

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

CHRISTIAN LIFE MAN
CRITICIZES U.M.T.

Nov. 13, 1953

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--"Democracy cannot flourish from the seeds of military autocracy," declared A. C. Miller, secretary of the Christian Life Commission, Nashville. "Within our generation we have seen many of our democratic processes destroyed by the pressures of military requirements. We must not permit this process to continue."

Miller specifically cited two incidents that point up these pressures, the secretive way the proponents of Universal Military Training fostered their cause in Congress and the double-dealing with regards to the sale of liquor in clubs and mess halls.

Miller said, "In a recent interview by U.S. News, the assistant secretary of defense states that no recommendation for Universal Military Training will be made. 'So long as we are going to need at least two years of service from all young men,' he says, 'then there can be no enthusiasm on the part of the defense department for a universal military program which contemplates training them for a short period and releasing them to civilian life.' At the same time it may be well for us to remember that U.M.T. bill H.R.5904 has not been defeated. It was sent back to the committee on Armed Services for revision and can be called out again.

"Public opposition to this bill was aroused by the secret way its proponents tried to get it passed by Congress before the people were aware of it. The bill was neatly tucked away as an amendment to the selective service law extension so it would be enacted as emergency legislation although the bill specifically stated that the plan would not and could not operate in times of emergency.

"Now they again resort to a secret directive to provide for the sale of liquor in the clubs and mess halls of commissioned and non-commissioned officers. This directive in effect repeals the law passed by the representatives of the people in Congress and ignores the law of certain communities in which military camps are located. Moreover, it was sent out after Congress had adjourned."

Miller also asked Christians everywhere to enter vigorous protest to our president, commander-in-chief of our military forces; to Hon. Charles E. Wilson, secretary of defense, The Pentagon, Washington, D. C., and Harold E. Talbot, secretary of the Air Force, The Pentagon, Washington, D. C.

November 13, 1953

CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN BAPTISTS
INCREASE MISSION GIFT GOAL

SANTA BARBARA, Calif.--(BP)--Over one thousand with probably 600 messengers attended the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California in Santa Barbara recently. Robert D. Hughes, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Ventura, Calif., was elected president. Dale Hufft preached the convention sermon on "Ramparts of Zion."

A new project included the adoption of California Baptist College and the convention will accept control June 1, of next year.

Next year's meeting will be at Sacramento the first week in November, and in 1955 will meet at Long Beach. The convention voted to set the annual meeting dates two years in advance, following the plan of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A total Cooperative Program budget of \$325,000 was set with an increase of 2 per cent over last year for Convention-wide causes making a total of 27 per cent. The convention also voted to raise the percentage 2 per cent each year for the next five years.

The total operating budget for next year will be \$32,000.

A special resolution was passed to hold no denominational meetings on Sunday and, so far as possible, on Wednesday.

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BROTHERHOODS SHOW
RECORD INCREASE

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--(BP)--So far as new organizations are concerned, 1953 has been the greatest year for Brotherhood growth, according to an announcement made by the Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, Tenn.

A total of 1,486 new Brotherhoods were organized over the Convention. North Carolina leads all the states with 262 organized. Texas second with 155, Georgia third with 150, Tennessee fourth with 121, Oklahoma fifth with 119, Alabama sixth with 118, California seventh with 103, and Mississippi eighth with 90. Arkansas has seventy-five new organizations, South Carolina, sixty-eight; Florida, fifty-eight; Louisiana, thirty-nine; New Mexico, thirty; Virginia, twenty-six; Illinois, twenty-one; Missouri, twenty; Maryland, ten; Oregon, ten; Washington, nine; and Kentucky, two.

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BAPTISTS IN RUSSIA

(FROM BRITISH BAPTIST TIMES)--The Russian Evangelical Christian-Baptist Union publishes in Moscow Bratsky Vestnik ("Brotherly Messenger"). The most recent issue of their journal I have received contains much information on Baptist life and activity behind the Iron Curtain.

"Churches of the Evangelical Christian-Baptist Union, it states, are found throughout the whole vast territory of the Soviet Union. As a rule services are held not only on Sundays and holidays, but in the week, and are eagerly attended by believers.

"The work of the church is done by the pastor, assisted by deacons and helpers of both sexes, as well as the choir. For the greater part, the pastors receive no financial support from the church members. They work in factories or on the land, and serve the church in their spare time."

