

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

R. T. McCartney, regional editor
103 Baptist Building, Dallas 1, Texas
Telephone: Office — RIVERSIDE 1-1996

March 8, 1963

**Billy Graham Cancels
Japan Crusade Plans**

TOKYO, Japan (BP)--Evangelist Billy Graham, suffering from "an acute undetermined infection," has cancelled plans to participate in the Japan Baptist New Life Movement.

The vast nation-wide evangelistic crusade, sponsored by the Japan Baptist Convention, will go on as planned without Graham as a speaker.

News of Graham's cancellation sounded a note of disappointment in the New Life Movement office here, but crusade leaders stated they were not discouraged and will continue their meetings.

Shuichi Matsumura, director of the vast crusade, said that Graham's cancellation has caused Japanese Baptists to redouble their crusade efforts, and that the Japan Baptist Convention has been called to prayer for Graham's recovery.

Matsumura said that the Movement was not planned as "a Billy Graham Evangelistic Team Crusade," but rather, Graham was speaking at five area-wide meetings as the guest of the Japan Baptist Convention.

Missionary W. H. "Dub" Jackson, associate director of the Movement, said "we are concerned about Graham's health, but this campaign has never been dependent upon a man or upon men--but rather upon God."

"We are depending upon God to bring a real spiritual victory to Japan regardless of this great disappointment," said Jackson.

In a telegram to the New Life Movement office here, Graham expressed deep regrets for being forced to cancel his assignments in the crusade.

Doctors at St. Francis Hospital (Catholic) in Honolulu advised the famed evangelist to cancel all engagements. He had been in Honolulu for two weeks recuperating from pneumonia.

Graham had also been scheduled to lead his own team revivals in Manila, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. The Graham evangelistic team will conduct the crusades there without him.

As a part of the Japan New Life Movement, Graham had been scheduled to open an area-wide crusade in Tokyo, and to bring the closing message at similar area-wide meetings in Nagoya, Sappora, Kokura and Fukuoka. The meeting in Tokyo, first of the five, will begin March 30.

The area meetings will be followed by revivals in 147 Japan cities, with about 600 evangelists, laymen and musicians from the United States assisting.

Messages from the meetings will be beamed into homes of millions of Japanese through radio and television in an effort to reach the entire nation of 94 million people with the Gospel.

(more)

Crusades have also been scheduled in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore, Okinawa, South Korea, Guam, and Taiwan as part of the Asian New Life Movement.

The New Life Movement is co-sponsored by the Japan Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

-30-

Staff Changes Made
In Texas Convention

(3-8-63)

DALLAS (BP)--The Texas Baptist Executive Board meeting here named Jack Terrell, minister of music for the First Baptist Church of Houston, as associate in the state Church Music Department.

Terrell, who will assume the position April 30, will develop a new program of work designed to help small churches, especially congregations without a full-time music director, to improve their music ministry.

The 192-member board also heard A. C. Wimpee, associate in the Texas Baptist Brotherhood Department since 1954, read a letter of resignation, effective April 30.

Wimpee told the board he plans to enter a new field of service in public relations and sales promotion for a food concern, H. L. H. Food Products. The organization, owned by Dallas millionaire H. L. Hunt, operates 12 food processing plants throughout the United States.

In other staff changes, Robert G. Bowers, associate in the Texas Baptist Endowment Department for the past seven years, has been named assistant trust officer for the Baptist Foundation of Texas.

Bowers, who served on the Baptist Foundation staff for two years, 1954-56, will assist in the operation of Crazy Water Hotel in Mineral Wells, Tex., and various other trust and investment matters handled by the Foundation.

Calvin Reeves, secretary of the convention's Endowment Department, had earlier resigned to accept a position as attorney-advisor for the U. S. Small Business Administration with offices in Dallas.

-30-

Texas Committee Suggests
District Missions Changes

(3-8-63)

DALLAS (BP)--A 24-member Texas Baptist Missions Study Committee recommended sweeping changes in the state convention's district and association missions program during the quarterly meeting of the state Executive Board here.

The 192-member Executive Board took no action on the report, deciding to postpone the vote until the June board meeting after a series of briefing meetings to inform Baptist people in the state of the proposed changes.

The complex re-organization recommendations, if approved by the board and districts and associations within the state, would gradually disband the organizations of 17 districts in the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Instead of the 17 large districts, smaller organization units called "areas" would be created. Each area would be composed of one to four associations and would employ an area missions secretary to coordinate and promote missionary efforts within the area.

(more)

There would be about 50 areas in the state, grouped into metropolitan, semi-metropolitan and town-and-country classifications. The state convention would provide a salary supplement for the area missionary on a sliding scale which would be larger for small areas and smaller for large areas.

