

December 16, 1961

Secretaries Discuss
Co operative Program

ATLANTA (BP)--"We must start with the individual and build a concern for the im-
perative need of supporting the Cooperative Program."

"The individual Southern Baptist must be involved more in promoting the Cooperative
Program."

"The Cooperative Program should be more personal. We are using a family and the
theme, 'Through the Cooperative Program We Are World Missionaries.'"

So ran comments of executive secretaries of state Baptist conventions during a
meeting with the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

The topic being discussed was the Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified
mission budget. The budget is raised by churches giving a percentage of their gifts
to the state conventions, which in turn give a percentage of all gifts to the South-
ern Baptist Convention.

Funds kept by the state conventions are divided on a percentage basis for their
mission work. Funds received by the Executive Committee of the SBC are divided to
SBC agencies on a percentage basis.

Thus all causes share equally as funds are received, each getting its percentage
of the gifts from the churches. The Cooperative Program budget for the SBC in 1961
was \$18,513,500.

Gifts to the SBC have been increasing each year at the rate of about six per cent.
However, 1961 receipts have shown a leveling off, with an increase over 1960 of only
3.2 per cent through November.

This has caused a reexamination of the Cooperative Program, such as the study by
the executive secretaries at their Atlanta meeting.

Fred D. Hubbs of Detroit told of asking one church member how much his church
gave through the Cooperative Program. The man answered, "We give about 15 or 20 per
cent, but I wish we would give less there and more to missions."

W. E. Grindstaff of Nashville, associate secretary of the SBC Stewardship Commis-
sion, explained that one state held a Cooperative Program Conference which divided
into group seminars to discuss various phases of promotion.

He called for more involvement of Baptist people in promotion, such as this con-
ference, and he asked for creation of literature with specific audiences in mind.

Harold G. Sanders of Middletown, Ky., expressed the need for a total identifica-
tion of all organizations, literature and groups with the Cooperative Program.

More than a third of those present (many had been stranded en route by bad weather)
indicated they were inserting "missions" or "world missions" between the words
"Cooperative" and "Program." They felt this better explained the unified budget to
the people.

Others thought this unnecessary if the proper information was given the people
in explaining what the Cooperative Program means.

John Maguire of Jacksonville, Fla., suggested a uniform date for the closing of
state books each month. This with the cut-off date in Nashville for the counting
of receipts would present a truer picture of year-by-year comparisons of receipts.

Sentiment was unanimously in favor of the Cooperative Program as the best method
Baptists could use for financing their work.

"We must avoid the danger of discarding the Cooperative Program for something which has not proven to be as useful," Grindstaff said.

-30-

'Schedule-Chasing
Activism' Charged

(12-16-61)

ATLANTA (BP)--"Southern Baptists are fast becoming a group of schedule-chasing activists who have no time to think and dream," the denomination's evangelism leader charged here.

C. E. Autrey of Dallas, director of the Evangelism Division of the Convention's Home Mission Board, said, "We are doing a lot of practical things, but are we in danger of running out of spiritual power?"

"Are Southern Baptists satisfied to burn brightly for just a short period of time, or do we want to light a path across the centuries?"

He was speaking to leaders of state Baptist conventions, executive secretaries, secretaries of evangelism and superintendents of missions gathered in Atlanta at the Home Mission Board.

Autrey cited problems the denomination faced in winning America to faith in Christ. He prefaced his remarks by saying, "I am not a pessimist, but I am a realist. Unless we face our problems we are not in position to deal with them."

He then said Southern Baptists must:

1. Match the material capacity of America with spiritual power.
2. Overcome Christian indifference to spiritual matters.

"There are evidences we are tiring as a denomination, that we are getting old," he said. "No great religious organization ever reached the proportions Southern Baptists have and survived it."

At this point, he said, "No man ever killed his denomination on purpose. Men who would lead us astray doctrinally are good, dedicated men. We cannot deal with them through criticisms or by writing articles, only man to man.

"And if we cannot get them to see they are wrong, then we must put them in a place where they cannot hurt us."

He cited a "deserting of New Testament evangelism" as another evidence of tiring. He called evangelism "confrontation--the confronting of the sinner with the gospel of Jesus Christ and the urging of the sinner to accept Christ as his Saviour."

"This thing is signed death that is settling in upon us," he warned.

3. Excel in the realm of creative thinking.

"Religious leaders must earn the right to be heard by the power of their minds and the clarity of their thought," he said.

He concluded by listing these ways of winning America: (1) by preaching the open Bible, (2) by presenting the Saviour and (3) by demonstrating the spirit of the Saviour.

"If your salary were cut, if you were severely criticized, if you were slapped in the face, would it make any change in the service you are rendering?" he asked.

-30-

Russian Group Sends
Christmas Greetings

By the Baptist Press

Russian Baptists are sending out an open letter of Christmas and New Year greetings "to all the Christians of the world." The message expresses joy in God's gift of Christ to the world.

"Side by side with the joy," the letter continues, "we feel in our hearts sorrow, fear and anxiety as the dark clouds of the danger of war still hang over all of us."

Christians are reminded that their Saviour is called "Prince of Peace." This means, the letter states, "that peace on earth is dear to God's heart. And He wants this peace on earth to be dear to our Christian hearts. He says to his disciples: 'Blessed are the peacemakers.'"

