

BAPTIST FEATURES

PRODUCED BY BAPTIST PRESS
NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

127 NINTH AVE., N., NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE AL 4-1631

W. C. Fields, *Director*

Theo Sommerkamp, *Assistant Director*

May 10, 1961

GLOBE-TROTTING With GINNY

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

Hungry Tots Devour
Small Tomato Scraps

AMALIAS, Greece (BP)--"One-half of the people of the world go to bed hungry each night," Frank Laubach told a group of Southern Baptists.

An evangelical minister was leading a revival in Amalias. When he was invited home with a member for the night, the preacher hesitated. He knew this man lived in three rooms with a wife and seven children. He knew the man's salary was less than two dollars a day. But realizing the church member would be hurt by a refusal, the pastor accepted the invitation.

The children were seated on the floor for supper while the adults sat at the table. Each person was served a slice of bread, a piece of cheese, and some chopped tomato with water to drink. Naturally, the best meal possible had been provided in honor of the guest.

After the meal was finished, the father left the house. Immediately the little children beseeched their mother, begging for the cheese that had been left over. The mother looked sadly from the cheese to her hungry children. Finally she had to refuse them the food, for that was all there was for the morrow's breakfast.

When the children saw it was useless to cry to their mother, the older ones turned away. But the three smallest ones crawled upon the table where they spied five tiny bits of tomato left on the preacher's plate. They eagerly wiped his plate with their fingers. The minister was overwhelmed by remorse that he had failed to leave all his food for these tots who had never had never had enough to eat!

BAPTIST FEATURES

PRODUCED BY BAPTIST PRESS
NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

127 NINTH AVE., N., NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE AL 4-1631

W. C. Fields, *Director*

Theo Sommerkamp, *Assistant Director*

May 10, 1961

GLOBE-TROTTING With GINNY

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

Hungry Tots Devour
Small Tomato Scraps

AMALIAS, Greece (BP)--"One-half of the people of the world go to bed hungry each night," Frank Laubach told a group of Southern Baptists.

An evangelical minister was leading a revival in Amalias. When he was invited home with a member for the night, the preacher hesitated. He knew this man lived in three rooms with a wife and seven children. He knew the man's salary was less than two dollars a day. But realizing the church member would be hurt by a refusal, the pastor accepted the invitation.

The children were seated on the floor for supper while the adults sat at the table. Each person was served a slice of bread, a piece of cheese, and some chopped tomato with water to drink. Naturally, the best meal possible had been provided in honor of the guest.

After the meal was finished, the father left the house. Immediately the little children besieged their mother, begging for the cheese that had been left over. The mother looked sadly from the cheese to her hungry children. Finally she had to refuse them the food, for that was all there was for the morrow's breakfast.

When the children saw it was useless to cry to their mother, the older ones turned away. But the three smallest ones crawled upon the table where they spied five tiny bits of tomato left on the preacher's plate. They eagerly wiped his plate with their fingers. The minister was overwhelmed by remorse that he had failed to leave all his food for these tots who had never had enough to eat!

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
W. BARRY GARRETT, REGIONAL EDITOR
1628—16th St., N. W., Washington, 9, D. C.
Telephone: ADams 2-1760

May 10, 1961

Urges Caution In Peace Corps Use of Churches

WASHINGTON (BP)-- "The work of the Peace Corps cannot take the place of the Christian missionary," declared James O. Duncan in an editorial in the Capital Baptist, official publication of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

"The Christian church will face one of its greatest crises if the people begin to believe that their 'tax dollar' is doing the work of their 'tithe dollar,'" Duncan said.

He continued, "The cause of religious freedom can be set back hundreds of years if the church turns over to Government the responsibility of Christian missions."

Duncan's editorial was written to caution against identifying the work of President Kennedy's Peace Corps with the work of the churches.

The occasion for the precaution was a guide issued by the Peace Corps with the approval of Robert Sargent Shriver, Jr., Corps director, and which was prepared by Gordon Boyce, director of private agency relations for the Peace Corps.

