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McClain, Joseph Tolbert (1965 – 1968)

Pastors of First Baptist Shelby

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10-24-1967

### Newspaper - The Shelby Daily Star - Oct 24 1967 - Joseph McClain

The Shelby Daily Star

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# The Shelby Daily Star

Henry L. Weathers, Publisher  
Ned Smith, General Manager

James P. Allen, Editor  
Lindsey E. Dail, Advertising Mgr.

4—Tuesday, Oct. 24, 1967

## First Baptist Pastor States Position Worthy Of Emulation

First Baptist Church pastor Dr. Joseph T. McClain Sunday preached a sermon of signal significance.

Properly reacted to, benefits devolving from what he had to say could be with this community for generations.

In his characteristically studied and straightforward manner, Dr. McClain plainly challenged his people to bend themselves to the task of transforming Shelby into "a model city in America." He asked them to attempt it through individual, family and congregational involvement with the people and the problems of our city.

**HE IMploRED.** IN essence, that they "come alive," that they take the field to do personal battle with the hopelessness, the poverty, the hunger, the cussedness, the misery, the despair which pervades every nook and cranny of this community.

Every member of every other church in Shelby, regardless of denomination, would do well to prepare to emulate exactly what Dr. McClain and his family plan to do and exactly what he hopes the individuals and families of his church will do.

Unfortunately, we didn't hear the sermon. We heard about it. Then we talked with Dr. McClain.

He told us this:

**"WE'VE BEEN TALKING** too much. We must start doing something.

"Instead of just shrugging our shoulders and contending that helping people, that fighting poverty, that solving community problems is the responsibility of the home, the school, city and county government, the anti-poverty agencies, the welfare department, we all must come to realize that first and primarily the church is responsible.

"I have a real conviction that our problems in this community and in this nation are mostly spiritual.

"Not all of them, of course.

"But the big ones.

"This thing of race is a spiritual problem.

"So is poverty a spiritual thing.

"These aren't governmental problems.

"I have told our people that there is enough affluence in our church alone to upgrade this entire community socially, economically, religiously, morally, spiritually and environmentally.

"Certainly we have enough affluence here in Shelby to do all these things.

"Furthermore, we have for example, at least 100 families in our church who could well afford to provide a college education to 100 white and Negro youngsters."

**BACKING SUCH** convictions with the resolve of personal action, Dr. McClain and his family have decided to select one family which finds itself in dire circumstances. The McClains will personally endeavor to help with better housing, better clothing, better education, better environment, better understanding.

"We're going to do something," he has told his congregation.

In response one First Baptist Church Sunday School class already has acknowledged that it is prepared to do something in behalf of non-ambulatory patients at Cleveland Memorial Hospital.

In response a high school youngster already has approached his pastor and stated a desire to help some other less fortunate youth.

**IN RESPONSE** A First Baptist Church family has as a unit expressed its intention of becoming involved.

"If each family in this great church," Dr. McClain says with fervor, "would become likewise involved, we could make Shelby a model city in America.

With different words, Dr. McClain told his people what Michigan Gov. George Romney told the National Conference of Editorial Writers recently in Nashville:

**"WE CANNOT HIRE** a federal good samaritan to substitute for the individual citizen involvement in solving" the problems which plague individual Americans, their families and the communities of which they are a part.

In different words, Dr. McClain told his people what Vice President Hubert Humphrey told about 200 Baptists



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**"I ALSO HAVE THE conviction** that the church and the state must be separate on welfare.

"I'm not saying that the state ought to pull out.

"But I am saying that the church ought to come alive.

## Lots Of Luck

It is not likely that Miss Joan Bennett will be mistaken for a man.

Even as a nine-time grandmother, Miss Bennett indisputably retains the allure that characterized the golden era when movie queens dressed, looked and acted feminine.

So it's natural that she should ask:

Why are the boys looking like girls and the girls like boys?"

If Miss Bennett finds the answer, she'd be doing a lot of us a favor by passing it along.

It is something that has been bugging us, too.

Nashville:

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In different words, Dr. McClain told his people what Vice President Hubert Humphrey told about 200 Baptists from the United States and Canada recently in Washington:

**"THERE HAS BEEN** too much check book diplomacy, too much check book charity. The poverty of bitterness and hatred takes time to correct, and that's where churchmen are needed. We need the church, for it can add the person-to-person individuality . . . My philosophy is that the way you treat people is the way you treat God . . . get in the action.

Or as another compassionate individual put it not long ago, this nation of ours will be transformed into what it should be just as soon as "theology is practiced on the streets as well as preached from the pulpits."

**THE CRUX OF IT,** as Dr. McClain has indicated so vividly and so commendably, is that the power to transform rests in the hands of Christian men and women determined to stop passing the buck of social responsibility.