be so!

(Note: A copy of the complete address may be obtained as long as supplies are available from: Mercy Baptist Association, 3939 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, La. 70126.)
MISSOURI

Stormy Session Held

The Missouri Baptist Convention meeting in St. Louis in March had one stormy session, but not from any convention business. When a tornado warning sirens wailed during the first convention sessions, all of the delegates were forced to evacuate the church where it was meeting. Fortunately, the four tornadoes which hit St. Louis missed the area of the church.

Baptists appeal followed an address by Guy B. Howard, president of University College in Pineville, who declared that "Baptists cannot accept federal aid if we are to maintain the concept of full religious liberty for all." They tried to explain that religious liberty goes far beyond the political device of separation of church and state. They also noted that they have always insisted that it is the principle of voluntarism that makes religion moral.

"To compel or coerce him (man) through taxation to support any religious system is morally wrong," said one Baptist.

The report of the Baptist convention leaders was that the state has not yet been received, at least 1,535 persons made public professions of faith, and more than 1,800 persons renewed their commitment to Christ or made some other decision.

A motion was made that the Southern Baptist Convention consider the matter involved in the proposed state constitution which would allow the legislature to pass laws for the support of public schools.

The vote was 50 to 40 in favor of the motion and then the delegates voted for other resolutions, including one to support the state constitution as it was in 1956.

Georgia’s last Sunday closing law, which became effective in 1932, was repealed by the legislature in January. A new law was adopted by the legislature in January that prohibited all Sunday closing laws except in cases of necessity or charity.

Several experts have described the 1932 law as “shaky” and “unenforceable.”

**ALABAMA**

Aid Disallowed

After three hours of debate, Montgomery’s convention defeated a proposal to the state legislature to provide a grant of federal aid to the Montgomery Baptist Hospital, the state’s largest hospital.

The hospital voted to discontinue grants from federal, state, or any other political subdivision from the hospital’s sources of finance.

The recommendation, introduced by the hospital’s board chairman, N. J. Bell III, asked that the hospital be allowed to borrow money from the federal government.

Bell said that more than $90,000 was lost this past year as a result of a continuing drought and that this burden is due to increased maintenance in the coming year.

The pastor of the First Church of Montgomery, J. R. White, spoke in favor of the recommendation and cited reasons for his support.

He reasons were:

1. That he is just the beginning of greater things to come.

2. That the federal government has become involved in the operation of the hospital even though the federal money and that the government will likely become more involved.

3. That accepting federal money does not violate the traditional Baptist concept of separation of church and state.

Frank Tripp, retired executive director of the Southern Baptist Hospital Commission, opposed federal grants to the hospital.

"It is not necessary for us to take Federal money because of the soundness of our hospital’s operation," said Tripp.

Floyd said that he was anxious to take over the state of Alabama’s Baptist hospitals and to give them a new lease on life.

Before the assembled crowd attended, the state has taken over two Baptist hospitals in the state of Alabama and is taking over the hospital in Montgomery.

After the couple hour attendance began to grow, now there are three churches, two Baptist and one mission. The people were welcomed warmly.

The Southern Baptist churches plan to establish another chapel in the town of Granger, where they have been offering two places in which to meet. But no pastor is available to direct the work there.

"This is a time of hope and opportunity," said Mrs. Pen- nell. "We are no longer limited by political conditions—but we are limited by the budget of personnel and funds. To some of the people who are here..." she continued. "We don’t have anyone to help you now.

"We’re going, too!" These children from the three-year nursery are among 114 Southwestern Baptist M.K.s. The parents are currently in orientation at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Assembly. (Photo by Kenneth R. Bragg.)
International SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE LURE OF OTHER GODS

By Clifton J. Allen

The lure of false gods is the plight and the blight of mankind. Idolatry, materialism, communalism, rationalism, and sacramentalism are some of the gods which enslave people. The Lord Jehovah alone is God. God's controversy with the children of Israel was both real and right. God had a justifiable case. The people of Israel were guilty of many abominable sins. Their worship of Jehovah had become a farce of reverence and hypocrisy. Many had turned to Baalism and other forms of idolatry, the very worship of these gods being accompanied by unspeakable lust and immorality. Moral standards were completely ignored - so much so that Hosea said there was "no truth, nor mercy," but instead "swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, and constant violence and murder. God could not ignore such great wickedness. His holiness and the people grew out of his own holiness in reaction to their wickedness. We thus discover the root of the trouble in Israel. It was the rejection - the hearts of the people were alienated from Jehovah. Hosea was not a prophet who found satisfaction in condemnation, who delighted to describe the basest forms of wickedness, or who used figures of speech to exaggerate ugly situations. But he felt the obligation of his call from the Lord to declare the spiritual condition of the people. He described the unstable political situation - king after king being assassinated - the struggle for power, and the folly of kings who persisted in courses of evil. From the beginning of the Northern Kingdom, idols of silver and gold had been devised for an open violation of the Second Commandment - and thus the seed of destruction was planted in the nation's life. The harvest of evil increased. While sacrifices were offered to Jehovah, he refused to accept them.

