

BAPTIST FEATURES

PRODUCED BY BAPTIST PRESS
NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
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January 22, 1964

The Soviet Union
As I Saw It

By Paul S. James
New York, N. Y.
First Vice-President, Southern Baptist Convention

The first 10 days of 1964 I was in the Soviet Union as a guest of the Baptist Union of the U. S. S. R.

Our team of four consisted of Harold E. Stassen of Philadelphia, president of the American Baptist Convention; Robert S. Denny of Washington, associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance; Alfonso Olmedo of San Luis, Argentina, a vice-president of the Alliance and a pastor; and myself.

K. Owen White of Houston, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, could not accept the invitation of the Russian Baptist leaders because of illness, so I was given this privilege as first vice-president.

A representative of the U. S. S. R. Ministry of Cults met us at the airport and planned our every move.

We arrived in Moscow on New Year's Eve in time for the three-hour service in the Baptist church which was packed to capacity; 2200 were present. Mr. Stassen left the service early to attend the Kremlin reception where he was welcomed by Chairman Khrushchev whom he first met when serving as disarmament adviser in the Eisenhower administration.

On New Year's Day we had lunch in the apartment of Ilia Orlov, one of the three associate pastors of the Moscow Baptist Church. We sang "How Great Thou Art" in three languages: Russian, Spanish and English.

That night the church was packed again for the service from 6-8:30 p.m. When I spoke of Christ who has broken down "the middle wall of partition between us," the interpreter had some difficulty finding a suitable Russian phrase! They sang, very slowly, "I Need Thee Every Hour."

When Alexander Karev, general secretary of the Union Council, quoted Christ's words, "In the world ye shall have tribulation," there was weeping. The choir of 80 voices sang, "He holds the future in His hand."

We had lunch in the home of Jacob Zhidkov, president of the Union, and his son, Michael, who was our interpreter on much of the tour. When asked to give us words of wisdom out of his long years of experience, Brother Zhidkov said one of the most significant things we heard while in Russia.

He quoted the words, "Behold I have set before thee an open door and no man can shut it," then added: "Sometimes the door is wide open. Sometimes it is only half open. When it is half open, one may have to turn sideways to get through, but he is thankful it isn't closed."

At the Kremlin Palace of Congresses we heard a tribute to Lenin as he "who mad half the world to follow him and the other half to fear."

Space achievements were extolled in the words: "They fly higher than God lives - our spacemen."

There was also some healthy "ribbing" of the regime in a popular number by the folk singers: "We make rockets but can't make suits; we have to get them from Poland." We were told this would never have been done before 1954.

Apparently the death of Stalin changed many things. Cultural exchanges have been taking place; a building boom of large apartment units is on; Red Square is open for all to visit; and there appears to be a better life generally for the people.

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At Moscow University we were received by Ivan G. Petrovsky, rector, and in Tbilisi in Georgia we interviewed the rector of the university there.

We attended a children's New Year party where the main actors in the stage presentation were Father Frost and Lady Snow. In greeting us after the show, Father Frost said: "Greetings to American children."

At the Moscow church on the first Friday night of the year I preached on the meaning of baptism in a service where 19 adults followed Christ in baptism.

On the first Sunday of the year we participated in the observance of the Lord's Supper in the Leningrad Church near the Gulf of Finland. We were so far north that it was dawn about nine in the morning and getting dark by the middle of the afternoon. Here again the crowd was packed so close together the deacons had to shove their way through to pass the elements.

For two and one-half years in the early 40's the Nazis tried to destroy Leningrad. More than 632,000 people died of starvation. Twenty million Russians were killed during World War II, a number greater than the population of Canada.

The maternal grandfather of our interpreter, Michael Zhidkov, was persecuted to death by the Orthodox Church, but the various religious groups in the U. S. S. R. have made common cause today because of the common antagonist. An Armenian priest, an Orthodox priest and a Muslim priest joined our Baptist brethren at the Baku airport to greet us.

The mayor of Tbilisi warmly received us in his office and told how his city had been destroyed 32 times during the 1,500 years of its history.

Mayor Miladza said: "I wish you success in the great work you are carrying on in the cause of peace, to create understanding and love." The Christmas service that night in the church was opened with the singing of "Silent Night," and our team greetings were translated by the pastor into Russian, Armenian and Georgian.

From Tbilisi, historic point on the route between Europe, Persia and India, we crossed the snow-capped Caucasus Mountains to Baku, Russia's fourth largest city and oil center on the Caspian Sea.

