

A New Perspective...

IT'S DOWNRIGHT TRAGIC that most Southern Baptists feel that in order to belong to the Convention they must be "conventional".

But more of our "thinking" leaders are warning us that we have become "rutted". Charles Wellborn said recently that "the church has become like a bird trapped in a sanctuary, flying vainly against the windows in an attempt to escape". He advocates smashing some stained glass windows. I concur.

It is evident that just because certain methods work in the county seat down in the Bible Belt is no guarantee that they will work here on the threshold of space - where people spend more time in their automobiles than at home, where the divorce and crime rate is one of the highest in the nation, where the average age is under 25, where 85% of the people are unchurched, and where less than 5% have lived here longer than 8 years.

TOO MANY OF OUR PROBLEMS arise from scratching where it doesn't itch. I, for one, am weary of belonging to organizations that exist primarily for the sake of the organization. Like the proverbial well oiled machine that works perfectly - but produces nothing (except jobs for men with oil cans).

I'm not the only minister that feels this way. Many others do. Over and over they pour out their frustrations - as birds beating their wings against the stained glass bars. They dream of having NT churches in the 20th century . . . they dream of not having to mollycoddle controversial issues for fear of being fired . . . they long for a membership that is composed entirely of redeemed people, all of whom are filled with the power of God's Spirit . . . but then they look out at their church and face the grim reality that such things can never be true in the present structure, for you can't put new wine in old skins.

BUT GOD HAS FAVORED US WITH A NEW WINESKIN. What a unique opportunity to be able to start all over again . . . and yet to start strong and vigorous with a redeemed congregation. Let us be brave enough to color outside the lines, if necessary, to structure this church to God's glory only and to meet the needs of these space age people.

April 7, 1967

"THE TABERNACLE TRUMPET"

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RECORDS LAST SUNDAY

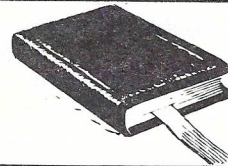
Sunday School	164
Training Union	91
Offering	\$721.00

NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION SESSION BEGINS SUNDAY NIGHT AT 6:30 P.M.

Everyone who has applied for membership at the Tabernacle is urged to participate in the "New Members" orientation sessions which will begin this coming Sunday night at 6:30 p.m.

Topics to be discussed include: The Basis of our Salvation, What Baptists Believe, Our Church and the Denomination, and Our New Constitution and Guidelines.

The session will run for the next several weeks and will be repeated later for those who were not able to attend all sessions. Everyone will be expected to attend.



Dr. Hicks remarked last week that what we are doing could possibly become one of the great pilot projects for Southern Baptists in the pioneer mission areas of our nation. If all we're going to do is build "another" church - then we'd best disband now. But for those who will accept the challenge of being different - - "the crown awaits the conquest".

NURSERY WORKER NEEDED

Anyone knowing of a neighbor or friend interested in being a paid nursery worker, please notify Laura Watson at 254-7616.