BAPTIST PRESS

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

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
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April 1, 1960

Graham Urges President
Visit Africa In October

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Billy Graham has proposed to President Eisenhower that he make a special visit to Nigeria for the October celebration of Nigerian independence.

The suggestion was made to the President in a meeting at the White House immediately upon his return from a nine week tour of Africa and a week in the Near East.

Such a visit from the President "will electrify all of Africa and will identify the United States with the nationalistic aspirations of the new nation more than anything I can think of," Graham said.

Commenting on the emergence of the new nation of Nigeria this year after a century under the jurisdiction of the British, Graham said that the current upsurge for freedom and self-realization on the part of the new African nations is largely a result of the work of Christian missionaries. The missionaries have identified themselves with the new moves for freedom and they are rejoicing in the emergence of the new nation, Graham said.

"Until the last five years," Graham continued, "85 per cent of all education in Nigeria has been under the auspices of Christian missions." The effects of Christian education in Africa have been among the most important results of the work of the missionaries. Graham included both Protestant and Catholic missions and education in his evaluation.

Graham cited an incident with the Premier of the eastern region of Nigeria to illustrate the great extent of the influence of Christian missionaries. He said that the Premier at a dinner given in honor of Graham stated publicly that his position as Premier was largely a result of the work of a Methodist missionary. "She picked me up from the streets, gave me an education, and above all, led me to Christ," Graham quoted the Premier as saying.

When asked about the comparative growth of Christianity and Islam, Graham said that below the Sahara for every three converts to Christianity there are seven converts to Islam. He pointed out that Islam is intensely evangelistic like Christianity.

The major stumbling block to the progress of Christian missionary work in Africa, according to Graham, is the fact that many Africans say that "Christianity is the white man's religion." One of the points that he stressed most heavily during his African tours, Graham said, was that Jesus Christ belonged to all the races of the world, that his mother took him to Africa when he was an infant, and that an African helped bear his cross on the way to the crucifixion.

Many Africans crowded around him, Graham said, after he explained that Christianity was for all races "to thank me for telling them that."

Graham stated that the racial difficulties in America were having an adverse effect in Africa to some extent, but on the whole the attitude in Africa toward America is wholesome at this point because the leadership there knows that the United States is committed to a policy of resolving the problems of racial discrimination within its own borders.

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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention. W. C. Fields, director; Theo Sommerkamp, assistant director; 127 Ninth Ave., No., Nashville 3, Tenn.

Reporting that a committee from South Africa invited him to conduct meetings there, Graham said that he would not do so until such meetings would be conducted on a multi-racial basis. He predicted that, in view of the many people in South Africa who are unhappy over the apartheid policies, within two years multi-racial meetings could be held there.

Graham said that as soon as the leadership in South Africa notifies him that unsegregated meetings can be held he will cancel other engagements and rush to Africa immediately. He said that it is the growing feeling among many leading Africans that nothing short of a great spiritual awakening can solve the race problem in South Africa.

"Tears of rejoicing were brought to my eyes," Graham said, "when an American Negro now teaching in Africa testified in one of the meetings that she was converted in one of my meetings in Jackson, Miss., in 1950." He said that the American Negroes had much to contribute to Africa in the way of missionary work and in the educational program.

The greatest single experience in all his ministry took place in Cairo, Egypt, Graham related. Ten thousand people had gathered under an ornately decorated tent and the police had turned away thousands of others. "The entire atmosphere seemed as if it was charged with electricity," Graham said.

He said that the Associated Press reporter for the occasion was amazed at the Cairo meeting. Not only was the spiritual power of significance to the reporter, but he was astounded that permission could be obtained to conduct such a meeting, and then that the people would respond in such a way.

Graham had high praise for the reception which he received in the Kingdom of Jordan. He said that he was welcomed to the King's palace, and that the radio stations of Jordan carried every word of his sermons to the entire nation.

Frequently Graham praised the work of the Christian missionaries over the past century in Africa. The present developments there could not be taking place apart from the work of the missionaries, Graham said.

Graham was asked, "If you were ever put in charge of a missionary program in Africa, what points would you emphasize?" He gave eight points in reply.

1. Missionaries should have the best training possible.

2. A study of anthropology should be a requirement for missionaries in Africa in order for them to understand tribal backgrounds and problems.

3. In the face of the prevalence of Islam in Africa, a thorough understanding of that religion is necessary for the missionary.