We were the guests of Ambassador Foy Kohler and members of his staff at a luncheon in the American embassy in Moscow and had an interview with the Soviet minister of cults in his office. The chairman of the ministry of cults said at the banquet in our honor on our last night in the U. S. S. R.: "When I think about the United States I will think about those I have met."

He said also, on his way out, that he would talk with Chairman Khrushchev about points raised when our team met with him in his office that noon: the need of our Baptist brethren for more space for worship services and the opportunity to publish Bibles and hymnals. The few hymnals seen in worship services are hand-copied. Bibles are practically non-existent. The pulpit is the one source of religious instruction.

Baptist work began in Russia in 1867. The total registration of Baptists today is 540,000 in 5,000 churches; with doubtless a great number unregistered. Seventy-five percent of all Baptist Churches are in the Ukraine. In Moscow there is one Baptist church, one synagogue, one Roman Catholic church and 50 Russian Orthodox churches.

In each city we visited there was only one Baptist church--of course it was packed. People come three hours before a service to get a seat; hundreds stand for two or three hours at every service. They pray with fervor, sing with enthusiasm, stand and say thank you in response to a greeting, often voice an amen in unison and wipe tears from their eyes.

One gets the strong impression that these Christians have what Christians in America only talk about; though they have so little compared with our so much.

I saw these Christians move into 1964 singing, "He sees our tears and knows our heavy burdens." I saw them pass their prayer requests to the front to be held in the hand of a pastor as he pled with God to help. I saw a sea of handkerchiefs in each of the four churches we visited as they waved good-bye and sang "God be with you 'till we meet again." This I shall never forget.

January 22, 1964

Cigarettes, Cancer, and Christians

Foy Valentine, Executive Secretary
Christian Life Commission, Southern Baptist Convention

"Cigarette smoking is a health hazard of sufficient importance in the United States to warrant appropriate remedial action." This official judgment of the Surgeon General's Advisory Committee on Smoking and Health has now placed the United States Government where many other governments and agencies had previously positioned themselves, in strong and unequivocal opposition to cigarette smoking.

The basis for this reluctantly arrived at, laboriously constructed, 150,000-word report was seven separate studies going back to 1951 and involving 1,123,000 men. Noting the death rate from lung cancer among cigarette smokers is 1,000 per cent higher than among non-smokers, the report indicted cigarette smoking as being "causally" related to lung cancer which killed 41,000 Americans in 1962.

Is there a moral position for individual Christians to take regarding cigarettes?

There is.

It is not a position based on time-worn cliches, or an appeal for the abandonment of smoking just because it looks worldly, or the frugal reminder the habit is extremely expensive over a long period of time. The position of abstinence from cigarette smoking for the Christian is now clearly called for on the basis of physical health.

The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and a responsible stewardship of the body demands a clean break with that which harms the body and destroys health. The Christian is also concerned with setting the right kind of example so that the young and the weak are not made to stumble through an irresponsible insistence on "rights" and "freedom."

Christians have special reason to heed the advice of Surgeon General Luther L. Terry, "Speaking as a doctor, I would tell a youngster not to begin smoking. I would tell an adult smoker to stop smoking."

Christian citizens can unite in a purposeful assault on this harmful habit that has victimized an estimated 70 million Americans. They can support a strong legislative program which will protect the young from being victimized through false, misleading, conscienceless advertising.

They can give intelligent support to governmental activity which will rehabilitate those farmers and businessmen who now need a new and less hazardous means of livelihood than growing and selling the noxious weed from which lung cancer comes. They can throw the weight of their great influence behind a program to make the smoking of cigarettes socially unacceptable.

The breaking of the cigarette habit among Americans will come neither quickly nor easily. The government has strongly called, however, for such a break. Christians can ill-afford to lag behind Caesar in rendering to God the things that are God's.

January 22, 1964

Mississippian, 100,
Sets Legal Precedent

MERIDIAN, Miss. (BP)--Albert S. Bozeman Sr. cites legal precedent when he argues his cases in court or sits as a special judge during the absence of regular jurists.

But Bozeman is legal precedent himself. He is believed to be the oldest practicing attorney in the United States, having just turned 100. He has been filling a special appointment as circuit judge during a vacancy on the bench.

His becoming a centenarian earned Bozeman a greeting from President Lyndon B. Johnson, "Wishing you many more years of fruitful life and service."

Bozeman says reaching this milestone in life occurred "through the goodness and mercy of God. It's not because of anything I've done," he commented, "Why he keeps me here so long, I don't know--but that's his business."

