

September 19, 1959

Brooks Hays Tells Of 'Call' To Pulpit

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.--(BP)--Brooks Hays, called on for a few remarks at a luncheon for Billy Graham and the Graham team at Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, told these stories:

Soon after his defeat for re-election to Congress he was approached by a pulpit committee from a church in North Carolina.

"We know you are not an ordained preacher," they said, "but you have been doing a lot of preaching and if you will accept the call of our church we can take care of your ordination and get you back on a regular payroll."

"I was greatly impressed," Hays said, "and I told the committee their invitation was one of the nicest things I had ever experienced, but that I would have to decline."

"That's all right, Mr. Hays," responded one of the committeemen, and, turning to his fellow committee members he said, "Now, fellows, we can go after Billy Graham!"

The other story has to do with Hays's appointment as director of Tennessee Valley Authority. A Mississippi paper, commenting on the Hays appointment, said: "We don't know how well qualified Mr. Hays is for his new field of service, but one thing is sure: Baptists will now have access to the biggest baptismal pool in the world!"

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Cox Asked To Convene Jubilee History Group

NEW YORK--(BP)--Norman W. Cox, Mobile, Ala., executive secretary emeritus of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, has been appointed to call together a committee on Baptist history.

The committee, which will represent Baptists of several conventions in the United States and Canada, will consider the production of a Baptist history during the current period of Baptist Jubilee Advance.

The appointment of the committee was announced here by W. Hubert Porter, associate general secretary, American Baptist Convention.

The Baptist Jubilee Advance, an effort by six Baptist groups in North America to increase their Christian witness, will climax in the celebration of an historical event.

The climaxing year of the Advance--1964--is the 150th anniversary of the organization of the "Triennial Convention." This "Triennial Convention" was the first Baptist organization of national scope in North America.

During his service as executive secretary of the Historical Commission, just recently ended in his retirement, Cox led Southern Baptists in the production of a two-volume encyclopedia. A number of Baptist history works were compiled and written during this span also.

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Folks & facts.....

.....A feature of the convocation service at Carver School of Missions and Social Work, Louisville, Ky., was the faculty's signing the school's articles of faith. President Nathan C. Brooks, Jr., said the articles were not so much a creedal statement as an expression of faith in the principles of Christianity.

New Editor's Helper
At Work In Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.--(BP)--A decision a few weeks ago to dedicate her life to full-time Christian service is responsible for the beginning of a new career, in Christian journalism, by Miss Shirley Johnson, who became assistant to the editor of Arkansas Baptist.

Miss Johnson gave up a promising career in insurance to accept her new position, leaving a junior executive's post with a Little Rock firm.

As assistant to the editor, Miss Johnson will serve as office secretary and will help with the preparation of copy, editing, planning page layouts, and reading proof. In the latter duties she succeeds Jerry Tolbert, of Pine Bluff, who was a member of the staff during the summer and has now gone back to the University of Texas.

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Grand Canyon College
Promotes Glenn Eason

PHOENIX, Ariz.--(BP)--The board of trustees of Grand Canyon College here has promoted Dean Glenn Eason to administrative vice-president and elevated Robert Sutherland, professor of English, to assistant dean and registrar.

Eason will continue to serve as dean of the college.

The board welcomed the new president of the Baptist college, E. N. Patterson, and received his first report. Patterson stated that already 100 more students had enrolled than at this date in 1958.

An over-all campus development plan was presented by the college's architects. A progress report was given by the same firm in regard to the new women's dormitory to be erected in time for the second semester.

The dormitory is the result of a campaign in which Arizona Baptists raised \$50,000 in response to a challenge from Mr. and Mrs. William Fleming of Fort Worth, Tex. The Flemings gave the college \$100,000.

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Louisiana Convention
Calls New Associate

ALEXANDRIA, La.--(BP)--W. L. Sewell, pastor, First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La., for 11 years, has been called to be associate executive secretary of Louisiana Baptist Convention.

He was elected by the operating committee of the convention's executive board at its meeting here.

A native of Alabama, Sewell is past president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention and past president of District 6, embracing three associations of churches in northwest Louisiana.

At present he is moderator of Bossier Association.

