

Baptist In.

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Official Organ of the General Baptist Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

VOLUME 87

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NUMBER 12

What Is The Relation Of Christmas To Jesus

"What is the relation of Christmas to Jesus?" asked a little Japanese girl.

She had seen Christmas as a secular celebration in Japan — tinsels, toys, food and revelry. Now she had come to a Christian school in her homeland. She had heard the people there talk about the birth of Jesus, and she had heard them associate Christmas with Christ. Since nothing in her experience had brought the two together, she raised the question: "What is the relation of Christmas to Jesus?" The people at the school hoped, through worship and meditation and through a Christ-like spirit of sharing at Christmas time, to show the little girl that Christmas is really Christ's day.

Almost any American child, or grown-up, can raise the same question as raised by the little Japanese girl. Christmas, the American style, has been secularized at the expense of Christ. Turkeys and toys, pies and candies, bicycles and skates, new suits and new cars we have at Christmas time. But Christ has been left out of Christmas. We have made the birth of him who inverted self-love: "Love thy neighbor as thyself" a day to celebrate our own selfish interests.

Take the Christmas parade held in many of our cities. You can watch it for two hours. What do you see? Floats, floats, floats — floats of beautiful girls, military floats, the old woman in the shoe, Alice-in-Wonderland, nursery rhyme floats, figures from Disneyland and from Fantasyland, and always central — Santa Claus. Where is the Christ? Where is the One whose birth we claim to be celebrating? He has no place of honor in the Christmas parade.

Downtown the store windows are dressed during the Yuletide Season, but with what? Do we see anything to remind us of Christ? Absolutely nothing.

Even Christmas music, the one element that has been Christocentric, is becoming more and more secularized. We have gotten to the point where such "way out" groups as the Beatles, the Animals, the Enemy, etc., are coming up with Christmas albums of that ridiculous music labeled under the indefinable heading of "pop."

We run into many Christmas gimmicks, but all have a common purpose: the commercialization of Christmas. The emphasis is on making and spending money. Many of us who have become victims of a commercialized Christmas spend the next year paying off the debts created by our buying spree.

When are we going to come to our senses? When are we going to realize that, through the element of exploitation, the modern celebration of Christmas has lost its original meaning and emphasis.

America has become the worst offender. A lady from Austria was shocked at the American secularization of Christmas. "In her native Austria," she said, "one does not turn his attention to Christmas until a few days before the celebration." How unlike our starting before Thanksgiving! In Austria Christmas carols are not sung before Christmas Eve; and, the Baby Jesus, not Santa Clause, is thought of as the source of gifts. There, worship is an integral part of the Christmas celebration.

It was from near this lady's native city, Salzburg, Austria, that the composer of one of our most beau-

(Continued on Page Four)

THE BAPTIST INFORMER

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CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

General Board Approves Financial Plan For Shaw

At the meeting of the General Board and Executive Committee of the GBSC, Tuesday, December 15, a plan presented by Shaw University was received and approved. This same plan had been presented to the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. So impressed was the Association with the plan that it became the basis for removing Shaw from probation.

Both the letter from the Association and the plan appear below.

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

Suite 592 - 795 Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
December 9, 1965

President James E. Cheek
Shaw University
Raleigh, North Carolina
Dear President Cheek:

The Special Committee on Colleges for Negro Youth examined carefully and accepted the reports from Shaw University. The Committee commends you for the remarkable achievements of your new administration.

It is a pleasure for me to report that the Committee removed Shaw University from Private Probation. We are delighted that you have made good progress, and we hope this improvement will be sustained. There will be need of no further reports except as required of all colleges by the Commission on Standards and Reports. The Special Committee has now been discharged.

We send you our best wishes for a happy Christmas season.

Sincerely yours,
CHARLES B. VAIL
Project Director
Commission on Colleges

CBV/mm
cc - Chairman, Board of Trustees

PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF A SHAREHOLDER'S FUND AT SHAW UNIVERSITY

INTRODUCTION — In the financing of an educational institution, there are two types of needs: **CAPITAL NEEDS** for buildings, fixed equipment, etc., and **CURRENT NEEDS** for the day-to-day operation of the institution.

To meet the capital fund needs of Shaw, there has been established the **CENTENNIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND** which is a five year program to secure funds from the federal government, philanthropic foundations, corporations and others for the purpose of rebuilding the physical plant.

To meet the current fund needs, there is being planned the establishment of two groups of supporters: the alumni who will comprise the **ANNUAL ALUMNI FUND**, and the Churches which will comprise the **THE SHAREHOLDERS FUND**.

