

BAPTIST FEATURES

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R. T. MCCARTNEY, *Regional Editor*

April 4, 1963

(NOTE TO EDITORS: Al Manola, Washington information director for the third National Royal Ambassador Congress, was asked to prepare a comprehensive article on the historical and religious significance of Washington to Baptists. This is it.)

City Rich in Baptist
Heritage Awaits RA's

By Al Manola

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptist boys attending the third National Royal Ambassador Congress Aug. 13-15 will find here more evidence of their national history and Baptist heritage than in any other city in the nation.

A view from the lofty Washington Monument encompasses a vast panorama dotted with monuments and huge public buildings, with the mighty Potomac River winding among them.

No boy can visit Washington without gaining a sense of the true greatness of his country and the majesty of the God under whom it was founded.

But, a little more than a century and a half ago, when two men sat astride their horses on the Virginia bank of the same Potomac on a dreary January day and looked over the site through their telescopes it was barren indeed. The horsemen were George Washington and Pierre L'Enfant.

Washington's beautiful estate, Mount Vernon, lay a few miles down the Potomac.

L'Enfant, a French engineer and officer, had come with Washington to look over the swamp the Continental Congress had selected as the permanent seat of the Federal Government.

From that swamp this nation's capital has risen.

It is here that boys will be reminded that blood was sacrificed to create and preserve this nation. The vast Arlington Cemetery which overlooks the city shelters the graves of many dead killed in defense of this country.

Here is the mast of the Battleship Maine, commemorating those who perished in Havana Harbor to ignite the Spanish-American War; the marble amphitheater honoring the grand army of the Republic; the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a tribute to the soldiers and sailors who died in World Wars I and II.

In Washington, too, are the memorials to Abraham Lincoln, to Thomas Jefferson and to many another whose wisdom, valor, and counsel created, preserved, and handed down to posterity the noble traditions of freedom and democracy.

The U. S. capitol and the impressive Supreme Court Building will remind boys this government is one of law. The gleaming White House, where presidents live and work, and the ~~view~~ Lincoln Memorial bring to mind this is a nation of the people, by the people and for the people.

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The Archives Building, where the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States rest, along with thousands of other documents of historical importance, should impress boys with the noble works that preserve this nation's freedoms.

On both sides of the broad avenues named Pennsylvania, Constitution and Independence lie the buildings in which the work of the government goes on daily. Across the Potomac sprawls the huge Pentagon, nerve center of the nation's defenses.

In the midst of the impressive mall rise the old Smithsonian Museum and the new Museum of History and Technology. The inventions of the past, exhibits of the practical genius of America, are displayed here.

Boys will want to see the Wright Brothers plane; the Spirit of St. Louis, in which Charles Lindbergh conquered the Atlantic; and Cmdr. Alan Shepard's Mercury Capsule, in which he entered space during 1961.

Yes, Washington is indeed the shrine of the nation, a shrine that, once visited, will leave an indelible impression on the mind of the boy--that here, indeed, is the heart of his country, the United States of America.

The area around Washington in Maryland and Virginia also has great historical significance to Baptists.

Baptists were recorded in Virginia in 1699 when Lord Culpepper, then governor, permitted liberty of conscience to all persons except Papists (Roman Catholics).

Sir William Berkely, governor from 1642, had suppressed all faiths except the Church of England.

But Baptists did not have it peaceful for long. They were imprisoned, stoned, run out of town and threatened throughout Virginia and Maryland.

The first Baptist pastor licensed in Virginia was Robert Norden, a "messenger" or missionary from England. He worked in Prince George County in 1715. Mobs broke up his services in many Virginia hamlets. Courts and legislative bodies refused to intervene.

Baptists in the Washington area were linked to many great men of the revolution.

Jeremiah Moore, a farmer turned preacher, was arrested in 1773 for preaching in the streets of Alexandria, just across the Potomac from what was later to become Washington. At his trial for preaching without a permit, the judge said: "You shall lie in jail until you rot."

