

June 4, 1961

**13 Baptists Among
Baton Rouge Signers**

BATON ROUGE, La. (BP)--Fifty-three Baton Rouge ministers, including 13 Baptists, have signed "An Affirmation of Basic Religious Principles" calling for residents of the area to maintain public schools even if integrated racially.

The statement, now having repercussions for some of the 53, further affirmed that "discrimination on account of race or religion is a violation of the divine law of love."

The ministers are members of the East Baton Rouge Parish (county) Ministerial Association, which covers the capital city of Louisiana.

Back of the issuance of the statement is anticipated integrating of the public schools of Baton Rouge. Signers hoped their statement would lessen racial tension and prepare the community for racial integration in the public schools, one of the Baptist signers commented.

Rebuttal to the ministers' statement is now coming from a Christian Layman's Society, declaring itself for public schools only if they remain racially segregated.

In addition some of the ministers have had their stands, though taken as individuals and not on behalf of their churches, discussed by their church boards or deacons. Individual members have approached some of them and have taken the ministers to task for signing it.

So far the ministers questioned apparently have officially been upheld by their boards or deacons.

In calling for maintenance of public schools despite a court integration order, the Baptist preachers said they were following the stand taken by the 1954 session of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Baptist ministers among the group, all serving in Baton Rouge, are Charles Blackmon, J. C. Clement, Irvin Cheney Jr., J. Bruce Evans, John S. Hurt, C. Bullard Jones, Bruce W. Lowe, Charles McCullin, John Harris, Lee Porter, Alfred R. Major, James William Trimble and Zeno M. Wells.

All are pastors of churches except John S. Hurt who is chaplain at the local Baptist hospital.

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**Speech-Hunters Left
Speechless By Reply**

(6-4-61)

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Paul Brooks Leath of Fresno, Calif. concluded a session of the 1961 Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis by quoting from memory the Sermon on the Mount.

This created some interesting moments at the booth where Convention speeches were being sold.

Halfway through Leath's recitation, a man rushed to the booth. "Can you sell me Leath's speech?" he asked anxiously. "I have to leave to catch my plane, and he isn't through with the Scripture yet!"

This episode was topped at the close of the service when several hurried to buy a copy of the speech. They became red-faced when told that they could find the message word for word in their own Bibles.

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Two Woman's Union
Leaders To Israel

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--Mrs. William McMurry, promotion division director of Southern Baptist Conventionwide Woman's Missionary Union here, has been invited by the government of Israel to spend two weeks in that country.

The visit was scheduled for June 14-30. The invitation was issued by Moshe Leshem, Israeli consul, Atlanta.

Accompanying Mrs. McMurry to Israel was Miss Laurella Owens, Birmingham, editorial associate in the Young Woman's Auxiliary department. Miss Owens lived in the Near East for 13 years. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roswell Owens, served as Southern Baptist missionaries in Palestine from 1929 to 1941.

The travelers will fly non-stop from New York to Tel Aviv via jet.

The tour will include not only visits to such well-known historical spots as Jerusalem, Nazareth and Capernaum, but also to educational and cultural institutions.

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Asquith Succeeding
Benjamin Browne

(6-4-61)

PHILADELPHIA (BP)--Glenn H. Asquith, Philadelphia, Pa., has been named editor-in-chief of American Baptist publications and director of the division of Christian publications for the Convention's Board of Education and Publication.

Asquith, who has been executive secretary of the Philadelphia Baptist Association for the past year, is a graduate of Eastern Baptist College and Seminary. He succeeds Benjamin P. Browne, who is president-elect of Northern Baptist Seminary, Chicago.

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Seminary Extension
Department Change

(6-4-61)

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The Seminary Extension Department of Southern Baptists here desires to clarify a report it gave in the May 18, 1961, release of the Baptist Press.

The report that 50 per cent of the pastors in the state of Mississippi are ministerial students is partially misleading. Included in the figure of 50 per cent are not only those pastors who are currently enrolled in college or seminary, but also those pastors who have had partial college and seminary training but have not graduated and are not currently enrolled.

A complete report of this survey will be made available within several weeks, according to G. Ray Worley, interim director here.

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Folks and Facts.....

(6-4-61)

.....Belmont College (Baptist) in Nashville, Tenn., has announced the appointment of Fred C. Schatz as academic dean of the college, effective Aug. 1. Schatz, a native of Birmingham, Ala., will come to Belmont from Carson-Newman College, sister Tennessee Baptist institution, where he has been director of placement and associate professor of education and psychology. (BP)

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.....Jack Hymer has begun serving as pastor of Blue Ridge Baptist Church in Independence, Mo. He comes from the Edgefield Baptist Church in Waco, Tex. (BP)

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Registration 11,140
At St. Louis Meeting

NASHVILLE (BP)--Registration of messengers for the 1961 Southern Baptist Convention session reached 11,140, according to an announcement by Joe W. Burton, Nashville, Convention secretary.

It was considerably under the record 1960 enrolment of 13,612. The 1961 session was in St. Louis, the 1960 session in Miami Beach.

The total would place the 1961 session behind five others as large attendances go. Two states, Missouri with 1530 and Texas with 1153 messengers, surpassed the 1000 mark in messengers present.