For the majority of private schools the two major sources of income for current purposes are student fees (tuition, etc.) and endowment. Since Shaw University cannot charge its students what it costs to educate them, and since it does not have a large endowment, the **ANNUAL ALUMNI FUND** and the **THE SHAREHOLDERS FUND** together will comprise the University's **LIVING ENDOWMENT** as a means of developing and maintaining a stable, assured source of financial support for current operations.

THE SHAREHOLDER PLAN: Of the two funds for current operations, the Shareholders Fund is the more significant and potentially the more fruitful in terms of actual dollars to be derived.

The reason for this is because Shaw University has through most of its history, maintained an ac-

(Continued on Page Four)

Woman's Page-----

**CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED THE MONTH
of November 1965**

THROUGH THE OFFICE OF

**WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME AND FOREIGN
MISSIONARY CONVENTION OF N. C.**

HOME MISSIONS

Undesignated	\$ 606.35
Institutes	40.00
Self-Denial	5.50

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Undesignated	89.00
Foreign Scholarship	2.00

DESIGNATED GIFTS

Shaw Committee	25.00
Shaw Junior Contest	2.50
Shaw Drive	81.00
Orphanage	236.50
Forsyth Fellowship	25.00
Informers	25.00

SALES-SERVICE

Helpers	324.50
Guide - Handbooks	39.50
Junior Leaders	4.00
Mimeograph work	3.00
Rent	84.60

TOTAL \$1,593.45

**CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED THROUGH THE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE — GENERAL BAPTIST
STATE CONVENTION OF N. C., INC.
NOVEMBER, 1965**

Foreign Missions	\$ 2,112.37
Shaw University	3,426.91
The Central Orphanage of N. C.	740.37

STATE MISSIONS:

Designated - Unified	6,761.02
Baptist State Convention	250.00
Building Fund	21.30
Baptist Informer	102.40

OTHER RECEIPTS:

Designated Gifts	532.00
Re-deposit	30.45

GRAND TOTAL: \$13,976.82

**THE DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION VIEWS ITS WORK FOR 1966**

By C. C. Craig

The Department of Christian Education of the General Baptist State Convention will begin its work in the New Year of 1966 conducting Clinics across the State in local Conventions.

The purpose of the clinics will be designed to give the latest methods in the work of the Sunday School, the Baptist Training Union and the Vacation Bible School.

The Proposed Outline Schedule

1. The Sunday School: "Building A Standard Sunday School"
2. Vacation Bible School: "How to conduct a Vacation Bible School"
3. Baptist Training Union: "Organization and work"

It is a fact that the Sunday School work today is both a science and an art, therefore, the Sunday School must keep abreast of the modern Sunday School methods. The Sunday School must have a constructive program for the indoctrination of the children and young people in mission and stewardship, if growth is to be realized in the facts of what Baptists believe and what they are doing.

What We Owe To Ourselves As Baptists

1. As Baptists of North Carolina, we owe it to ourselves to make our Sunday Schools the best possible schools that they can become.
2. As Baptist of North Carolina, we owe it to ourselves to acquaint our Sunday School students with our State Baptist program; State Mission, Foreign Mission, the Central Orphanage and Shaw University, and help each of them find a place in the program for service.
3. As Baptists of North Carolina, we owe it to ourselves to teach and inform our Sunday School students along Scriptural lines in giving for the support of our denominational work.
4. As Baptists of North Carolina, we owe it to ourselves to have a Standard Sunday School, a Vacation Bible School, and a Baptist Training Union in every Baptist church.

The Department of Christian Education sees a bright future in the growth of our Sunday School work across the State with the support of those who are greatly concerned.

WHAT IS THE RELATION OF CHRISTMAS TO JESUS

(Continued from Page One)

tival Christmas hymns came. This was the perennial popular carol, "Silent Night, Holy Night."

One can see how this community, with its serene, calm, and worshipful Christmas, could be the source of inspiration for a beautiful song. Everything, even nature itself, pointed to the Christ in Christmas.

Where does the guilt lie in the American distortion of Christmas? Without hesitation, we must say with the people who call themselves Christians. They have given assent to a secularized Christmas both by action and silence.

Why is it that more Christians are not speaking out against the ever-growing practice of lengthening the Christmas season? Some cities are having Christmas parades before Thanksgiving. Why don't Christians stop exploiting and consenting to an exploitation which leaves many people buried under an avalanche of bills from which they only extricate themselves in time to make bills for the next Christmas? Christians need to ask themselves: "What is the relation of Christmas to Jesus?"

