

February 10, 1961

Georgia Churches
Called Into Action

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Baptist and Methodist churches of Georgia have been called into action to fight a pending bill in the state legislature to legalize the sale of mixed drinks in Georgia.

The controversial measure was defeated by a narrow margin in the Georgia general assembly, but sponsors said it would be introduced again when the general assembly re-convened following a two-week recess.

The public affairs committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention issued a lengthy statement calling on Baptist churches "to submit an appropriate declaration of our convictions on this issue" at the earliest date.

It also asked all Georgia Baptist church members to "do everything within their power to persuade their representatives in the general assembly to defeat this organized effort of the liquor forces to make drunkards of our young people."

Authors of the bill said it would add about \$2.5 million to annual state revenue and legalize a practice that is already wide-spread in Georgia's wet counties.

The North and South Georgia Methodist Conferences also passed similar resolutions to the Baptist statement, calling upon Methodist churches to fight the proposed bill.

The South Georgia Methodist resolution said "this legislation would provide for a return to the open bar-room."

Louie D. Newton, pastor of Atlanta's Druid Hills Baptist Church and a former Southern and Georgia Baptist Convention president, is chairman of the Georgia Baptist Convention public affairs committee.

One of the leaders against the liquor bill in the general assembly was Rep. Guy W. Rutland, Jr., of DeKalb County, a deacon in First Baptist Church of Decatur and a trustee of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

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Colgin Will Head
Baptist Chaplains

(2-10-61)

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BP)--George Colgin of Winston-Salem, N. C., is the new president of the hospital chaplains' group in the Southern Baptist Convention.

He is chaplain and public relations officer of North Carolina Baptist Hospital.

President-elect of the hospital chaplains' group is George W. Miller of Paducah, Ky. Miller is chaplain at Western Baptist Hospital there. Fred L. Bell of Nashville, chaplain at Mid-state Baptist Hospital, is vice-president.

Secretary-treasurer is Charles D. McKnight, chaplain at Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis.

The chaplains' group elected officers at its annual meeting here.

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Hospital Chaplains
Discuss Agency Offer

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BP)--The Baptist hospital chaplain needs a "new and deeper understanding of his relationship to his denomination, not a new affiliation through some agency of the denomination."

This was the declaration of Chaplain Henry Buchanan of Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington, Ky. He was speaking to fellow hospital chaplains here for a winter meeting of Southern Baptist Hospital Chaplains Association.

The agency of the denomination to which he referred was the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, he said.

Chaplain Buchanan reported that the chaplains commission of the Home Mission Board has been seeking a tie with the chaplains of Baptist hospitals.

The chaplains commission's main role in the past has been in providing endorsement for Baptist ministers serving as military chaplains. However, in recent years the commission has enlarged its program to include industrial chaplains.

"No affiliation with the Convention agency is necessary to the sort of relationship which should exist between the individual hospital chaplain and his denomination," he continued. "We feel that our work is related to the hospital work within our given state . . . and the Home Mission Board has no bearing on us."

Buchanan described the hospital chaplain's relationship as being similar to that between a pastor and the church he serves. The hospital chaplain serves the administrator or trustees of the hospital.

"In the case of a Baptist minister serving in a Baptist hospital, this is not an appointment by an official church board or denominational agency," according to Buchanan. It is a two-way agreement "entered into voluntarily by the minister who feels a calling in this direction, and the hospital, in the person of the administrator or the board of trustees, which sees in him (the prospective chaplain) the man of God fitted by temperament, experience, and training. . . ."

"The question before us is whether Southern Baptist hospital chaplains shall depart from this pattern," he said.

Buchanan said some hospital chaplains felt the Home Mission Board wished to provide financial assistance for conducting training programs for the chaplains.

"Would the acceptance of funds by the association from an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention strengthen the relationship between the association and the hospitals represented by the chaplain members?" he asked. "If the association accepts monetary benefits can it still remain free of control?"

Most Baptist hospitals are operated by state Baptist conventions or by local associations of Baptist churches. Only two are operated by the Southern Baptist Convention directly. These two are under the management of a Convention agency known as Southern Baptist Hospitals.