While messenger enrolment was 11,140, estimated attendance was about 14,000 since many Baptists came who did not qualify as messengers.

The 11,140 in 1961 compared with 10,962 registered in 1954 when the Convention met the last previous time in St. Louis.

The registration by states:

Alabama, 634; Alaska, 1; Arizona, 59; Arkansas, 424; District of Columbia, 47; California, 155; states served by Colorado state convention (five), 76; Florida, 417; Georgia, 690; Hawaii, 17; Illinois, 665; Indiana, 94.

Kansas, 89; Kentucky, 692; Louisiana, 420; Maryland, 142; Michigan, 39; Mississippi, 505; New Mexico, 71; North Carolina, 737; Ohio, 110; Oklahoma, 413; Oregon-Washington, 26; South Carolina, 604; Tennessee, 793; Virginia, 460; miscellaneous registrants not classified in above, 77.

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Organist Selected
For Men's Conference

(6-4-61)

MEMPHIS (BP)--Samuel W. Shanko Jr., instrumental specialist for the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, has been chosen organist for the Second National Conference of Southern Baptist Men, which will be held Sept. 13-15 at Memphis.

As organist, Shanko will work with a 300-voice men's choir; Tommy Lane, Memphis, its director, and the 40-piece Hardin-Simmons University band.

Highlights of the conference will include seminars, dramatic and musical presentations, and addresses by such notables as Charles Malik, former president of the United Nations General Assembly; W. W. Adams, professor, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and Roy McClain, past president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Shanko was minister of music and organist at First Baptist Church, Florence, S. C., for 13 years until taking the new assignment last year.

Author of two books on how to play the organ, Shanko has served for 10 years on the faculty of the music leadership conference at Ridgecrest, N. C., Baptist Assembly.

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2 Stetson Students
Find Birthdays Boon

(6-4-61)

DeLand, Fla. (BP)--Two Stetson University (Baptist) students here have formed a non-profit corporation known as Birthday Enterprises.

Don Hall, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., education major, and Bob Tilden, Orlando, Fla., chemistry major, find out each student's birthdate. Then prior to the birthday, they drop a note to the parents offering--for the proper reimbursement--to see that their son or daughter gets a cake on the big day.

"We're really getting practical experience," the college boys say, "as well as earning our way through school."

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Stetson, Wake Forest
Announce Honoraries

By the Baptist Press

The president of a Baptist state convention and two presidents of Baptist schools were among honorary degree winners at two Baptist college commencements.

Wake Forest College, Winston-Salem, N. C., awarded the honorary doctor of humanities degree to Charles B. Deane, Rockingham, N. C., president of Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, which sponsors Wake Forest.

Stetson University, DeLand, Fla., gave a doctor of humane letters degree to Rufus C. Harris, president of Mercer University, Macon, Ga., a sister Baptist school.

Wake Forest College also gave an honorary doctor of laws to Budd E. Smith, president of Baptist-operated Wingate (junior) College, Wingate, N. C.

Other Wake Forest recipients were Thomas Augustus Fraser Jr., Raleigh, bishop coadjutor of Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, doctor of divinity; and Wendell Melton Patton, High Point, N. C., president of High Point College, doctor of laws degree.

Stetson, at its DeLand main campus commencement, conferred degrees also on Chik W. Leung, professor, Hong Kong Baptist College, Kowloon, doctor of laws, and Harold G. Sanders, pastor, First Baptist Church, Tallahassee, Fla., doctor of divinity.

At its St. Petersburg, Fla., law school commencement, Stetson conferred the doctor of humanities on Hugh F. McKean, president, Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla.

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1961 Conventionwide
Income Catching Up

(6-4-61)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention 1961 Cooperative Program receipts, running behind 1960, appear to be slowly but surely catching up.

The May, 1961 statement from Treasurer Porter Routh here reported receipts of \$1,447,274 for the month. It brought the five-month Cooperative receipts sum to \$7,177,146, only \$13,000 (or .18 per cent) behind a year ago.

At the close of April, the gap was \$38,000.

Designated receipts for the month of May, 1961 were higher than Cooperative Program income, partially due to money still coming in for the Annie Armstrong Offering for home missions. The month's \$1,479,405 increased the January-May total to \$10,692,934 compared with \$9,864,241 a year ago (up 8.4 per cent).

So far this year, the Convention's Foreign Mission Board has received \$11,849,245 through the Cooperative Program and through designations, most of any of the more than 20 agencies.

Second is the Home Mission Board with \$3,181,490, including \$1,313,627 through designations during May.

The year to date total distribution to agencies is \$17,870,080 through both channels, compared with \$17,054,426 in 1960.

The total reported does not include offerings kept by individual churches for local support nor money retained by state Baptist organizations for regional work.

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June 4, 1961

Cutlines

Baptist Press

GO WEST, YOUNG FOLKS--Nine Birmingham, Ala., Baptist young people headed West this summer to aid California Southern Baptists for 10 weeks. In a tentmaker type project, the four boys and five girls were to earn their own support in employment while using free time to work in churches and missions in a variety of ways. Members of First Baptist Church, Birmingham, from which the youth come, drove them to California. Six of the eight, shown holding a large state map, are from left Johnny Glenn, Mary Swanner, Jeanne Hough, David Ellis, Dean Ray and Jan Broadhead. (BP) Photo.