Let Christians rise up and set the tone for making Christmas **Christman** again. It should be a spiritual and religious observation celebrating the birth of him who "is the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

Until we do this, that question — persistent and disturbing — will continue to haunt us: "What is the relation of Christmas to Jesus?"

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(Continued from Page Two)

tive relationship with the churches of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. This organization has over 1,500 churches in its affiliation with a combined membership in excess of 300,000.

The resources, in terms of members, are adequate to insure a steady flow of income to Shaw, if a program is developed which creates and maintains a sense of participation and involvement in the building of the institution. The Shareholders Plan is the kind of program which can develop a unified body of church supporters whose interest in Christian Higher Education can be kept alive by a direct relationship to the school.

Although the Shareholders Fund is primarily a program for fund raising, it serves a number of vital functions in addition to securing money for

the operation of the school. Some of these functions are:

1. It helps to stimulate and maintain within the church the awareness of the church's responsibility for the support of Christian Higher Education.
2. It provides the institution with a body of reliable constituents whose resources can be utilized in the recruitment of students and faculty, in the development of a creative climate of public relations, in the fulfillment of the long range goals and objectives of the institution.
3. It provides for the churches an educational center to serve as the main focal point of the intellectual life of the church, from which the churches can draw for leadership both in the laity and the clergy.

OPERATION OF THE PLAN: The Shareholders Plan can be operated by utilizing the following steps or procedures:

1. Identification of those churches within the Convention which have expressed an interest in the continued support of the institution and a determination of the amount of money each would contribute to the institution annually.
2. Such churches would be asked to subscribe to membership in the Fund by pledging to contribute a specific amount annually to Shaw for current needs.
3. Churches which subscribe would be issued an embossed certificate, suitable for framing and bearing the corporate seal of the institution, indicating that such a church is a Shareholder of the University by virtue of its support of the University.
4. Churches having membership in the Shareholders Fund would comprise a Board of Visitors with rotating membership which would meet annually on the Campus for the purpose of being informed and kept abreast of the institution's development and changing needs. Such a group, while having no legal foundation or relationship, would nevertheless constitute an important group of leaders whose relationship to the institution would be clearly expressed.
5. All Shareholding churches would receive annually a printed copy of **THE REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS**, and would be entitled to a variety of benefits from the institution.

6. On the basis of the projected needs for the 1966-67 academic year, the following plan is proposed:

No. of Churches	Annual Gifts Each	Total
25	\$1,000	\$ 25,000.00
100	500	50,000.00
200	250	50,000.00
250	200	50,000.00
250	100	25,000.00
Totals 825		\$200,000.00

It should be noted that this plan would require only about one-half of the churches in the state in order to be successful.

It has been estimated that an educational institution with a student body of 500 - 999 should have at least a five million dollar endowment. A five million dollar endowment yielding 4% is \$200,000.00. Thus, the Shareholders Plan, having 825 churches participating, would yield an annual income equivalent to a five million dollar endowment. **THE PLAN AND THE UNIFIED PROGRAM** — The General Baptist State Convention is developing the Unified Program as a means of raising funds for all of its objectives. Under this program 44% of every dollar is budgeted for Shaw University.

However, the Shareholders Plan is not in conflict with the Unified Program, inasmuch as a church subscribing to the Shareholders Fund would simply send a total contribution to the Convention sufficient for 44% to represent the amount it pledges for the Shareholders Fund of Shaw.

Both programs support and reinforce each other. **SUMMARY:** With the development of The Shareholders Fund along the lines indicated above, the financial problems Shaw University has experienced in the past will be overcome. A reliable flow of funds in an amount of \$200,000.00 annually, together with the United Negro College Fund, Annual Alumni Fund, Centennial Development Fund will enable the institution to build solidly on a firm and stable financial base.

CHURCHES WITHOUT PASTORS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH — Apex, North Carolina
A full-time church about 14 miles west of Raleigh.

FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH — Goldsboro.
An old historic church.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH — Oxford, N. C.
This church has contributed to Baptist history.

PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH — Greensboro.
A church with a mission.

SIGNIFICANT QUOTES FROM PERTINENT BOOKS

Martin Luther couldn't understand how God could put up with man. "If I were God," he said, "and the world had treated me as it has treated him, I would kick the wretched thing to pieces." And I suppose he would have.

