

September 3, 1964

**Professors See Biblical
Basis Of Human Freedom**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Freedom of choice is basic in the biblical concepts of freedom, according to a group of Baptist seminary professors. They said an "established" religion is no religion at all in the biblical sense.

Nine professors at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, discussed the biblical concepts of freedom in a study paper on "Biblical Concepts Relevant for the Free Exercise of Religion Today."

The paper was prepared for the annual religious liberty conference, here, Oct. 7-9, sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. C. Emanuel Carlson is executive director of the public affairs committee.

The study paper dealt with:

1. Elements of freedom which inhere in the biblical understanding of the creation, the role, and the fall of man;
2. Freedom concepts which inhere in the biblical revelation as law;
3. Freedom insights reflected in the prophetic tradition;
4. Christ and freedom;
5. Concepts of freedom which inhere in the doctrine of the Holy Spirit;
6. The church and freedom;
7. Relationship of eschatology to freedom of the person or of the church; and
8. Elements of a genuine religious experience.

Man was created as a responsible and responding being, the professors said. They pointed out man's misuse of his freedom as it affects his neighbor is subject to human law: "Since the state is ordained of God, man's freedom does not exempt him from obedience to human laws."

They said man's freedom increases or decreases "according to the measure of his love for God and for others." True freedom exists in a community of love, a society of sharing and sacrifice, they stated.

The seminary teachers said in the concept of "agape-love" the Christian has a primary consideration for the other person. "Agape-love" brings respect for human rights, they said.

The group said the concept of freedom within the New Testament church was extended to include the demand for religious and political freedom. "Thus, the spirit of liberty...poured out of the churches into the larger community life, demanding freedom, local autonomy, separation of church and state, the rejection of coercion and persecution of minority groups."

Stressing the free response of man to God, the professors attacked attempts to legislate this response: "Any state or earthly power which seeks to legislate man's relationship to God denies therewith the spiritual nature of that relationship... that it derives from the interaction of God's spirit and the human spirit."

They said it is through this free response, not through a "predetermined" group, that God works to accomplish his goal.

"It is clear that an established religion, or a 'culture religion,' or a family religion, is no religion at all in the biblical sense," the professors stated. They said such religion fails by "substituting the deterministic and external factors of race, culture, or nation for the dynamic concept of free response to the call of God."

The Southern Seminary professors writing the study paper were: James Leo Garrett, professor of Christian theology; David L. Mueller, assistant professor of Christian theology; Page H. Kelley, associate professor of Old Testament interpretation; Nolan P. Howington, associate professor of Christian ethics.

Dale Moody, professor of Christian theology; Henlee Barnette, professor of Christian ethics; Glenn Hinson, assistant professor of church history; Wayne E. Ward, associate professor of Christian theology, and Wayne E. Oates, professor of psychology of religion.

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Bell Named President
Of Religious Ed Group

(9-3-64)

FORT WORTH (BP)--The Southwestern Baptist Religious Education Association, meeting here, elected A. Donald Bell, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, president for the coming year.

More than 300 religious education workers from 20 states attended the three-day meeting on the Southwestern Seminary campus.

The religious educators elected as vice-presidents Elmer F. Bailey, associate pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis; William Young, consultant in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department, and A. J. Quinn, head of the religious education department at Howard Payne College (Baptist), Brownwood, Tex.

Reelected as secretaries were Miss Gracie Knowlton, professor at Southwestern Seminary; and Miss Evalyn Robinson, secretary of Tarrant Baptist Association (Fort Worth).

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New Mexico Board
Keeps Division Same

(9-3-64)

ALBUQUERQUE (BP)--The mission board of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico expects churches in this state to provide \$585,000 next year through the Cooperative Program to support state and world missions and other activities conducted by Southern Baptists.

Division of the funds so received would be 27 per cent for the Southern Baptist Convention and 73 per cent to stay in New Mexico, according to a budget drafted by the board to submit to the convention in November.

The Cooperative Program budget proposed for 1965 compares with the current budget of \$565,000 and the percentage formula has not been changed.

The total 1965 budget would be \$1,194,537, when allocations from two SBC boards for jointly sponsored educational and missionary work are counted.

The mission board approved publication of Lewis A. Myers' book, "History of New Mexico Baptists." Myers is a former editor of the state Baptist newspaper, the Baptist New Mexican, here.