The plan would reduce the total cost of the district and association missions program by nearly \$57,000 to a total cost of \$231,000, said W. E. Denham of Houston, chairman of the Missions Study Committee which evaluated the district and association missions program for nearly two years.

The proposal would reduce the number of district and association missionaries now employed from 72 positions at present to 49 positions under the "area" plan. The committee pointed out, however, that all present district and association missionaries would be used under the proposal, and no one would lose his job.

Main purpose of the proposed change, said Denham, is to prevent overlapping of missionary efforts of the districts and the associations.

Motion to postpone a vote on the proposal was made by Buford Harrell, a Baptist pastor from San Benito, Tex., who said: "Right now I'm too bewildered to vote for it, and too cooperative to vote against it."

In other action, the 192-member board adopted a program of continuing capital giving to Baptist institutions in Texas through the convention's churches, approved the purchase of 10 acres of land in San Antonio, Tex., as a new campus site for Mexican Baptist Bible Institute in that city; and heard progress reports on the Japan Baptist New Life Movement and the proposed move of Decatur Baptist College to Dallas.

-30-

Sermons' Second Preaching Results in 251 Decisions

GIRDLETREE, Md. (BP)--A Southern Baptist pastor here has found a new and effective way of using the sermons preached by Southern Baptist Convention President Herschel H. Hobbs on "The Baptist Hour" each week.

Elmer H. Pryor, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Girdletree, said he and his young people conduct an evangelistic jail service each week using Hobb's printed "Baptist Hour" sermons.

During a three year period, there have been 251 professions of faith as a result of the jail services.

In a letter to Hobbs, Pryor said that the young people do most of the preaching in the services. "They love to use your sermons from 'The Beam.' So you can see that they (the sermons) have a second use for the glory of God," he said.

Hobbs, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, is permanent preacher for "The Baptist Hour," a 30-minute radio worship service produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth.

-30-

Baylor Gets Copy
Of Rare Old Bible

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Baylor University here has been given a rare copy of one of the world's most valuable Biblical manuscripts, the "Codex Sinaiticus."

The full-scale collotype of the Old Testament portion of the rare manuscript was the gift of Raymond E. Hankamer, a Houston businessman.

The "Codex Sinaiticus" is a fourth century Greek manuscript of the Bible, and was discovered by Konstantin von Tischendorf in the Monastery of St. Catherine at the foot of Mount Sinai in 1859.

Kyle Yates, professor in Baylor's department of religion, said that the "Sinaiticus" is second in value only to the "Codex Vaticanus."

The original of the Sinaiticus is now owned by the British Museum, which purchased it in 1933 for 100,000 pounds from the U.S.S.R. government.

The rare copy, a full-scale photographic reproduction of the original, was acquired through the combined efforts of Hankamer, Yates and Joseph Kelly, a Houston dealer in rare books.

Kelly said that the 245 facsimile pages of the "Codex" were probably published in 1922 from plates secured in 1913 while the originals were in three separate locations in Russia. The thick, heavy pages of the copy are about 15 inches wide by 12 inches long, held together by thin thread.

Baylor Librarian Roscoe Rouse said he believed not more than a dozen libraries in the entire United States have copies of "Codex Sinaiticus."

Rouse said that Baylor teachers were very anxious to get their hands on the manuscripts and to show their students what a Bible in an original manuscript looks like.

-30-

Baptist Hospitals Featured
In NBC Radio Show Series

(3-8-63)

FORT WORTH (BP)--A series of four radio programs carried nationwide on the National Broadcasting Co.'s weekly "Faith In Action" program feature the work of Southern Baptist hospitals.

The series, produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here, deals with the work of the chaplain, the psychiatrist, the physician, and takes up a training program being conducted for chaplain interns.

Participating on the programs from Baylor Medical Center (Baptist) in Dallas are Chaplain B. F. Bennett, head of the department of religion; Dr. Marion Nelson, psychiatrist, and Dr. James Krafft, physician.

The intern program to train chaplains is conducted at Baptist Memorial Hospital, Houston.

"Faith in Action" is a 15-minute program carried by many NBC radio stations throughout the nation. The four-program series is slated each Sunday, March 10, 17, 24, and 31.

-30-

Slate of Speakers Named
For Howard Payne Emphasis

BROWNWOOD, Tex. (BP)--A slate of eight speakers, including the president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has been named for the eighth annual Democracy-In-Action Week at Howard Payne (Baptist) College here April 1-5.

Principal speakers include SBC President Herschel Hobbs of Oklahoma City, Radio Commentator Paul Harvey, Peace Corps Deputy Director Bill Moyers, and U. S. Senator John Tower (R., Tex.).

Other principal speakers include Princess Catherine Caradja of Romania, refugee from behind the Iron Curtain; Robert Morris, attorney and former president of the University of Dallas; W. D. McCain, president of the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Miss.; and State Legislator Ben Barnes of DeLeon, Tex.