His active life includes close to 70 years as a deacon in a Baptist church and over 30 years as a Sunday school teacher, according to his pastor, Beverly V. Tinnin of First Baptist Church here. Bozeman's own father was pastor of the same church from 1871 to 1885.

Bozeman was born in 1864 during the closing days of the War Between the States. He recalls riding on a train out of Richmond, Va., on which Robert E. Lee, the Confederate commander, also was a passenger.

Too, Bozeman remembers when he met President Jefferson Davis of the Confederacy during Davis' visit in Meridian.

John W. McCall of Memphis, father of Seminary President Duke K. McCall and long-time member of the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, knows Bozeman. "Judge" McCall, as he is known, said he lost one of his first trial cases as a lawyer because of the effective argument of the opposing counsel, Bozeman.

Bozeman is the oldest living alumnus of Mississippi College (Baptist) in Clinton, from which he graduated in 1883. Mississippi College 63 years later conferred on Bozeman the honorary doctor of laws degree.

Three hundred persons, including the governor of Mississippi, senators and congressmen, and state Supreme Court justices, attended a birthday banquet for Bozeman when he turned 100. The banquet was held in the church here.

Reminiscing about his church work, Bozeman said, "In my 84 years as a church member I have filled every position from janitor to the pulpit--everything, that is, except organist and Woman's Missionary Union president."

On his 99th birthday a year ago, a newspaper reporter attempted to contact Bozeman for an interview, but learned Bozeman had gone on a short business trip. Later, the reporter found out the short business trip meant Bozeman had driven halfway across the state.

Other memorable events in the life of "Squire" Bozeman, as his friends call him, were listening to lectures by Author Mark Twain and shaking hands with President Grover Cleveland at the White House.

Mission Weeks Stress
Inner City, Rural Work

ATLANTA (BP)--Conferences stressing a church's ministry in the inner city and a church's mission in a declining rural community have been announced for Home Mission Weeks at Southern Baptist assemblies this summer.

The conferences will differ from past sessions sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in that they will appeal to the pastor and the church worker in these situations, as well as to the mission leader.

"A more effective ministry in these areas must be immediately assumed by more of our churches if Southern Baptists are to provide the Christian witness which is our responsibility," stated Arthur B. Rutledge of Atlanta, director of the division of missions for the agency.

Rutledge said the conference on the inner city will be sponsored by the metropolitan missions department, and the conference on the declining, rural community by the urban-rural missions department.

The week July 30-Aug. 5 at Glorieta Baptist Assembly, Glorieta, N. M., will have Ray E. Roberts, Columbus, executive secretary of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, as preacher.

Bible teacher at Glorieta will be W. R. Pettigrew, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky.

At Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, Ridgecrest, N. C., Aug. 13-19 the preacher will be Kenneth Chafin, associate professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Bible teacher at Ridgecrest will be Hugo H. Culpepper, associate professor of missions at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

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Chowan College
Gets Federal Loan

(1-22-64)

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Baptist school is one of 12 colleges approved for college housing loans, according to announcement from the Housing and Home Finance Agency of the Community Facilities Administration.

Chowan College, a Baptist school in Murfreesboro, N. C., received a \$760,000 loan. Funds will be used for construction of a new residence hall and for additional cafeteria and student union facilities.

Four other church colleges were included in the 12 receiving loans. They are Church of the Brethren, Roman Catholic and two Methodist schools.

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Baptists Achieve

(1-22-64)

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--Three Southern Baptists are listed in a new volume called "Arizona's Men of Achievement." They are Eugene N. Patterson, president of Grand Canyon College (Baptist) here; C. Vaughan Rock, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church here, and James R. Staples, executive vice-president of the college and former editor of the Baptist Beacon published here.

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Westmoreland Suffers
Heart Attack

HOUSTON (BP)--E. Hermond Westmoreland, pastor of South Main Baptist Church here and former vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, suffered a heart attack.

It was the second time in a six-week period the Houston pastor had been hospitalized. On Christmas Day he was admitted to the hospital for rest and observation of a "heart deficiency" caused by lack of sufficient blood and oxygen in the heart.

He had nearly recovered and was planning to return to the pulpit on Feb. 1 when his plans were altered by the attack itself Jan. 15.

Doctors at Methodist Hospital here said he was holding his own and improving slightly. No visitors were allowed.

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(Editors: Please note use of dates in story and possibility of needing to recheck information if publication delayed.)