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Literacy Specialist
Moves To Atlanta

(2-10-61)

ATLANTA--(BP)--Miss Ann Grove, literacy specialist in the associational missions department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has moved to Atlanta.

"The growth of the literacy work which our department started last June has been so rapid that we have moved Miss Grove from Pineville, Ky.," announced Wendell Belew of Atlanta, secretary of the associational missions department.

"Here she will be more centrally-located, and will be in closer touch with other phases of our work, as well as having the office facilities available to her," he added. The board's main offices are here.

Miss Grove has conducted her work from the Clear Creek Baptist School in Pineville. She has established pilot projects in literacy throughout the southern Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky, Virginia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia.

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Diamond Heroes Make
News Among Baptists

BY the BAPTIST PRESS

Baseball figures made news among Southern Baptists.

Al Worthington, who pitched for several major league teams, has been named interim director of a Baptist student center in Birmingham, Ala. The center serves Birmingham Medical Center.

Worthington is a student at Howard College, Baptist university in Birmingham.

In Roanoke Rapids, N. C., second baseman Bobby Richardson of the New York Yankees thrilled the local chapter of Royal Ambassadors. He told the boys' missionary group there he had many thrills in life but the greatest "was when I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord."

Richardson was one of the Yankee heroes in the World Series games against the Pittsburgh Pirates. He hit a grand-slam homer and batted in a record 12 runs in the seven games of the series.

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Verdery Picked

(2-10-61)

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BP)--E. A. (Gus) Verdery, chaplain at Georgia Baptist Hospital in Atlanta, has been elected secretary of the chaplains' group of the American Protestant Hospital Association. Verdery was elected by the group in its annual meeting here.

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Panamanian Work Strong
Despite Present Unrest

(2-10-61)

ATLANTA--(BP)--Despite signs of national unrest, Baptists scattered over the 480-mile length of the Republic of Panama present a picture of strong organizational life about to flower into fruitful growth.

So reported two officials of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta following a nine-day photographic survey of the country.

An embassy bombing and a huge fruit company transportation strike, which many called "Communist-led," occurred during their visit. However, they reported the increasing nationalism of Panama has little effect on Baptist work because most of the 87 missionaries are natives of Panama or other Central American countries.

The Panama work varies from the highly complex English work in the Canal Zone to small missions in villages accessible only by river.

While Spanish is the national language, large groups of West Indians speak English, and missionaries also serve San Blas and other Indian-language groups.

"The work with the more than a million and a quarter inhabitants appears stronger than its statistical report of 29 churches and 35 missions," J. C. Durham and Walker L. Knight of Atlanta reported following their photographic survey.

Both Durham and Knight are employees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board which sponsors Baptist work in the area. Durham is secretary of the department of promotion and Knight is secretary of the editorial department for the board.

The photographic team returned with more than 3,000 pictures and motion-picture footage. These will be used in Home Mission Magazine, of which Knight is editor; in other Southern Baptist publications, and in additional home mission productions.

Early Baptist work in Panama was started by the English-speaking West Indians from Jamaica. The Jamaican work had been started by a Baptist slave from the

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United States, was nourished by English Baptists into self-support, and the Jamaicans had undertaken mission work. They had sent missionaries to their own people in Panama to work on the canal.

The work in Panama and the Canal Zone, U. S. territory, is directed by superintendent L. D. Wood, formerly language missions director for Texas. At the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, this work is a part of the language groups ministries department.

Scattered along nearly 100 miles of Panama coast on the Caribbean Sea are the heavily-populated islands of the San Blas Indians. Baptists have churches and preaching stations on 17 of the islands.

In the Canal Zone and nearby Panamanian cities, Baptists gather in three associations. One association includes churches whose members are military personnel or civil service employees. Another association includes the English-speaking West Indian churches, and the other includes the Spanish-speaking Panamanians.

Additional work has been established in the western interior and in the Bocas del Toro Province, near the border of Costa Rica.

A theological institute, established in 1954, will move this semester into new quarters, about 25 miles from Panama City.

"This property is one of the most beautiful settings we have seen," Durham said. "Its six and a half acres are landscaped with tropical flowers and fruits. The large four-bedroom home, with many additional buildings, makes it an outstanding purchase."