In the newly-created position, Sewell "will serve as deputy for the executive secretary in conferences and meetings; co-ordinate and analyze programs of the executive board; assist in general administration, particularly in the absence of the executive secretary, and serve as staff assistant to the executive secretary."

Executive Secretary Robert L. Lee said that Sewell will not be assigned a promotional program but will assist temporarily with the state mission program.

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EDITORS: The following story may not be released before Thursday Sept. 24 .

Tennessee Survey
To Be Voted Upon

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The survey committee appointed by Tennessee Baptist Convention has drafted its final report. Observers believe the greatest interest will center in recommendations concerning the convention's educational institutions.

The committee's report will be presented to the 1959 convention sessions, meeting in Gatlinburg Nov. 10-12.

The report calls for the closing of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy at Seymour, Tenn., and immediate sale of the convention-owned property. The institution offers high school-level education.

Another recommendation, if passed, could result in a branch of Union University being established in Memphis "as soon as possible." Union University, at Jackson, is the convention's senior college in west Tennessee.

Other changes pertain to management of the Baptist and Reflector, weekly state Baptist newsmagazine; size of the convention's executive board, and committees of the executive board.

The committee also recommends that no home for aged be founded by Tennessee Baptists at present.

Tennessee Baptist Press, a corporation under whose supervision the weekly denominational newsmagazine is published, would be dissolved. The committee recommends the functions of the corporation be fulfilled instead by the administrative committee of the executive board.

The committee proposes that membership on the executive board be increased from the present 52 to 75, and that the reorganized board have six committees in addition to its administrative committee.

These committees would be an education committee, working in the field of Christian education; Christian services committee, concerned with Baptist hospitals and children's homes; program committee, dealing with budgets and convention objectives; committee on denominational co-operation, relating Tennessee Baptist work to that of the Southern Baptist Convention; state missions committee, serving as a board of directors for state missions departments, and public affairs committee, interested in public affairs as related to Baptists.

The committee recommends that "the convention should not be in the field of education of normal age high school students. . . . Since this has become the primary field of Harrison-Chilhowee . . . this necessitates (its) discontinuing . . ."

The committee points out that 47.7 per cent of Harrison-Chilhowee pupils are public school pupils of Sevier County in east Tennessee. Public school pupils will not attend the academy after 1962 because an agreement with Sevier County Board of Education is ending "in accordance with the Baptist position on separation of church and state."

The academy also will lose \$16,000 annually received in tax funds when public school pupils are withdrawn. The "high cost per student in maintaining a high school" also led to the proposal to do away with the school, committee members say.

"The present income for the mission causes of the Tennessee Baptist Convention is insufficient to meet adequately the present needs of the Convention agencies, much less to start a new program such as homes for the aged," the committee continues.

EDITORS: Hold above story for release Thursday Sept. 24 .

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September 19, 1959

Baptist Leaders Consult
On Education Problems

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Nearly 100 Baptist leaders from six Baptist fellowships in North America met here recently for the third annual Religious Liberty Conference, sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs of which C. Emanuel Carlson is executive director.

The subject for discussion was "The Place of Religion in Education and the Relation of the Churches to the Public Schools."

Participants included representatives from the American Baptist Convention, the Baptist General Conference of America, the North American Baptist General Conference, the National Baptist Convention, Inc., the Baptist Federation of Canada and the Southern Baptist Convention.

The purpose of the Conference was to bring the Baptist leaders face to face with current religious liberty problems in the field of education, to discover pertinent Baptist insights that might guide toward solutions, and to encourage further discussion and study throughout the nation.

Although the Conference reached remarkable unanimity on many points, it made no effort to make pronouncements or to arrive at positions that could be announced as the Baptist position. Baptists have no authoritarian structure by which firm positions can be arrived at. Rather each person is encouraged to secure the facts and think for himself.

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Federal Aid Through Surplus
Foods Reaches All-Time High

WASHINGTON--(BP)--The high point in donations of Government-owned foods has been reached in the fiscal year 1959, according to Administration reports. An increase of five per cent over the previous year has set a record of nearly three billion pounds of surplus foods distributed through public, private and religious charitable institutions.

