

August 27, 1948

## BAPTIST LAYMEN MAKE PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE RACIAL RELATIONS

RIDGECREST, N. C.--(BP)--A discussion group of Southern Baptist laymen here adopted proposals designed to encourage better racial relations and improve living standards of the Negro in the South.

Men from 11 states were present in the group that took the action. Their proposals will be publicized by the office of the Baptist Brotherhood of the South at Memphis.

The first of two proposals constitutes an appeal to business men with investment capital to seriously consider the building or financing of first class hotels for Negroes. These hotels would have coffee shops, dining rooms for convention sessions, and other facilities comparable with those of leading white hotels. They would be located in the Negro sections of Southern cities.

The building of attractive and adequate tourist courts for Negroes was also recommended as a partial solution to the need for hotel space.

A second proposal carried the suggestion that financing companies and business promoters own stock wholly, or jointly with Negro business men, in high class cafes, drug stores and department stores in well populated Negro areas. These businesses would be operated by capable Negro business men.

L. H. Tapscott of Dallas said the group believed that "following one or more of these plans will not only be good business, but will help to build friendly cooperation between the races in American community life."

The suggestions were drawn up by a special committee, composed of F. L. Bishop of Minden, La.; Loran A. Baker, Knoxville, Tenn.; F. T. Simpson, Alexandria, Va.; W. H. Wood, Jr., Memphis, Tenn.; Alva Crider, Jamestown, Ky.; A. S. Newman, Alexandria, La.; J. B. Wyckoff, Memphis, and Tapscott, and were adopted unanimously by the discussion group.

The office of the Baptist Brotherhood of the South is expected "to submit the proposals to Christian business men of the South as practical steps in the solution of the race problem," Tapscott said.

OKLAHOMA A. & M. COLLEGE  
OFFERS RELIGIOUS COURSES

STILLWATER, Okla.--(BP)--Religious education courses at Oklahoma A. & M. College here are held in 15 Stillwater churches with the pastor of each church serving as teacher.

The basis for these courses was arranged by Dr. H. G. Bennett, college president, in the belief that the school should offer religious courses and yet recognizing that a state school would have "tough sledding" satisfying all denominational points of view. Dr. Bennett is a Baptist.

The courses are listed in the college catalogs as "electives" and students are encouraged to enroll in them. Regular college credit is given. Class meetings in all the churches are held on Wednesday night, normally the night when church leaders are already present for the midweek prayer services.

Classes sometimes have grown so large that the pastors have to use three or four other competent church leaders to help in the instruction.

Course subjects as listed in the college catalog include Foundation of Religious Life, Social and Practical Teachings of Jesus, The Development of the Christian Church, Christian Ethics, Biblical Literature, Old Testament and New Testament History, Life of Jesus, Church Administration, and Religious Organizational Leadership.

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TEXAS BAPTISTS HOLD ASSEMBLY  
FOR JAPANESE-AMERICANS

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas--(BP)--A Nisei Summer Assembly sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas is in session at the University of Corpus Christi.

This is the third year that Japanese-Americans have been brought together for the Baptist program. Arrangements are in charge of Dr. A. C. Miller, director of Texas Baptists' department of Missions to Minorities, and Dusty Aono, chairman of the State Nisei Committee.

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