

June 4, 1959

Ministers Feel Editors Can Print Controversy

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Southern Baptist ministers believe editors of their denomination's papers should publish controversial news.

Out of 26 responses to a query from a leading Baptist magazine, only one person spoke against the printing of controversial news. Several who favored printing of such articles laid down conditions under which it should be printed.

The statements of the 26 ministers are contained in the "Pastor's Open Meeting" forum page in the July issue of the Baptist Program, a magazine sent to pastors, denominational workers, and other Southern Baptist leaders.

Emil Williams of Russellville, Ark., said "it would be difficult indeed to label matters of discussion as 'controversial' and 'non-controversial.' The question more to the point is, 'Does the editor have a right to make editorial comment on any subject?' My answer would be, 'Yes.'"

W. Everett Melton of Jacksonville, Fla., favored such discussion, asking, "Who is to decide what is and is not controversial?"

The ministers felt there were several reasons for discussing controversy.

"Is not the freedom of the press to be included in our Baptist state papers as well as any other paper?" declared Earl M. Thames, Jr., of Warner Robins, Ga.

"To some Baptists everything is controversial," according to Grayson Glass of Freeport, Tex.

"If these papers do not furnish information, the people will get it from other sources, often unreliable," was the attitude of Ollin J. Owens of Greenville, S. C.

Being "up-to-date" on controversial matters, the Baptist editor is "morally obligated to enlighten his readers," Jesse L. Gann of Wilsonville, Ala., commented.

But the lone dissenter, H. W. Connelly of Roanoke, Va., said in rebuttal, "There are better ways to settle Baptist controversies than through the Baptist papers. Sores of long standing have been made by undue publicity. . . . It is Christ's cause that suffers when papers fan the smoking embers into flame. . . . Editors of Baptist state papers should not discuss controversial questions."

Many agreed there were considerations under which an editor must work in reporting controversy.

"The press must be kept free. Controversial matters should be discussed from time to time . . . with love and malice toward none," affirmed Smoot Baker of Lancaster, S. C.

James T. Shirley of St. Louis, Mo., said controversy should be discussed but "in all fairness both sides of the issue should be presented."

Joe Stevens of Temple, Tex., said the editor must have the "emotional stability to remain objective."

"All discussion must be on the highest level of Christian ethics, in a spirit of love and loyalty for the total welfare of our denomination," was the opinion of Charles H. Rankin, La Junta, Colo.

"When writing editorially the editor should seek to clarify the issue (without taking sides) in order to help his readers . . ." said G. Lee McIntyre of Stoneville, N. C.

H. Wadell Waters of Bluefield, W. Va., summed it up by saying, "If the state Baptist papers of our Convention area are ever relegated to the brainwashing status of a mere denominational publicity sheet their effectiveness will certainly be altered, if not lost."

Descendant Of Founder
Gets Highest Award

BOILING SPRINGS, N. C.--(BP)--The granddaughter of the first president of Gardner-Webb College here carried away the school's highest award in May commencement exercises.

Sonja Hedrick of Boiling Springs was presented the Curtis Citizenship Award. It is given each year to the woman graduate "who most fully exemplifies the ideals of the college."

Miss Hedrick is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Karl Hedrick, and a granddaughter of Prof. and Mrs. J. D. Huggins. The late Mr. Huggins headed the Baptist institution when it opened in 1907, and remained with the school until his death in 1932.

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Wake Forest Selects
30 College Officials

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.--(BP)--Three college administrators were among five persons selected by Wake Forest College here to receive honorary doctor's degrees.

The educators, all of whom received doctors of laws degrees, are William Brantley Aycock, Chapel Hill, chancellor of the University of North Carolina; Phillip Lovin Elliott, Boiling Springs, N. C., president of a sister Baptist college, Gardner-Webb College, and D. Grier Martin, Davidson, N. C., president of Davidson College.

The doctor of divinity degree was conferred on Leon Howard Hollingsworth, pastor, First Baptist Church, Boone, N. C. Novelist Bernice Kelly Harris of North Carolina received the doctor of letters degree.

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Boy Scout Information
Center To Be Proposed

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--A world "Baptist Scout Information Center" proposal was discussed at a meeting of the Association of Southern Baptists for Scouting here.

The group, which has no official tie with the Southern Baptist Convention, voted to bring the proposal to the attention of the executive committee of the Baptist World Alliance.

The association includes Southern Baptists interested in Boy Scout units sponsored by local Baptist churches. Joe C. Carrington, Austin, Tex., layman, is chairman of the association.

"Boys want Scouting and should get it under the sponsorship of our churches," Carrington said.

It was reported that in 15 Southern states there are 4380 units sponsored by Baptist churches. In these states, the number of Baptist Boy Scouts ranges from one-third to more than 60 per cent of the total number of Boy Scouts belonging to Protestant denominations.

