

March 8, 1961

GLOBE-TROTTING With Ginny

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

Eight Years Awaiting  
. . . Still No Church

SKOPJE, Yugoslavia (BP)--This city has been one of the most interesting, "unspoiled" places we have visited in southeastern Europe. Exotic costumes are the rule rather than exception in the crowded streets.

A walk across the Roman bridge rolled back the years and placed us in a Turkish village with fortress dominating the hill.

We were amazed to see such crowds of people, all hours of the day. They were going, going, going . . . not visiting or loitering. "Where do all these people come from?" my husband wondered aloud.

The expressions on these Macedonian faces were not curious and alert like those of Greek Macedonia. They appeared to be engrossed in the extremely hard business of living.

I was fascinated by the costumed peasant women. Many of them looked like gypsies. When our car stopped at a gas station, I crossed the highway to bribe two very young girls (already wives and mothers) to pose for my camera.

Only the bright candy I offered swayed these reluctant models. As my camera clicked busily, their expressions changed to fear. Then they ran away, crying, "No! No!"

I looked about and saw a truck of dark-skinned men, obviously their menfolk, shouting at the women, disapproving the foreign woman's photo taking. When the men eased themselves out of the truck and started creeping toward me, I wasted no time getting to my car and husband (who was unaware of my brush with adventure!).

I shall never forget Skopje and the colorful street crowds. I shall always remember my gypsy girls, burdened with the hugh loads on their shoulders. Especially, I shall remember that in this city is a small group of Baptists who have been waiting for eight long years to purchase a building and start a church.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

May 22-23, 1961

All Meetings at Third Baptist Church  
St. Louis, Missouri

S. C. Ray, President

General Theme - "Laborers together with God." I Cor. 3:9

Monday Afternoon

Joint session with the Southern Baptist Music Association

Hymn--2:00 o'clock

Prayer

Special Music

Panel Discussion:

"The Use of Music and Education in the Growth and Development of a Child."

Moderator - Dr. Allen W. Graves, Louisville, Ky.

Panel Members - J. Robert Stroble, Amarillo, Tex.

Dr. Ann Bradford, Fort Worth, Tex.

Minister of Music to be assigned

Panel Discussion:

"Pastor, Minister of Education, Minister of Music:---A Team"

Panel members to be assigned

"Vocational Volunteers: Our Responsibility"- Oliver C. Wilbanks, Atlanta, Ga.

Monday Evening

Not a joint session with the Music Association

7:00 P. M.

Scripture - "Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful."  
I Cor.4:2

Hymn - Led by Roland Leath, Shelby, N. C.

Scripture and Prayer - Led by H. Taylor Bowers, Miami, Fla.

Special Music - Choir of Third Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., directed by  
Katherine Carmichael, St. Louis, Mo.

"Leader or Paid Worker" - J. L. Pollard, Alexandria, La.

"The Importance and Value of Writing" - Dr. W. L. Howse, Nashville, Tenn.

"Well Done or Found Wanting" - Dr. John W. Drakeford, Fort Worth, Tex.

"Laborers Together With God" - Sermon by Dr. Robert E. Naylor, Fort Worth, Tex.

Tuesday Morning

9:00 A. M.

Scripture - "Study to Show Thyself Approved Unto God." 2 Tim. 2:15

Hymn - Led by Roland Leath

Scripture and Prayer - Wendell D. Sloan, Augusta, Ga.

"Religious Education and the Sunday School Board"

"Brief History of the Growth and Development of the Sunday School Board"  
J. P. Edmonds, Nashville, Tenn.

"Organizational Structure of the Sunday School Board"  
J. Marvin Crowe, Nashville, Tenn.

"Sunday School Board---A Servant" - Leonard E. Wedel, Nashville, Tenn.

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"The Sunday School Board and My Work" - Larry H. Daniel, Shreveport, La.

"The Sunday School Board and My Work" - Bryant Cummings, Jackson, Miss.

"The Sunday School Board and My Work" - Ernest J. Loessner, Louisville, Ky.

Sectional Group Interest Conferences

Ministers of Education (More than 5 years) Lamoin Champ, Tyler, Tex.

Ministers of Education (Less than 5 years)

Youth Directors - Jane Carter, Atlanta, Ga.

