

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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Spare Time Religion
Of Laymen Criticized

MEMPHIS (BP)--Professional religionists alone can never establish the Kingdom of God, a top Presbyterian minister told almost 5,000 Baptist men here.

"It must also come from the spontaneous witness of the layman," said Louis H. Evans of Los Angeles, minister-at-large for the United Presbyterian Church.

Sharply criticizing laymen for devoting only their spare time to religion, he said: "We are just too busy burning incense to the goddess'production'.

"Religion today must be what a man does with his vocation," he said. "He must be at it all the time, at the bench, in the field, shop, forest, campus and on the run."

He addressed the Second National Conference of Southern Baptist Men.

Evans' address climaxed a session that continued this Conference's major concern with Christianity's role in helping thwart the world-wide advance of atheistic Communism.

Earlier, former Congressman Brooks Hays, now assistant secretary of state for congressional relations, took part in a public interview devoted largely to the Red menace.

Former United Nations General Assembly President Charles Malik dwelt almost entirely with the same subject.

A dramatic presentation encouraged Baptist laymen to become "partners with God."

Evans, the Presbyterian churchman, urged the men to be stewards of their total personality, including their thoughts, their time and their finances.

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Laymen Hold Ground
In Doctrinal Study

(9-15-61)

By W. C. Fields

MEMPHIS (BP)--Laymen attending the Second National Conference of Southern Baptist Men met the preachers on their own theological grounds here and had the last word.

After two and a half hours of doctrinal discussion in a seminar, "The Layman As Theologian," Layman Leonard Holloway of Oklahoma City said, "I have always thought these preachers knew things that we didn't know, and now I am sure of it."

Several hundred Baptist men expressed themselves on a wide variety of thorny theological questions and agreed on most.

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The most vigorous statements were made on whether man is by nature immortal.

Dale Moody, professor of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., stated Plato's idea of natural immortality is heard at funerals about as frequently as the New Testament concept of the resurrection of the dead.

Moody charged Masonic burial rites and Baptist Associational obituaries with doctrinal error in the frequent use of the statement, "Man is by nature immortal."

Pointing out the Apostle Paul says, "In his greatest statement on the resurrection"--I Corinthians 15--"This mortal must put on immortality." Moody stated immortality is the redeeming act of God through Jesus Christ. He said, "Immortality is not based on the nature of man but on the nature of God. We ought to follow Paul instead of Plato."

Theology of the laity was discussed by 21 groups of up to 100 men each. Similar groups were discussing four other subjects of special interest to Southern Baptists.

In the open forums on doctrine, laymen spoke about as often as the ministers, but--as one minister pointed out--they used shorter words.

Lloyd O. Barker of Memphis, discussion leader, emphasized the purpose of the discussions of these Baptist beliefs was not to draw up "a Memphis Confession of Faith," but to arouse interest in the Biblical basis for Baptist understanding.

Regarding the future of those who have not heard the Christian Gospel, the words used most frequently were: "lost," "without hope," "without excuse," "they have not been redeemed," "they are doomed." There was agreement Christians are under obligation to share the Christian message of salvation with all who have not heard.

Another point of discussion was whether people generally understand the Christian concept of the Trinity--God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Agreeing this is the most profound of all mysteries, the men felt sure that non-Christians did not understand it.

Furthermore, they felt Christians often accept the doctrine in faith without being able to explain it satisfactorily.

The men agreed that man's likeness to God is not physical but spiritual and is related to his knowledge, will, reasoning and emotional response. They accepted a simple statement that sin is the disruption of right relationships with God and man.

Viewing the Lordship of Jesus Christ as the basic concept of the New Testament, the group seemed to be of one mind on the unlikelihood of any man being a Christian who denied the Divinity of Jesus.

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Men Recommend More
Church-State Study

(9-15-61)

By W. Barry Garrett

MEMPHIS (BP)--Baptist men believe in religious liberty and separation of church and state, but there are differences of opinion in applying these principles.

Two seminar groups at the Second National Conference of Southern Baptist Men here dug into church-state problems and recommended a stepped up education program in the churches on the subject.

The men agreed Baptists should give larger support to the public schools. They recommended church and denominational agencies co-ordinate their programs on church-state subjects. The men said Baptists should not identify mission work with American foreign policy.

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There was no unanimous opinion, however, on implementing the educational program in churches. One group suggested a community affairs committee in each church be appointed to handle church-state issues.

The other group said churches are organized enough already and the present organizational structure of the churches should be used more effectively.

