

May 3, 1962

Wake Forest Open Now  
Minus Racial Barriers

By John E. Roberts

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. (BP)--Trustees of Wake Forest College voted here, 17 to 9, to remove all race barriers for undergraduate admission to the North Carolina Baptist school. Four trustees abstained from voting on the issue.

The board also, by a later 16 to 4 margin, declined to take action against Russell Brantley, Wake Forest College's director of communications, for his book "The Education of Jonathon Beam," with a setting generally recognized as the local Baptist campus.

The graduate schools, night school and summer sessions had been open to Negroes for more than a year.

Brantley, a Wake Forest graduate and former newspaperman, has been communications officer for the college since 1953. The book was released by the Macmillan Co. two months ago. It is now in a second printing.

J. Marse Grant, Raleigh, editor of the Biblical Recorder, North Carolina Baptist publication, attacked the book and its author in the April 28 issue following earlier criticism. He stated editorially the "Wake Forest image" must be improved in the eyes of North Carolina Baptists.

He sent advance copies of the editorial and accompanying letter to all Wake Forest trustees prior to the April 27 meeting, urging them to take action on this matter and reminding them that Baptists in the state "may be slow to act but they can act decisively when sufficiently aroused."

Attorney Irving Carlisle of Winston-Salem, a Wake Forest trustee, disclosed his letter to the Winston-Salem Journal which in turn ridiculed Grant in an answering editorial on the morning of the board meeting.

Another Wake Forest trustee, Wendell Davis, pastor of Midwood Baptist Church, Charlotte, had stated repeatedly to the press prior to the meeting that Brantley should be dismissed and the book censured as offensive to North Carolina Baptists.

The refusal to censure Brantley came at the end of a seven-hour meeting, the latter two hours of which were devoted to discussion of Brantley's book. The author was present and was quizzed at length by members of the board.

Only 20 trustees were present when the vote was taken shortly before 6 P.M. Earlier in the day, 30 of the 36 board members were there.

Brantley's novel portrays the struggles and pitfalls that face a country boy from a strict Baptist family during his freshman year at an imaginary Convention College.

Among other "worldly indulgences" Jonathan learns to dance. The time is 1957; significantly this is the same year the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina ordered that dancing be stopped on the campus at Wake Forest.

One trustee said following the meeting that "we have not heard the last of this---not by any means." He said the matter will come up at the Baptist State Convention in Raleigh next November.

This was the only comment from trustees following the closed meeting. Ironically, the follow-up press conference was directed by Brantley, official spokesman for the college in press relations. Present were 25 representatives of the press, radio and TV.

Young Women To See  
Appointment Service

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--A missionary appointment service will feature the opening session of the Young Woman's Auxiliary Conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, N. C., June 14-20.

Elmer S. West, Richmond, secretary of the department of missionary personnel for the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board, will conduct a service appointing four missionaries for service overseas.

"To Make Christ Known" is the theme of the week, announces Miss Doris DeVault, Birmingham, director of the Young Woman's Auxiliary department for Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to SBC.

Addresses on current issues, missionary messages, workshops and vocational conferences are among the activities planned. Foreign and home missionaries, denominational leaders and Woman's Union staff members will comprise the program personnel. International students will be guests.

-30-

Indiana Quarter  
Ahead On Collections

(5-3-62)

PLAINFIELD, Ind. (BP)--Indiana Southern Baptists contributed more than required to meet their state Cooperative Program budget during the first quarter of 1962.

Executive Secretary E. Harmon Moore of Plainfield told the Executive Board of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana here that collections amounted to \$32,841. The quarter's requirements were \$32,125.

Area Missionary C. E. Wiley of Evansville, Ind., presented a painting from the easel of his 19-year-old son, Bob. The painting, depicting a war memorial in Indianapolis, is to be offered for display in the dining hall at Ridgecrest, N. C., Baptist Assembly representing Indiana.

The convention reported six new churches organized during the first quarter of 1962, bringing the total to 162 churches.

-30-

Plane Fire Excites  
Laymen's Revival Trip

(5-3-62)

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (BP)--A smouldering fire in a chartered DC-3 airliner's starboard engine delayed briefly here a Southern Baptist laymen's group as they traveled to help lead a revival in the North Hollywood Southern Baptist Church.

The plane made an emergency landing here, although damage was slight. After repairs, the 30 laymen from the First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Tex., continued their journey to North Hollywood where they visited in homes as part of a personal soul-winning effort.

Winfred Moore, pastor of the church in Amarillo, was evangelist during the revival at the North Hollywood Southern Baptist Church.

-30-