The letter is signed by Jakov Zhidkov, president of the Union of Evangelical Christians--Baptists, and Alexander Karev, general secretary of this Union with approximately 550,000 members of Baptist churches in the Soviet Union.

-30-

Simmons Recommends
Baptist Day Schools

(12-16-61)

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Southern Baptists have been urged to establish and maintain day schools on both the elementary and secondary levels.

A California Baptist educator, Loyed R. Simmons of Riverside, said, "Actually, if we are to conserve the leadership potential of our youth, then Christian education for grade and high school ages becomes even more important than such training during college years." Simmons is president of California Baptist College.

Principal speaker at a missionary day service at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Simmons claimed the "secularizing tendencies of the public schools are robbing us blind, so far as our potential Christian leadership is concerned.

"I do not here charge the public school system, as do some, with being godless. The public school, rather, is secular in nature and is a true reflection of the spiritual condition of America--being no more godless or godly than our nation."

The Baptist educator asked: "Can we continue to turn them (children) over to a completely secularized system of public schooling for most of their waking hours and still be faithful to God's command to teach his Word diligently, continuously and intensively to them?"

"Numerous objections can be and are being raised against the proposal to establish Baptist day schools," Simmons declared. "The strongest of these imply that parochial schools are unAmerican."

He added, "Upon examination, all the objections concerning unAmericanism grow out of the totalitarian dogma of the denomination that owns and controls the largest single block of parochial schools."

Thus, he said, the imagined objection becomes the strongest possible argument in favor of Baptist day schools.

"For, when a church school is organized on the basis of Baptist concepts, including our beliefs in freedom of democracy, the value of the individual and the separation of church and state, it is immediately apparent that Baptist schools would be more American than even the public schools."

Simmons suggested Christian education below the college level could be the "wave of the future" for Southern Baptists.

-30-

Baptisms Top 400,000
For 1961, Autrey Says

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists baptized 401,953 converts during 1961, according to C. E. Autrey of Dallas, director of the Division of Evangelism for the denomination's Home Mission Board.

He released the figures, which he said were unofficial, to a meeting at the mission board here of state executive secretaries, secretaries of evangelism and superintendents of state missions.

The figure was unofficial because not all associations have reported and the research and statistics department of the Baptist Sunday School Board had estimated these reports.

"The total the statistical department gave me at this time last year was off only 2000 from the final figure released in February," Autrey said.

In 1960, Southern Baptists baptized 386,469 converts. This was a decrease from 1959 of more than 42,000. In 1960 the denomination baptized one person for every 25 members.

Autrey predicted an even greater increase for 1962, basing it on an increase in simultaneous campaigns, where churches hold revivals at the same time and pool publicity and other efforts. He also cited an increased emphasis on personal soul-winning in the churches.

"The 401,953 won this year is the second highest total we have reported in years when nationwide crusades were not held," he said.

-30-

F. J. Redford Heads
Indiana Department

(12-16-61)

PLAINFIELD, Ind. (BP)--F. J. Redford of Seymour, Ind., is the new secretary of missions, church finance and Brotherhood work for Southern Baptists in Indiana.

The Executive Board of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana elected him to fill the office at the Baptist Building here. It was effective with the beginning of 1962.

Redford winds up service as area missionary for Baptists in southeastern Indiana. In his new post, he succeeds George M. Slayton. The new department secretary is no relation to Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board.

The Executive Board also voted to give added encouragement to Baptists of the state to name Baptist causes in their wills. The promotion of this will be handled by Executive Secretary E. Harmon Moore of Plainfield.

-30-

Folks and Facts.....

(12-16-61)

.....The Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma has authorized loans to churches for pastors' homes. Loans will be made up to 75 per cent of the appraised value for either building or purchasing homes. (BP)

-30-

December 16, 1961

GLOBE-TROTTING With GINNY

Array Of Atom Power
In Hands Of Christian

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

ORLEANS, France--(BP)--Reginald Peltier is a big Army major who appears as rough and tough as a career soldier is supposed to look. He saw action in two wars. He is convinced that the Korean conflict was the most fiendish war of all time. He saw men on both sides behaving like animals, and thought that only alcohol could save his sanity.

Rege--his nickname--was so seriously injured in Korea he was sent to Walter Reed Hospital paralyzed and speechless, given up by medical authorities to die.

In the hospital, backslidden Rege had a spiritual experience which brought about his miraculous recovery and made him seek God's will for his life. A transfer to Orleans, France brought him to the Southern Baptist church for English-speaking people of which Jack Hancox, Southern Baptist missionary, is pastor.

During a church service, Rege, who had spent more than half his life in the Army, surrendered to preach. He was ordained and licensed in Orleans.

Rege is a nuclear weapons expert for the U. S. Army in Europe. On Sundays, Rege, Millie, and their three sons drive 180 miles round-trip to Chateauroux, France where he pastors a church for Americans in that area. He has led that Southern Baptist church in establishing and supporting Baptist work for the French of Chateauroux.

Rege hopes the Army will release him soon when his 20 years of service are complete. He can devote then his full time to his true calling.

Meanwhile, six days a week this brawny Army major controls a deadly array of formidable weapons, but on his Lord's Day, he is proclaiming the gospel of Peace.

-30-

Cutlines, Photo: Maj. Rege Peltier.