Other points of disagreement were on payment of taxes by churches and the use of courts to settle church-state disputes. Some felt churches should pay taxes for such services as streets, fire protection and police. Others said not.

One group said law suits should be avoided except in cases where the principle is so great there is no other choice. Both groups agreed one Christian group should not go to court against another, but law suits between citizens groups were sometimes necessary to settle church-state disputes.

In support of the public school system, the men said Baptists should not develop their own system of parochial schools. They said Baptists should be active in Parent-Teacher Associations, serve on school boards and help schools solve their financial problems.

The men said that churches should conform to local policy in building codes, assuming the policy is equitable and does not discriminate against denominations. Zoning laws are valid restrictions, they said, as they are constitutionally sound.

On the subject of the Bible in public schools, the Baptist men said the state should neither require nor hinder the reading of the Bible there. They said if the Bible is read, it should be without comment.

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Where Does Church Draw
Line On Membership

(9-15-61)

By Bill Carroll

MEMPHIS (BP)--Is a church justified in refusing membership to a person who sells beer or other forms of alcohol?

If so, then is the church not also justified in refusing membership to the corrupt real estate man, the corrupt banker, or the corrupt businessman?

Where does the church draw the line? Which sin is greater--which sin automatically bars a man from membership in Christ's church?

These were among the questions asked and discussed in the seminar, "Our Partnership With God," at the Second National Conference of Southern Baptist Men here.

The seminar group agreed that a whole and complete partnership with God could be the answer to every Christian's problems as well as those of the church.

Then the men moved to the question of whether a man could take Christ into every area of his business.

Their answer was, "Yes---or he shouldn't be in that business." Yet, they noted that a man cannot cut himself off from other people with an attitude of "I'll have no part of anything that I do not believe right." A Christian, they said, must work with people who are lost if he hopes to win them.

Are there some businesses in which a Christian should not engage?

The answer was, "Of course, there are." Yet, if a person does not carry his partnership with God into his business, any business can be conducted in a wrong way.

In a discussion of stewardship of time, one man pointed out that a man could well use his extra time in a project that he would enjoy---such as working with Royal Ambassadors, golfing or fishing with a lost friend and using this as an opportunity to tell others about Jesus Christ.

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Good stewardship of time, the men concluded, does not mean turning away from everything that a person enjoys but finding ways in which time can be used for God.

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TV Star Tells Men
Why Members Disloyal

(9-15-61)

MEMPHIS (BP)--Christianity has been made to appear too easy, a Hollywood movie-TV personality and outstanding Baptist layman told over 4,000 Southern Baptist Men here.

Gregory Walcott, star of a new hour-long network TV detective thriller, urged the men to be consistent witnesses, not diluting God's plan for salvation.

"Today, many have the idea that all we are expected to do is to get people to come to church, walk down the aisle, shake the preacher's hand, be baptized... and that's all there is to it," he said.

"And yet we wonder why members are not loyal, why we have immature leadership and why our young people do not conduct themselves in a Christian manner.

It's simply because we have made Christianity seem so simple and easy that the seeker is not aware of the necessity of repentance of sin and a total turning to Christ," he said.

Walcott, 34, has the leading role in "87th Precinct," which opened this season on Monday nights on NBC. He is also California Baptists' representative on the Convention's Brotherhood Commission, sponsor of the Men's Conference.

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Baylor Hospital Given
\$125,000 For Laboratory

(9-15-61)

DALLAS (BP)--A gift of \$125,000 from Charles A. Sammons of Dallas has enabled Baylor University Medical Center here to establish one of the Southwest's first virology laboratories.

The new laboratory, soon to be completed here at the nation's largest Southern Baptist hospital, will provide regular service in early diagnosis of virus diseases by isolation and identification of various types of viruses.

"As far as we know this isn't being offered as a routine daily service anywhere else in the Southwest," said Dr. George J. Race, director of laboratories at Baylor.

The doctor explained that since viruses are the smallest known forms of life---too small to be seen under a light microscope---it has previously been very difficult to make accurate laboratory diagnosis for virus diseases.

"By early and sure detection of the causes of any specific illness, doctors won't have to work in the dark," he said. "They will be able to institute immediate treatment and prepare for later symptoms."

Examples of diseases caused by viruses are encephalitis (brain fever), virus atypical pneumonia, poliomyelitis, influenza, minor forms of respiratory infections, mumps, small pox, measles, shingles, and rabies.

