

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

103 Baptist Building, Dallas 1, Texas
Telephone: Office — RIVERSIDE 1-1996

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Baptist Group Upholds Court Prayer Decision

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in semi-annual session voted concurrence with the Supreme Court decision in the New York Regents' Prayer Case and opposed any alteration of the first amendment.

The court's decision to ban "official" governmental prayers in public schools has met with widespread opposition throughout the nation, and many proposals to change the first amendment to offset the court's action have been offered in Congress.

During the heat of the discussion following the court's decision June 29, the staff of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs took a strong stand upholding the position of the court. C. Emanuel Carlson is the executive director and W. Barry Garrett is the associate.

In its first meeting since the prayer ruling the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs commended the staff for the positions they took.

The statement approved by the committee agreed with the court that prayer "composed by government officials as a part of a governmental program to further religious beliefs" is and should be unconstitutional.

The court and the committee said that it is not the business of government to compose prayers for the people and that this "purely religious function" should be left to the people themselves and to those the people choose to look to for religious guidance.

The committee's action said, "We find that in the decision in the New York Regents' Prayer Case the court made no attempt to limit or restrict the prayer life of the people, but that the decision was a restraint on government from regulating such prayer life."

In response to the current cries for a change in the Constitution the committee said, "It is our belief that the first amendment provides satisfactory safeguards for the religious liberty of our people and of our churches. Since it clearly states that there shall be no establishment of religion and that the free exercise of religion shall not be prohibited, we believe that the first amendment should stand unaltered as it now appears in the Bill of Rights."

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs re-elected Bryan F. Archibald as chairman. He is pastor of the Chevy Chase Baptist Church in the District of Columbia.

Other officers are Walter Pope Binns of Falls Church, Va., first vice-chairman; Frank H. Woyke of Chicago, second vice-chairman; and Foy Valentine, Nashville, secretary.

The committee received a report from a group of 30 from Maryland, the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia that studied the problem of higher education in the national capital area.

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They referred the idea of a research and continuation center to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs for further study. It will be discussed at the March meeting.

In another action the committee received a paper on "A Baptist Rationale on Prayer, Bible Reading and Other Religious Practices In Education." It was voted that the executive director give such publicity to this paper as may be advisable during the national discussion on these problems.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs is maintained by the American Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist General Conference, the North American Baptist General Conference, two National Negro conventions and the Baptist Federation of Canada.

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1964 Laymen's Crusade
Planned On West Coast

(10-5-62)

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--A giant effort by Baptist laymen to share the Gospel with the unsaved population of California, Oregon, and Washington in a special evangelistic campaign during 1964 was disclosed by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and the Home Mission Board.

Known as the West Coast Laymen's Crusade, the event is planned for July 22-26 in 1,200 churches and missions in the three states.

Plans call for the enlistment of 1,500 laymen from throughout the Southern Baptist Convention to help West Coast Baptists witness to the lost.

Sponsors of the crusade are the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, Southern Baptist General Convention of California, and the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington.

The Brotherhood Commission will supervise the enlistment of Baptist laymen from each state.

The laymen will travel to and from their West Coast assignments at their own expense, sponsors said. Their primary duties will be to give their testimonies, speak and take part in soul-winning visitation.

Idea for a laymen's crusade on such a massive scale was first projected by Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., an industrialist and member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The suggestion found favor with Grady C. Cothen, executive secretary of California's Southern Baptists; Fred Moseley, executive secretary of Southern Baptists in Oregon and Washington; Courts Redford, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board, and George W. Schroeder, executive secretary of the Brotherhood Commission.

Redford said the Home Mission Board will supervise the planning and operation of the project through its division of evangelism.

The Brotherhood Commission and Home Mission Board through state leaders and missionaries have been conducting laymen's crusades in pioneer missions areas for several years.

The assistance laymen normally provide includes taking a religious census, giving testimonies, witnessing, and starting new churches.

Such projects this year are expected to involve about 1,500 laymen.

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Seven Baptist Bodies Seek Continuing Cooperation

WASHINGTON (BP)--The unprecedented cooperation being maintained among seven Baptist bodies in North America because of the 1959-1964 Baptist Jubilee Advance program will likely continue beyond 1964 as a result of action taken here by the Joint Baptist Jubilee Advance Committee.

