

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE  
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October 12, 1964

Report From Rome

Guest For A Day! Baptist Reporter Gets In Vatican Council

By W. Barry Garrett

October 6 -- a day long to be remembered! I was "guest for a day" at Vatican Council II. Normally after the morning mass when the moderator says, "Exeunt omnes," (translated "everybody get out") all reporters and other visitors are excluded from the council meeting. But this time I stayed safely in the Protestant observers' section, fortified with a permit signed by Cardinal Pericle Felici, secretary general of the council.

How I got the permit is a story in itself. It dates back to September 1 in Nashville, Tenn. James M. Sapp, an associate director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D.C., called his friend, Msgr. M. R. Kearney, in Memphis, Tenn. He asked him to do what he could to help me in Rome.

Immediately letters flew from Memphis to Rome. Later in Rome my friend, Fr. Thomas F. Stransky of the Secretariat on Christian Unity, called me aside and asked what I wanted. He said that Cardinal Marella had called and asked, "Who is this fellow, Garrett?" After explaining, the Cardinal said, "Get him a pass into the council, and when you bring him over I want to meet him."

That is how I found myself in the aula of St. Peter's Basilica watching 2400 Roman Catholic bishops from over the world worship in the Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit celebrated by The Most Rev. Hector Santos, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

There are about 75 official Protestant observers listed for the council. As the council debate got underway the English speaking observers gathered in groups of about 10 each. A council expert was seated in the middle giving a simultaneous translation of the speeches which were in Latin.

Later another council assistant distributed to the observers the advance secret text of the proposed decree "On the Lay Apostolate." I took a copy but don't know what to do with it since it is in Latin!

The day's debate was the conclusion of the proposal for a decree "On Divine Revelation." After looking over the list of speakers, Albert Outler, Methodist observer, leaned over to me and whispered, "This means a morning of Mediterranean theology!" Most of the speakers were from Italy and Spain.

Bishop Costantino Caminada of Italy declared, "The indiscriminate diffusion of scripture among the faithful can be dangerous...The text usually quoted from St. Paul's epistle to Timothy, namely that all scripture is useful for teaching, applies to pastors but not to the faithful. The faithful are not ready for the indiscriminate use of scripture because so many of them are ignorant of the basic element of Christian doctrine."

This, however, does not represent the general view of the council. The proposed decree seeks to soften the conflict between the authority of the scripture and tradition, encourages the development of a common Bible for both Protestants and Catholics, and urges wide study of the Bible both by the clergy and the laity.

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By this time the morning exodus of the bishops began. The doors of the refreshment stand open at 11:00 a.m. The empty seats reminded me of a Baptist convention when the speeches are dull and business is dragging. Wanting to see it all, I joined the crowd and elbowed my way up to the bar where I picked up an orange soda.

While sipping my soda and talking with Fr. Frederick McManus of Catholic University, Washington, D.C., I was called to meet Cardinal Marella. We talked 10 or 15 minutes. He expressed the wish that both Protestants and Catholics would lay aside their mutual prejudices and engage in friendly and thoughtful talks with one another.

One of the significant achievements of the council is relaxed tensions between Catholics and Protestants. While any possibility of ultimate union of the two is generations or even centuries away, and possibly never, it is uplifting to be friendly with those with whom we are so far removed religiously.

During the morning four votes were taken on the proposed decree on Christian unity. All were overwhelmingly approved. In the vote "on the practice of ecumenism" the council fathers said, "In reference to our sins against unity...with humble prayer, we beg pardon of God and of our separated brethren, as we forgive those who trespass against us." This is far from the Council of Trent when the church pronounced curses on the Protestant heretics!

It is significant to Baptists that the Roman Catholic Church, which has stood apart from other Christians in the world, is now seeking ways and means for an approach to the world ecumenical movement without compromising its own faith. The effort is causing the church untold agony and it will be interesting to watch future developments. One wonders if Baptists will ever face this problem as candidly as our "non-Protestant brethren" are doing.

The council dismissed at 12:30 p.m., and I hastened to the 1:00 p.m. press briefing, the 3:00 p.m. U. S. bishops press panel and the 4:30 meeting of the English speaking African bishops. The day has concluded late at night by writing this "report from Rome." Yes, October 6 is a day long to be remembered.

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Midwestern Appoints  
President's Assistant

(10-12-64)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here has added a new member to its staff with the appointment of John Goodwin as assistant to the president.

In this position, Goodwin will be responsible predominantly for field work in recruiting students. He will visit churches and colleges. His duties will also include some public relations work, in line with his recruitment duties.