-30-

Luncheon Winds Up
Women's Convention

(3-8-63)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Members of Woman's Missionary Union who attend its annual meeting here May 6-7 will have opportunity to glimpse into the past at a 75th anniversary luncheon.

The luncheon, one of a series of events planned to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the organization of Woman's Missionary Union, is set for Tuesday at 1:30 at the Muehlebach Hotel. It will be the closing session of the annual meeting.

Distinguished leaders of Woman's Missionary Union of other years will be honored guests, as will home and foreign missionaries.

Miss Alma Hunt, Birmingham, executive secretary of the Union will present with narration and tableaux, scenes from the interesting and colorful history of the organization. Miss Hunt is writing its history, to be released in 1964.

Everyone who attends the luncheon may wear a 75th anniversary dress. However, those who do not have a costume will feel right at home as they represent the current era in Woman's Missionary Union life, said Miss Hunt.

Miss Hunt reports reservations, at \$3.50 each for the luncheon are already coming into Union headquarters at Birmingham. Only a limited number of tickets are available.

-30-

Baylor Drama Faculty
Resigns in Protest

(3-8-63)

WACO, Tex. (BP)--The entire Baylor University drama department faculty, including Chairman Paul Baker, resigned from the staff of the Baptist school, charging that the administration "has a lack of confidence in us and our work."

Their protest came as a result of the administration's decision to close last December productions of Eugene O'Neill's prize-winning play, "Long Day's Journey Into Night," because the play's profane language "is not in keeping with the university's ideals."

The 12 drama department faculty members, in a five-page resignation statement, said that to continue their work at Baylor would be "unfair to the school as well as intolerable to us."

(more)

Professor Baker, who has been on the Baylor staff for 28 years, immediately announced he would join the faculty of Trinity University (Presbyterian) in San Antonio, Tex. His wife, Kathryn, who was on the Baylor mathematics faculty, also resigned.

The Baylor teachers said in the statement they were led "by conscience and earnest conviction" to resign, effective at the end of the 1963 summer session. None of them except Baker announced plans for the future.

They called the decision "heart-wrenching" and said it was not a hasty one. "It has evolved from many hours of soul searching, conferences and prayer on the part of each faculty member," the statement said.

Baylor President Abner McCall, who ordered Baker to close the play because of its objectionable profanity, said he regrets that Baker and his staff felt that his policy represents such an intolerable restriction on their freedom.

McCall said he had assured the Baylor board of trustees that plays containing vulgar, profane or blasphemous language should not be produced by the drama department without deletion of the offensive language. "It is also the University policy," he said, "that plays which ridicule the Christian religion shall not be presented."

McCall said, "this was but a reiteration of the policy under which Mr. Baker has been operating for 28 years..., often producing plays after deleting objectionable language. Now Mr. Baker feels he can no longer work effectively under this policy."

The Texas Baptist Executive Board commended McCall for his strong stand, and Baptist state paper editors from throughout the Southern Baptist Convention had lauded him for the decision.

When McCall ordered the play closed, Baker said he was "bewildered and shocked," and that "I cannot go on selecting plays or productions without full authority to do it. Never before," he said, "has my integrity been questioned."

Baker and his faculty members praised "Long Day's Journey Into Night," calling it "America's greatest play by America's greatest playwright. We feel," they said, "that the controversy over the use of profanity in the play has obscured the acknowledged greatness of the play and its greatness was its sole reason for producing the play."

"We are not in favor of profanity," the resignation statement said, "and by presenting 'Long Day's Journey Into Night' we were not endorsing profanity any more than murder is endorsed by the presentation of 'Hamlet.'"

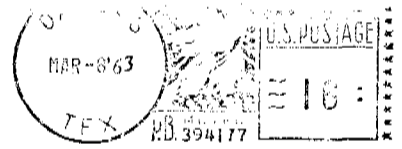
The O'Neill play is an autobiography of the late playwright who won a Pulitzer Prize for "Long Day's Journey Into Night." Baker had signed a contract with the widow of author O'Neill which stipulated the production could not be cut or altered.

One of the strongest protests to the play came from sponsors of a church group of teenage girls who attended. President McCall said he thought Baker showed poor judgment in admitting pre-teen and teenage students.

Baylor faculty members who resigned from the staff included Baker and his wife, Gene McKinney, Virgil Beavers, Mrs. Mary Sue Fridge, Robert Flynn, Jearnine Wagner, Robert Stecker, Dugald MacArthur, Mary Raines, Gene Diskey, Leonard Seldman, and Peri Wilson.



103 BAPTIST BUILDING
DALLAS 1, TEXAS



AIR MAIL

Dr. Davis C. Woolley
Historical Commission
127 Ninth Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee

A CO-OPERATIVE TEXAS AND SOUTHERN BAPTIST NEWS SERVICE
WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE

