

Skits Two: The Fragrance of the Rose

by David A. Waganer

Reader 1: *(This person is seated in the crowd and simply turns to another person and begins to talk.)* Have you ever smelled the aromatic fragrance of a rose? Even as a small child I can remember smelling the roses from our yard. I've seen where a freshly cut rose placed in a closed-up area can bring a freshness to the musty odor of a whole room. Oh, the fresh fragrance of a rose is truly breath-taking.

Just take the time to think of how the Cooperative Program as a rose has brought a refreshing fragrance into the lives of people. As a single rose is able to touch every corner of a room with its fragrance, so do Southern Baptists touch lives in every part of the world through the channel of the Cooperative Program. *(This person moves to the platform.)*

Think of the countless lives that have been the recipients of the commitment that we share in our work together as Southern Baptists.

Reader 2: The majority of the pastors and staff members in our churches have received their formal education with the assistance of the Cooperative Program funds keeping the tuition fees at our colleges and seminaries affordable.

The Baptist colleges and universities that educate many of our members are there because of the financial support they have received through the Cooperative Program. Dr. Jimmy Epting says, "we at North Greenville College are so thankful for the Cooperative Program and would not be surviving today without the South Carolina Baptist's support." A similar statement could be given from each of our places of higher education.

Reader 1: Think of the lives that have been touched through the thousands of congregations that have been started as a result of the financial support they received through the Cooperative Program. One such congregation in South Carolina is the Sandy Acres Baptist Mission located in a mobile home park near Pageland. This congregation was started as a result of the cooperation of the Chesterfield Association, the Union Association in North Carolina, and Cooperative Program funds from both North and South Carolina.

Reader 2: We could travel across our country and see the Cooperative Program giving off a refreshing fragrance like that of a rose. We could easily go into our cities and see the fragrance touching lives that are the down and outers. We also could be touched by the fragrance as it touches ethnic groups from almost every country in the world who are now living in our country. We should not lose sight of the need of the flower continuing to touch lives of individuals from various settings and backgrounds in our land.

We could go to approximately half of the countries in our world today that do not have any Southern Baptist missionaries helping spread the gospel through the fragrance of the rose to the uttermost parts of the earth. Foreign Missionaries are attempting to share the good news

in various ways to multiple people groups within our world. Some are evangelists, others are working in various ways within the cultures where they have planted their lives and seizing the small ways they can share the gospel as they go about their work in areas such as farming, hospitals and schools.

Reader 1: The woman's Missionary Union through the years has been concerned about letting the fragrance of the rose, the Cooperative Program, be utilized as our primary vehicle for sharing the message of Christ. Perhaps the question of consideration for today is will we allow the fragrance from the rose to touch our hearts and minds so the entire world can have opportunity to respond to the gospel?

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