Children's Workers -

Teachers -

Sunday School Field Workers - Dr. John K. Durst, Columbia, S. C.

Training Union Field Workers - J. P. Morgan, Raleigh, N. C.

B. S. U. Directors -

Brotherhood Workers - James M. Sapp, Memphis, Tenn.

Tuesday Afternoon

2:00 P. M.

Scripture - "So we built the wall--for the people had a mind to work." Neh.4:6

Hymn - Led by Roland Leath

Scripture and Prayer - James Smithwick, Beaufort, S. C.

Special Music

"The Curriculum Guide Has Helped"

"The Expanded Royal Ambassador Program" - Edward Hurt Jr., Memphis, Tenn

"College Students--Responsibility of Home Church and College Church"  
Charles M. Roselle, Nashville, Tenn.

"Religious Education and Foreign Missions": to be assigned

Washington back

TEXT OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S PRESS CONFERENCE, March 8, 1961

(Following is that portion of the President's press conference dealing with loans to non-public schools.)

Q. Mr. President, sir would you help to clarify the aid to private schools issue? The National Defense Education Act passed in 1958 provides loans for private and elementary, secondary, schools for equipment, and existing provisions as well as your recommendations allow for construction loans for private colleges,

I wonder if you would give us your view on proposals to add to your school bill provisions for loans as differentiated from grants for private and parochial elementary and secondary schools.

A. You mentioned three rather different programs which involve different purposes and different constitutional problems.

The first program was the National Defense Education Act where loans were provided for nonpublic schools for specific purposes, languages, I believe, and also for science and engineering. Twenty million dollars was provided, of which, interestingly enough, only about \$1.3 million has been used for loans. That was the first.

The second type of program you discussed--I supported that program. In my opinion, there is not evidence as yet that suggests a serious constitutional problem because it is tied very closely to national defense.

The second program we are talking about is loans to all colleges. In my opinion, ---and also, of course, scholarship assistance to the students--that is in a different position, at least to the best of my judgment from secondary education. Secondary education is compulsory. It is provided for every student, every citizen, and every citizen must attend school.

We are providing a program, which we have sent to the Congress, of grants for public schools. Therefore, in my opinion, that is the program which I hope will be passed.

Now, the problem of loans to secondary education does institute serious constitutional problems. I do not think that anyone can read the Everson case without recognizing that the position which the Court took, minority and majority, in regard to the use of tax funds for nonpublic schools, raises a serious constitutional questions.

I have expressed my view on them. I think the Congress should consider carefully what its view is on them and what kind of programs it wants to recommend in this area. The Congress, as I say, has recommended grants to private colleges in the past.

I used--a week or two ago, I think, I gave that as an example. In the National Defense Education Act it used loans for specific purposes. Whether across-the-board loans would be constitutional is the question which, in my opinion, raises a serious constitutional question.

I am hopeful that the Congress will enact grants. If Congress and Congressmen wish to address themselves to the problem of loans, which is a separate matter, we are not talking about in this bill loans to secondary education, then I am hopeful that it will be considered as a separate matter, that Congress will consider the constitutional problems and consider what action they want to take.

We will be glad to cooperate in every way. But I am hopeful that while that consideration is being given, we will move ahead with the grant program.

Q. Mr. President, are you suggesting, Mr. President, that Congress, if it wants to provide for long-term, low-interest loans for private and parochial schools, ought to have a separate bill?

A. I definitely believe that we should not tie the two together. I think that there are sufficient constitutional questions which the members of Congress will have to consider. I believe in view of the fact that this Act is directed, in its title and in its purpose, directed to giving grants to public schools, that we should proceed with that bill.

Any other matter, I think, it seems to me, should be taken up as a separate issue, if you want then to discuss loans. I have given my view of the constitutional problems involved in across-the-board loans.

As the questioner indicated, there have been some kinds of loans to nonpublic schools which have been supported by the Congress and signed by the President and about which no constitutional problem has yet been raised, and the National Defense Education Act is the best example.

March 9, 1961

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Baptist Press

March 10, 1961

Baptists Commend NCC  
For Stand On Schools

WASHINGTON (BP)--- A Baptist committee and the National Council of the Churches of Christ are agreed in their support of the public school system and in opposition to Federal aid to parochial schools.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in its semi-annual meeting here expressed "commendation and approval" of recent action of the General Council of the National Council of Churches which addressed itself to the principle of "public funds for public schools."

