

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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America Said Hiding Its Winning Weapon

MEMPHIS (BP)--While Khrushchev prods Soviet scientists into producing a 100-megaton bomb, America continues to conceal the one secret weapon that can win the current ideological war, an Atlanta, Ga., pastor told several thousand Southern Baptist men here.

Keynoting the opening session of the Second National Conference of Southern Baptist Men, Roy O. McClain, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Atlanta, termed the weapon "the redeeming love of Christ, which has never failed in any whole-hearted launching."

"Christ's love," he said, "transcends sectarian, racial, economic, and political differences and encompasses the whole human race."

McClain's address on the conference theme, "That The World May Know," launched the huge meeting, which has drawn Southern Baptist men from nearly every state in the nation. Some 7,000 are expected to register before the final session Friday night.

Heading Thursday's program was an address by Charles Malik, of Washington, D.C., former president of the United Nations General Assembly as the delegate from Lebanon and now a professor at American University.

Other principal speakers for the meeting included Louis H. Evans, minister at large for the United Presbyterian Church and Brooks Hays, former Arkansas Congressman and now assistant secretary of state for congressional affairs.

Fifteen daily seminars were to grapple with such subjects as "The Layman as Theologian," "Separation of Church and State," and "The Church and The Aging."

Tennessee Gov. Buford Ellington joined Memphis Mayor Henry Loeb in welcoming the Baptists to the meeting. Also participating in opening ceremonies was the famed 40-man Hardin-Simmons University Cowboy Band from Abilene, Tex. A drama of Southern Baptist denominational work preceded the keynote address.

In his keynote address Wednesday night, McClain said a warped sense of values is a major factor in America's poor international relations.

"We spend more money for toys than textbooks, more for chewing gum than educational scholarships. We spend more for greeting cards than all medical research...for the sick people to whom we send the cards," he said.

"Militant Christianity is beating a cowardly retreat to the safe shelter of organized religion," he said.

"If the present trend in our churches continues of washing pots and pans and building a mutual admiration society," he said, "it is not unthinkable that the organized church could become Christianity's greatest enemy.

"Going to church no more makes one a Christian than going to a bank makes one rich," he said.

He ridiculed Christianity's meager missionary efforts, saying that it is shameful for a Peace Corps to have to be formed to do the task long dabbled at by various denominations.

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"Macedonian call was once 'come over and help us,' now," he said, "many nations are saying 'do not come. We do not want you.'"

But the pastor believes that Christianity can be recalled to play what he calls its proper role in the lives of men.

"We must take the initiative now. Deeds must supplement our words," he said. "The team that scores touchdowns keeps possession of the ball."

He warned the Baptist laymen that too many Christians are standing still. He compared living the Christian life to riding a bicycle.

"You go on or fall off," he said. "And while many of you may be on the right road, you may be run over if you stand still."

"The best argument for genuine Christianity," he concluded, "is not a sermon, song, service or statistic, but a Christian."

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61-Year-Old Man Cycles
500 Miles To Meeting

(9-14-61)

MEMPHIS (BP)--A 61-year-old layman took a week to make the 500-mile trip from Morristown, Tenn., to the Second National Conference of Southern Baptist Men at Ellis Auditorium here.

But, then, William Wangenstein had a handicap--he came by bicycle. Too, he visited Baptist churches in several cities en route and didn't ride any on Sunday.

A retired architect, Wangenstein said he has been riding bikes since 16. He has ridden almost 5,000 miles already this year, including 2,200 miles to Las Vegas, Nev., for a civic club convention.

How did he decide to come to Memphis by bicycle? (Wangenstein owns a car and does some traveling in it.)

When the conference was announced in the First Baptist Church of Morristown, the pastor--knowing how well Wangenstein liked to bicycle--added jokingly: "I don't know how many of our men will be going to the Conference but I bet we'll have a man bicycling down."

After the service, Wangenstein said, "Pastor, I'm going to take you up on that."

He spent one night in the dormitory at Belmont College (Baptist) in Nashville. Arriving in Camden, Tenn., on Saturday at noon, he stayed till Monday morning with Barney Anderson, state Brotherhood president for Tennessee.

The National Conference is sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Wangenstein rides an Italian-made bike with 10 speeds. He estimated such a bike, if new, would cost \$200. For safety on the highways, he wears bright colored clothing--such as the blue shirt and red short trousers he wore on arrival in Memphis.

"Would I advise other people to ride a bike? Yes, as long as they can do it safely," he added. "It's wonderful for your legs."

Mrs. Wangenstein remained behind in Morristown. Although formerly residents of New York City, the couple chose Morristown on retirement because it's half-way between New York and Malvern, Ark., where their children live.

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Malik Urges All-Out
Battle On Communism

By Lloyd Wright

MEMPHIS (BP)--A stern warning for Americans to become aware of "the full magnitude of the Communist challenge," was issued here by a former president of the United Nations General Assembly.