God's steadfast love expressed itself in long-suffering, mercy, and willingness to forgive. Hosea, in God's behalf, challenged the people of Israel to turn from wickedness to righteousness. If they would sow in righteousness, they would reap in mercy. There was need to break up the fallow ground - that is, to let the hardness of their hearts be broken and crushed and made mellow by recognition of their sinfulness, deep condition before God, and earnest desire for the forgiveness of the Lord. It was time to repent and seek the Lord. If they would do so with sincerity, God would rain righteousness upon them.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

WORSHIPPERS MUST BE KIND

By James E. Carter

"But I didn't want to get involved!" is often the excuse we give for refusing to practice basic acts of kindness to other persons. The kindness that we show to others results from the experience that we have had with God. We can show our love for God by the acts of kindness performed for others.

To be an acceptable worshipper, the worshipper of God must be kind.

Kindness With Property
(Deuteronomy 22:1-4)

"Finder's keepers, loser's weepers," we have heard since we were children. This cannot be the attitude of the people of God. When someone loses something, it should be returned to him immediately or care given to it until it can be returned. The ox and the ass were beasts necessary for making a living. The sheep were property representing value. Money, today, represents the expenditure of time, ability, and effort. When we find something that has been lost by another that is necessary for making his living or that represents the expenditure of his effort, we should be quick to return it. This is not only honesty but also kindness.

A quaint expression, "Thou shalt not . . . hide thyself from them," is used. This proves that we should actively seek to help others in their need.

 show kindness toward others. Can Christians do any less? In His kindness God has loosed us from the bondage of sin, self, and Satan. Because of this, we should show kindness to others whenever and however we can.

Kindness as Christian Response
(Ephesians 4:30-31)

The Holy Spirit is God's presence in our worship. The presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is the seal or the sign of God's ownership. Now, if such characteristics as bitterness, wrath, anger, slander, and malice are in the life of the Christian, the Holy Spirit can be grieved. These contrary characteristics are to be removed from the Christian's life and Christians should be kind in their relationship to one another. Why? Because God has shown His kindness in forgiving us. William Barclay says this the law of personal relationships - that we should treat others as Jesus Christ has treated us.

The worshipper who tries to imitate God and to bring his character into conformity to God's character will be kind.

RUBBER STAMPS SIGNS - BADGES SEALS - FLAGS BULLETIN BOARDS

ED. SMITH'S WORKS INC.
525-2128

Manufacturers of MARKING DEVICES SINCE 1887

326 CASTLETON

New Orleans, La. 70130

PAGE 19

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

WORSHIPPERS MUST BE KIND

By James E. Carter

"But I didn't want to get involved!" is often the excuse we give for refusing to practice basic acts of kindness to other persons. The kindness that we show to others results from the experience that we have had with God. We can show our love for God by the acts of kindness performed for others.

To be an acceptable worshipper, the worshipper of God must be kind.

Kindness With Property
(Deuteronomy 22:1-4)

"Finder's keepers, loser's weepers," we have heard since we were children. This cannot be the attitude of the people of God. When someone loses something, it should be returned to him immediately or care given to it until it can be returned. The ox and the ass were beasts necessary for making a living. The sheep were property representing value. Money, today, represents the expenditure of time, ability, and effort. When we find something that has been lost by another that is necessary for making his living or that represents the expenditure of his effort, we should be quick to return it. This is not only honesty but also kindness.

A quaint expression, "Thou shalt not . . . hide thyself from them," is used. This proves that we should actively seek to help others in their need.

 show kindness toward others. Can Christians do any less? In His kindness God has loosed us from the bondage of sin, self, and Satan. Because of this, we should show kindness to others whenever and however we can.

Kindness as Christian Response
(Ephesians 4:30-31)

The Holy Spirit is God's presence in our worship. The presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is the seal or the sign of God's ownership. Now, if such characteristics as bitterness, wrath, anger, slander, and malice are in the life of the Christian, the Holy Spirit can be grieved. These contrary characteristics are to be removed from the Christian's life and Christians should be kind in their relationship to one another. Why? Because God has shown His kindness in forgiving us. William Barclay says this the law of personal relationships - that we should treat others as Jesus Christ has treated us.

The worshipper who tries to imitate God and to bring his character into conformity to God's character will be kind.

RUBBER STAMPS SIGNS - BADGES SEALS - FLAGS BULLETIN BOARDS

ED. SMITH'S WORKS INC.
525-2128

Manufacturers of MARKING DEVICES SINCE 1887

326 CASTLETON

New Orleans, La. 70130

PAGE 19