BAPTIST PRESS

A BAPTIST* NEWS SERVICE
Concise, thorough, accurate, and current news reports about Southern Baptists or of special concern to the denomination.

FROM
WASHINGTON OFFICE
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April 18, 1958

Religious Liberty Gets
Attention At Seminary

CHICAGO--(BP)--New insights into the meaning of religious liberty were given to students at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary here recently. The occasion was the Wilkinson Lectures on "The Christian Religion in Life, Literature and Art," delivered by C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C.

Six national Baptist bodies maintain the office of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in the nation's capital. Both Southern and American Baptist Conventions are active participants in this "joint" enterprise.

Carlson discussed the theological and institutional meanings of religious liberty, presenting the current problems of church-state relations and analyzing the relation of religious liberty to educational planning.

Charles William Koller, president of Northern Baptist Seminary, is a native of Waco, Texas, a graduate of Baylor University and of Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. In evaluating Carlson's lectures, Koller stated that they were highly stimulating and that they should be given to every generation of seminary students.

Carlson's discussions revealed that Baptists must approach religious liberty problems on the basis of their spiritual insights. It is from this viewpoint that they have a major contribution to make to church-state relationships.

"Baptists have the theological concept of individual responsibility to God out of which grows their emphasis on liberty and upon which their position of separation of church and state rests," Carlson told the Northern Baptist student body.

He continued, "Religious liberty has a direct relationship to all that Baptists are doing in the realm of evangelism, missions, stewardship, and in the practical application of Christianity to the current issues in society. Religious liberty is not a fringe Baptist principle, but it is at the heart of the Baptist faith and message."

Following the daily lectures, Carlson met with various classes for open discussion of the principles and problems on religious liberty. He reports a lively interest on the part of both faculty and students, and that he believes Baptists are facing a new day in their contribution to the cause of religious liberty.

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Bibles, Peace Message
Delivered To Russians

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Russian Bibles and a message on world peace from Southern Baptists were taken by Congressman Brooks Hays (D., Ark.), president of the Southern Baptist Convention, to Russian Baptists on his recent visit to Moscow.

The two Bibles and four New Testaments in the Russian language were a gift from the American Bible Society, and the message on world peace was from a 1955 resolution passed by the Southern Baptist Convention as proposed by the Christian Life Commission, of which Hays has served as chairman.

Hays has recently made proposals that the American and Southern Baptist Conventions set up special committees to study the problem of world peace and the contribution that Baptists can make toward its achievement.

Before departing for Moscow Hays stated that he hoped opportunity would present itself for him to make a gift of one of the Bibles to Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev of Russia. The Bibles and testaments are token gifts to the Russians where Bibles are scarce.

The world peace message delivered by Hays declares that "the kind of peace toward which we must strive cannot be declared. It is an end to be achieved by the processes of growth in the character and understanding of men."

"The followers of Christ in every generation should strive to create the conditions and lay the foundations which will become the instruments by which he can exercise his power and finally reach his glorious objective of world peace."

The Southern Baptist Convention adopted resolution states that the only hope for world peace lies in the preaching of the gospel to all people of the world. It also called for cooperation with the United Nations as "another factor in the achievement of world peace."

Hays went to Russia as a representative of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and in the company of Clarence W. Cranford, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, D. C., and president of the American Baptist Convention. Mrs. Cranford accompanied her husband.

Dr. and Mrs. Cranford will follow the visit with the Russian Baptists with a week at Berchtesgaden, Germany, where he will lecture at a religious retreat.

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Pioneers New Approach
To Applied Christianity

ALEXANDRIA, Va.--(BP)--Nine national and international personalities participated in the Laymen's Conference on Christian Living at the First Baptist Church here, according to J. P. Allen, pastor.

Famed persons who are also devoted Christians participated in the week-long effort to demonstrate that Christianity is practical and workable in every area of life.

Pastor Allen described the effort as "an adventure in a different approach." He said that "we have used and will continue to use revivals" but that the intent of this special week was "to find fresh channels to let the religion of Christ get into more men and more areas of life." He hoped that the experiment would be effective enough to be copied in many churches throughout the country.