Editors, Secretaries
Slate Houston Meeting

(1-22-64)

HOUSTON (BP)--Executive secretaries of state Baptist conventions and editors of Baptist publications will meet here at the Sheraton-Lincoln Hotel Feb. 10-12 for their annual meetings.

Members of the state executive secretaries association and the Southern Baptist Press Association will open their two-day sessions here with a joint banquet, then split into separate sessions for the rest of the week.

The editors and the state Baptist executive secretaries will visit Space Center offices in the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) here.

An editorial workshop is planned for the editors meeting, with group session studies of writing and readability, pictures and layout, relevant editorials, and evaluations of editorials.

Principal speakers for the editors meeting include David A. Cheavens, chairman of the journalism department for Baylor University, (Baptist), Waco, Tex.; D. Wayne Rowland, chairman of the journalism department for Texas Christian University, Fort Worth; and William J. Reddell, chief editorial writer, San Antonio Express, San Antonio, Tex.

The executive secretaries association will feature a series of 12 conferences, including three on trends in Baptist life, led by state executive secretaries themselves.

Speaker for the joint banquet for editors and executives will be Southern Baptist Missionary Pete Gillespie of Japan.

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Newton Continues
At Druid Hills

(1-22-64)

ATLANTA (BP)--Louie D. Newton will continue as pastor of the Druid Hills Baptist Church where he will observe his 35th anniversary April 1.

Newton's decision was announced a week after his congregation joined the deacons in "rejecting" the resignation. He had said he and Mrs. Newton "felt that it might be best for the church if we quietly stepped aside."

The 71-year-old minister in a brief statement said:

"With the confidence of your continuing prayers, and of His promises, we are convinced that we should walk on with you, sharing your sorrows and your burdens, your joys and your hopes, strengthened by your love and cooperation."

Newton is a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Dinner Honors 15-Year
Service Of Miss Hunt

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--Miss Alma Hunt, who has completed 15 years as its executive secretary, was honored here by the executive board of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention.

The dinner in her honor came during the board's annual promotion meeting.

During the business periods of the meeting, board members heard from executive secretaries of the SBC Foreign and Home Mission Boards about the extent of the two special offerings each year--one for foreign and the other for home missions.

Woman's Missionary Union promotes the annual offerings for these mission causes.

Executive board members also participated in a seminar on the nature and function of the church.

The executive board includes presidents of state Woman's Missionary Unions and 10 members at large. Personnel from state Woman's Missionary Union staffs also attended.

Special guests at the dinner for Miss Hunt were her mother, Mrs. W. O. Hunt of Roanoke, Va.; former pastors, Walter Pope Binns of Alexandria, Va., and John H. Buchanan of Birmingham; her present pastor, J. Lamar Jackson; Porter Routh, executive secretary, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville; Courts Redford, executive secretary, SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, and Albert McClellan, program planning secretary, Executive Committee, Nashville.

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Pastors To Confer
On 'Baptist Ideals'

(1-22-64)

By the Baptist Press

"Baptist Ideals" is the theme picked for the 1964 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference program in Atlantic City, N. J. It convenes May 18-19 on the Steel Pier there.

The opening period is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Monday. There will be morning, afternoon and evening meetings on May 18. There will be morning and afternoon meetings on Tuesday, May 19, winding up with an address at 4:30 p.m.

The 1964 session of the Southern Baptist Convention starts Tuesday evening.

The Pastors' Conference is one of several special groups which meet just prior to the annual SBC session each year.

Wayne Dehoney, Jackson, Tenn., is president of the conference.

The program, as usual, features sermons on Bible texts, doctrine, and evangelism as well as how-to pointers on sermon development.

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Arizona Worker

(1-22-64)

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--After 3-1/2 years as director of music and education at First Southern Baptist Church, Phoenix, Paul Barnes has become the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention's Baptist Student Union and music secretary.

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Cutlines

January 22, 1964

Baptist Press Photo

Cutline to Picture "A" (This one goes with 100-year-old Mississippian)

Pastor Beverly V. Tinnin, standing, of First Baptist Church, Meridian, Miss., presents centenarian Albert S. Bozeman at banquet in Bozeman's honor when he turned 100. (BP) Photo

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Cutlines

January 22, 1964

Baptist Press Photo

Cutline to Picture "B"

SUICIDE FLYER--This is the scene of the crash at Shawnee Hall on the campus of Oklahoma Baptist University when a former student crashed his light plane into a vacant classroom after warning of the suicidal flight by radio and buzzing the area for 35 minutes. The pilot was killed; no students at the school, in Shawnee, Okla., were injured. (BP) Photo

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