The gift is one of several recent donations, all from Sammons, the Reserve Life Insurance Co., and associated companies. Sammons had previously given the hospital a Cobalt radiation unit, a 2 million volt X-ray machine, and a \$100,000 gift to add nuclear medicine to the department of irradiation therapy.

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Men Try To Answer
Berlin Crisis Query

By John D. Bloskas

MEMPHIS (BP)--The average Christian gives little thought to using the love of Christ as a weapon in cold war crises such as Berlin and the testing of nuclear bombs.

This chilling observation was made by laymen attending the Second National Conference of Southern Baptist Men here. They were asked in an informal corridor poll:

"How can the redeeming love of Christ be used as a weapon in such cold war crises as Berlin and the testing of nuclear bombs?"

The unofficial opinion poll was taken following the keynote address by Roy O. McClain, pastor, First Baptist Church, Atlanta, who termed the "redeeming love of Christ, which has never failed in any wholehearted launching," as the best weapon Christians can use.

A few men did attempt to answer the question. But most admitted they have given little thought to how it could be applied.

Owen Cooper, president of Mississippi Chemical Corp., Yazoo City, Miss., commented Christianity can't start with world-wide crises that have been built up and expect something to be done."

He added although Christians should love everyone, correction sometimes is necessary.

"I love my children so much," he said, "that I spank them when they need correcting."

Cooper maintains Christians "can't win the world by trying to win the world. We must win individuals before we can win the world."

J. D. Taylor of Charlotte, N.C., said he has given this question some thought before, but always finds it unresolved.

"If we give over to Russian demands, is that what God wants?" he questioned.

"So I keep going back to the theory of meeting force with force. That's where I stop," Taylor, president of the Mecklenburg Brotherhood Association, said. "I don't believe the average Christian has the answer to it."

Willis Griffin of Jefferson City, Mo., believes Christians must love their fellow men like Christ who didn't turn his love off and on with present situations.

"We may never see our love displayed in this generation," he said, "but in years to come it must show up." Griffin is Royal Ambassador secretary for Missouri Baptists.

A Brotherhood president from the Flat Rock Baptist Church in Anderson, S.C., thinks Radio Free Europe should be used to spread the Gospel.

An employee of Owens-Corning Fiberglass Co., John W. Adams said, "If we spent only a portion of what we spend on weapons to spread God's Word, we would be better off."

"But," he commented, "we are more concerned with our own personal safety than with seeing the world saved."

C. E. Hackworth, president of the Brotherhood in West Maryville (Tenn.) Baptist Church, said Christians should be dedicated enough to convince the lost persons of the values of the love of Christ.

He summed up in a sentence what most of the men agreed is necessary: "We all need to be Christians in very phase of our lives, not just in the spiritual area."

Doctors, Dentists Plan
Mission Field Visits

MEMPHIS (BP)--The first step in establishing an organization to make use of Southern Baptist laymen doctors and dentists on the foreign mission fields was taken here.

A group of about 50 Baptist physicians and dentists attending the Second National Conference of Southern Baptist Men ate breakfast together and approved this statement. The statement was prepared by R. Paul Caudill, pastor of First Baptist Church, Memphis.

"It is my conviction we ought to have an organization of Southern Baptist physicians and dentists and the members of the allied medical professions to work within the framework of our denomination in a unified effort to meet the desperate need in the realm of medical missions throughout the world.

"Such an organization could cooperate effectively...in channeling our medical energies and resources to needy areas of missionary activity in the widest possible way..."

Franklin Fowler, medical advisor at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., is expected to call a group of doctors and dentists together, probably in Memphis, to organize.

Their organization will make use of Baptist medical and dental talents through several medical mission tours each year.

Several medical mission tours have been made by a few Southern Baptist doctors and dentists with great success, but such a project has never had more than limited organization.

Medical men who have made such tours believe that other Baptist doctors and dentists would like to take part if they knew about the tours and how to go about organizing them.

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Baptists Rally To Aid
Of Carla Reconstruction

(9-15-61)

By the Baptist Press

Hurricane Carla, one of the most vicious blows ever to strike the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coasts, took its greedy toll in life and property.

Twenty-four persons were killed. Thousands were left homeless and jobless. Property damage was estimated in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Baptist associational missionaries in the areas hardest hit estimated that damage to Baptist churches and institutions alone would run into the \$300,000 to \$500,000 bracket.

The Texas Baptist executive board, meeting in Dallas the day after Carla lashed its most destructive winds and waters against the mainland, set up a \$25,000 emergency "Hurricane Carla Relief" fund to help relieve human suffering in the wake of the destruction.

