

May 6, 1964

44 South Carolinians
Oppose Open Colleges

By Douglas P. Blackwell

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--Forty-four of 53 Baptist ministers and laymen who aired their views at a Baptist Conference on Race Relations here opposed integration of Baptist institutions.

Of the 44 who opposed integration, 13 attributed civil rights drives to Communist inspiration either in whole or in part, five referred to "mongrelization" of the races, eight called segregation the will of God, and two forecast lowered academic standards if Baptist schools integrated.

Several asked why churchmen who approve integration of Baptist churches and institutions in the state did not voice their approval of integration and their disapproval of segregation before the 1954 U. S. Supreme Court decision of public school integration.

One attributed the desire for integration among church members to "alien Baptist" influence--ministers who were natives of states other than South Carolina.

And two others said Baptist publications are endeavoring to "brainwash" church members of the state.

The Conference on Race Relations was arranged by the committee on Christian life and public affairs, a committee of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. It met as called for by an action of the convention's annual session last fall.

The South Carolina convention's action followed a prolonged debate on Furman University's proposal to register all qualified students, regardless of race. The move to desegregate Furman was put off one year pending a study of integration facing all the state's Baptist schools, of which Furman is largest and best known.

The Christian life and public affairs committee was not instructed to bring any report or recommendation. However, it's likely the committee will report events of the day-long conference to the 1964 convention session.

About 900 persons were present during the conference's morning session here. That evening, only about 50 remained. They came only as individuals to express their personal feelings. The conference was not a meeting of the convention.

There will be no more hearings of this type since the convention voted to set aside only one day for such a conference. The meeting and the opinions expressed do not necessarily have any effect on whether Furman University or others integrate.

Nine ventured opinions that were not pro-segregation. Eight took stands for integration or said "since it's coming, let's make the best of it." The ninth said he didn't know what was right. He said he came to the conference hoping to find a solution to the problem.

The conference moderator, J. K. Lawton, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Florence, urged participants "to share our views in a Christian attitude."

James A. Rogers, editor of the Florence Morning News, then stated the reason for the conference.

George A. Jones, pastor, Beaufort First Baptist Church, said the question is not integration or segregation but evangelization.

This obligation and privilege rests squarely on the largest missionary society in South Carolina, the South Carolina Baptist Convention, he said.

W. W. Lancaster, pastor, Orangeburg First Baptist Church, selected because his church is in a "difficult area," told the conference, "The Christian whites whom I have known are neither bigots nor racists. They see the necessity for communication, but are frustrated in the attempts to achieve it, since communication often means acquiescence.

"I know of no earnest white Christian who desires to hold the Negro to a second class citizenship. However, the white Christian is realistic enough to see that a Negro world does exist...a world with its own classes and castes and rent with its own peculiar conflicts," he said.

"The white Christian is not bigoted when he says that a free society was not meant to be pressed like pig iron into moulds and is frankly tired of the constant aborted effort to reduce all people to one common denominator."

James A. Bowers, a Greenwood pastor, outlined what the communities in South Carolina are doing. He emphasized the progress made in many communities following free discussions between biracial groups.

A missionary to Nigeria, James W. H. Richardson, told the conference if the doors of missionary opportunity are to remain open in Asia and Africa there must be a convincing demonstration that Christianity is in no exclusive sense the religion of the white people.

The speakers, most of whom were not selected in advance, covered the full field of race relations, biblical interpretation, education, missions and evangelism, and community relations.

"Integrating Furman University will lower the standards of this university. Baptists of South Carolina have worked too hard and too long to build Furman to see it destroyed. If alien Baptists from out of state want to integrate the school, let them go back to their own states," Roy Talbert, Lynchburg, declared.

"Why not move forward in Christian education?...We need to train Negro leaders to go to their own people to lead them in evangelism and Christian growth. Where would they be better trained? Why is it that qualified students can go to Furman from some foreign country, but one of our own citizens cannot?" David Wells, Hartsville, asked.

"We cannot take the situation in Africa and make it apply to the United States. We cannot take the situation in North Carolina and make it apply in South Carolina," T. L. Smith, Florence, argued.

"There are two Baptist bodies in South Carolina of nearly equal membership. There must be closer cooperation. Each area of the state should begin freely and voluntarily to set up schools for Negro ministers....We need a man to coordinate projects such as this," Charles Arrington, Clemson pastor, said.

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Corpus Christi Grants
2 Honorary Doctorates

(5-6-64)

By The Baptist Press

The University of Corpus Christi, a Texas Baptist school, will confer the honorary doctor of divinity degree on two Texas pastors this spring.

They are Jimmie H. Heflin of Calvary Baptist Church, McAllen, and C. Wilson Brumley of First Baptist Church, Rockport.