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Harris, Carson-Newman
Teacher, Heads Group

RIDGECREST (BP)--Douglas J. Harris, professor of Bible at Carson-Newman College (Baptist), Jefferson City, Tenn., has been elected president of the Association of Baptist Professors of Religion.

He succeeds Page H. Kelley of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, as president of the association. The group includes teachers at Southern Baptist seminaries and colleges. Thirty-five attended.

Robert Crapps, Furman University, Greenville, S. C., was elected vice-president, and W. T. Edwards, Howard College, Birmingham, secretary-treasurer.

The association will also hold its 1965 meeting at this Southern Baptist Convention summer assembly site, Aug. 26-27.

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J. H. Cothen Dies

(9-3-64)

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (BP)--Joseph Herbert Cothen, 71, retired Baptist minister living here, accidentally shot himself to death Aug. 27. He was father of three sons who followed his path into the ministry, one of them Grady C. Cothen of Fresno, executive secretary, Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

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North Carolina Pastoral
Care School Adds McGee

(9-3-64)

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. (BP)--The North Carolina Baptist Hospital and its affiliated Bowman Gray School of Medicine here named L. L. McGee of Atlanta to the staff of its school of pastoral care.

Richard K. Young, director of the school, said McGee would become an assistant director, teaching ministers and seminary students how to counsel people.

Young said he would also counsel patients in the out-patient clinic and supervise chaplain interns.

McGee, a native of Petersburg, Va., has been directing the hospital chaplaincy ministry of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The school of pastoral care has been a pioneer in training and strengthening religious leadership to serve the spiritual needs of people.

More than 150 students from the United States and other countries studied at the school last year. In fact, McGee is a 1960 graduate of the school.

"I look forward to this opportunity to help pastors and other religious workers gain insights and skills which will make their ministry more meaningful," McGee said.

While employed at the mission agency in Atlanta, McGee led in studies and surveys at several large medical centers before establishing full-time chaplaincy programs.

In addition, he conducted conferences, workshops and clinics. He informed the denomination concerning the hospital chaplaincy ministry, and assisted hospitals seeking to employ chaplains.

The teaching and supervisory role will not be new to McGee, who is accredited as a chaplain-supervisor by the Southern Baptist Association for Clinical Pastoral Education.

He served as a chaplain-supervisor in the Memorial Baptist Hospital in Houston, and was a volunteer chaplain at Suffolk, Richmond, and Alexandria, Va.

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Missionary Called
By Atlanta Church

ATLANTA (BP)--James G. Stertz, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's fraternal representative to German Baptists and director of English-language work in that nation, is to serve temporarily as assistant pastor of Atlanta's Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church.

The Stertz family returned earlier in the year on emergency furlough because of illness of one of the children. The expect to return to Germany in about a year, resuming the work to which they were appointed in 1961.

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Organizer Dies

(9-3-64)

SHAFTER, Calif. (BP)--The man who gave the first dollar for a Southern Baptist children's home in California, and who was a charter member of the first Southern Baptist church to be organized in the state, died here Aug. 25. He was J. Marvin Mouser, 67, a pianist and Sunday school teacher for a score of years in Shafter's First Southern Baptist Church.

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Judy Hall Appointed

(9-3-64)

BOILING SPRINGS, N. C. (BP)--Miss Lora Julianne (Judy) Hall of Decatur, Ga., will be dean of women at Gardner-Webb College (Baptist) here during 1964-65. Miss Hall is a 1964 graduate of Mississippi College (Baptist) in Clinton, Miss. Her father is pastor of the First Baptist Church of Decatur.

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August SBC Gifts
Nearly \$2 Million

(9-3-64)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The 28 cooperating state Baptist conventions sent nearly \$2 million in August to support work of Southern Baptist Convention agencies, SBC Treasurer Porter Routh announced here.

Included was \$1,670,819 through the Cooperative Program, the non-designated financial system to provide operating and capital needs to various agencies according to the SBC budget voted each year. The remaining \$242,274 was in designated funds, funds sent on the agencies their donors specified in giving the money.

So far this year, the SBC has received \$28.9 million. Of this \$13,743,067 came via the Cooperative Program. The other \$15,163,150 during those eight months came as designations.

Cooperative Program gifts January through August are running 8.14 per cent ahead of the same span a year ago. Designations are 5.55 per cent greater over the same two-thirds of a year.

Of the \$28.9 million to the SBC, \$18.7 million has been disbursed to the Foreign Mission Board. Another \$5.8 million has been for the Home Mission Board. Next largest sum--\$573,183--has been for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

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