

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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

April 16, 1964

Economic Crisis
Perils Alaska WorkBy W. H. Hansen
For Baptist Press

The 33 churches and 14 missions in Alaska cooperating with the Southern Baptist Convention face the same earthquake recovery calamity besetting other Alaskans--the shock delivered the state's economy by the Eastertime tremors.

Loss of property, such as encountered in the total wrecking of the building at First Baptist Church, Valdez, is but one of the devastations in that community of 1200. Going with it are the loss of jobs and income in that fishing and shipping center.

Valdez' fishing boats were destroyed in the earthquake along with the steamship dock.

Because of this, the First Baptist Church--which was showing increasing strength in its 12th year there--will suffer a greatly reduced income in the months ahead when it needs to rebuild its church and launch a pastorium building project it has planned for some time.

In Seward, longshoremen, railroaders, fishermen and cannery workers find themselves without jobs. Southern Baptist work there is slightly younger than in Valdez. The church receives a salary supplement from the SBC Home Mission Board for its pastor. But will even this aid be enough with contributing members out of work?

None of the 14 churches in Anchorage sustained building damage of more than \$1000, it is now estimated. Income in these churches, however, could drop by 20 per cent. Most churches were operating on a marginal budget before the earthquake. Many still owe on their expensive winter fuel bills.

How will Anchorage's hard-pressed churches make ends meet?

Leaders of the Alaska Baptist Convention discussed the earthquake's effect on the convention-promoted work.

"When the shakeup came, the state board was on the verge of projecting an aggressive missions program. Now mission leaders are asking, 'will resources earmarked for new work have to be directed to established fields? Will cooperative program income decrease so that new projects cannot be undertaken as planned?'" they said.

Alaska's Southern Baptists are used to meeting lesser crises--the regular waves of rotation of military personnel, the expense of heating churches during the bitter Alaskan winters, frequent changes in pastors, inflated prices on building materials. These are not unusual.

Viewed at its worst, the earthquake may be a much more severe crisis than the churches have yet faced. Viewed at its best, it is but a new kind of crisis on top of others the churches have grown accustomed to enduring.

Some questions are being asked about the future population of Alaska. There is nothing like a mass exodus on account of the earthquake, though it has frightened some into leaving the 49th state. For one segment of the population, their residence in Alaska has been what they consider temporary. Will this shorten their even temporary stay?

More--will it discourage persons in the "south 48" who before the earthquake were considering moving to Alaska?

To cope with the emergency, an earthquake relief fund was set up at state Baptist headquarters in Anchorage. Direct losses were estimated at \$25,000. The convention board called a special meeting to consider other actions.

Yet the quake has had its positive results. Easter Sunday high attendance hit Alaska churches a week late. Easter Sunday fell two days after the earthquake; attendance on Easter was understandably low.

But church going bounced back the Sunday after Easter to near records. One pastor noticed "a deeper dedication has seized some of our fringe members." There were 15 rededications in two Sundays in that church.

Hard-to-reach prospects have showed more interest in the church.

Muldoon Road Baptist Church in Anchorage visited one prospect several times without success. One visit, during a revival last fall, ended in a brusque turn away at the door when the pastor and evangelist called.

Three nights after the earthquake, however, this same prospect called at 3 a.m. asking the pastor to come and explain how to be saved. The pastor said he discovered the prospect had already found faith in the Lord by the time he reached the house.

If this experience is repeated, Baptist leaders believe Alaska's disaster could turn into its greatest blessing.

-30-

Survey Confirms Ideas, Also Contains Surprises

NASHVILLE (BP)--A survey of Baptist students in seminaries showed a majority (it turned out to be 76 per cent) of Southern Baptist seminary students are married.

It also showed that over one-half the Bible school students were baptized after an age at which college enrolment normally occurs.

If the survey backed up some previous knowledge, it also turned up some findings not as well-known perhaps surprising. For example, in the eyes of all student groups surveyed, Baptist ministers of education enjoy a more favorable image than pastors.

The survey was made two years ago by the research and statistics department of the Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School Board, but the results were not available immediately.

It originated under sponsorship of the SBC Executive Committee and the presidents of the six SBC theological seminaries. Martin B. Bradley, Nashville, secretary of research and statistics department, said 6775 students completed "usable questionnaires."

The 3433 students at the six SBC seminaries were given the questionnaires in a group by a seminary official appointed by the seminary president. "Specific instructions" were sent on how to complete it, Bradley said.

The survey also included 426 students in junior colleges and 2491 in senior colleges related to the Southern Baptist Convention. Another 373 were students in three Baptist Bible schools.

The 52 other students were Southern Baptists studying in non-Southern Baptist theological and Bible institutions.

-more-

Many of the findings concerned student interest in or decisions to enter church-related vocations. Pastors are shown by the study to be of "vital importance" in counseling and guiding students who have made or may make a commitment to church-related vocations.

Students planning for a church-related vocation come from families which, as a group, are quite varied in occupational and financial status, Bradley said.

An unusually large number of church-related vocation students were baptized and made their decisions for such service in city churches. The number was beyond the proportion expected.

Nearly eight of every 10 church-related vocation students in Baptist colleges plan to extend their education beyond undergraduate work. There is a noticeable variation in major and minor fields of study among vocational groups, something the surveyors expected to find.

The scholastic ranking of Bible school students during their high school study was considerably lower than that of church-related vocation students in Baptist colleges.

Another not well-known point uncovered was that Southern Baptist students in non-southern Baptist theological institutions ranked "much higher scholastically" during their college-level study than students in Southern Baptist seminaries. This applied to students in school at the time as well as former students.

Coeds were baptized at an earlier age in life than male students.

Church-related vocation students were found to have a "fuzzy or indefinite" concept of Baptist pastors on some things, and by contradiction to have a sharply defined understanding of them at other points.

The survey findings are expected to help the convention meet both its own theological education purposes and the needs of students better.

-30-

Gardner-Webb College Votes Capital Campaign

BOILING SPRINGS, N. C. (BP)--Trustees of Gardner-Webb College (Baptist) here have voted to conduct a campaign for capital funds.

They believe \$1.13 million will be needed for a cafeteria-recreation center, a chapel, a fine arts building, a classroom building, and dormitory, and to complete an athletic stadium. The money will also pay off the debt on the science building and a men's dormitory.

President Eugene Poston indicated that while Gardner-Webb had no immediate aim of becoming a senior college, "the college would lift its standards to those of a four-year college...to make Gardner-Webb one of the strongest junior colleges available."

-30-

Southern Professors Receive Award Grants

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Two professors at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here will use grants from the American Association of Theological Schools during their sabbatical leaves from the seminary next year.

-more-

They are Findley B. Edge, professor of religious education, who will visit several lay academies in Europe, and D. Swan Haworth, associate professor of psychology of religion, who will study marriage and family counseling at Union Theological Seminary, New York City.

Haworth will also study at teachers college of Columbia University while in New York. Before returning to the seminary in the fall of 1965, he plans to study for three months under Dr. Viktor Frankl, noted psychoanalyst in Vienna, Austria.

Edge will study the techniques and operation of lay academies which sprang up in Europe following World War II as an attempt to recover the vitality of the Christian faith in the war-stricken zones. The academies sponsor periodic lay conferences to study social problems and interpret the role of the Christian in the world.

Edge will visit several of these conference centers in Germany, Scotland, Holland, France and Switzerland.

-30-

Ohio Board Approves West Virginia Director

COLUMBUS, OHIO (BP)--A separate state Baptist convention in West Virginia, cooperating with the Southern Baptist Convention, has become more of a possibility.

The executive board of the State convention of Baptists in Ohio approved here its part in a three-way agreement to employ a full-time religious education director who would work with churches in West Virginia.

Partners in the three-way agreement are the SBC Sunday School Board and the Kentucky Baptist Convention, effective Oct. 1.

Ohio's Executive Board voted to provide \$1200 a year to the expense of the religious education director. It said Kentucky has already approved \$2400. No one was elected immediately to fill the new position, which will be under guidance of the Ohio Sunday school secretary.

Southern Baptist churches in West Virginia hope to develop an independent state organization in 1966.

Churches in that state now are affiliated with existing state conventions or associations in Ohio, Kentucky and Virginia. The Virginia association, which is not a party to the agreement, has taken no position on the matter of a separate state convention in West Virginia. It has neither encouraged nor discouraged it, an association official told the Baptist Press.

Southern Baptist churches near the Virginia state line have traditionally remained close to the Virginia association. The Virginia association operates a junior college in Bluefield, Va. It is only walking distance, for example, to a Baptist church in adjoining Bluefield, W. Va., where many college students and faculty belong.

