

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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July 7, 1961

Mars Hill Lifts Ban On Negro Enrollment

MARS HILL, N.C. (BP)--Mars Hill College here, a Southern Baptist school, will enroll a negro student in September, the newspaper Charity and Children reported.

Trustees voted to accept a 17-year-old Negro girl on recommendation of Hoyt Blackwell, veteran president of the school.

The action makes Mars Hill the first Baptist college in North Carolina to admit a Negro to full standing as an undergraduate student. Wake Forest College trustees agreed in April to admit Negroes to its graduate school and moved to accept undergraduates as special students not working toward a degree at Wake Forest.

The Negro accepted by Mars Hill is Oralene Graves, a native of Asheville and step-daughter of the janitor at the First Baptist Church there. An honor graduate of her high school in Asheville, she will be a commuting student of the Baptist college living with her grandmother in the town of Mars Hill.

Significantly, she is a great-great granddaughter of a Negro slave once held as collateral for a loan to construct the first building at Mars Hill College. Four generations ago Joe Anderson, a slave, served this unique purpose as the little school was born. His grave overlooks the campus from a spot near the president's home.

The action of the Mars Hill trustees is in keeping with policy set by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in 1955, while meeting in the First Baptist Church of Asheville. The convention decided that the trustees of each college should rule on admission of non-white students.

The convention urged the colleges to implement admission of "all qualified students regardless of race." Meeting in Asheville again last fall, the convention urged the colleges to move in this direction "with all deliberate speed."

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Jesus Said Admired
And Rejected Today

(7-7-61)

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Josef Nordenhaug, Washington, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, told the organization's executive committee here that an increased awareness of spiritual values is needed in solving current world distress.

Addressing the group, the Baptist leader pointed to human need and lack of religious freedom in scattered parts of the world.

"While there is an increasing talk about peace, there is a lack of willingness to pay the cost," Nordenhaug said. He then listed what he called "The three main needs of the present situation."

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"We need," he said, "to reach up to a more adequate conception of the majesty and might of God.

"We need a fuller commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ--to be a follower rather than just an admirer.

"And," he continued, "among all Christian people around the world we need a flood of love, a love that will dispel fear, melt prejudices and cement fellowship."

Elaborating on the second point, the Norwegian-born theologian asserted that much of today's world has adopted the cultural values of Christianity while rejecting its spiritual emphasis. "To paraphrase the prophet Isaiah," he said, "Jesus is no longer despised and rejected; he now is admired and rejected."

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International Flavor
Pervades Southeastern

(7-7-61)

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--An international flavor permeated this town of 3,000 residents when the Baptist World Alliance executive committee held its annual meeting on the campus of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Residents of seven foreign countries were included in the group of 29 members and 26 proxies who answered the committee roll call.

They included one government dignitary: William R. Tolbert Jr., vice-president of the Republic of Liberia, West Africa. He also is president of the Baptist World Alliance.

Another Alliance vice-president, Alfonso Olmedo, was present from San Luis, Argentina.

Sweden, Great Britain, Nigeria, Canada and Mexico also had representatives.

The Baptist World Alliance counts a constituency of 24 million members of Baptist churches in more than 100 countries of the world.

Greetings from members who could not attend were received from Canada, Denmark, Poland, Cameroun, Norway, Australia, Ceylon, Brazil and the U.S.S.R.

John Soren of Rio de Janerio, president of the Alliance, had expected to attend, but was prevented from traveling by surgery. The committee learned he was recovering from his operation.

V. Carney Hargroves of Philadelphia, a vice-president, presided over the sessions in Soren's absence.

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Alliance Names 4
Study Commissions

(7-7-61)

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Four "study commissions" composed of Baptist leaders in scattered parts of the world were named by the Baptist World Alliance executive committee in its annual meeting on the campus of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Josef Nordenhaug, Washington, general secretary of the Alliance, said that the commissions--dealing with religious liberty and human rights, Baptist doctrines, evangelism and missions, and Bible study and membership training--are being asked "to explore pertinent questions within their fields."

Working both by correspondence and in annual international meetings, the commissions are expected to present statements or papers to the executive committee for adoption as pronouncements of the Alliance or for circulation or publication as study papers.

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A central panel of seven members was named to each commission. This is supplemented by an additional list of about 20 "regular members," and these will be further aided by "area consultants" chosen from leadership in that section of the world where the meetings may be held.

Membership of the central panels follows:

Commission on religious liberty and human rights--C. Emanuel Carlson, United States, chairman; J. D. Hughey Jr., Switzerland, co-chairman; C. Howard Bentall, Canada, secretary; Earnest A. Payne of Great Britain, Theodore F. Adams, Walter Pope Binns and Edwin H. Tuller of the United States. Carlson, Hughey, Adams and Binns are Southern Baptists.

Commission on Baptist doctrine--John Skoglund, United States, chairman; L. G. Champion, Great Britain, co-chairman; Duke K. McCall, United States, secretary; R. Fred Bullen of Canada, Herbert Gezork, Jesse J. Northcutt and Arnold T. Ohrn of the United States. McCall and Northcutt are Southern Baptists.

Commission on evangelism and missions--Frank H. Woyke, United States, chairman; J. D. Grey, United States, co-chairman; Frank K. Means, United States, secretary; J. B. Middlebrook of Great Britain, Rudolf Thaut of Germany, Lloyd W. Dahlquist and Edward B. Willingham of the United States. Grey and Means are Southern Baptists.

Commission on Bible study and membership training--Gaines S. Dobbins, United States, chairman; Kenneth L. Cober, United States, co-chairman; Clifton J. Allen, United States, secretary; A. Stuart Arnold of Great Britain, Birgir Backa Erikson of Sweden, Edgar F. Hallock of Brazil, and James L. Sullivan of the United States. Dobbins, Allen, Hallock and Sullivan are Southern Baptists.

Norway, Hong Kong, Holland, Australia, Nigeria, Denmark, South Africa, France, Japan and New Zealand are among other countries represented on the lists of "regular members."

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Baptist Student Choir
Sings To Royal Family

(7-7-61)

BANGKOK, Thailand (BP)--A 14-voice Baptist Student Union Choir from Texas presented a private concert and talent show before the King and Queen of Thailand here as part of a vast summer missions tour of the Orient.

Tears were in the eyes of the Queen of Thailand when the choir left the royal palace here, said Louis Cobbs, associate in the Texas Baptist division of student work, who is directing the tour.

Southern Baptist missionaries in the Orient have reported that one of the most significant results of the choir's ministry during their tour has been the impressions made on government heads, elevating the status of Baptist missionary work abroad.

One missionary said that none of the Southern Baptist missionaries had ever been introduced to the King in the ten years that Baptists have had missionary efforts in Thailand. Both Cobbs and the choir's director, Dan Pratt of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., talked personally to the King for nearly ten minutes.

Following a one-hour private concert, the choir members had tea with the royal family. Afterwards the choir, members of the King's band, and even the King himself staged a talent show in the royal palace. Cobbs said the King played the clarinet quite well.

Sunday morning preceding the royal concert, members of the choir split into smaller groups and participated in the worship services of five Bangkok Baptist churches.

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