Peace Corps utilization of private and religious agencies was further confirmed later in a speech by Thomas Matthews, assistant director of public information, before the National Religious Publicity Council.

The guide declared, "A project which meets Peace Corps criteria and standards will not be barred from receiving Peace Corps support because it is sponsored by a religious or sectarian group."

However, it continued, "No support will be given such a project if it furthers any religious, sectarian, commercial, or propaganda cause or releases funds for such purposes!"

Duncan's editorial commended the Peace Corps project and especially the guide statement that the manner of cooperating with private agencies would be handled very carefully.

In reply to a question about how the Peace Corps might use religious groups, Matthews said that no plans had been completed yet, but that it would probably be in specialized projects.

A further question was asked about the possibility of the Peace Corps supplying teachers in church-related schools in underdeveloped countries. Matthews answered that this would be a proper Peace Corps activity.

He explained that Peace Corps projects would be carried out through voluntary agencies, including religious groups, the use of universities, cooperation with the United Nations and its welfare units, direct programs administered by the Peace Corps itself and by additional help to existing United States projects.

According to the Washington Evening Star the Peace Corps is struggling with the problem of the best way to work through religious and sectarian agencies, which constitutionally cannot receive government money. One idea that has been advanced is that a Peace Corps Foundation be established which could give grants to the more controversial projects.

It has been explained that the Peace Corps personnel will be engaged in such activities as teaching English, instructing in nursing and sanitation, construction foremen, surveyors, crop planning specialists, civilian administration, and even such simple matters as how to use typists in office work.

The Peace Corps project has attracted unusual popular favorable response, but on the practical legislative and political side it is running into difficulty. At the present time it is operating under executive orders from the President. The Administration is hoping that the project will be made permanent by the Congress.

Congressman Continues
Campaign for Lottery

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Rep. Paul A. Fino (R., N.Y.) continued his efforts favoring a national lottery in the United States.

In remarks in the Congressional Record the N.Y. Congressman said enacting such legislation would be a means of:

- (1) painlessly and voluntarily raising additional Government revenue;
- (2) regulating and controlling the human urge to gamble;
- (3) cutting off the underworld from this lucrative industry;
- (4) reducing the mounting national debt; and
- (5) providing needed tax relief for the American wage earners.

Fino cited an article by Walter Winchell, columnist for the New York Daily Mirror, as supporting his position. The Winchell article stated that gambling can only be controlled, not destroyed, and reminded readers of "how much some people have learned about prayer from playing poker."

In earlier remarks before Congress, Fino said the American participation in the Irish Sweepstakes and the gambling syndicate uncovered operating in the Pentagon are examples of the "natural gambling spirit of the American people." To capitalize on this urge to gamble, he said, would satisfy this desire of the people and bring into the Government \$10 billion a year in additional revenue.

In past sessions of Congress, Fino repeatedly favored legalization of a national lottery and sponsored legislation providing for it.

Two bills (H.R. 2007 and H.R. 5574) to provide for a national lottery, introduced by Fino, are now pending in the House Committee on Ways and Means. A third such bill (H.R. 444), introduced by Rep. John Lesinski (D., Mich.), is also before the committee.

-30-

Says Aid To Religion
Not Unconstitutional

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Governmental aid to church-related schools is not a violation of the principle of separation of church and state, according to Rep. Paul A. Fino (R., N.T.), a Roman Catholic.

The New York Congressman, in remarks included in the Congressional Record on the proper relationship between the Federal Government and religious educational institutions, referred to a letter to the New York Herald Tribune, written by Herbert J. Clancy, S.J. The letter, Fino said, "offers a crystal clear explanation of this so-called tangled issue."

In writing to the New York paper, Clancy, a professor of history at Fordham University, New York, referred to the oft quoted statement about "a wall of separation between church and state. That statement, he said, taken from Jefferson's letter to the Baptists of Danbury, Conn., in 1802, is lifted from its historical context. Quoting more of the letter, Clancy asserted that Jefferson did not mean that Government should not aid religion.