In other action, the Ohio executive board approved a contract for \$104,975 to construct an addition at its present office site here. It will house the Baptist Book Store immediately after it is completed in the fall. It will have space, too, for future expansion of Ohio convention offices.

Another construction project approved was that of \$21,000 Olympic swimming pool at the state convention assembly grounds at Seneca Lake. The pool is expected to be ready for the first major summer assembly program there.

Completing its first 10 years of existence, the Ohio convention will have recommended to it this fall, from the executive board, longrange goals for the next decade.

-more-

The state board is expected to put its evangelism department on a full-time basis. The present arrangement combines evangelism and brotherhood work under one secretary--Leonard Stigler.

As soon as possible, Stigler would be given full-time duties as evangelism secretary. The brotherhood department also would be given full-time status, and a secretary would be elected to head it.

-30-

Note To Baptist Editors:

The time of the meeting of the Baptist Unity Movement has been changed. It was previously scheduled as a luncheon Friday, May 22, in Atlantic City. It will now be a dinner meeting starting at 5 o'clock Friday, May 22, at the Hotel Jefferson.

The Baptist Press

-30-

New Octagon Building
Receives City's Award

NASHVILLE (BP)--The octagon-shaped Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville has received an award for the contribution it makes to the attractiveness of the city.

The building, which has three floors and a basement, is built of Virginia greenstone and is protected by an aluminum solar screen. It has been occupied since February, 1963.

The Metropolitan Beautiful Commission's award of the "meritorious certificate" was presented to Porter Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee. The scroll is signed by Metropolitan Mayor Beverly Briley.

The building is located on James Robertson Parkway in downtown Nashville. It is near the Tennessee state capitol and other government buildings. The new city auditorium is across the street. High rise apartments and other office buildings of modern design neighbor it on the parkway and intersecting streets.

The Southern Baptist Convention Building houses the Executive Committee, the SBC Stewardship Commission, the SBC Education Commission, the SBC Christian Life Commission, the Southern Baptist Foundation and the Extension Department of Southern Baptist Seminaries.

-30-

Oates To Direct
Theology Graduates

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Wayne E. Oates, professor of psychology of religion at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, has been appointed director of graduate studies in the school of theology.

Oates succeeds Ray Summers, director of graduate studies since 1943, who has resigned to become chairman of the department of religion at Baylor University (Baptist), Waco, Tex. Oates' appointment is effective June 1.

Noted for his writings in the field of pastoral psychology, Oates joined the seminary faculty in 1958.

He will continue his teaching responsibilities at the seminary, in addition to directing the graduate program.

-30-

Baptist College Group
Praises Gen. MacArthur

BROWNWOOD, Tex. (BP)--A resolution of appreciation for the life and ideals of the late General Douglas MacArthur was adopted by the board of directors of the Douglas MacArthur Academy of Freedom Corporation during its meeting at Howard Payne College here.

The academy, which enrolled its first students last fall, is being developed by the Baptist college.

The Academy of Freedom Corporation itself is a non-profit organization composed of young Texas businessmen who are providing the facilities for the academy.

In the resolution passed by the board of directors, the late General of the Army was praised as "one of the greatest military leaders of all time," and as a man who was "interested in the basic freedoms...of all men everywhere.'

"We officially recognize and give thanks for the outstanding service rendered by General MacArthur to his country, and for the honor bestowed on Howard Payne College by allowing it to establish the Academy of Freedom as the first educational institution to carry his name," said the resolution.

The Academy Corporation directors also pledged renewed efforts in providing "proper facilities for the Academy which is to be developed into an historical shrine to the memory of this great general, as well as an outstanding honors program in the social sciences embodying the ideals to which he devoted his life."

A copy of the lengthy resolution was sent to Mrs. MacArthur.

-30-

Prayer Amendment
Encounters Opposition

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--The Executive Board of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California has announced it opposes "any and all of the current attempts to amend the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States.'

The California convention board also adopted resolutions opposing "any form of aid to church-related educational and welfare institutions" and pleading "for Christian attitudes and actions in the current civil rights struggle in our nation."

The civil rights resolution made no reference to President Lyndon B. Johnson's appeals to a Southern Baptist seminar that the denomination help the civil rights bill to passage in the senate.