4. Many American Negroes should go as missionaries to Africa.

5. Mass evangelism can be effective in Africa as well as elsewhere in spite of the many language difficulties.

6. Christian education has an important role to play in the missionary program.

7. Social service, such as hospitals and other welfare work, is vital to a program of missions.

8. Native Africans should lead in the missionary program, even if they make many mistakes.

Graham said that in spite of the great success of the missionaries there is still need for hundreds of others in Africa. He said that Africa continues to present one of the greatest challenges to Christian missions. Graham is a member of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Adults Blamed For Many
Shortcomings In Youth

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Churches and parents must share the blame for many of the shortcomings of young people, declared Milton J. E. Senn, M. D., of the Yale University Child Study Center, in a speech to the White House Conference on Children and Youth.

Dr. Senn noted that delinquency is on the increase despite the increase in church membership and Sunday school attendance. He stated that many delinquent children are regular church attenders, and he challenged the churches to make their programs of religious education more effective in the lives of the youth.

Pointing at the poor example of many adults, Dr. Senn said, "Corruption in high places, shady business practices, materialism and aggressive strivings for success are considered natural and inevitable ingredients of a dynamically growing business way of life."

In an emphasis on the importance of home and church life, Dr. Senn said, "Not only does the delinquent have no sense of self, no feeling of self-esteem and dignity, but many of our other children do not have the opportunity to experience deeply moving personal relationships within the family, or within organizations such as the church which would motivate them to lead better and ethical lives."

Dr. Senn questioned some current practices in the churches. "Youth groups in some Sunday schools, taught by successful business men who use their everyday business ethics as standards of behavior, are promised success if they follow certain ritualistic practices as attending church regularly, praying before a business deal, and calling on God to give them insight enough to outsmart the other fellow."

Placing the responsibility directly on adults for the spiritual development of young people, Dr. Senn said, "...the religious growth of the child cannot be fostered without a concomitant religious growth in the adults who teach him, and also a growth in the church itself."

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Ten Commandments For
Parents Are Suggested (4-1-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- A speaker at the White House Conference on Children and Youth suggested ten commandments for parents.

Rabbi Julius Mark of Temple Emmanu-El, New York, gave this list:

1. Be loving to your children. Make them feel wanted.

2. Don't expect impossibilities of them.

3. Never deceive your children. You won't succeed anyway.

4. Keep your promises. If it is a reward, give it. If it is punishment, inflict it.

5. Correct your children's shortcomings early.

6. Never exaggerate to them the value of material things.

7. Do nothing and say nothing that you would not want your child to do and say.

8. Show no favoritism among your children.

9. Make your house a home for your children.

10. Guide them intelligently and patiently in their quest for God.

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Family Life Stressed At
White House Conference

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- The home has repeatedly been assigned a place of primary importance in the solution of the problems of young people by the speakers at the White House Conference on Children and Youth here.

Juvenile delinquency is almost always preceded by adult delinquency, declared the specialists in the field. The youth participants in the workgroups pointed their fingers at the adults and declared that the examples they set have more influence on them than the ideals they preach.

Social workers from all parts of the nation pointed out that the breakdown in the family of a generation ago has been reversed and that now a more wholesome family life is being experienced. Larger families among the better income people is another good sign, say the experts. More is being said and done in present America to reestablish the family than in recent years, it was reported.

One speaker said, "Without profound reverence for father and mother, our ability to observe the other commandments is dangerously impaired. The problem we face, the problem I as a father face, is why in the world my child should revere me? The basic problem is the parent, not the child."

Another said, "What we need are not only more school buildings and more playgrounds but also the restoration of the home, the resurrection of the parent as a person worthy of being revered as an example of devotion and responsibility."

President Eisenhower declared that "civilization is a matter of spirit, of conviction and belief, of self-reliance and acceptance of responsibility, of happiness in constructive work and service, of devotion to valued tradition."

He said instilling these and other "enduring doctrines and traditions" in the young is "a matter of patient and loving instruction on the part of the parent," as well as "the slow but consistent spiritual intellectual growth on the part of the youth."

The problems of children and youth are too great for any one segment of society to solve, the speakers asserted. It will take the full cooperation of home, church and government for young people "to realize their full potential for a creative life in freedom and dignity," they emphasized.

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Religion Played Role In
White House Conference (4-1-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Religion was prominent in the preparations for, the participation in, and the resolutions passed by the Golden Anniversary White House Conference on Children and Youth.

The Conference, called by President Eisenhower, was a gathering of 7,000 citizens and representatives from civic, social and religious organizations "to promote opportunities for children and youth to realize their full potential for a creative life in freedom and dignity."

Speakers both extolled and debunked, proclaimed as significant and irrelevant the role of religion in the life and development of children and youth. But no one could deny that religious convictions played an important part in the opinions expressed, the recommendations suggested and the resolutions adopted.

