

September 20, 1948

COLOR LINE ERASED AT
ARIZONA BAPTIST COLLEGE

PHOENIX, Ariz.--(BP)--There will be no color line at the Grand Canyon Baptist College.

Dr. Willis J. Ray, executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Arizona, said that the proposed college to be located at Prescott will not be closed to any student because of faith, creed, or color.

Question as to the Baptist attitude on the matter was raised by Joe Roberts, secretary of the Prescott Chamber of Commerce, who pointedly asked Dr. Ray as to the college's policies regarding Negroes.

"As to the entrance of colored students into our college, I am sure you can notify the public that we will be as broadminded as our state institutions," Dr. Ray wrote.

"As has been stated before, the college will be open to all faiths and creeds. The door will not be closed on color. We will not encourage the attending of enough Negroes to create a problem, but we will take care of the few who come. No doubt we will have a few more Indians than Negroes, because the Indians are very anxious to have a college where they can get training to take back to their own people."

Roberts responded in a letter of gratitude for Dr. Ray's position. "Your answer on this score confirms our belief," Roberts wrote, "that we are doing business with a group of Baptists who operate on the broadest interpretation of Christian principles. Further, we like your view of taking the Indian students into the college by way of helping them to return to their own people and impart any useful knowledge they should acquire at the college. Again, this underlines for us the truly Christian principles on which your people operate."

**SURVEY INDICATES INTERDENOMINATIONAL
COOPERATION ON LOCAL LEVEL**

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.--(BP)--A survey of Oklahoma Baptist pastors indicates that Southern Baptists in this area favor cooperation with other denominations on a local level if doctrinal beliefs are not violated.

The Southern Baptist Convention itself has repeatedly refused to join national and world federations of churches.

Dr. Karl H. Moore, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Ardmore, Okla., has written in the Baptist Messenger, state denominational paper, the findings of a survey he made of the state's Baptist ministers to determine their general practices.

Most of the pastors do cooperate with local interdenominational ministerial alliances, he found, but wherever the city is large enough for a Baptist pastor's association they generally devote their active participation to the Baptist group rather than the general alliance.

Interdenominational participation is most general in civic enterprises, campaigns for better government, Thanksgiving and Easter services, city-wide revivals and the like.

"It is my conviction," Dr. Moore summarized, "that as Baptist pastors we should cooperate with other Christian faiths in united movements for the good of communities in which we live. We should graciously decline to participate in programs undertaken by ministerial alliances, or other religious groups, which are contrary to Baptist beliefs. I have declined participation many times, without incurring ill-will of brethren of other faiths."

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**TEXAS BAPTISTS
USE FM RADIO**

DALLAS, Texas --(BP)--One thousand Texas Baptist churches will have the same speaker for their mid-week prayer services October 6.

He will be Dr. J. Howard Williams, executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, speaking over a network of 15 FM radio stations to which all the churches will have their sets tuned.

Dr. Williams will use the opportunity of this 45-minute broadcast to explain to the churches the \$10,000,000 program planned by the denomination for next year. His microphone will be in the studios of KRLD-FM in Dallas with 14 other FM stations picking it up for simultaneous rebroadcast.

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S. C. BAPTISTS OPPOSE LIBERALIZING
OF STATE'S STRICT DIVORCE LAWS

GREENEVILLE, S. C.--(BP)--The Baptist Courier, state denominational paper, is urging South Carolina Baptists to qualify themselves for voting against proposed changes in the state's divorce statutes.

The state legislature has proposed a constitutional amendment which would legalize divorce on grounds of adultery, desertion, physical cruelty, or habitual drunkenness. The proposal will be voted on at the regular November general election.

Under present law, "divorce from the bonds of matrimony shall not be allowed in this state."

South Carolina Baptists, in their last state convention, adopted resolutions opposing the change "because it opens the door for a flood of divorces that we as Christians cannot agree to. The New Testament allows divorce for one cause and that is adultery.

"We do not believe that we as Christians can vote for any law that goes beyond the New Testament, so we must vigorously fight this law. Already one-third of the marriages in America are ending in divorce. We must give more time to helping our young people make wise marriages for which they are prepared."

The Courier, citing the Convention's action, urged that all Baptists fulfill legal requirements for registration so that they may vote "according to their convictions on this matter."

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SHANGHAI PLANS 8-WEEK
EVANGELISTIC CRUSADE

SHANGHAI--(BP)--Eight weeks of evangelistic preaching have been scheduled by the Shanghai Baptist Association for early 1949 with two Texas ministers as evangelists.

Dr. Charlie Chi, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Shanghai, a Southern Baptist mission point, said that Dr. J. W. (Bill) Marshall, president of Wayland College at Plainview, Texas, and Rev. George E. Steward, Jr., pastor of the First Baptist Church of San Marcos, Texas, will fly to Shanghai in late December to lead the crusade.

Participating in the evangelistic crusade, according to Pastor Chi, will be his church, along with seven "branch" churches, five middle schools, the University of Shanghai, the Baptist Seminary, and possibly the 17 national universities in the Shanghai area.

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