Distribution in 91 countries has been handled by voluntary church and other welfare organizations. In the United States and its territories 4,715,349 family units have benefited by the programs of school lunches, summer camps and other programs to serve needy persons.

This federal aid has been distributed to domestic outlets as donations to needy persons, schools and institutions, both public and private, religious and secular.

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Favors Distribution Of Surplus Goods Through Church Agencies

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Private and religious welfare agencies should receive a big share of the nation's federal surplus goods, according to Sen. Kenneth B. Keating (R., N. Y.).

Keating's views on federal surplus distribution were discussed before the Senate upon the occasion of the passage of a measure to permit surplus property to public libraries. While favoring the legislation passed by the Senate, Keating plead for a wider distribution of surplus goods through both private and public welfare agencies.

"I simply feel," Keating said, "that if we are going to open up federal surplus goods for tax-supported or publicly owned and operated libraries, then we should do the same for the welfare and recreation agencies which play such an important part in our Nation's life today."

Keating praised church and other welfare agencies for the good work they have done and stated that "they deserve special priorities under surplus disposal laws." He also cited the names of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish organizations as well as secular private agencies that had made request for this federal aid.

Several bills have been introduced in both the House and the Senate providing for the availability of federal surplus property, food and other material to church related institutions both on the domestic front and abroad. Although the provision for public libraries was the only one acted on by Congress in this session, notice has been served that action will continue to be sought on these other provisions.

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Jubilee Oratorio Planned For Baptist Celebration

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Plans to produce a Baptist Oratorio were projected by the Baptist Jubilee Advance Joint Committee, according to T. B. McDormand, executive secretary of the Baptist Federation of Canada and general chairman of the Committee.

The proposal was made by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Societies for celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Triennial Convention and to honor Adoniram Judson, first American Baptist foreign missionary. The plans call for participation of all the Baptist Jubilee Advance groups. The production will involve a presentation at the Jubilee celebration in 1964 at Atlantic City. Professional singers, college choirs and a recognized symphony orchestra will be sought in developing the idea.

Portions of the Oratorio will be put in sheet music for use in churches and for recordings to be made for sale through book stores.

Mrs. Howard Roach, Plainfield, Iowa, was elected as general chairman of the Jubilee Advance Committee for the coming year. Mrs. Roach is the past president of the National Council of American Baptist Women. Hubert Porter of New York was re-elected secretary.

In another action the Seventh Day Baptists were welcomed as a participating body in the Jubilee Advance. This brings to seven the number of national groups in the program. The others are the American Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, the National Baptist Convention, Inc., the National Baptist Convention of the U.S.A., the North American Baptist General Conference and the Baptist Federation of Canada.

In response to a request from the Religious Liberty Conference recently meeting in Washington and from the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the Jubilee Committee voted to request its special emphasis committee for 1964 to include an emphasis on religious liberty in its theme of the world mission of the church.

In 1960 the Jubilee Advance emphasis will be on Bible teaching and training.

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Each cooperating denomination will implement the theme in its own way, but there will be three projects in common -- a poster to be used by all groups, a proclamation to announce the year, and a leaflet to explain the program.

The 1961 emphasis will be on stewardship and will include four phases -- winter, the stewardship of witness; spring, the stewardship of daily work; summer, the stewardship of church membership; and fall, the stewardship of possessions.

Discussions are being projected by the Committee to explore the possibility of developing a Baptist hymnal for use by Baptist churches throughout North America.

Progress was reported to the Committee for the production of a film on the life of Adoniram Judson, a book on the Baptists by a prominent writer team in the United States, preparation of a Baptist Jubilee Advance exhibit at the Baptist World Congress in Rio in the summer of 1960, and on articles to appear in national magazines.

Jitsuo Morikawa, secretary of evangelism in the American Baptist Convention, was the keynote speaker on evangelism at the Committee meeting. His subject was, "The Central Place of the Church in Evangelism." He emphasized the place of laymen in the ministry of the church. He said that the laymen are the evangelists in a New Testament church and that the work of the preachers is to train and perfect the laity to perform the work of the ministry.

Frank Woyke, executive secretary of the North American Baptist General Conference, was named the keynote speaker for the Committee's next meeting, March 2, 1960, in Washington, D. C.

