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NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
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October 10, 1964

Baylor Speaker Chides
South On Civil Rights

WACO, TEX. (BP)--The determination of Southerners to protect a way of life has led the South into irrational positions and to isolationism, a New York journalist told a Baylor University audience here.

"The Negro is still in chains as far as the full exercise of his civil rights is concerned wherever devilish and determined ingenuity have been exercised to maintain the doctrine of white supremacy," said Mark F. Ethridge, vice president and editor of Newsday, the eighth largest evening newspaper in the nation.

Ethridge cited enforced integration in Little Rock, rioting at Oxford, bombing in Birmingham, murder in Neshoba County, and even the U.S. Supreme Court decision of 1954 as "incidents in the 100-year fight the South has made to defeat the verdict at Appomattox."

"Only the 13th amendment forbidding human slavery has survived in clear form," Ethridge said during Baylor's first 1964 distinguished lecture series.

Ethridge, himself a Southerner and a graduate of Mercer University (Baptist), Macon, Ga., is former publisher and chairman of the board of the Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal and the Louisville Times. He is now vice president and editor of Newsday, 400,000-circulation daily newspaper published at Garden City, Long Island, N.Y.

Ever since reconstruction days, Ethridge said, the South has adopted every means "not merely to disenfranchise the Negro, but to extend segregation by state law, city ordinance and intimidation" through such devices as the grandfather clause, the poll tax, the white primary and literacy test.

The South's century-old fight to prolong a feeling of "embittered martyrdom" has made "hypocrites of us in the name of states'rights; it has corrupted our justice...It has generated hypocrisy, intimidation, fear and open repression; it has driven the Deep South into insularity, isolationism, reaction and defiance of the conscience of a world that almost everywhere else except South Africa is according people of color their right to be free and self-governing and to have their dignity in the race of men," Ethridge said.

"One by one the barriers to enjoyment of civil rights are falling," he said, "but others are being erected. I venture the hope that when the backlash has exerted its full force, we shall return to a degree of sanity and normalcy and that the country will proceed upon the course set for it a hundred years ago."

Ethridge's lecture had been billed in advance as dealing with "Civil Rights and the National Elections." He concentrated, however, on civil rights.

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12 Churches Own
$3 Million Plants (10-10-64)

By the Baptist Press

Twelve churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, seven of them located in Texas, have property valued at more than $3 million, according to the denomination's statistician. Three are in Dallas.

Leader, as it is in total membership with 13,142, is the First Baptist Church, Dallas. Its property valuation is $6.8 million.

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Two Louisiana churches follow in second and third. The property of Mid City Baptist Church, New Orleans, which operates a parochial school program, is worth $4.5 million. It has 3657 members.

Across the state, First Baptist Church, Shreveport, membership: 3620, reported property of $4,359,151. One other church, First of Atlanta, Ga., exceeds $4 million, this church having property values at $4.2 million. Its membership is 6193.

Fifth place is held by Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, which lacks only a little of $4 million--$3,998,458. Park Cities has 4202 members. Lubbock, Tex., First Baptist Church is next with $3,553,175 given as its property value. Membership is 8086.

No. 7 spot is occupied by Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, with an even $3.5 million. Its membership is 5880. Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., second in membership (8249) in the SBC, has $3,344,078 worth of property.

A third Dallas church fills ninth position. The 4513-member Gaston Avenue Baptist Church is appraised at $3,150,000. Tenth is First Baptist Church, Midland, Tex., with 5197 members and property worth $3,108,369.

First Baptist Church, Columbia, S.C., and Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, round out the dozen. The South Carolina church (membership: 4158) has valuation of $3,060,000 and the Fort Worth church (membership: 4848), $3,050,000.

The figures come from reports to the secretary of research and statistics of the SBC Sunday School Board from more than 1100 district associations of churches. Martin B. Bradley of Nashville and the department he heads fulfill the role of denominational keeper of statistics.

The 12 churches make up about three-one-hundredths of 1 per cent of the 33,000 churches cooperating with the Southern Baptist Convention. Their combined value of nearly $50 million is about 2 per cent of the $2-3/4 billion total valuation of church property in the denomination. (BP)

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Ruschlikon Seminary
Wins Europe's Respect (10-10-64)

By John J. Hurt

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP)--Southern Baptists have their own little United Nations in the Baptist Theological Seminary here where 45 students represent 17 different countries.

It is here, too, that in 15 short years Southern Baptists have won respect for scholastic training and their desire to prepare leadership for the Baptist conventions of Europe. The seminary also is the Ridgecrest and Glorieta for Europe since it is host during the summer months for conferences of preachers, laymen, chaplains and many specialized groups.

"We have made real progress and we are getting along fine," says John D. W. Watts, the lanky Louisianan recently installed as president.