Referring to the adoption of the first amendment, which says Congress shall make no law regarding the establishment of religion, Clancy said:

"At no time did Congress indicate a desire to prohibit itself from aiding religion on a nonpreferential basis."

Citing instances in which former United States Presidents, Washington, Jefferson and Madison, favored Government funds for religious education, Clancy said "the founders of the American Republic did not seek to erect any absolute wall between church and state. On the contrary, they wished to foster all religions."

Fino and Clancy's observations are illustrative of continuing effort to reinterpret the first amendment to make it constitutional to provide Government aid to church institutions.

-30-

Eight Baptist Groups
Talk Religious Liberty

CHICAGO (BP)-- Pastors from eight Illinois Baptist groups met in six regional conferences during the first week of May to discuss Baptist principles and current religious liberty problems.

In approaching the problem of religious liberty the Baptist pastors emphasized that, although they support the first amendment of the Constitution of the United States, the Baptist witness antedates the Constitution and it springs from fundamental Christian insights into the meaning of the New Testament.

A panel of four Baptist leaders participated in the discussions at Belleville, Marion, Peoria, Springfield, Rockford and Chicago. More than 200 pastors participated in the conference.

The team was composed of Charles K. Hartman, field secretary of the Illinois Baptist State Convention; William D. Johnson, pastor of the Greater St. Johns Baptist Church, Chicago; C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C., and W. Barry Garrett, associate director of the BJCPA. Due to illness, W. C. Dobbs, president of the Illinois Baptist State Association, was unable to accompany the team.

Cooperating in the arrangements for the joint religious liberty discussions were leaders from the Illinois Baptist State Association (Southern Baptist), Noel M. Taylor, executive secretary; Illinois Baptist State Convention (American Baptist), A. J. Gernenz, executive secretary; Baptist General Conference, Midwest Conference, Harold Christenson, chairman of the public affairs committee; North American Baptist General Conference, Frank Woyke, executive secretary;

Illinois Baptist State Missionary and Education Convention (National Baptist), Luke Mingo, president; Chicago Baptist Association (American Baptist), W. A. Diman, executive secretary; Baptist General State Convention (National Baptist, Inc.), J. Alfred Wilson, president; and Baptist State Convention of Illinois (National Baptist, Inc.), C. V. Johnson, president.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C., cooperated with the Illinois groups in planning the conferences.

Pressing church-state problems both on the national scene and in the State of Illinois were considered by the Baptist groups. Three questions were posed as these problems were discussed:

- (1) To what extent should the churches or their agencies accept Government aid for the accomplishment of church objectives?
- (2) To what extent should the Government use the churches and their agencies for national objectives?
- (3) What is meant by "cooperation" or "partnership" between the churches and Government, and what are the limits of such cooperation?

National religious liberty problems were considered under the headings of aids to education, public health, welfare services, civil defense, and taxation.

Many religious liberty problems in Illinois were aired by the Baptist pastors. A partial list includes: censorship, blue laws, religion in the public schools, the churches and tax policies, purchase of churches by the state as historic shrines, zoning problems involving the location of new churches, and problems involving churches and their institutions in redevelopment areas.

Although the conferences were unofficial and made no pronouncements on any subject, the groups faced realistically the question on what Baptists can do to implement their Christian witness in the area of religious liberty.

Among the suggestions made were these:

- (1) The Baptist preaching ministry could be made more effective by relating Biblical insights to the current problems faced by the churches.
- (2) The educational programs of the churches and of the denominational agencies could be geared in more closely to the relevance of Baptist principles to current issues.
- (3) Church members should become more active in community and civic affairs in order to exercise the stewardship of their Christian influence.

(4) Baptist institutional policies should be closely related to Baptist principles of religious liberty.

(5) A continuation of Baptist conferences in order to clarify insights, to face realistically the issues of the day, and to decide on proper procedures for the implementation of the Baptist witness.

-30-

Interfaith Resolution
Approved By Senate

(5-10-61)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- The United States Senate has approved a resolution which would establish the fourth Sunday in September as "Interfaith Day."