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BJCPA Calls For Special Studies

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Special studies for the information of the Baptist people in the United States were approved by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in semi-annual session here, according to C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director.

Religious liberty problems are involved in much legislation on the national scene and in the administration of that legislation. Special inquiries will be made into the foreign aid program, donable property program, and other aspects of governmental aid to sectarian institutions and agencies. When these studies are completed the findings will be made available to the Baptist people through the Baptist Press, the Report From The Capital, and other publications reaching the Baptist people.

Authorization was also given for a special committee of scholars to prepare a basic paper on the historic Baptist principles of religious liberty and the separation of church and state. Special attention will be given to the application of these principles to present day society and current relations between churches and the state.

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American Tax Policies And Churches To Be Studied

WASHINGTON--(BP)--The churches and American tax policy will be the subject of the fourth annual Religious Liberty Conference, sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, according to announcement by C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director. The conference will be held next year.

Previous conferences have dealt with the use of public funds by church-related institutions and the place of religion in education.

Explaining the need for a conference on American tax policies as related to the churches, Carlson pointed out the problems involved in tax exemptions for churches and tax exemption for properties owned by churches but not used

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for worship purposes. He indicated that the whole area of taxation as related to the churches, the ministry, and church institutions would be discussed by the conference.

Other religious liberty conferences may be projected in the future by the BJCPA. The recent Conference on Education made special request for regional conferences in various parts of the nation, and it requested the BJCPA to begin studies and preparations looking forward to a national conference on the churches and higher education.

The extent to which such conferences can be conducted in the states will depend largely on the approval of the cooperating conventions for an expanded program for the BJCPA that will be presented to them in the near future. More funds and an enlarged staff will be necessary to carry out these projects.

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Public Affairs Committee Seeks Larger Program

WASHINGTON--(BP)--A far-reaching program of expansion for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs was approved in principle for submission to its cooperating constituencies during the recent meeting of the Committee here. Clarence W. Cranford, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, is chairman of the Committee, and C. Emanuel Carlson is the executive director.

The expanded program calls for the establishment of a department of coordination which would work with each cooperating convention in harmony with the established policies of the conventions. The new program calls for \$86,000, or an approximate doubling of the budget and allocations from the conventions.

Last year the BJCPA expanded its program by establishing a program of Information Service, which has resulted in an increased flow of information and interpretation of news from the Washington scene to Baptist publications and through the Report From The Capital, a monthly newsletter from Washington.

The BJCPA is composed of representatives elected by seven national Baptist bodies. The cooperating groups are the Southern Baptist Convention, the American Baptist Convention, the Baptist General Conference, the North American Baptist General Conference, the National Baptist Convention, the National Baptist Convention, Inc., and the Baptist Federation of Canada.

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American Education Week Commended To Churches

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Support for President Eisenhower's proclamation of Nov. 8-14 as National Education Week was voted by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs here.

The BJCPA calls special attention of the pastors and publications of the denominations to National Education Week which will be dedicated to the recognition of the vital importance of the public school system, its teachers, and its administrators in the preservation of American democracy.

C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the BJCPA, states that it is hoped that churches, pastors, publications will seek appropriate ways to observe the week and that the attention of the Baptist people will be focused on the historic values of the public school system as developed in the United States.

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BAPTIST FEATURES

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activities, trends, and newsmakers.

FROM
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Religion and Education
Confront Baptist Leaders

By W. Barry Garrett*

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Ninety-five Baptist leaders from six national groups searched their hearts and wracked their brains over religious liberty problems involved in the teaching of religion in the public schools of the nation during the recent Religious Liberty Conference here. If anyone thought that the answers were easy or that he had the solutions before he arrived, these thoughts were quickly dispelled by the complexity of the issues and the differing background from which the participants came.

In spite of many seemingly insurmountable difficulties, a remarkable degree of unanimity was achieved before the Conference ended. All agreed that the discussions were decades overdue and that the Conference contributed to a new level of understanding of the common problems shared by the various Baptist constituencies throughout North America.