Moore was defended by Patrick Henry, who obtained his freedom when he passionately addressed the jury: ". . . Gentlemen, a man is in prison for preaching the gospel of the Son of God."

Moore founded the First Baptist Church of Washington in 1802 and the First Baptist Church of Alexandria in 1803.

Moore also exchanged letters with Thomas Jefferson in 1808 in connection with adoption of the first amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing religious freedom.

Near the original site of Moore's First Church in Alexandria stands the statue of the south's first soldier to die in the war between the states. During this war every Protestant minister fled Alexandria except one, Dr. C. C. Bitting, pastor of First Baptist Church.

Northern troops confiscated the church house to use it as a hospital, but Dr. Bitting continued to hold services in Liberty Hall near the church.

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Northern troops forced Dr. Bitting to ride the cowcatcher of a locomotive running between Alexandria and Orange Court House all day in order to keep Mosby's men from shooting up the train.

North of Washington lies Baltimore, birthplace in 1850 of Annie Walker Armstrong, for whom the annual offering for home missions is named.

And that's just a hint of the historical and religious significance of Washington Baptists.

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Hawaii Baptists Fight
Parochial Bus Aid

(4-4-63)

HONOLULU (BP)--Southern Baptists here are fighting to prevent public funds being spent for parochial school bus transportation in Hawaii.

Despite the fact the state constitution apparently prohibits the use of public funds for the benefit of private schools, Honolulu City Corporation Counsel Stanley Ling cleared the way for extending the city school bus subsidy to parochial and other private school children in a legal opinion.

The Hawaii Baptist Convention has retained legal counsel to appear before the City Council of Honolulu. The convention hopes to prevent passage of a bill which would authorize public funds to primarily benefit Catholic parochial schools which have initiated the request.

Ling based his opinion on the New Jersey case, "Everson V. Board of Education, 1947." His opinion was that such an expenditure was "public welfare legislation" rather than a benefit to private schools.

The Hawaii Constitution in Section 1, Article IX provides that no public funds shall be spent "for the support or benefit of any sectarian or private educational institution."

Southern Baptists may be the only religious group as such openly opposing the legislation. A small Unitarian church has joined in the protest.

The battle will be uphill all the way in predominantly Catholic Hawaii, where Baptists number less than 1 per cent, according to Stanton H. Nash, executive secretary of Hawaii Baptist Convention here.

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Folks and facts.....

(4-4-63)

.....The year-old Spanish Department of Manhattan Baptist Church, New York City, counted 137 persons present for the preaching service on their anniversary Sunday. In Sunday School were 83 persons, with 36 in Training Union. The day's offering was \$305.11, including \$154.81 for home missions. Leobardo Estrada, director of home mission language missions in New York City metropolitan area, is in charge of the department, with Paul S. James as pastor-director. The church has received 53 new members during the year through its Spanish ministry. (BP)

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FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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April 4, 1963

1,650 Decisions Noted In Big Tokyo Crusade

TOKYO (BP)--A total of nearly 1,650 decisions were made during a five-day series of meetings here as the first phase of the nation-wide Japan Baptist New Life Movement.

More than 1,000 of the decisions came during the final Tokyo meeting at the huge Korakeun Stadium when Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board preached to 10,000 Japanese.

Following the meeting, Cauthen commented, "there is no way to account for what happened tonight except that it is an answer to prayer and concern, and is evidence of the control of the Holy Spirit in this whole movement."

The five meetings in Tokyo marked the first of five area-wide crusades as a part of the New Life Movement. Other area meetings are scheduled in Sapporo, Nagoya, Kokura and Fukuoka.

The Tokyo meetings opened at the Waseda University Memorial Auditorium with crowds numbering about 7,000 for the first two nights. A transportation strike cut attendance to 5,000 and 4,000 on successive nights.

About 130-150 decisions were made during the opening service, with 200 decisions on two successive nights and about 100 on the fourth. Many of the decisions, which include all types, were pledges to become "seekers."