J. Wallace Hamilton in **SERENDIPITY**
(Fleming H. Revell Company)

Charles L. Wallis points out that some have called the disaster of crumbling buildings following the San Francisco earthquake an act of God, but a distinguished architect, after investigating the tragedy, reported, "Dishonest mortar was responsible for nearly all the earthquake damage in San Francisco." When men build their lives or their society with "dishonest mortar," eventually the judgment will come.

Charles L. Allen in **PRAYER CHANGES THINGS**
(Fleming H. Revell Company)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German Christian martyred by the Nazis, wrote from prison that some unknown previous occupant of his cell had scratched over the door the words, "In 100 years it will all be over." Bonhoeffer commented, "That was his way of trying to overcome the feeling that time spent here is a complete blank," then went on to state, "My times are in Thy hand — that is the Bible's answer."

William P. Barker in
AS MATTHEW SAW THE MASTER
(Fleming H. Revell Company)

The world's most basic needs can be summed up in four words: bread, brains, belief, and brotherhood.

J. Wallace Hamilton, quoted by Frank S. Mead in
TARBELL'S TEACHERS' GUIDE
(Fleming H. Revell Company)

We must be more than critics of the world situation. Denunciation of evil has been neglected these days, but it is not enough to expose the unfruitful works of darkness; we must turn the light of a positive Christian testimony upon them.

Vance Havner in
WHY NOT JUST BE CHRISTIANS?
(Fleming H. Revell Company)

There are days in every life when things do not
(Continued on Page Seven)

~ ~ ~ Editorial Comments ~ ~ ~

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FULFILLING OUR POTENTIALS

"It does not yet appear what we shall be." Like a mighty army the GBSC keeps growing in numbers. We are an army of over 300,000. But there the resemblance to a mighty army ceases.

A powerful military force fulfills its potentials through administrative leadership, through delegated authority, and through the recognition that every soldier has a place and a task to perform. An army with all generals could never fulfill its potentials. Neither could an army of all privates get the job accomplished. Some must be leaders and some must be followers. And both leaders and followers must cooperate for the common good. Above all, there must be unity of purpose and unity of effort. These are the ingredients of a great army. Quantity is only incidental. It is the quality of the army that counts. Gideon did with 300 soldiers what he could not do with 10,000.

In the light of what we have been doing in terms of the convention objectives, we have no cause to boast about numbers. As we look forward to 1966, let us be thankful for our large membership, but let us also be cognizant of the fact that this is not enough. The goal is to fulfill our potentials in terms of Christian service. We could go further, and say, a **non-doing** membership is worse than **no** membership.

The GBSC, by its very nature, must attempt great things for God. But its success depends on a great big "IF." If each member contributes something — time, talent, energy, money — the convention can do something tangible about advancing God's cause on earth.

What must we do in order for the convention to grow into the fullness of its stature? First, let us recognize our duly elected leaders and their role in the convention. They are not leaders in the sense of **bossism**, or in the sense of **showmanship**, or in the sense of **lauding it over the others**. They are leaders in the sense of **planning programs, establishing goals, initiating movements to achieve the goals, and coordinating the efforts of the convention's constituency**.

Our leaders have been elected because they show

leadership talent. They, like generals and their cadres, have the task of mapping out strategy for the convention.

Who are these leaders? The president, the executive secretary and his staff, all other officers and committees of the convention, the moderators, and the local ministers — all of these are important cogs in the state machine. Each one has a delegated duty from the top where the president has general oversight and the executive secretary executes the state wide plan down to the local church where the minister has the task of rallying his congregation behind the total effort. As each leader functions properly in his proper place the success of the convention will be determined. We have fallen short of fulfilling our potentials because somewhere along the line some leaders have not functioned properly.

Behind the leaders there must be followers, followers who cooperate willingly, cheerfully, and at love's behest; followers who will give benevolently and generously to help the convention push toward its goal. Followers are as essential as leaders. Without them, no movement can fulfill its potentials.

You heard the report of the Budget Committee at the annual session. It shocked some people out of their wits. The budget was the largest ever. We can, and must, reach it. But it calls for a **doing** constituency. It can only be achieved by the GBSC fulfilling its potentials. It must move, act, and do as a mighty army. Remember — "THE MULTITUDE WHICH DOES NOT REDUCE ITSELF TO UNITY IS CONFUSION."

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Thinking of you and wishing you happiness at Christmas time, peace and contentment through the coming year.

At this season we think of the graciousness of our many friends throughout the state on which we depend for survival of the General Baptist State Convention and its objectives. Your support keeps us moving.

May the spirit of peace, the good will toward men and the beauty of Christmas be an inspiration to you throughout the year.