This third annual Religious Liberty Conference, sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs of which C. Emanuel Carlson is executive director, like the other two, was not a pronouncement-making body, nor were its findings expressive of "official" Baptist views, nor were its recommendations binding on any Baptist or Baptist group. The values of the Conference are to be found in the full, frank and fraternal discussions of common problems in the light of the best of Baptist insights.

Realizing that it faced one of the burning social issues of today, the Conference plunged headlong into the questions of the place of religion in education and the relation of the churches to the public schools. All agreed that the religious education of people is essential to the development of the person and to the welfare of society, but the methods by which this is to be accomplished were subject to lengthy debate.

Present at the Conference were those who advocated the inclusion of the Bible and religion in the curriculum of the public school system as well as those who thought that all teaching of religion should be completely separated from the public schools. Others shaded in between these two viewpoints and included a few who advocated a system of private religious schools. However, the common faith of these Baptists, their loyalty to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, as well as their open minded search for adequate solutions, enabled them to agree on many important principles relating to religion and education.

Among the Christian insights pertinent to current educational problems the group cited such examples as the competence of the soul to deal with God for himself, the dignity of the individual and the sacredness of all of life. The conferees said that Christians are citizens of two states (the earthly and the heavenly) but supreme loyalty must be given to Jesus Christ, that freedom of conscience must not be violated either by the state or the church, that basic responsibilities for Christian education rest upon the home and the church, and that all persons have equal rights both for an education and in the realm of religion.

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General agreement was reached that coerced Bible reading and that religious teaching with sectarian emphasis had no place in the public schools. Neither should religion be taught in public schools with a view to securing the commitment of the pupil to that religion. On the other hand there was widespread sentiment expressed that the historical facts of religion and its place and influence in society as well as the basic elements of character formation have a necessary place in the schoolroom.

Likewise most of the conferees felt that the one day a week program of religious instruction as practiced in most Baptist churches provides inadequate religious instruction, and they favored continuation of efforts to develop adequate weekday religious instruction programs. The often expressed opinion heard in the Conference was that the public school system of the nation should be preserved and improved, and that a private religious school system on the part of the churches would be detrimental both to the nation and to the churches. On the other hand, the schools and the churches should continue to explore avenues of cooperation that would enable each to fulfill its distinct educational functions.

Recent educational trends and legislation occupied one section of the Conference and it was generally agreed that public funds for the teaching of theology is out of line with the principle of separation of church and state. This section looked with disfavor upon National Defense Fellowship grants to graduate students in theology as provided in the National Defense Education Act of 1958, especially because of the federal payments to the schools for such teaching. Fringe benefits, such as bus transportation and free textbooks for religious and parochial schools, on the whole were looked upon with disfavor by the conferees.

A problem of special concern to the Conference involved the field of higher education and the relationships of the denominational or religious college both to the state and to the church. Responsibilities in both directions were recognized, but the extent to which such schools should accept governmental aid was left unresolved in the minds of the conferees. The hope was expressed, however, that due to the seriousness of this problem another religious liberty conference on the subject of "Baptists and Higher Education" could be planned within the next few years.

At the conclusion of the Conference expressions of appreciation to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs for its leadership in religious liberty concerns were heard. It was strongly urged that the cooperating conventions would make possible an enlargement of the staff and program of the BJCPA. Other suggestions for the cultivation of concern and appropriate Christian action in the area of religious liberty included the formation of state committees similar to the BJCPA, the development of regional religious liberty conferences in order to reach more of the leadership in the churches, the consideration of a scholarly publication devoted to religious liberty, and an emphasis on religious liberty during the Baptist Jubilee Advance.

The conferees returned to their homes aware of the seriousness of the educational problems of the nation, especially as relating to the teaching of religion, and also conscious that the nearly 20 million Baptists in the United States have an acute responsibility to communicate to society the pertinence of their insights to the problems that confront the nation.

Baptists have no authoritarian structure whereby firm positions on issues can be established. Rather, they encourage independent thought and discussion. It is often surprising to those of other fellowships how Baptists can be unified under such an arrangement. However, the Religious Liberty Conference on Education demonstrated the values of this method, and although answers to all the problems were not found, a remarkable degree of unanimity was discovered and basic principles were agreed upon which, when appropriate applications are worked out, will keep both the Baptists and the nation united.