Speakers for the first four meetings were Akbar Haqq, evangelist from India; J. T. Ayorinde, acting general secretary of the Nigerian Baptist Convention; T. A. Patterson, executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; and Shuichi Ozaki, professor at a Baptist seminary in Fukuoka, Japan.

The meetings moved to the baseball stadium, home of the Tokyo Giants, for the final session. The huge stadium was converted into a vast outdoor cathedral with two pulpits on a large platform over the baseball diamond's second base. One podium was for the speaker, the other for the Japanese interpreter.

The impressive meeting opened with a prelude by the Nippon Philharmonic Orchestra, seated between first base and home plate. A 400-voice choir sang from the pitcher's mound. After the prelude, the Hardin-Simmons Cowboy Band paraded from right field down the first base line.

The band from Abilene, Tex., stopped at first base and performed an intricate maneuver they call "the cow step," yelling and waving their cowboy hats. The crowd stood in awe and applauded their hearty approval.

Testimonies were given by two Olympic champions--Miss Wilma Rudolph, Negro sprinter who won three gold medals at the Rome Olympics in 1960; and Shelby Wilson, Olympic wrestling champion who is studying for the ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex.

Cauthen told the crowd that God could use Japan for one of the mightiest spiritual awakenings in history.

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Following the meeting, Winston Crawley, secretary to the Orient for the SBC Foreign Mission Board, said he hopes Southern Baptists will be much in prayer for every meeting in the Orient in April and May.

C. Wade Freeman, director of the evangelism division for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, said the meeting was "far beyond anything we had anticipated. It could be the beginning of world revival that will sweep across Asia and that will reverberate across America."

The meetings are co-sponsored by the Japan Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

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Baylor Ex-Students Editor
Resigns Over Play Incidents

(4-4-63)

WACO, Tex. (BP)--The editor of a bi-monthly magazine published by the Baylor University Ex-Students Association, Mrs. Frances Provence, resigned over incidents resulting from the cancellation last December of a controversial campus play.

Her resignation came just three weeks after Drama Department Chairman Paul Baker and 12 members of his staff quit in protest to the administration's policy decision to close performances of Eugene O'Neill's play, "Long Day's Journey Into Night" because of the production's offensive language.

Mrs. Provence, editor of the Baylor Line, charged the Ex-Students Association Executive Board with "censorship in its crudest form."

George Stokes, executive director of the Ex-Students Association, denied the charge, stating, "The Baylor Line has never been censored."

Earlier, the Association's Executive Board had passed a resolution instructing the executive director to limit reporting of the play incident to a brief factual review of the resignation of the members of the drama faculty and to the official statement of President Abner McCall on the subject.

Unofficial sources reported that the Baylor Line editor had written a scathing editorial criticizing President McCall's position, and that the Association Board of Directors, by passing the resolution, was forbidding her to publish it.

The Association's resolution endorsed two earlier actions by the Baylor Board of Trustees which commended McCall for his stand in closing the play and re-affirmed a long-standing policy prohibiting drama productions which include profanity, obscenity or which ridicule the Christian religion.

Mrs. Provence said the Association would not allow her to publish the resignation statements of Professor Baker and his staff members. "This is censorship in its crudest form," she said.

Mrs. Provence said she felt "my primary obligation has been to keep them (ex-students) in close touch with the university by giving readers full access to the truth in an impartial manner."

Stokes, however, said he did not feel that censorship was an issue. He pointed out that the resolution passed by the board of directors said that the primary objective of the Baylor Line is to "promote the welfare of Baylor University."

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"The Baylor Line is not a piece of public property but is an internal publication of the Ex-Students Association, much like the publication of a business or industry," he added. "Since this is the case, the publishers of the Baylor Line have a right to expect fair and accurate accounts of stories that affect the association and the university it supports."

"Frances Provence is an editor of outstanding ability and a good personal friend," he said. "I regret this difference of opinion."

Mrs. Provence, wife of the editor-in-chief of daily newspapers in Waco, Austin, Port Arthur and Lufkin, Tex., had served as editor of the Baylor Line for 10 years.