Brooks Hays, then president of the Southern Baptist Convention, recommended a closer tie between Boy Scouting and Baptist churches.

The association met in Louisville because its members were here for sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Tire Company Chief
Honored By Stetson

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.--(BP)--The college of law of Stetson University here presented only one honorary doctor's degree at its May commencement. That degree--doctor of laws--went to Harvey S. Firestone, Jr., chairman of Firestone Tire and Rubber Co.

A young attorney-to-be listened intently as Firestone brought an address and then received the honorary doctorate. He was Harvey S. Firestone, III, son of the speaker and a member of the graduating class.

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State Student Workers
Form New Organization

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--At a pre-Southern Baptist Convention meeting here, the state directors of Baptist student work formed "an organization to discuss the philosophy of Baptist student work at the state level and to share ideas of mutual interest."

J. Chester Durham, of Middletown, Ky., was elected president, and Ralph B. Winders, Jackson, Miss., secretary.

An annual meeting, probably in February, is planned.

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Seats Helps Arrange
Meetings For Graham

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BP)--A Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary professor here has been "loaned" to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Team for the month of June to lay plans for a series of meetings Graham will hold in Africa.

V. Lavell Seats, head of the department of missions and acting registrar at the new seminary, is already in Africa, where he served 15 years as a missionary to Nigeria for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Seminary President Millard J. Berquist, who announced the arrangement, said Seats's knowledge of Africa caused him to be sought by the Graham team. Graham is planning a series of meetings in various parts of Africa next year.

Seats ended his missionary connections last year to join Midwestern Seminary's faculty.

Berquist also announced that Frank E. Royal, pastor of Southside Baptist Church, Abilene, Tex., had decided to remain in the pastorate and will not become a member of the seminary faculty. Seminary trustees earlier had elected Royal professor of religious education and church administration and Royal had accepted.

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Wake Forest Selects
Reynolds Tobacco Prof

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.--(BP)--Appointment of the first R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. Professor at Wake Forest College here was announced by college President Harold W. Tribble.

He is Paul M. Gross Jr., now a member of the department of chemistry at the University of Virginia and the son of an outstanding scientist.

The appointment is the first in connection with a \$125,000 grant made to Wake Forest last year by the company. Money was to be used to supplement faculty salaries in the sciences with preference given to chemistry.

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466 Student Summer
Missionaries Serve

ATLANTA--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here announced that 466 student summer missionaries will serve this year on home mission fields.

The students, who will serve 10 weeks, will conduct vacation Bible schools, hold revivals, take church censuses, and help in other phases of mission work. Cuba, Panama, and the Canal Zone are the only home mission fields on which they will not serve.

Last year, 447 students served under this program, operated each summer by the board to aid mission projects as well as to put to use the talents of dedicated Christian college students.

At services in which student summer missionaries participated last year, there were 4501 professions of faith in Christ and 2270 dedications for special Christian service.

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In addition to the vast majority who serve on home mission fields in the United States, a small number of students serves on foreign mission fields.

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Adams Gets Honorary
Degree From Stetson

DELAND, Fla.--(BP)--Three honorary degrees were awarded at commencement at Stetson University here.

The doctor of divinity degree went to the Theodore Floyd Adams, Richmond, Va., president of the Baptist World Alliance and pastor, First Baptist Church, Richmond. He delivered the sermon at the baccalaureate.

Doctor of laws degrees went to William Thomas Rice, Wilmington, N. C., president of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Co., who gave the commencement address, and to Frederick Danesbury Smith, Dallas, Tex., emeritus dean of instruction and emeritus professor of comparative literature at Southern Methodist University and a graduate of Stetson in the class of 1909.

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Speeches At Louisville
Available For Purchase

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A limited supply of addresses to the Pastors' Conference and Woman's Missionary Union session at Louisville last month are available here. They are compiled in single booklet form.

Requests and accompanying checks should be made to Executive Committee, 127 Ninth Ave. No., Nashville. The booklets are \$1 each.

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Shreveport Minister
Stricken In Pulpit

SHREVEPORT, La.--(BP)--T. C. Pennell, pastor of Ingleside Baptist Church here and former president of Louisiana Baptist Convention, suffered a fatal heart attack while preaching in his church May 31.

He died at noon after being stricken while in the pulpit. Funeral services were conducted June 2 at Ingleside Church. Co-officiating in the funeral service were Robert L. Lee, executive secretary of the convention; James F. Cole, editor of the Baptist Message, and R. O. Cawker, convention secretary of evangelism, all of Alexandria.

Pennell was elected president of the Louisiana convention in November, 1957, and served through the following November.

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Folks & facts.....

.....Trustees of Louisiana College, Pineville, La., will name the school's new fine arts building (now under contract) Weathersby Hall, in honor of Dean Emeritus H. M. Weathersby who served the college for 45 years.

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