

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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Movie Watchdog Committee
Suggested for Baptists

DALLAS (BP)--The second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention suggested here that Baptists establish a special committee to try to clean up the "false images" about Christianity projected by Hollywood movies and television shows.

Gregory Walcott, Southern Baptist leader and Hollywood television actor, told the Texas Baptist Executive Board here that he might make a motion at the Southern Baptist Convention here next year proposing a study of establishing such a committee.

Walcott said that such a committee could alert Baptist people through the Baptist Press and state Baptist papers of upcoming movies which degrade the image of Protestants and Christianity and overemphasize and glorify sex, immorality, crime, and debauchery.

In a speech to the state Baptist board here, the Baptist television actor chided the "unregenerate men" in Hollywood who have given America and Christianity a poor image abroad. "The only thing many people abroad know about America is what they see in the movies," he said.

Walcott said that the Protestant religion is almost always pictured in the movies as an emaciated, irrelevant faith of the dark ages, and that the Protestant clergy is projected as a Mr. Milktoast, or an Elmer Gantry charlatan.

"The Catholics, however, are very wise," he said. "They have a special committee in Hollywood to preserve their image, and they have the power and influence to pull out unfavorable sections of movies."

He suggested that Baptists should do the same thing by establishing a committee in Hollywood similar to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D. C., to watch what the movies produce, alert Baptists about movies, and use its influence to create better images.

He said such a committee would have to be extremely careful, and that Baptists who write to television and movie producers would have to learn to write cautious letters expressing "disappointment" rather than scorching and vehement letters of criticism because Hollywood loves controversy.

Walcott also told the Texas executive board of his plans to produce a movie on "Bill Wallace of China," a Southern Baptist missionary who died a martyr's death, and said he was in Dallas to try to work out financial arrangements for the \$1.5 million film to be produced by his company, Logos Productions.

"There has never before been a major Hollywood film produced about Southern Baptists," Walcott said, "and the story of Bill Wallace has all the ingredients of a great movie--intrigue, drama, heart-warming human interest, and a great underlying spiritual story."

Busy Doctor Named
Texas Dad of Year

DENISON, Tex. (BP)--A medical doctor here described by his pastor as "a busy man who always has time for his church, his family and his community" has been selected as the 1964 Texas Baptist Father of the Year.

Dr. W. S. Fry, 39 and the father of two young daughters, was honored during special Fathers Day services at the Parkside Baptist Church of Denison, Tex., as winner of the state-wide Baptist award.

Dr. Fry is chairman of the church's deacons, an active Brotherhood worker, and usher, a Training Union leader, and is also active in numerous civic and medical organizations.

Like most doctors, his work takes a great deal of time, especially on week-ends when the population of this North Texas community nearly doubles with visitors at nearby Lake Texhoma.

How does he find time for church work and his family? "I just have to take time," he says.

Dr. Fry's pastor, W. A. Kelly, said he had never known another man "with more genuine concern for the cause of Christ, the program of his church, or the need of mankind."

The 39-year-old doctor attends church every time the doors are open unless an emergency comes up for one of his patients, and is one of the few doctors in Denison who will make house calls, the pastor said.

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Texas Board Employs Two,
Steps Up Fund Campaign

(6-19-64)

DALLAS (BP)--The Texas Baptist Executive Board meeting here named two new staff members and approved an all-out effort in 1965 to complete successfully a five-year \$28 million fund drive for ten Baptist schools in Texas.

Elected as a press representative in the state Baptist public relations office was Charles Arrendell, now serving as news director at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; and named as associate in the Texas Baptist division of student work was Chet Reames, Baptist Student Union Director at North Texas State University, Denton, Tex.

Reames succeeds Louis R. Cobbs, who resigned recently to join the personnel staff of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Arrendell will fill a vacancy in the public relations staff previously held by an artist, and will specialize in writing in the promotional field.

The 192-member board authorized its Christian Education Commission to develop a detailed plan for a special effort in 1965 to finish out the state Christian Education Crusade to raise \$28 million in capital needs funds for the Baptist schools.

The plan will be submitted to the Baptist General Convention of Texas meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas, next November for final approval.