On federal aid, the board said it is "particularly concerned at this time that on the proposed "War on Poverty" there be no federal aid extended to church-related institutions."

The California board indicated it might memorialize the 1964 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlantic City, N. J., to adopt a resolution opposing such federal aid.

Concerning the prayer amendment, the California board said proposed changes to the first amendment, growing out of the Supreme Court decision, "are well-meaning but misguided actions,"

It urged the first amendment be held "inviolable" as "the guarantee of religious liberty in America."

It asked for a "careful study of the Supreme Court decision in the so-called Bible reading and prayer cases. These decisions," it continued, "have not taken the Bible and prayer out of the public schools."

-more-

"The court simply said the schools may not require religious observances."

Members of Southern Baptist Churches in California were encouraged to write their congressmen and senators stating their opposition to efforts at changing the first amendment.

Recognizing "with gratitude the progress that has been made in civil rights matters," the California Baptist leaders deplored "existing practices and attitudes which are discriminatory."

They sought clear thinking, calm actions and application of the golden rule. They said transformation "by the saving power of Jesus Christ" is the "ultimate solution of our pressing social and moral problems."

Text of the resolution on federal aid to educational and welfare institutions is given in full, because of the board's possible memorial to the SBC in Atlantic City:

"We, the Executive Board of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, are opposed to any form of aid to church-related educational and welfare institutions.

"We believe the Higher Education and Vocational Education Bills recently passed by Congress are a fundamental mistake in violation of the first amendment to the United States Constitution. We call upon President Lyndon B. Johnson and members of Congress to uphold the principle of separation of church and state in America as enunciated in the first amendment of the Constitution in future legislation.

"We are particularly concerned at this time that in the proposed 'War on Poverty' there be no federal aid extended to church-related institutions. We recognize that both church and government have legitimate interests and responsibilities in welfare and educational programs, but we believe that they are independent interests and responsibilities. We oppose any federal aid to church-sponsored programs."

In another action, the California Executive Board approved a 1965 Cooperative Program goal for the state of \$1,050,000. The goal, subject to adoption by the annual convention in the fall, is \$50,000 more than the 1964 goal.

The percentage of the goal to be forwarded to Southern Baptist Convention agencies remains unchanged from 1964--at 25 per cent.

-30-

Russia Said Renewing War Against Religion

WACO, Tex. (BP)--The Soviet Union has begun a new war against God and religion, the former prime minister of Hungary before the Communist take-over there told students at Baylor University here.

Forenc Nagy of Budapest cited a recent article in the Russian newspaper Pravda which explained the new authorized government campaign for atheism.

Nagy told Baylor students in a lecture that the program will be started by placing Communist action groups in every Russian city, collective farm and industry to visit every living being in the Soviet Union and convince them there is no God.

"Schools will give courses in atheism from the kindergarten level to the university as a compulsory subject," Nagy said.

The program to establish atheism and undermine religion in the Soviet Union will be supported by the Institute of Scientific Atheism which will publish scientific pamphlets and materials to make the concept of God ridiculous, he said.

-more-

Nagy predicted that the campaign will be disastrous to Russian churches. "The program will not fail," he said. "There is no real resistance in Russia to Communist persuasion."

He described the method of persuasion in convincing Russian people that there is no God as similar to the methods used a few years ago in persuading Russian farmers to join collective farms.

"The aim of this program is that the Communist Party might be free from its greatest ideological opposition of religion," the former Hungarian prime minister said.

He warned that the campaign is not strictly an internal Soviet problem. "A war against the heart of religion cannot be regarded as a war against God in one country, but rather it is a war against all the citizens of God's kingdom," he said.

Nagy said that the world's free nations cannot simply disregard the Soviet campaign against religion because the success of the campaign would weaken religious morals and strengthen Communism all over the world.

The former Hungarian leader called for a morally and spiritually strong America to oppose Communistic atheism.

He said that the Russians who remain faithful to God will become valuable allies if American people will speak out against atheism. These Soviets must prove that scientific atheism is not progressive but is backward and reactionary he said.

Nagy concluded that the most important task of protecting the religious morals of mankind rests upon American youth.

"The final showdown between the West and Communism will come when the leadership of the world has passed into the hands of today's youth," he said.

BAPTIST PRESS®

103 BAPTIST BUILDING
DALLAS 1, TEXAS



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