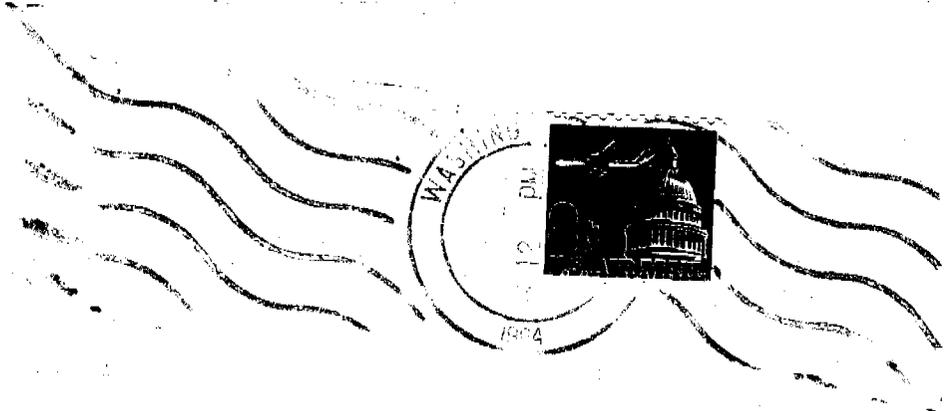
Goodwin is a graduate of Louisiana College (Baptist), Pineville, La., and of Midwestern. His pastoral experience includes pastorate of First Baptist Church, Florien, La., and assistant pastor of First Baptist Church, Oak Grove, Mo. He held this Missouri post while attending the seminary.

Goodwin, 26, married the former Johnnie Faye Fondren. Both are from Port Neches, Tex.

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20009



**AIR MAIL**

THEO SOMMERKAMP  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
460 JAMES ROBERTSON PKWY  
NASHVILLE 3 TENN

THE WASHINGTON OFFICE OF THE BAPTIST PRESS

WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE

(BP)

# BAPTIST PRESS

October 12, 1964

Theo Sommerkamp, *assistant director*  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville 3, Tennessee

Dear Editor:

Recently we have noticed that several Baptist state papers have increased their rates, or have announced an increase effective in the immediate future, perhaps Jan. 1.

Normally, modest rate increases by individual papers are not publicized outside the state in which the paper making them is located. However, because several have come close together, we feel a brief Baptist Press story is in order. No particular paper will be singled out; rather, those making recent increases or announcements of increases will be listed, along with the amount of increase, cause for rates going up, and estimated effect on circulation.

Will you please use the enclosed air mail stamped reply envelope to send us the filled-out form attached? This will help us assure accuracy and be sure that we have listed all papers involved. If you have made a rate increase or will make one soon please share with us all facts asked for on the question sheet.

Thank you. Best wishes in your good work. We appreciate the opportunity of working together with you as your cooperative news service to each other and to the outside press on behalf of Southern Baptists.

Sincerely,

Theo Sommerkamp

encl. (2)

\*question form to fill out

\*air mail envelope for immediate mailing

10/64

Air mail immediately to Theo Soumerkamp, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn  
Envelope attached, self-addressed and stamped

Name of Paper \_\_\_\_\_

By Completing this form \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Have you raised your rates in 1964? Yes( ) No( )
- 2. Have you announced a rate increase which has not yet taken effect? Yes( ) No( )
- 3. On what date was, or will, the increase be effective?  
(If yes on either question 1 or 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
month day year
- 4. What is the increase?

Type of subscription plan	previous rate	new rate
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

- 5. Cite here, in your own words, the reason for the increase:
- 6. What effect do you expect the rate increase to have on present circulation?
- 7. Your present circulation figure: \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. TO BE ANSWERED WHETHER OR NOT YOUR PAPER IS MAKING AN INCREASE:  
When was your last previous increase? \_\_\_\_\_  
month day year
- 9. Was it greater ( ) or less ( ) than the current increase, if you are making one?
- 10. Which of these describes circulation effect of your last rate increase?
  - ( ) declined after increase and has not regained previous figure
  - ( ) declined after increase and reached but did not exceed previous figure
  - ( ) declined after increase, but later passed and now exceeds previous figure
  - ( ) no decrease, no increase in circulation
  - ( ) continued to gain circulation without any temporary or long-range dropoff
- 11. Are you subsidized by your state convention?  
( ) None ( ) Modest or token amount ( ) Substantially
- 12. If not involved by question 1 or 2, are you facing a possible rate increase?  
( ) Yes ( ) No

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Name of Person Completing this form \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

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