"Bratsky Vestnik refers to the visits paid by various leaders to different parts of the wide Soviet domain. In Brest-Litovsk Baptist work has had much blessing, though owing to the scarcity of men in some churches the services are conducted by women.

"Pastor Andreev of Moscow reports that a visit to Kharkov revealed that in that area fifty-eight churches have a combined membership of 5,967. In Kharkov itself a beautiful church building seats 1,000. The church in Leningrad on March 25, saw thirty people baptized, while in Moscow, where our church holds 2,500, 125 converts were baptized during the early months of this year.

"Baptists everywhere will rejoice to hear of this progress. It strengthens our desire to have much closer fellowship with our brethren in Russia. How happy we should be if our Russian friends could send a delegation to the Baptist World Alliance Jubilee Congress in London in 1955."

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SOUTHERN BAPTISTS TO
MEET IN SAINT LOUIS

SAINT LOUIS, Mo.--(BP)--Three major Southern Baptist groups will meet here next May 31-June 6, according to Oliver R. Shields, chairman, Committee on Convention Arrangements.

The Woman's Missionary Union will meet in the Opera House, Monday and Tuesday, May 31 and June 1. The Pastors' Conference will meet in the Third Baptist Church, Monday evening and Tuesday. The Southern Baptist Convention will meet in the Keil Auditorium, Wednesday, June 2 through Sunday, June 6.

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RUSSIAN BAPTISTS
VISIT SWEDEN

STOCKHOLM--(BF)--Last August Sweden was visited for about a week by four Russian Baptist leaders. Relations have been established between Quakers and Russian Baptists on the basis of interest in peace. The Quaker group was the organizer of the visit to Sweden. Opportunity was given to the Swedish Baptists to meet the Russian brethren. Dr. W. O. Lewis, Rev. Kenneth, Norquist, and the youth secretary of the Baptist World Alliance were also present.

"In a Sunday morning service in "Tabernaklet," Stockholm, the general secretary of the Russian Baptists, Rev. Karev, gave an address on the principles for the Baptist work in Russia. They were:

"Simplicity. The Russian Baptists believe in reflecting the New Testament life. In the New Testament they do not find various organizations. The early church was like one family. Thus they do not have special youth groups or women's groups. They are all together. Brother Karev mentioned that Western Christianity has a tendency to kill itself by over-organization.

"Unity. The Evangelical Baptist Union of Russia consists of various bodies, all basically Baptist in principle and practice. They believe that Christians ought to keep together.

"Peace. During the last years the question of peace has stood out as the everything else overshadowing problem of our time. The Russian Baptists are therefore eagerly working for peace among the nations.

"Karev said that there are about 400,000 Baptists in Russia in 2,000 churches. Then there are more than two million people regularly attending services but not baptized. This statement confirms the figures given previously in this paper.

"During a reception, given by the Swedish Baptist Union, the opportunity was given for mutual questions and answers.

"On the question if they had received the official invitation to the Rio Conference, Rev. Karev answered, 'Yes--and to many other international youth conferences too.' The question 'Why did you not send representatives' was answered thus, 'because we do not believe in the separation of youth from the general body of Christians.'

"Then the logical question was, 'will Russian Baptists be represented in London in 1955?' The answer indicated that if the program was planned in such a way that it would not cause tension between the nations, and if the international situation continued to improve, then there are good chances for representation.

(more)

Nashville, Tennessee
November 13, 1953

Baptist Press

"When we expressed the joy of meeting the brethren, we were assured that the joy was mutual. Our indication that we would like to express our love for the brethren through a personal visit was met in a positive way. Such a visit would be very welcome.

"Our brethren were of the opinion that Communism had a social concern, which also was found in the New Testament. The western world and the Communist world ought to live peacefully together. Communism is nothing that anybody wants to or can export. It is an idea that by itself wins its way or drops out just like other ideas.

"The closing moments were quite touching, marked as they were by a genuine Christian spirit."

Joel Sorenson
Youth Secretary of the B.W.A.

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MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW

St. LOUIS, Mo.--(BP)--Groups expecting to have breakfasts or dinners in connection with the Southern Baptist Convention here next June 2-6, should get in touch with J. Loren Jolly, 1029 Dolores St., St. Louis, Mo., dinner and banquet chairman. His telephone number is Wy-1762. This is necessary in order to avoid conflicts.

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