Featured in the Conference were the following nationally known laymen, all of whom have dedicated their talents to the service of Jesus Christ:

Robert A. Hingson, Jr., doctor, inventor, medical teacher, chosen in 1947 as one of ten persons giving the greatest service to humanity;

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H. Y. Millikin, known as "a children's Einstein," and head of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Georgetown, Ky., College;

Walter H. Judd, Congressman from Minneapolis, former medical missionary, and an authority on United States foreign policy;

Adrian M. Burk, the nation's leading collegiate passer as a football star at Baylor University, for seven years a professional football player, and now an attorney in Houston, Tex.;

Maxey Jarman, chairman of the board of the General Shoe Corporation, Nashville, Tenn., and active Baptist deacon;

Fred Smith, management consultant in Cincinnati, Ohio, former vice president of Gruen Watch Company, and general chairman of the Billy Graham meeting in Cincinnati;

John Gordon Mein, director of the Office of Southwest Pacific Affairs in the Far Eastern Division, and formerly in the service of the State Department in Rio de Janeiro, Rome, Oslo and Indonesia;

Claude H. Rhea, Jr., professor of music at New Orleans Baptist Seminary and soloist for the Southern Baptist Convention on several occasions; and

Joseph R. Coleman, president of the Baptist Brotherhood of Oklahoma, and head of a firm of architects in Tulsa.

Speaking at both day and night services at the church and at schools and civic clubs these men sought to help people bring Christian ideals more fully into their occupations and daily lives.

"These men are living proof," Allen declared, "that Christianity is a successful way of life. Their adventures in Christian living are a testimony to the rich fulfillment of the promise of Christ for man."

In preparation for the Laymen's Conference 90 men met on Saturday mornings at 8:00 for their planning meetings. There was a steering committee with 16 sub-committees who made plans for the nursery, parking, prayer meetings, speaking engagements, and other details.

The major issues attacked by the Laymen's Conference were the limited role of the layman in the life of Christianity, the scourge of inconsistency on the part of so many church members, and the limited effectiveness of the gospel in the total life of people.

The Conference listed six specific aims in the program:

(1) To make an area-wide impact for practical Christianity, impressing the public mind with the vitality of the gospel of Christ;

(2) To revitalize the role of the laymen in the church;

(3) To call on men to decide about a whole-hearted dedication to their church and to Christian boldness in business and profession;

(4) To give material, method, and motive to the Brotherhood;

(5) To win men to Christ, in the full sense of the term, and to his church;

(6) To pioneer in another approach to preaching for Southern Baptist churches.

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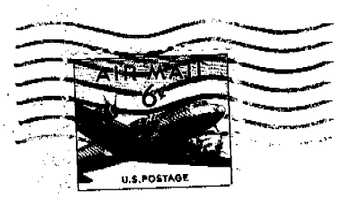

BAPTIST PRESS

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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

RUSH
NEWS COPY

To

Theo Sommerkamp
Executive Committe
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April 18, 1958

Cutlines for enclosed Baptist Press photo:

OFF TO RUSSIA -- Arnold T. Ohrn (left), general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, bids farewell to Dr. and Mrs. Clarence W. Cranford (center) and Brooks Hays as they depart for a visit to the Baptists of Russia at Moscow. Cranford is president of the American Baptist Convention and Hays is president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Departure was from the Washington National Airport in the nation's capital. -- Baptist Press Photo.

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NOTE TO EDITORS OF BAPTIST STATE PAPERS: The enclosed photo is released exclusively to Baptist state papers to go with the Brooks Hays story on his visit to Russia or for whatever use you wish to make of it. Another story will come immediately upon his return.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs will have its semi-annual meeting in Washington, D. C., April 22, 23. Several important matters relating to current church-state relations will be discussed. We will try to have a Baptist Press release in the mail for you on Wednesday night, April 23. Also at that time we will try to have a report for you on the hearings on the Langer bill to abolish inter-state liquor advertising.--WBG.

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