Baptist Jubilee Advance is a five-year effort to step up the rate of growth in various phases of work maintained by the participating Baptist groups.

The advance period is to be climaxed by a third jubilee celebration in Atlantic City, N. J., May 22-24, 1964, marking the 150th anniversary of Baptists' first national organization.

A committee was appointed here to recommend Post-Jubilee Advance arrangements for continuing cooperation among Baptist bodies in the United States and Canada.

Representing the Southern Baptist Convention on the committee are C. C. Warren, Charlotte, N. C.; Albert McClellan, Nashville; E. S. James, Dallas.

The study committee will also have representatives from the American Baptist Convention, the Baptist Federation of Canada, the North American Baptist General Conference, the Seventh Day Baptist Conference, the National Baptist Convention of America, and the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.

Plans for inter-fellowship cooperation beyond 1964 will be submitted for action to the separate Baptist bodies before they are put into effect, according to C. C. Warren, permanent vice-chairman of the Joint Baptist Jubilee Advance Committee.

In another action the Joint Baptist Jubilee Advance Committee approved tentative program suggestions for the 1964 meeting in Atlantic City.

The 40,000 persons expected to attend the meeting will hear the first performance of an oratorio written especially for the occasion. Theme for the meeting will be "For Liberty and Light."

The Atlantic City celebration of Baptists will begin on Friday evening, May 22, 1964, and close Sunday afternoon, May 24.

Approval was given for the development of a jointly sponsored Baptist exhibit in the Protestant Center at the 1964-65 New York World's Fair.

New officers chosen to serve the Joint Baptist Jubilee Advance Committee during 1962-63 are Leon Maltby, Plainfield, N. J., chairman; (C. C. Warren is permanent vice-chairman); W. Hubert Porter, Valley Forge, Pa., secretary; and Porter Routh, Nashville, treasurer.

Maltby is editor of the Sabbath Recorder and secretary of the Seventh Day Baptist Tract Society.

The next meeting of the Joint Baptist Jubilee Advance Committee will be March 11-12, 1963 at the American Baptist Convention Building, Valley Forge, Pa. Keynote speaker for the occasion will be Ralph Herring of Jackson, Miss.

Temperance League
Uses Baptist Talent

By Erwin L. McDonald

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (BP)--Southern Baptists were represented by 14 temperance leaders at the biennial meeting of National Temperance League, Inc. here. These and 10 other Southern Baptists were named to boards and committees of the league.

Walter House, former Southern Baptist pastor who heads the Dry Forces of the State of Kentucky, was asked by the league to continue to serve as acting executive-director for the national organization until a newly-elected executive-director arrives.

Caradine R. Hooten, noted Methodist leader of Washington, D. C., assumes that office sometime next year.

The following Southern Baptists were elected or re-elected to boards and committees for the coming two years:

To the board: James G. Harris, Fort Worth; R. R. Holton, Dallas; Theron H. King, West Frankfort, Ill.; Jerry McBride, Little Rock, Ark; James B. Ray, Dan A. Ray and Roger P. Jones, all of Phoenix, Ariz.

W. B. Timberlake, Los Angeles, Calif.; Jack Eppes, Lakeland, Fla.; Edgar R. Cooper, Jacksonville Beach, Fla.; Roy S. Hollomon, Topeka, Kan.; Verlin C. Kruschwitz, Elizabethtown, Ky.

William McCormack, Shreveport, La.; O. R. Shields, St. Louis; D. P. McFarland, Raleigh, N. C.; and Henry G. Langford, Roanoke, Va.

Board members at large: Ramsey Pollard, Memphis; J. D. Grey, New Orleans; Foy Valentine, Nashville; Duke K. McCall (former Temperance League president), Louisville; Millard J. Berquist, Kansas City, Mo., and Erwin L. McDonald, Little Rock.

Executive Committee at large: McCall and McDonald. McDonald was appointed also to the league's finance and publicity committees.

Foy Valentine was named a vice-president of the league.

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Baptist Women of World
Set Offering for Relief

(10-5-62)

WASHINGTON (BP)--Day of prayer offerings by Baptist women on six continents will be used to relieve sufferings of people who are hungry, homeless and in need of clothing, the Baptist World Alliance relief committee was told here.

The Baptist day of prayer will be observed Dec. 7, 1962, said Mrs. R. L. Mathis of Waco, Tex., president of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and treasurer of the woman's department of the Baptist World Alliance.