While some speakers said that there is no perceptible relation between a person's religious beliefs and his conduct, others vigorously asserted that religion plays a vital role in human relations. Judging from the resolutions passed, the opinions of the latter group prevailed.

In the preparatory period before the Conference the Roman Catholics conducted miniature conferences on children and youth to instruct their delegates and to work out Catholic positions on various problems that would arise in the

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Conference. A special handbook for Roman Catholic delegates was prepared and given wide circulation before the Washington meeting.

The Catholic handbook made clear the strategy to be employed by their delegates. One paragraph stated: "The presentation of our position with firmness, logical thinking and a good sense of humor will demonstrate to the other members of the work group that such an individual is qualified to speak representatively for the entire work group."

Another passage from the Catholic handbook said: "Be appropriately aggressive within your work group so that a fair number of our people will be elected by their group as their recorder and representative in the forum discussions" (where voting on work group resolutions will take place).

The Catholic handbook contained statements of Catholic opinion on 29 issues. Catholic delegates were asked to "learn them thoroughly so that there will be a uniform presentation of the Catholic position by all who have the opportunity to speak."

Other religious groups prepared special study materials in preparation for the Conference. Jewish delegates received a booklet, "Safeguarding Religious Liberty," which was prepared four or five years ago, and which outlined the consensus of Jewish opinion on such subjects as church-state relations, religion in public schools and federal aid to non-public schools.

The National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. prepared a booklet, which was a compilation of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish opinions on federal aid to education, church-state relations, and "released time" religious education for children in public schools.

During the Conference at the work group sessions (with 25 to 30 people around the conference table) the opinion was repeatedly expressed that religion in the home and effective work on the part of the churches is essential for the full development of children and is one of the keys to the solutions of their problems.

One forum adopted a resolution that declared it to be the opinion of the Conference that people are created in the image of God and that as such they should be treated with all the dignity and worth that such a status implies. The value of personal belief in God was emphasized by the Conference and recommendations were passed asking homes, churches and other organizations to step up their programs of teaching moral and spiritual values.

Adopted without a dissenting vote was a resolution that urged preservation of religious liberty, freedom of the conscience, and separation of church and state.

On the subject of birth control the forum on family life voted, with a small dissenting minority opposed, that public and private medical advice and services should be available for child spacing consistent with the creeds of families. However, in an effort at conciliation, the forum passed by a bare majority a resolution proposed by the anti-birth control forces. The forum agreed that "it is the function of the family to carry out its responsibilities to children according to the primary obligation of marriage in accord with Divine and natural law."

Federal aid to public school education received firm support by the Conference both by many of the speakers and by the resolution finally passed by the Conference. The Conference voted "to urge Congress at this session to affirm the principle of federal support...for public education with full control remaining at the state and local levels." Two attempts to put the Conference on record in favor of public support for parochial or non-public schools were tabled.

Concerning released time religious education a resolution was passed to permit religious training of students away from public school premises. A strong dissenting minority protested that released time "creates divisiveness" between pupils which is not desirable "within a public agency." This minority filed a report against released time, which will be printed in the official document of the Conference.

Conference support was voted in favor of Negro "sit in" protests against lunch counter segregation, to speed up desegregation in the public schools throughout the nation, to strengthen and unify laws on marriage and divorce, to intensify religious programs and counseling services to strengthen family life, to deplore the emphasis on sex and crime in mass media of communications, and to step up programs of control of juvenile delinquency. -30-

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April 1, 1960

White House Conference
Expresses Nation's Mind

By W. Barry Garrett*

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- What the nation thinks about the problems of the younger generation has been thoroughly aired at the White House Conference on Children and Youth. Whether or not one agrees with the conclusions reached and the recommendations made he cannot deny that this Conference is a splendid example of the democratic process and that the mind of the nation has been expressed on this subject.

It has been estimated that between five and six million persons have participated in preparations for the Conference over a period of nearly 10 years. The Conference itself was composed of 7,000 citizens, which included 900 young people and 500 persons from other countries.

Practically everything that could be said about youth problems from every viewpoint in the nation was discussed in five daily general assemblies, 18 smaller forums, and 210 workgroups. No one place in Washington was large enough to accommodate such a Conference, so it met all over the city in 80 different meeting places.

The recommendations and conclusions of the White House Conference on Children and Youth will be the basis for follow through action in the states and in Congress for the next decade. Social workers, denominational programs and governmental agencies will be profoundly affected by what took place at the Conference.

