

April 19, 1962

Branch Requests Study
Toward Social Action

LOUISVILLE (BP)--A North Carolina Baptist leader said here Southern Baptists have been "at one and the same time intensely evangelistic and almost as intensely anti-social."

The speaker, Douglas M. Branch, addressed the Church and Social Work Conference at Carver School of Missions and Social work here, a Southern Baptist Convention institution.

Branch, general secretary, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Raleigh, continued:

"Southern Baptists probably have as much concern and social consciousness as any church group, but we have very inadequate means of communicating or implementing that concern.

"If our spiritual and social impact stood in proportion to our numerical strength," he said, "Southern Baptists would become a compelling kingdom force for moral, spiritual and social transformation."

Turning his attention to the growing number of elderly persons in America, the North Carolina secretary reported that, based on present size, Southern Baptists are responsible to two million aged, only half of whom are now members of Southern Baptist churches.

He said Baptists should not look on the aged as a "herd" but must remember "each individual represents a particular individual circumstance."

The three types of ministry Branch said Southern Baptists offer for the aging are (1) residence care, (2) reading matter and (3) local church programs suited to their needs.

In conclusion, Branch urged the Southern Baptist Convention to study the entire area of its social responsibility, in order to define its role. "Then," he said, "we will be in a position to formulate a coordinated long-range program of Christian social action."

The Church and Social Work Conference, third of its kind, also took up the problem of alcoholism, child care in institutions and juvenile delinquency.

More than 300 persons registered for the conference.

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Senator Lauds Raleigh
Pastor For Position

(4-19-62)

WASHINGTON (BP)--Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D., N.C.) has praised a North Carolina Baptist minister for his observations about church and state.

The senator included in his remarks in the Congressional Record a sermon by W. W. Finlator, pastor of the Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, Raleigh, N. C. He said the minister dealt "in a most illuminating way with the respective roles of church and state."

Finlator's message on "Christ in Congress" dealt with the so-called Christian amendment to the Constitution, which is before Congress. He said the amendment has "ominous overtones and dark suggestions to which we ought to be alerted."

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The amendment states, "This nation devoutly recognizes the authority and law of Jesus Christ, Savior and Ruler of nations, through whom are bestowed the blessings of Almighty God."

Finlator said that in plain language, this "officially escorts Christ into Congress and proclaims America officially Christian." He made three observations:

1. Such action would make final a national faith which is more than any established church in Europe.
2. In declaring the nation Christian, it would also declare the diplomacy and foreign policy of the country as "undeviatingly Christian."
3. It is a "dismal commentary" on the depth of theological thinking to call America "Christian" with its growing crime rate flaunting of moral standards, racial hostilities, and worship of money values and status symbols.

The Baptist minister said the advocates of the so-called Christian amendment set religion and citizen against citizen. By putting Christ in the Constitution, he said they hoped to end all theological struggle.

He called for opposition to "that mentality which is afraid for the witness of our faith to stand upon its own feet in the free and open clashing market of clashing ideologies and philosophies."

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EDITORS: The following is a change in the Convention program for San Francisco for Friday morning, June 8. It revises the previous agenda for the period of time, 10:45 to but not including 11:20. Here is the revised version:

- 10:45 Committee on Denominational Calendar, Allen W. Graves, Ky., chairman.
- 10:50 Historical Commission, Davis C. Woolley, Tenn., executive secretary.
- 10:55 Committee on Public Affairs, C. Emanuel Carlson, D. C., executive director (Joint Committee); Walter Pope Binns, Mo., chairman.
- 11:00 Address: "Baptist Heritage and Religious Liberty," Robert A. Baker, Tex.

End revision.

Baptist Press, Nashville.

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Folks and Facts.....

(4-19-62)

.....A traveling tip if you're not in a hurry to go or return from the Southern Baptist Convention at San Francisco: Holders of Western clergy permits may use them on Canadian National and Canadian Pacific trains from Seattle to St. Paul via Vancouver, the Canadian Rockies and Winnipeg. Fares to and from Seattle via Canada are essentially the same as via direct lines inside the United States. (BP)

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.....Miss Anderine Farmer will become director of Baptist student activities at University of Kansas, Lawrence. A student at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., she was for 10 years student director for Kansas City (Mo.) Baptist Association. (BP)

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Union, Corpus Christi
Name Honorary Degrees

By the Baptist Press

Two Southern Baptist colleges have announced honorary degrees to be awarded.

Paul Harvey, news commentator for American Broadcasting Co. (ABC), Chicago, will be given the doctor of humanities degree from Union University, Jackson, Tenn. Harvey will deliver the commencement address there on May 28.

Other honoraries from Union then will go to:

Fred Wood, pastor, Eudora Baptist Church, Memphis; Union graduate. He will get the doctor of divinity degree.

W. A. Pennington, professor of metallurgy and chemical engineering at University of Maryland, College Park, Md., Union alumnus, on whom will be conferred the doctor of science degree.

University of Corpus Christi, in the Texas city of the same name, will present the honorary doctor of divinity degree to William H. Colson, secretary of city missions in Corpus Christi.

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Lansdell-Weatherspoon
Wed At Wake Forest

(4-19-62)

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Miss Emily K. Lansdell, professor of missions, and J. B. Weatherspoon, visiting professor of preaching, both of the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary faculty here, were married April 14.

The ceremony took place at the home of Seminary President S. L. Stealey here. Stealey and O. T. Binkley, dean of the seminary faculty, officiated.

Other than Mr. and Mrs. Stealey and Mr. and Mrs. Binkley, only relatives of the bride and groom were present.

Weatherspoon came to the Southeastern faculty on Aug. 1, 1959 from a position as professor of preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Miss Lansdell came to the local school about the same time from presidency of Carver School of Missions and Social Work, also in Louisville.

All of the institutions are operated by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Weatherspoon will continue his teaching assignment next year, but Mrs. Weatherspoon will resign from the faculty here on Aug. 1. The Weatherspoons plan for the time being to make their home in Wake Forest.

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Folks and Facts.....

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(4-19-62)

....H. E. Barefoot, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary assistant professor of New Testament interpretation, has accepted a position as professor of religion at Union University (Baptist), Jackson, Tenn. He will teach New Testament and Greek beginning with the fall semester. (BP)

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BAPTIST PRESS

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