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3-Month Cooperative
Gifts Reach \$4,726,751

(4-4-63)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Cooperative Program income for Southern Baptist Convention agencies during the first quarter of 1963 reached \$4,726,751, a gain of 1.86 per cent over first quarter, 1962.

This was reported here by Porter Routh, treasurer of the SBC. He said designated receipts for SBC work for the same three months totaled \$9,930,060, up 9.31 per cent over first quarter, 1962.

March, 1963 receipts were \$1,442,373 through the Cooperative Program and \$2,276,834 from designations. In both cases, this was more than received in March, 1962.

This comparison takes significance when you realize March, 1962 receipts in both channels were down from March, 1961 receipts. March, 1963 receipts in both types also exceed March, 1961.

March disbursements from the treasurer's office include almost \$3 million to the SBC Foreign Mission Board--\$2,235,367 of it in designations, showing continued influence of Lottie Moon Christmas Offering donations.

The Foreign Mission Board has thus far received \$12,070,693 through the Cooperative Program and designations in 1963. The Home Mission Board's three month total is \$843,679.

Figures do not include state Baptist Cooperative Program budgets nor local church collections.

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Honorary Degrees Go
To Harrell, Two Others

(4-4-63)

By The Baptist Press

Two more Southern Baptist colleges have announced plans to award honorary degrees at their May commencement exercises.

California Baptist College, Riverside, will confer the honorary doctor of laws degree on W. A. Harrell of Nashville, Tenn., secretary of the church architecture department, Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The event will occur on May 27.

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William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss., will confer the honorary doctor of literature degree on Alice Katherine Boyd, presently chairman of the department of speech and drama at Sul Ross State College, Alpine, Tex. She is an alumna of William Carey College.

At the same time on May 31, the Hattiesburg school will present the doctor of divinity degree to Thomas R. McKibbens. He is pastor of First Baptist Church, Laurel, Miss.

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Folks and facts.....

(4-4-63)

.....Results of the Japan Baptist New Life Movement are being tape recorded in Japan and edited at the Southern Baptist Radio-Television Commission into radio programs for special broadcast in areas from which U. S. team members have come. The SBC Radio-TV Commission had earlier planned to organize Texas and Japanese ham radio operators into an information network, but plans were thwarted by government regulations. Films of the nation-wide evangelistic crusade will be prepared for later use on the National Broadcasting Co. television network. In addition, news is being teletyped from the New Life Movement Press Center in Tokyo via radio TWX (teletypewriter exchange) to the Texas Baptist Public Relations and Baptist Press regional office in Dallas for relay to newspapers. (BP)

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Bequest Remembers
2 Baptist Colleges

(4-4-63)

ANDERSON, S. C. (BP)--A member of the First Baptist Church here in her will left about \$600,000 to two South Carolina Baptist colleges.

Mrs. Maude Wakefield Watkins, widow of the late U. S. District Judge H. H. Watkins, died Feb. 24.

It appears Furman University, Greenville, will receive over \$500,000. Anderson College here will get about \$100,000. The full settlement of her will may take about a year.

The bequest to Anderson College includes a residence in the city and the judge's library.

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Folks and facts.....

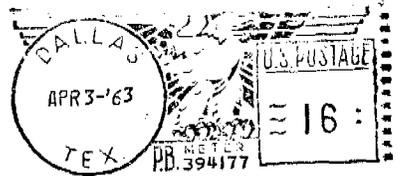
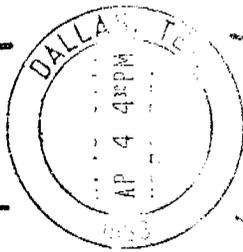
(4-4-63)

.....Mrs. J. W. Holland of Baltimore has been promoted from secretary-circulation manager to assistant to the editor of the Maryland Baptist, published there. Gainer E. Bryan Jr., Baltimore, editor, announced the new position for Mrs. Holland. (BP)

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