The other member of the faculty whose service dates back to 1949 when the seminary doors opened, Mississippian John A. Moore, adds "it is really better than we had a right to expect."

Their answers were to the question of the seminary's acceptance among European Baptists. It is no secret European Baptists greeted the new seminary with mixed emotions, most of them negative. Maybe Baptist missions in earlier days had been too dogmatic. Or, maybe national pride preferred this be a joint enterprise for which money in those days was lacking.

Anyway, Baptist Theological Seminry has won its way with conventions on the continent supporting many of the students. Trustees are from 17 nations where Baptist have seen from former students the value of Ruschlikon's training.

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Watts has a quick answer for those who raise an eyebrow at the small number of students--45 with just half of them enrolled for a degree. "The base is awfully small," he reminds since most of the continent's Baptist population is in Russia, which is not represented on the campus.

This leaves the seminary to draw from a Baptist population of only 200,000 and, in addition, the national conventions maintain 13 seminaries. There is no conflict with these for most can be considered as confined to diploma courses because of limited preparatory education of their sutdents.

Ruschlikon was established for those who can meet seminary entrance requirements as in the United States. The current catalogue listing eight professors shows each with an earned doctorate, five of these from either Southern or Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminaries.

President Watts looked back over his 15 years on the campus for three significant observations.

He is particulary pleased with the cooperation from the various conventions of Europe. "Before World War II there was practically no cooperation among European Baptists," he explained. "Now, the European Baptist Federation is very active.

"It is the channel for promoting better work." He is convinced the seminary has played a major role, both with its theological training and the numerous summer conferences.

The president is optimistic about the future of Baptists on the continent but quick to admit his optimism can not be proven. "We do not yet have the real pickup in growth," he says, "but there are a number of signs of new determination. Within the next 20 years we will see a real statistical change. Our Southern Baptist countries of Italy and Spain are showing a healthy growth."

Third, he sees the seminary as pointing the way to stronger churches which in turn will be more evangelistic. Emphasis at the seminary has been on the academic to win respect of trained leaders. Now program promotion will come into the spotlight to share wiht pastors the way to lead churches.

The seminary has averaged less than three bachelor of divinity graduates a year but already is counting these among leadership in the conventions. Additionally, 13 students representing nine nations have gone from their conventions as foreign missionaries and two more students are in training.

John Allen Moore, the other veteran, who with his wife this year received his 25-year service pin from the SBC Foreign Mission Board, typifies the spirit that has won respect for the seminary on the continent.

"We have things to share and things to learn," he says of working with the various groups. He dismisses the theological differences that are among Baptists of Europe just as in the United States. "These are not problems but opportunities," he says.

He knows the continent as few men, having served as a missionary in Yugoslavia until forced out by the war and later working among displaced Baptist in various areas. He also knows the need of proper communication and gives much of his time to the European Baptist Press Service which goes to about 100 editors.

Mrs. Moore teaches English, which is the seminary language of instruction; leads the Woman's Missionary Society, and fills in wherever else needed. She hopes the day will soon come when European Baptist churches get beyond the one service on Sunday with a limited midweek service.

She also sees the tremendous need for more Bible study in the churches, this being confined mainly to those below the early intermediate ages.

Vella Jane Burch of Atlanta, came here in 1952 as librarian and points to her work as showing best the seminary growth. She has seen the library develop from 2,000 classified volumes to 20,000. It has beoome a center for research.

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Independent of the seminary but housed there under Foreign Mission Board auspices is the European Baptist Radio Recording Studi under direction of E. Wesley Miller, formerly with the SBC Radio and TV Commission. Programs are produced for short wave broadcast from Monaco in Spanish, Hungarian and Portuguese. The studio also is training pastors for radio preaching, both as a part of the seminary course and in summer conferences.

Ruschlikon can boast of two unrelated assets that won't be matched in th states. One is a faculty with each member holding an earned doctorate.

The other is the beauty of its campus. The seven-acre campus, atop a mountain, overlooks the lake of Zurich. The grounds are an artist's dream with the trees and flowers so much a part of Switzerland.

The main building, once a palatial home, is of modified baroque style made popular in this area. It houses the classrooms, library, offices and one fl or of student rooms. The second building contains the dining facilities, student lounge, gymnasium, infirmary, and more student rooms. There is a 16-apartment building for married students.

Pride of the campus is the chapel, completed in 1959, which is octagonal in form and is surmounted by a central lantern. Connected to it by a stone wall is a tower with three bells.

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(Picture of seminary students mailed to Baptist editors)

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WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE

Cutlines October 10, 1964 Baptist Press Photo

IN EUROPE, TOO--The coffee break is an official part of life at the International Baptist Seminary in Ruschlikon, Zurich, Switzerland. This is a group of students enjoying fellowship after the chapel service.
(BP) Photo from John Hurt

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(This photo accompanies Hurt's feature on the seminary, mailed.)