

March 16, 1948

DR. DAWSON PRAISES SUPREME COURT DECISION; SEES CHALLENGE TO HOME

WASHINGTON, D. C.--(BP)--Dr. J. M. Dawson, executive secretary of the Baptist Joint Conference Committee on Public Relations, views the recent Supreme Court decision on the Champaign, Ill., school case as "the strongest buttress for maintaining the wall of separation between church and state which has yet been erected outside the First Amendment itself."

Dr. Dawson's statement was made following the Supreme Court's ruling that Champaign's arrangement for religious instruction in the schoolroom by church-appointed instructors was unconstitutional.

He said he considers the Court's decision not only "a vast contribution to religious liberty," but "a challenge to the home and the church to come back into their own in a real effort to supply much needed religious instruction.

"Certainly," he continued, "there are many forms of week-day instruction in religion which the home and church can invoke. Most assuredly the church's educational program of teacher training and pupil enlistment is far below what it should be.

"The decision will not work against religion but in its favor," Dr. Dawson declared.

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18 MISSIONARIES NAMED FOR FOREIGN SERVICE

RICHMOND, Va.--(BP)--Eighteen missionaries toward a goal of 100 for 1948 have been appointed since January 1 by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Half of the number were appointed at the March session: The Rev. and Mrs. William Joel Ferguson, of Brownwood, Tex., for Nigeria; the Rev. and Mrs. George Hays, of Louisville, Ky., for Japan; Miss Frances E. Hudgins, of Fredericksburg, Va., for Asia or Latin America; the Rev. and Mrs. Carter Morgan, of Thomasville, N. C., for Hawaii; and the Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Spence, of Fort Worth, Tex., for Japan.

In January the Board appointed the Rev. and Mrs. Luther Copeland for Japan and the Rev. and Mrs. Neville Claxon for West Africa.

In February the Board appointed the Rev. and Mrs. Horace E. Buddin for Brazil, Dorothy E. Donnelly and the Rev. and Mrs. W. M. Haverfield for Latin America.

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GEORGIA BAPTIST EDITOR
DENOUNCES KU KLUX KLAN

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--The official publication of Georgia Baptists has denounced the modern Ku Klux Klan as "unchristian and undemocratic" and called for arly termination of its return to this state.

Editor John Jeter Hurt, Jr., writing on the editorial page of his Christian Index, 128-year-old weekly publication of the Baptist Convention of Georgia, declared that the Klan "marches behind the cross -- man's most sacred emblem -- without any claim to its teachings. The cross is a symbol of love; to the Klan it is a symbol of hate."

"All of history," Hurt declared, "fails to record an organization that long survived with its single keystone that of hatred. Rabble rousers have drawn their followers to such creeds only to learn permanence cannot be built upon the preaching of destruction.

"Such is the fate of the hooded rabble now parading under the name of the Ku Klux Klan. They have banded themselves together, without the decency or the courage to show their faces, in a common hatred of the Negro and the Jew.

"The original Ku Klux Klan had its purpose in the days when there was no law and order. Decent men rallied to its program and carried out their mission. Decent men long ago withdrew from its membership.

"The modern Klan, however, with its Green Dragon preaches hatred and prejudice. It prospers only as it multiplies its teachings, finds new people and new things to hate.

"The public had consigned the KKK to the graveyard until recent months. It came back to life on a pretense the South needed its help to prevent a mongrel race. There is no such threat, no such fear, and no such need for this hate group."

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HOME MISSIONARIES
PREACH 68,425 SERMONS

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's 1006 missionaries delivered 68,425 sermons and addresses, made 255,388 religious visits, contacted 55,270 persons in personal work, and reported 24,221 conversions with 12,814 additions to the churches through their efforts during 1947.

The annual report of the Board, released by Dr. J. B. Lawrence, executive secretary, revealed also that the missionaries distributed 52,651 Bibles and gospels, 1,125,132 pages of tracts, and taught 10,709 classes in mission study. They conducted 1,135 series of revival services.

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