If passed by the Congress the resolution would "authorize and request" the President of the United States to issue an Interfaith Day proclamation "calling on the people of the United States to observe such day, and urging the participation of all Americans and all religious groups in the United States."

Sen. Kenneth B. Keating (R., N.Y.) has introduced the resolution in the Senate during past sessions of Congress. He has been joined this year by Rep. Lester Holtzman (D., N.Y.) and Rep. William F. Ryan (D., N.Y.).

In the preamble to the resolution Keating said that "the fomenting of antagonism between Americans on a basis of sectarian creed is contrary to American traditions and to the spirit of the guarantees of freedom of worship embodied in the Constitution of the United States."

Another "whereas" declares it to be the policy of Congress to encourage the mutual understanding of all people of good will. It further commended "the interfaith movement" by saying that it offers a practicable means for encouraging such mutual understanding.

The resolution has been referred to the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, of which Rep. Emanuel Celler (D., N.Y.) is chairman. A similar resolution was passed by the Senate in 1959, but it died in the Judiciary Committee of the House upon adjournment of Congress.

-30-

Newspaper Points Out
School Loan Dilemma

(5-10-61)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Complicated church-state problems are involved in a proposed revision of the National Defense Education Act, according to an editorial in the Washington Post, prominent daily newspaper here.

Sen. Maurine B. Neuberger (D., Ore.) inserted the editorial in the Congressional Record. She said that it "brilliantly describes the dilemma facing many in our Nation today over the scope of Federal aid to education and any provision of assistance to parochial schools."

The editorial discussed some of the difficulties involved in the proposal to expand the loan provision of the National Defense Education Act to include classroom construction for the teaching of science, mathematics and foreign languages in private schools. At present the NDEA provides loans for equipment and the remodeling of facilities to teach these subjects.

The question raised by the editorial was whether or not the expansion of the NDEA loan provisions would "be used as an entering wedge for much broader aid to parochial schools."

The Washington Post pointed out a distinction between "equipment" made available to private schools and "classrooms" provided by the Government for general purposes. The editorial said:

"The Supreme Court has specifically ruled that public schools may not be used for religious instruction. If the proposed compromise were voted, would Congress require supervision of science, mathematics and foreign language buildings at church schools to make certain that they would not be used for religious purposes? Could the clergy teach or speak in such buildings?"

The editorial concluded that the complications involved in such aids to private schools "might more than offset any financial relief to be gained from loans of this character. There seems to be no safe way of intermingling what the Constitution and sound public policy have kept separate."

-30-

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
W. BARRY GARRETT, REGIONAL EDITOR
1628—16th St., N. W., Washington, 9, D. C.
Telephone: ADams 2-1760

May 10, 1961

Special to WESTERN RECORDER

**Minister Has Prayer
In Congress**

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Kentucky Baptist pastor and chaplain led the prayer opening the House session of Congress here on Tuesday, May 9.

Walter C. House, of 2309 Taylorsville Rd., Louisville, was the visiting chaplain in the United States House of Representatives.

In his prayer, House expressed thankfulness for a "sacred trust" given this Nation "to preserve freedom for the world and to foster the idea of the individual dignity of man," and asked for God's counsel for the men of responsibility in this Government.

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
W. BARRY GARRETT, REGIONAL EDITOR
1628—16th St., N. W., Washington, 9, D. C.
Telephone: ADams 2-1760

May 10, 1961

Special to WESTERN RECORDER

Minister Has Prayer In Congress

WASHINGTON (BP)—A Kentucky Baptist pastor and chaplain led the prayer opening the House session of Congress here on Tuesday, May 9.

Walter C. House, of 2309 Taylorsville Rd., Louisville, was the visiting chaplain in the United States House of Representatives.

In his prayer, House expressed thankfulness for a "sacred trust" given this Nation "to preserve freedom for the world and to foster the idea of the individual dignity of man," and asked for God's counsel for the men of responsibility in this Government.