Although the causes and cures for problems related to children and youth are many, there was large majority agreement that the home is the key to the problem. Likewise a widespread sentiment found in the Conference was that the government and the churches have definite roles to play in the solution to these problems.

Herein lies an equally difficult problem. How can the home, the church and the state cooperate in a way to preserve individual worth and dignity, the independence of the churches, and the free exercise of democracy? The attempt to find the proper role of each of the above institutions will occupy the attention of the nation in the years ahead.

The Golden Anniversary White House Conference on Children and Youth was the sixth in the United States. The first was held in 1909 and was called by President Theodore Roosevelt. Every ten years since a similar Conference has been held. Significant results have followed each one of them.

The 1909 Conference gave impetus to the establishment of the U. S. Children's Bureau in 1912, the enactment of child labor laws, and organization of the Child Welfare League of America.

Following the 1919 Conference national responsibility was established in setting minimum health and welfare standards for mothers and children.

The most comprehensive collection of data on the health and welfare of children ever assembled was produced by the 1930 Conference. The famous Children's Charter also emerged at this time.

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*News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention. W. C. Fields, director; Theo Sommerkamp, assistant director; 127 Ninth Ave. No., Nashville 3, Tenn.

Although handicapped by World War II the 1950 Conference led to strengthening of personnel and training standards in equipping American children "for the successful practice of democracy."

In 1950 the Conference endorsed a platform for meeting the problems which prevent young people from achieving healthy personalities. It developed machinery for continuing activity during the years between Conferences, including the Council of National Organizations on Children and Youth, the National Council of State Committees on Children and Youth, and the Interdepartmental Committee on Children and Youth.

The 1960 Conference will be implemented by citizen action in the post-Conference period, nationally and in virtually every state. The President's National Committee has provided for national coordination of such efforts in its recommendation that there be established jointly by the above three coordinating councils a National Committee for Children and Youth to bridge the decades between White House Conferences.

The contribution of the 1960 Conference will await the unfolding processes of the follow through as those concerned "promote opportunities for children and youth to realize their full potential for a creative life in freedom and dignity."

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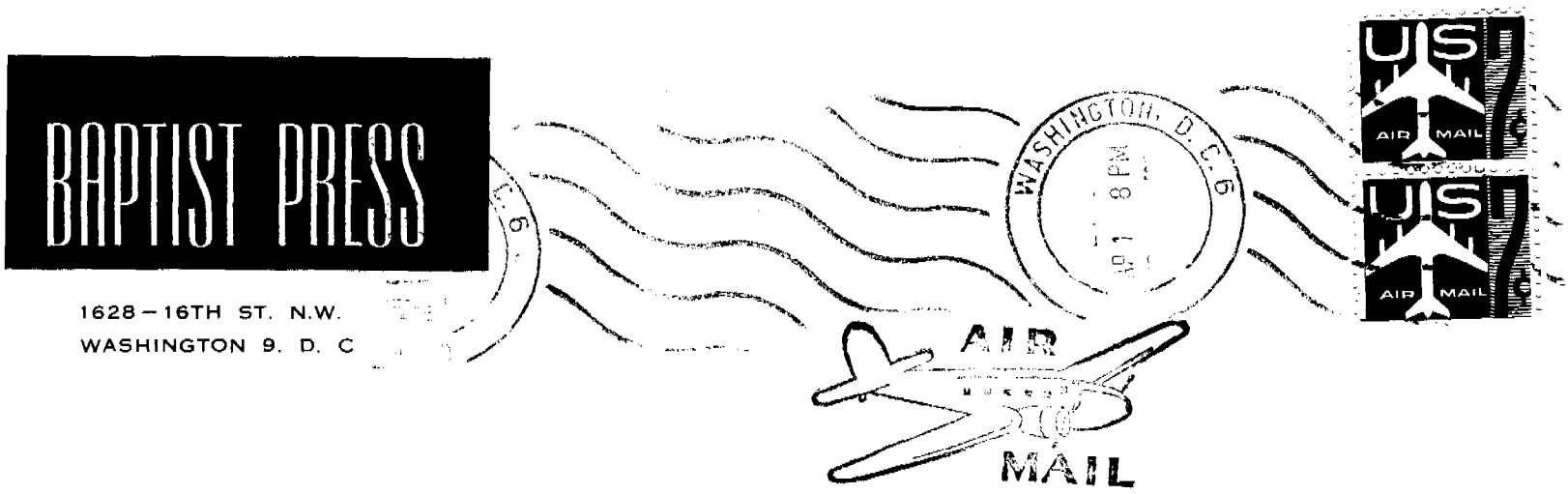


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