Offerings for relief will be received on that day to aid a Baptist home for refugees in Australia, Chinese refugees in Hong Kong, and Cuban refugees in the United States, Mrs. Mathis said.

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Baptists have extensive relief work among these peoples, and the need for additional funds is great, said R. Dean Goodwin, chairman of the Alliance Relief Committee.

The committee cited as other areas of critical relief need:

1. Europe, where food packages, clothing and medicines are being provided for people whose situation is critical;
2. Burma, where simple farm tools and seeds help farmers whose farms have been destroyed by flood or fire;
3. Africa, where unrest in Angola and the Congo has made many thousands of people homeless; and
4. Camerouns and Liberia, where food, clothing, and shelter are badly need d.

Adolfs Klaupiks, relief coordinator of the Baptist World Alliance, reported that these needs and others had been brought before a consultation on relief last August in Oslo, Norway, when the Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance met there.

Klaupiks also stated that recent floods near Barcelona, Spain, had created other needs, and that there is a request for used clothing for people in remote areas of Brazil and Bolivia.

He added that people interested in relief in many Baptist Conventions asked for more information about relief so they could make their offerings to help where the need is greatest.

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Mississippi Church Given
Trust Fund for Youth Work

(10-5-62)

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (BP)--A gift in excess of \$50,000 has been presented to the First Baptist Church of Hattiesburg, Miss., for the support of a unique youth program.

The donors, who wish to remain anonymous, are the parents of teenage girls active in the entire church program.

The gift included 890 shares of common stock of Standard Oil of New Jersey, and \$5,000 cash. The stock will be held in trust by a foundation now being chartered by the church. Cash yield from the stock will be administered by a special church committee to promote the youth program.

The donors described a youth program far in excess of the "ping-pong approach" to youth work.

The program includes research into local needs and resources, youth counseling and evaluation, expansion of the Royal Ambassador and Girl's Auxiliary programs, music programs in smaller churches of the area, library books, visual aids, and equipment for youth activities.

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Virginia Picks Man
For Assistant's Post

RICHMOND (BP)--The Virginia Baptist General Board here called a new assistant executive secretary and voted to recommend a \$3.4 million 1963 Cooperative Program goal to the General Association.

The new assistant to the executive secretary, effective Nov. 1, is J. C. Hatfield, who has been associate in the state Sunday School department for the past four years.

The \$3.4 million budget, containing no preferred items, will be divided with the state keeping 64 per cent for work in Virginia. The remaining 36 per cent will go for worldwide work through Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

The board also approved Baptist student center projects at two state-supported universities for women--at Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, and at Longwood College in Farmville.

Hatfield, a layman who hails from South Carolina, holds a degree in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

He formerly served as education director for churches in Greensboro, N. C., Washington, D. C., and Greenville and Florence, S. C. He specializes in administration and adult work.

The budget is subject to adoption by the Baptist General Association of Virginia when it meets Nov. 13-15 at Alexandria.

The project at Mary Washington College will be the first unit of three, with a total cost for the three of \$65,000. The first unit will be ready next year.

The same estimated cost is for the center for Baptist students at Longwood College.

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Seminary Furnishes
700 For Field Work

(10-5-62)

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Approximately 700 students from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary are engaged in some type of field work in Louisville and the six-state surrounding area.

Field work, designed to coordinate study in the classroom with practical experience as a pastor, music director or Christian counselor, is required of every regular student studying for a professional degree at Southern Seminary.

Approximately 310 students serve as pastors, associate pastors or supply pastors. Forty others work in pioneer missions in Kentucky, Indiana, West Virginia and Ohio.

Positions as church musicians and choir leaders are filled by 75 students; approximately 75 others teach Sunday School classes and lead in Training Union. Fifty are doing education work and 25 are counseling youth groups.

Over 100 other students work as chaplains, instructors, pastoral interns and otherwise assist in the field of hospital and evangelistic visitation.

Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio and Tennessee churches are served each year by Southern Seminary students. A few are pastors of churches as far away as Michigan and Alabama.

Students are required to make periodic reports on their field work activities at special meetings held throughout the semester. Regular conferences are also held on Missionary Day, when practical problems encountered on the field are discussed.

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Dr. W. C. Fields
Executive Committee
127 Ninth Ave., North
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