While standing for the right of churches to establish non-public schools, the National Council pronouncement said that it is the responsibility of all citizens to share by taxation in the support of public schools for the general education of all children.

On the other hand the National Council said that the non-public schools "cannot fulfill the responsibility of the whole society for educating all children." The Council further said that to encourage the development of the parochial school system for the Nation "would be tragic in its results to the American people."

The Council favored welfare services, such as dental or medical services, lunches, and other distinctly welfare services to all children, "whatever school they may be attending, provided such services are identifiable by recipients as public services, and the expenditures are administered by public authorities responsible to the electorate."

The document further:

- (1) opposed grants from tax funds for non-public elementary and secondary schools;
- (2) opposed public payment for tuition or scholarships for children to attend parochial schools, or grants to their parents for that purpose; and
- (3) opposed tax credits, forgiveness or exemption from school or other taxes for parents whose children attend non-public elementary or secondary schools.

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Jubilee Advance Group  
Plans Pulpit Exchange

(3-9-61)

WASHINGTON (BP)--- Baptist Jubilee Advance leaders have made plans for helping all the Baptists of North America know each other better.

Representatives of six major Baptist groups in the United States and Canada were present for their semi-annual session here. The group:

- (1) initiated plans to encourage pulpit exchanges between pastors and other leaders for the several conventions.
- (2) forwarded plans for a joint meeting of major U.S. Baptist conventions in Atlantic City, May 22-24, 1964.
- (3) planned for church extension projects throughout the Nation in 1962.
- (4) encouraged the reading of a biography of Adoniram Judson, the first Baptist missionary sent from North America.

The Baptist Jubilee Advance is a cooperative five year program by all North American Baptists, climaxing in 1964. This date marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the General Convention of the Baptist Denomination in the United States for Foreign Missions.

The 1814 group, the first national organization of Baptists in America and known as the Triennial Convention, was formed to finance mission work by Judson in Burma. He had sailed in 1812 as a Congregational missionary but accepted the Baptist faith on shipboard. He was thus left without support in Burma.

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But across-the-board loans, as this group knows, this matter was not brought up in the last--President Eisenhower sent several messages to the Congress dealing with Federal aid to education. I believe there were one or two times when it was voted upon in the House.

I do not recall that there was great effort made at that time to provide across-the-board loans to an aid-to-education bill. The only time, in my knowledge, that it was brought up was by the end of the last session in August, by Senator Morse, and then just in the Senate.

But it was not made a matter of great interest at the time, and I am concerned that it should not be made an issue now in such a way that we end up the year with, again, no aid to secondary schools.

Q. Mr. President, you said last week, as I recall it, that there was no room for debate about this matter.

A. No room for debate about grants. There is obviously room for debate about loans, because it has been debated.

My view, however, is that on the matter of loans, to the best of my knowledge and judgment, this has not been tested by the courts, of course, in the sense that grants have been. But by my reading of the constitutional judgments in the Everson case, my judgment has been that across-the-board loans are also unconstitutional.

Q. That suggests you would veto a bill that provided for across-the-board loans, Mr. President?

A. I think that I made my view very clear. I think it is always a mistake before we even have legislation to talk about what I am going to do, but I think it is very clear about what my view is of grants and loans across the board to nonpublic schools.

Now, colleges are in a different category. Specific programs of grants, even to colleges which are nonpublic, have been supported by the Congress and signed by the President. Loans and even grants to secondary education under some circumstances might be held to be constitutional.

But across the board to all nonpublic schools, in my opinion, does raise a serious constitutional question which, after reading the cases and giving it a good deal of thought, in my opinion is and to my judgment would be unconstitutional.

Now, the President has an obligation, and the Congress, to consider this matter very carefully. I am extremely sympathetic to those families who are paying their taxes for public education and also sustaining the rights--sustaining their children in nonpublic schools. They carry a heavy burden.

But I have made my position very clear for many months, and I have to make my position clear now, at least as long as I am here, on what I believe to be the constitutional problem.

I also point out that this matter was not made an issue in recent years until this time, except in the case of the amendment offered at the end of the last session by Senator Morse, which was just offered in the Senate and was not offered in the House of Representatives, to the best of my knowledge.