

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

LLOYD WRIGHT, regional editor
103 Baptist Building, Dallas 1, Texas
Telephone: Office — Rlverside 1-1996
Residence — BBlackburn 4-6221

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Bremond Case Appealed To Texas Education Board

AUSTIN--(BP)--A ruling in the Bremond School case has been appealed to the Texas Board of Education in an effort to stop Catholic nuns from wearing religious garb while teaching in a Bremond, Tex., public school.

Seventeen plaintiffs in the case voted unanimously to appeal a ruling by State Commissioner of Education J. W. Edgar as the final stage in a long series of hearings to "exhaust administrative remedies" in the case.

Commissioner Edgar ruled recently that he did not have the authority to pass judgement on what the nuns wear while teaching in the school.

He agreed that the Bremond Independent School District had violated constitutional guarantees of church-state separation. "But it does seem to me," he said "that the school board has made valiant efforts to clear up these practices."

The complainants listed two major phases of Edgar's ruling which were "unsatisfactory" to them: (1) that nuns teaching while wearing religious robes creates a religious atmosphere in a tax-supported public school, and (2) that conducting the school in a building located within the compound of other church property including a convent, parish house and church, contributes to this "religious atmosphere."

Edgar said he has no power to force the school board to discontinue leasing the building for \$1 per year from the Catholic church, but expressed "great concern" over the lease agreement and "strongly urged" the board to conduct its school in district-owned facilities.

"I don't feel I have the authority to order a change in the dress of the nuns," Edgar said. "This is a matter which should be determined either by the courts or the legislature."

A 1933 ruling by the attorney general said that it is legal for public school districts to hire nuns as teachers, but the ruling did not state whether it is permissible for nuns to teach in their ecclesiastical robes.

An attorney representing the plaintiffs said that if the State Board of Education upholds Edgar's ruling, the taxpayer-citizen group would take the case back to the courts to test its constitutionality.

District, appellate, and state supreme courts had earlier ruled that the plaintiffs would have to "exhaust" administrative remedies through the local school board, state commissioner of education and State Board of Education before taking the case to court.

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Folks & Facts

(1-5-61)

. . . "A Theology of Church and Ministry," a Broadman Press publication by Franklin M. Segler, professor of pastoral ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, has been given a praising review in "The Australian Baptist." Editor A. C. Prior recommended the book to pastors and church members who are "really concerned about the effectiveness of the ministry of their church." (BP)

Expansion Approved
For Buckner Homes

DALLAS--(BP)--Expansion programs totaling \$800,000 have been approved for four branches of Buckner Benevolences by the Buckner board of trustees.

Buckner Orphans Home here, the largest institution of its kind in the world, will get a \$200,000 field house and other facilities for recreation and physical education, plus a new dormitory.

The dormitory, which will be named after E. L. Carnett, president of Buckner Benevolences since 1952, will increase the home's capacity from 550 to 600 children.

Buckner children's homes and three other child care institutions supported by Texas Baptists care for more than 1,000 children annually.

Buckner Milam Girl's Home, Lubbock, will get a new cottage, increasing its capacity to care for older dependent girls from 24 to 36.

In addition, two homes for aging, Mary E. Trew in Dallas and Texas Baptist Haven in Houston, will be expanded to capacities of 100 senior citizens each.

Similar \$200,000 construction projects will add dormitory wings, chapels, more dining facilities and enlarge the infirmaries at both institutions.

All of the projects will be financed through the development of 2,200 acres of Buckner land in east Dallas. Streets are being cut and utilities installed on the first residential tract on the property at Samuel Boulevard and Jim Miller Road, said James C. Wilson, Buckner business administrator.

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Texas Brotherhood Urges
Sunday Closing of Stores

(1-5-60)

DALLAS--(BP)--More than 6,200 letters from the Texas Baptist Brotherhood department to Texas pastors and laymen have urged Baptist businessmen to close their stores on Sunday.

The letters stated that "the increasing number of business establishments remaining open on Sundays will definitely decrease spiritual interests and weaken the moral standards of our nation."

Signed by L. H. Tapscott, secretary of the Brotherhood department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the letters were sent in response to a request by the Texas Baptist Brotherhood executive committee.

The letters requested that the presidents of Brotherhood organizations in some 2,300 Baptist churches across the state confer with their pastors about the matter and to "do whatever seems wise and practical to call attention to Sunday observances among the people of your community."

Several suggestions endorsed by the state Brotherhood executive committee were listed in the letter, including proposals for men who own their own businesses to close their stores on Sundays, for others to eat at home on Sundays, to buy gasoline, groceries, etc. on other days of the week, and to trade with merchants who close on Sundays.

Tapscott said the letter was sent "with the hope that strong sentiment can be created against making Sunday a day for 'business as usual' and for pleasures only."

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Church Music Workshop
Scheduled at Seminary

FORT WORTH,--(BP)--Three nationally-known church music leaders will head the faculty of the annual Church Music Workshop at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, Jan. 30-Feb. 4.

The five-day workshop will offer class instruction and clinics on children's choir direction, organ technique, and choral methods and techniques. Ministers of music from Baptist churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention are expected to attend.

Heading the list of guest faculty members for the clinic include Lara Hoggard of Hemet, Calif., who is currently writing three books on the results of a four-year research project in adolescent choral problems; Donald McDonald, organist and faculty member of Westminster Choir College, Princeton, N. J.; and Mable Warkentin, graded choir teacher at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

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McQuade Named Howard
Payne Business Manager

(1-5-61)

BROWNWOOD, Tex.--(BP)--B. J. McQuade of Fort Worth, vice president of International Service Insurance Co., has been named business manager of Howard Payne College.

McQuade succeeds Robert Henkel who has accepted a position with Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex. McQuade has served more than 17 years in institutional and office business management.

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Texas Church Membership
Increases To 1,620,019

DALLAS--(BP)--Total membership in 3,887 Baptist churches in Texas increased to a record 1,620,019 during 1960, topping the 1959 total membership by 40,880 persons, an end-of-the-year report indicated here.

The report, compiled by Statistician Cecil Goff of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, also revealed increases in gifts to the Cooperative Program and record enrollments in Sunday School and Training Union.

Only in total number of baptisms did the 1959 record exceed the 1960 totals. During 1960, more than 60,050 persons made professions of faith, 4,800 less than in 1959.

C. Wade Freeman, director of the Texas Baptist evangelism division, said that he was not "unduly alarmed" over the decrease. He attributed the drop to a general slump across the Southern Baptist Convention following a tremendous upsurge after 1959 simultaneous crusades.

During 1960, no Convention-wide effort in simultaneous revival meetings was held, causing a slight drop in the total Baptisms, Freeman said. In 1962 Jubilee Revivals are slated to continue the emphasis on revival evangelism and help break the slump.

Texas Baptist churches gave more than \$13,072,192 to the denomination's Cooperative Program of world missions during 1960, an increase of more than a million dollars over last year's total gifts.

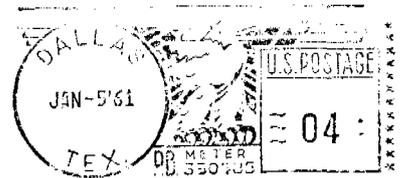
Sunday School enrollment throughout the state increased 13,845 over the 1959 totals, with a record 1,155,644 enrolled in the Sunday School program.

Training Union enrollment also increased during 1960 with a total of 485,905 members, an increase of 16,293.

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