In other action, the Texas Board approved a \$750,000 private loan request for an expansion program at Memorial Baptist Hospital, Houston, and authorized that hospital to enter into negotiations toward establishing a third "satellite hospital" in the northwest section of Houston.

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The board also heard a plea for Baptists in the state to fight any efforts to legalize race track gambling in 1965; heard progress reports on the Latin American Baptist Evangelistic crusade slated by Texas Baptists this summer; and passed a resolution of appreciation for the work of J. Woodrow Fuller, former state missions secretary who resigned recently to become associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas.

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Churches To Learn
of Missions Revolution

(6-19-64)

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists will have the chance to learn of a missions revolution which has taken place in a number of their churches.

The revolution concerns how the churches now minister to some of the more than 25 million language people in the United States.

The opportunity to learn will come during language missions week, August 24-30.

It's a week when churches have planned special recognition for these groups. Many will study what other churches are doing, and also look for opportunities to start their own ministries.

"The day is passing when most of our new work with language groups is started by a language missionary establishing a separate congregation," said Loyd Corder of Atlanta.

He is secretary of the language missions department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"There's been a wonderful revolution taking place among our churches as they have started Sunday School classes, departments, and other organizations in another language," he said.

Corder told of one church with a department in Spanish and another department in Chinese, in addition to their English work.

He said churches were using interpreting devices for worshippers who speak a language other than English. Some churches have employed associate pastors for language groups, and others have interpreters for deaf groups.

"We are in a day when churches have found a new meaning to the word 'missions'. No longer is it something someone else does, but it's something each can do in his own community," he added.

Corder's department is asking all Baptist churches to observe the language missions week.

"This will be a get-acquainted week for many of our people," the missions leader said. "It's surprising how many language people live near us and how little acquainted most of us are with them."

He said churches in getting ready for the week have planned guest speakers, informal fellowships, and have encouraged members to invite the language people into their homes.

Churches are using the week to focus attention on language people, to study the denomination's present ministries in this field, and to lead their membership to start their own ministries.

Corder's department, in cooperation with state Baptist organizations, directs the activities of more than 1,600 missionaries to language groups.

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Negro Church's Success
Paid to SBC Training

DALLAS (BP)--A Negro Baptist Church here received 83 children on profession of faith as a result of a two-week Vacation Bible School using Southern Baptist methods and "Invincibles" trained by Texas Baptists to conduct the school.

The True Fellowship Baptist Church here also organized two baseball teams and three choirs for the children, and doubled its Sunday school attendance (150 to 315) because of the Bible school.

The church's pastor, enthusiastic about the "tremendous success," attributed the results to training his workers received at a clinic for "Invincibles" (summer Vacation Bible School workers) sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Remarked the pastor, "this just shows what can happen when our Negro workers can learn from Southern Baptists the effective techniques they have developed."

Pastor of the Negro congregation is named Sammie Davis. Although he is a minister formerly from Venice, Calif., he is no kin to the Hollywood Negro actor by the same name.

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Baylor Hospital Admits
One-Millionth Patient

DALLAS (BP)--Baylor University Medical Center here has admitted its one-millionth patient--a six-year-old girl with a fractured arm.

The patient is April Jean Freeman, who broke her arm when she fell coming down a slide in the playground area of the apartment where she lives.

Baylor hospital's administrator Boone Powell presented April with an engraved watch, a complete set of sleepwear and a basket of fruit, as mementos of the occasion..

Just in case the occasion makes such an impression on the young girl she later wants to enter the medical profession, a nursing student at Baylor University School of Nursing presented April with an invitation, an application, a brochure, a catalogue and a miniature Baylor nurse's cap for consideration when she later chooses a career.

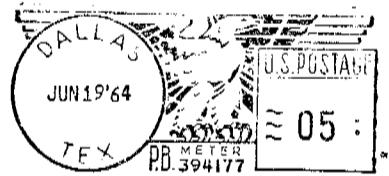
The gifts to the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Dean Freeman of Mesquite, Tex., were made possible by an anonymous donor.

All in all, being Baylor's one-millionth patient was quite an experience for the six-year-old girl. It was the first time she had ever entered any hospital.

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