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April SBC Income
Tops Comparison Months

NASHVILLE (BP)--A financial statement from the treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention shows April income for the SBC through the Cooperative Program went above income for two comparative months.

Treasurer Porter Routh of Nashville reported the 28 cooperating state Baptist conventions sent in \$1,684,523 through the Cooperative Program. This topped the March receipts of \$1,597,154 and those of April, 1963 which were \$1,520,310.

The April receipts brought Cooperative Program total for 1964 to date to \$6,878,211. This is 10.1 per cent over the figure of \$6,247,062 for the first four months of 1963.

At the end of the first quarter (through March), Cooperative Program funds for SBC agencies were running 9.88 per cent ahead of the previous year. This meant that during April, they advanced even further ahead.

Designations for April amounted to \$2,082,262 bringing the year to date to \$12,076,933 against \$11,224,962 for the first four months of 1963. This is a gain of only 7.59 per cent.

Only six states trail 1963 in comparing Cooperative Program funds forwarded for the year to date. Five of the states are pioneer states, that is, they serve areas where Southern Baptist work is young.

Disbursements for the year to date include \$14.6 million to the Foreign Mission Board. The Foreign Mission Board got \$1.3 million in April through designations, as Lottie Moon Christmas Offering money continued to come in.

The Home Mission Board this year so far has received \$2,145,888 including \$778,787 in April by designations, reflecting partially a special offering for home missions. The six SBC seminaries have, combined, received about \$1.5 million thus far in 1964.

The SBC treasurer's report does not include total church collections nor the amount of Cooperative Program or designated funds used in the state conventions.

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Golden Gate Announces
Faculty Study Leaves

(5-6-64)

MILL VALLEY, CALIF. (BP)--Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here has announced four faculty members will take their sabbatical leaves and other time off for special study.

Clayton K. Harrop, associate professor of New Testament interpretation, will study textual criticism and backgrounds of New Testament. He will leave after the first summer term and will study at University of Chicago until Jan. 1, 1965. Then he will go to England.

Lawrence A. Brown, professor of missions and comparative religions, will visit Los Angeles area libraries this summer. He will study comparative religions. Brown also hopes to go to the Orient to study Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam for a writing project on great teachers of the world's religions.

Miss Geil Davis, director of the child care program, will work this summer for a doctor of education degree at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. When her sabbatical leave begins in the summer of 1965, she will return to Southern Cal for 15 months to finish her doctoral work.

Derward W. Deere, professor of Old Testament interpretation, plans to visit Oxford, England, for research on the Old Testament when his sabbatical starts in August, 1965. He will write a commentary on Isaiah during his year's absence.

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**Baptist History Told
In Mission Pictures**

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has released photographs of Baptist historical sites and present work of Southern Baptists in the north-eastern United States.

The photographs are in color slides, and will be available to messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlantic City on a share-the-cost basis.

Included in the historical pictures is a series of Miss Annie Armstrong, first executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union. Places where she served in Baltimore are shown, as well as a reproduction of a new color portrait of her.

L. O. Griffith of Atlanta, director of the division of education and promotion of the mission agency, said the slides can be secured from the home mission booth in Atlantic City or from the board at 161 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30303.

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**Joseph Estes Directs
Kentucky College Drive**

(5-6-64)

MIDDLETOWN, KY. (BP)--Joseph R. Estes of Louisville will lead the Kentucky Baptist Convention in its Christian Education Advance.

His appointment as secretary of the drive for \$9 million for the state's Baptist colleges and schools was announced by convention officials here. At the same time, they reported over \$3 million has been pledged toward the goal.

Estes, a native of Kentucky and former pastor of three churches in the state, will take over the secretary's duties May 1. He has more recently been professor of religion at Kentucky Southern College (Baptist) near here.

He also is a former professor at the Baptist seminary in Ruschlikon-Zurich, Switzerland.

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**Horatio Alger Award
Goes to Dallas Baptist**

(5-6-64)

NEW YORK (BP)--Carr P. Collins, founder and board chairman of Fidelity Union Life Insurance Co. in Dallas, Tex., has been selected to receive a 1964 Horatio Alger Award.

Collins, a prominent Baptist layman who is now president of the board for the Baptist Foundation of Texas, was selected because his career was typical of the "rags to riches" success stories written by Horatio Alger, said Kenneth J. Beebe, who announced Collins' selection here.

**Groner To Receive
1964 Hospital Award**

(5-6-64)

CHICAGO (BP)--Frank S. Groner, administrator of Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, has been selected to receive the American Hospital Association's 1964 Justin Ford Kimball award.

The award is named for the founder of the Blue Cross medical insurance movement. It's presented each year to an individual for "outstanding encouragement given to the concept of pre-paid voluntary health care plans."

Groner was president of the American Hospital Association in 1961. The award will be presented during the hospital association's annual meeting in August here.

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