O. L. Sherrill

SIGNIFICANT QUOTES

(Continued from Page Five)

look bright, when it is easy to become discouraged, and when even our best efforts do not produce good results. These are the times to seek help from the Bible. If you read it regularly, it will give you a new outlook, and encouraging uplift, a boost for your morale, and you will know fewer periods of depression.

W. Maxey Jarman in

A BUSINESSMAN LOOKS AT THE BIBLE
(Fleming H. Revell Company)

Bishop Arthur J. Moore, upon retiring at the age of seventy-two, said to the members of the North Georgia Conference, "God has set the eternal in our hearts . . . Our Christian faith is never so confident, never so triumphant as when it proclaims the everlasting life. We march, not toward the setting sun, but toward the light of morning." Death, for the one who has made his peace with God, means going home — going home to those who love us most.

Robert V. Ozment in THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE
(Fleming H. Revell Company)

Most of us have been away from the third grade for many years. Haven't we also been away from new knowledge and new discoveries for most of that time? What have we learned this day or this week? What new sunrises have we touched, what new roads have we walked — with crutches or without?

Bernice Hogan in LISTEN FOR A RAINBOW
(Fleming H. Revell Company)

Einstein believed that there are easy-to-follow rules underlying this universe. If anybody showed him an involved formula he would say, "God's laws are simpler than that!" I think the problem of saving Asia is simple, too, unless we make it difficult. By having just one objective — the welfare of mankind — we will iron out the kinks!

Frank C. Laubach in WAR OF AMAZING LOVE
(Fleming H. Revell Company)

I know now, looking back, that in the living room of my home that day, in the simple act of believing that Jesus died for me, the power of God's Word began to work. I saw, for the first time really, that a live, flesh-and-blood Person had suffered an agonizing death because of love for a boy named Robert Richardson.

In that moment a tiny flame of desire was kindled in me, a desire to know this Man, to follow Him, to show Him my gratitude. And though there have been detours along the way, that flame has never gone out.

Bobby Richardson in
THE BOBBY RICHARDSON STORY
(Fleming H. Revell Company)

CAPSULE NEWS

Reverend and Mrs. Ralph Carson, both Shaw graduates, are now doing a three year stint at a teacher-training college in Biu-Via-Yola, North Nigeria, West Africa.

This program is sponsored by the Nigerian government and the Church of the Brethren, but Ralph is still a good Baptist and would like to maintain his contacts with the Baptists of North Carolina.

Dr. John White, former chairman of Shaw's Board of Trustees and new president of the GB-SC, was honored by Shaw at the Founder's Day Program for the unselfish service which he has rendered the institution. President Cheek presented him with a plaque.

A new era of standardization in Christian education with the publication November 15, 1965, by the National Council of Churches of the first systematically comprehensive, ecumenical design for educational programs in U. S. Protestant churches.

A 848 page book, **The Church's Educational Ministry: A Curriculum Plan**, sets forth the massive theoretical framework — based on latest trends in educational philosophy and theological thought — which Christian educators will use as a basic reference tool in curriculum planning.

The general curriculum areas are: "Life and Its Setting: The Meaning and Experience of Existence" — "Revelation: The Meaning and Experience of God's Self-Disclosure" — "Sonship: The Meaning and Experience of Redemption" — "Vocation: The Meaning and Experience of Discipleship" — and "The Church: The Meaning and Experience of Christian Community."

Baptists throughout the state will be saddened to learn of the passing in November of the Reverend F. R. Mason, former pastor of First Baptist Church, High Point, North Carolina.

Sunday, November 29, 1965, the Reverend Richard Styles, native of Waterbury, Connecticut, graduate of Shaw, and now a student at Southeastern Seminary, was installed as pastor of Tupper Memorial, Raleigh.

MEMBERS OF LAYMEN'S LEAGUE POSE
FOR PHOTOGRAPH AT

Annual Session

NOVEMBER 8 - 9, 1965

SHAW UNIVERSITY



EDITOR RESIGNS

The Reverend Coleman Kerry has resigned as editor of the **Baptist Informer**. He gave as his reason the pressing duties of his parish ministry.

For several years Mr. Kerry has served as editor of our Baptist paper while fulfilling the obligations of his church pastorate at Friendship Baptist Church, Charlotte.

He served faithfully and diligent, giving sacrificially of his time, talent, and energy to keep the Baptist constituency throughout the state informed as to what was going on in Baptist circles.

We tip our hat to Reverend Kerry for the job which he has done during his editorial tenure.

Until an adequate replacement can be found, the Headquarters Staff will be responsible for editing the **Informer**.

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