Charles Malik, who served in the assembly as a delegate from Lebanon and now teaches at the American University in Washington, D.C., said that in recent years thousands of people have learned the real character of Communism.

"Still," he said, "there are many influential people who preach 'peaceful coexistence' and appear to be prepared to settle for peace at any price, and for what is falsely called 'mutual accommodation,' where accommodation turns out to come only from one side. The awakening may have come too late."

Malik's address highlighted the second general session of the Second National Conference of Southern Baptist Men. An estimated 5,500 men from virtually every state in the nation are attending the 3-day conference.

Malik pleaded for an aggressive attack against the Communist conspiracy.

"This is a total challenge," he said, "and anything short of a total response to it is a fraud.

"The Communists teach and believe that the Communist proletarian revolution culminating everywhere in the dictatorship of the proletariat is the inevitable wave of the future. They work day and night to make it so. Nothing that has happened during the last 40 years has proved them wrong," he said.

In his total response plea, Malik said political, moral and spiritual values must be brought to bear in the struggle. While the crisis is military, political, economic, scientific, and intellectual, Malik said, it is spiritual in its deepest dimension.

"Let God be known and loved," he said, "and all the other requirements will take care of themselves."

Discussing the distinctive role of the church in the total response of Communism, Malik said it should "fire the spirit to new heights of vision, daring and being," and should remain free from systems and governments, orders, cultures and civilizations.

"The church is neither Western nor Eastern, Aryan nor Slav, capitalist nor proletarian, white nor colored, African nor American. She has a separate realm of her own and should maintain her independence of all worldly fortunes and all the kingdoms of the world."

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Baptist Men Fill Out
Survey Questionnaire

(9-14-61)

MEMPHIS (BP)--Several thousand men attending a Baptist conference here filled out a survey questionnaire to help Southern Baptists learn more about how the men are taking part in church and denominational activities.

The questionnaire was completed during the Second National Conference of Southern Baptist Men. The research and statistics department of the Convention's Sunday School Board prepared the forms on request of the SBC Brotherhood Commission and Executive Committee.

The men did not put their names on the questionnaires. The forms would help find out the amount of education they have received, their incomes, type of employment, frequency of attendance at church, what they do in civic and fraternal clubs and their opinions of Brotherhood work in their churches.

The Brotherhood Commission sponsored the Men's Conference.

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Men Let Ladies
Observe Sessions

MEMPHIS (BP)--Chalk up another victory for the women, men. They ripped the 'Men Only' signs down from the big Second National Conference of Southern Baptist Men.

For the first time, women were invited to attend the meeting's concluding sessions in Ellis Auditorium here.

Said George W. Schroeder, Memphis, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, sponsor of the conference: "We thought the women should get an opportunity to see the final day's activities, including the commissioning service for foreign missionaries."

Nine new missionaries were commissioned in ceremonies on the closing night.

The Woman's Missionary Union, Southern Baptist auxiliary women's group, is active in promoting missionary work on home and foreign mission fields.

The first men's conference, held in Oklahoma City in 1957, was closed to women, as were the first two days of this conference.

P.S.--The women weren't letting themselves go unnoticed by the men who came to Memphis. They had an exhibit along with Southern Baptist Convention agencies in the Exhibit Hall.

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Malik Blasts America's
Attitude Toward Reds

(9-14-61)

MEMPHIS (BP)--Former United Nations General Assembly President Charles Malik blasted America's "hush-hush" attitude toward Communism here and called on the church to launch a new offensive in the world-wide conflict.

Facing a battery of newsmen in a press conference just prior to delivering a major address before the Second National Conference of Southern Baptist Men, the former Lebanese delegate to the U.N. touched on such subjects as the Peace Corps, non-aligned nations and nuclear disarmament.

Malik, who is currently a professor at American University, Washington, D.C., criticized the Conference for not devoting more time to what he termed the world's most critical problem.

"I had hoped at this Conference that you men would spend at least five hours in a concentrated effort to find a solution to the dilemma we are in," he said.

"Khrushchev says, 'I have 40 million followers who worship me.' That's the type of spiritual faith we are up against."

Asked why non-aligned nations did not register stronger disapproval toward Russia's resumption of nuclear testing, Malik snapped: "There is no 'American Party' working in Egypt and Indonesia," indicating the Communist Party has so infiltrated and indoctrinated the countries that responses are controlled.

About the Peace Corps, Malik said: "It's a response of a great country with a guilty conscience. But it cannot do the job. I pray for them but what's a handful of youngsters compared to 40 million dedicated Communists."

"What role should the church play in combatting Communism?" Malik was asked.

"Churches are not organized to combat Communism" he said. "At one time, Christianity projected a program of 'the world for Christ in one generation.' That sounds vibrant...like 'the world for Marx.' But no one is talking in these terms today for the church," he said.

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