The 192-member board urged Baptist churches throughout the state not hit by the hurricane to take up special "Hurricane Carla Relief Offerings" following the devastating blow.

Churches throughout the state were gathering cash, food, clothing, and medical supplies to send to the needy in the storm-stricken areas.

In an editorial the week following the hurricane, the Baptist Standard commended the board's action as "a noble beginning," but said the damage was so extensive that the \$25,000 fund is "merely a token effort."

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Editor E. S. James reminded his readers that when an earthquake struck Chile last year, the Standard strongly urged a permanent Southern Baptist million-dollar relief fund for such emergencies.

"We suggested then that the disaster could come to our own land," James said, "and now it has." He urged Texas Baptists to give and give much to relieve the suffering from Carla.

At press time, the entire extent of damage to Baptist churches and institutions had not been pinpointed, but early reports showed extensive damage.

Palacios Baptist Encampment, located on Matagorda Bay where the hurricane hit hardest, was almost completely destroyed.

Rayford B. Harris, pastor of First Baptist Church in Palacios, said that the encampment's cafeteria had disappeared, and that most of the old buildings at the encampment were destroyed. The tabernacle was spared, however, he said.

Trinity Baptist Church in Palacios was in a shambles, the walls torn down. A tidal wave gutted the inside, flooding the church with mud, silt and sea water. First Baptist, Palacios, suffered an estimated \$5,000 loss in water damage.

Hurricane Carla's eye swept directly over the little town of Port O'Conner, and the Associated Press reported that only the First Baptist Church there was left virtually intact. All other buildings were obliterated. About four feet of water stood in the church itself.

The University of Corpus Christi, located just 100 yards from Corpus Christi Bay and only a few feet above sea level, miraculously escaped serious damage.

Said University President W. A. Miller, "Corpus Christi got its teeth kicked out...but the University did not even lose a roof." About two dozen windows and lights were broken, but damage was not serious.

Three days after the winds hit, the University registered students for the fall semester as previously scheduled.

Baptist churches played a big role in providing refugee centers for an estimated 500,000 persons who fled from their homes as Carla approached, said O. D. Martin, district missions secretary for the Gulf-Coast district.

In Edna, Tex., about 17 miles inland from the point where Carla struck the mainland, the First Baptist Church cared for hundreds of refugees while the hurricane passed overhead.

Many townspeople had earlier sought shelter in a school building that soon became unsafe. National Guardsmen drove school buses to the church, and the men formed a human chain in the height of the storm to take children to the safety of the church.

As the winds whistled outside, the Negro cook at the church played the piano and sang for the refugees huddled inside.

In Freeport, Tex., Associational Missionary I. Noel Snow described the conditions as "sickening." Freeport is on the Gulf of Mexico with no island to protect it.

Calvary Baptist Church, Freeport, was a terrible mess, he said. Water 3 or 4 feet deep covered the pews, and the damage was estimated at \$10,000. Mud and slime covered the place. The church had just completed a \$3,000 remodeling program.

Refugees at First Baptist Church, Angleton, Tex., spent the night mopping the floors after the high winds ripped off portions of the roof. The roof of Temple Baptist Church in Clute, Tex., was in shambles, said Snow.

In the Beaumont-Port Arthur area, little damage was done to the churches, although Tremont Baptist Church in Sabine Pass was badly flooded, said Associational Missionary Charles Lee Williamson.

Most of Houston was largely spared by Carla, but Second Baptist Church lost three-fourths of the roof on a brand-new educational building. Damage was estimated at \$25,000. The church was to begin using the new building the Sunday following the hurricane.

In Galveston, Tex., the picture was not so good. A tornado spawned by vengeful Carla skirted the First Baptist Church of Galveston, ripping off some of the roofing. Flood waters filled the basement of the First Church's recreation and educational building with more than 4 feet of water.

Across town in the Broadway Baptist Church and 67th Street Baptist Church, more than 600 refugees huddled seeking shelter from the howling winds and rushing flood waters.

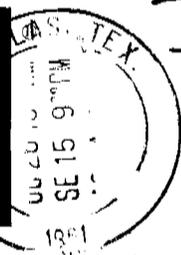
When the blow was over, the people returned to their homes. Some found nothing except shattered ruins.

"But the people are thankful that damages and losses were confined to property and that they are still alive," said S. Denton Bassett, pastor of the Broadway Church.

The Sunday following the hurricane, Broadway Baptist Church held Thanksgiving services--two months early.

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