



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
Telephone (615) 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, Director  
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

Feb. 8, 1966

**EDITORS NOTE:** Wayne Dehoney of Jackson, Tenn., president of the Southern Baptist Convention, while on a preaching mission to Japan and Korea sponsored by the U. S. Air Force chaplaincy, gives this account of visiting United States servicemen who have served in Viet Nam. Following his two week preaching mission in Japan and Korea, he was scheduled to tour Baptist missions work in the Orient sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Viet Nam Servicemen  
Need Spiritual Help

By Wayne Dehoney  
President, Southern Baptist Convention

TOKYO--This is another world--but a world that is moving closer home with every tick of the clock.

The 33,600 men in the armed services in Japan know this is true as they feel the tension of the escalating war in Viet Nam. The wounded have been coming into the hospitals in Japan in great numbers, and I have gone from bed to bed.

One boy from Georgia with two bullet wounds in the shoulder said, "What a tough break, clean through the flesh without a broken bone. If they had busted me up, I'd be in the states now, but I've got to go back for five months of that mess."

On the bed next to him, a boy from Texas said the opposite: "I can't wait to get back to my outfit. It's not right for me to lie in bed here with nice clean sheets and good food while my buddies are fighting in the swamps."

In another bed was a major from Oklahoma, his sister on the staff of the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City. We prayed together.

One boy desperately needed spiritual help. The psychiatrist had given up. "It's a job for the chaplain," he said.

The boy accidentally shot a South Vietnamese mother and child as he charged into a village to rout the Viet Cong. Guilt weights heavily upon him. I talked with him about God's forgiveness. But he couldn't seem to believe that God can forgive him because he can't forgive himself. His hands quiver continuously; his lips are drawn in a tight line.

There are 66 chaplains of all denominations attached to the Fifth Air Force here. I have been privileged to preach to special rallies of men, women, young people, and in the regular chapel services.

Our people in the military have neither horns nor halos. They are single men, men with families, with the same problems, disappointments, heartbreaks, and difficulties--but the continual battle against loneliness, frustration and temptation is a gnawing reality. These men and women need our prayers.

While in Japan, I have been with the Southern Baptist missionaries, preached to the Japanese Baptist churches, and visited our Baptist institutions here. Work in this Oriental culture is very slow. One is greatly impressed by the strength of our institutions and the dedication of our missionaries, and the story of our heroic witness through the years.

But a sense of futility here is overwhelming. Tokyo is the world's largest city with 10 million people, and the Christian witness seems like a drop of ink in an ocean among the masses of humanity!

Yet Jesus said the kingdom of heaven is like the mustard seed. The gospel, planted in the pagan society of Rome, took root and swept the civilized world in three centuries.

This is our hope in the Far East--the dynamic of the gospel, sewn by dedicated witnesses in the military, and by our missionaries.

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
Telephone (615) 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, Director  
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

**REGIONAL OFFICES****ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Editor/161 Spring Street, N.W./Atlanta, Georgia 30303/Telephone (404) 523-2593**DALLAS** R. T. McCartney, Editor/103 Baptist Building/Dallas, Texas 75201/Telephone (214) RI 1-1996**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Garrett, Editor/200 Maryland Ave., N.E./Washington, D.C. 20002/Telephone (202) 544-4226

February 8, 1966

Baptists Invite Catholics  
For Joint Worship Service

BEAUFORT, S.C. (BP)---More than 150 Catholics here joined with about 400 Southern Baptists for an historic joint worship service in which Baptist doctrines were expounded to the Catholic visitors.

The unique joint service was held at the Baptist Church of Beaufort on the invitation of the church's deacons. Almost all of the local Catholic church members attended the service.

About a dozen Lutherans, including the local Lutheran clergyman, also attended the Sunday night worship service.

It is believed to be one of the first meetings of its kind in the United States, said George A. Jones, pastor of the Baptist Church of Beaufort.

During his sermon to the Sunday night crowd of 550, Jones explained Baptist doctrines and teachings, with the central emphasis upon worship.

Immediately following the service, Father Ronald P. Anderson, pastor of the St. Peter's Catholic Church, said, "We have felt the presence of the Holy Spirit here tonight."

"We accepted the most gracious invitation of our Baptist friends to join them in their worship service that we might observe their form of worship, that we might share together the word of God, and that we might unite our prayers that, as God wills and in the way that he wills, there might be one truly Christian family," said the Catholic priest.

The unique joint worship service was held at the end of an Octave, an eight-day Catholic period of prayer for unity sponsored by a committee of the Catholic church in Beaufort.

It was the custom of the Beaufort priest to invite Protestants to attend the final Octave service to observe the form of worship used by Catholics, but few had ever accepted the invitation before. The Baptist pastor had always told the priest that whenever the Catholic people were free to visit the Baptists, then they would talk about it seriously.

When plans for the recent Octave were being made by the Catholic priest and his committee, they approached the Baptist pastor and said that in the light of the Vatican Council spirit of ecumenism, the time might be ripe for a joint worship service.

Deacons of the Baptist church voted to issue an invitation to the entire congregation of St. Peter's Catholic Church, and to also invite members of all other Protestant churches in the area to attend the joint worship service at the Baptist church.

Jones later expressed disappointment that only Catholic and Lutheran churches accepted the invitation. None of the churches affiliated with the National Council of Churches, including local Methodist, Episcopalian and Presbyterian churches, attended the joint worship service, he said.

--more--

During the service, the church's adult choir sang an anthem, and two laymen including the chairman of the deacons led prayers, made announcements, and read the scriptures.

Jones, who preached on Baptist doctrines, said it was a typical Baptist worship service and said that the response on the part of the visitors was wonderful.

"The Monday following the service, I spent practically the entire day talking on the telephone to Catholic people who called to express thanks for allowing them to attend the service," Jones said.

The response of his own church members has been 100 per cent favorable, Jones added. Seeds were sewn toward a much better understanding of each other and toward mutual Christian fellowship between faiths, he added.

Jones said that he has received a flood of mail following the service. "About half of it has come from Baptist preachers condemning me for what we did," he said, "and about half praising us for conducting the service."

The pastor of the St. John's Lutheran Church, Dermon Sox, is hoping to have a similar joint worship service at his church next year, Jones said. The Catholic church is too small to seat the entire membership of the Baptist church and there are no immediate plans for meeting at the Catholic church for a similar service, Jones added.

The Catholic priest, Anderson, believes that the worship service follows the ecumenical principles of both Pope John XXIII and Pope Paul VI, and that the problems of improving relations between Catholics and Protestants can never be solved by pushing a button in Rome. "It must be done on the local level by priests and pastors and congregations," Jones quoted Anderson as saying.

Beaufort is the principal city located on an island separated from South Carolina mainland by two rivers. About 45,000 civilians live on the island, in addition to thousands of servicemen stationed at military installations, including the famed Paris Island Marine base.

-30-

Photo being mailed to state Baptist papers.

Listings of Seminary  
Theses Now Available

2-8-66

NASHVILLE (BP)---The Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention has compiled a list of all graduate theses-in-progress at the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

Publication of the list marks the first time that a composite list of all such theses has been available.

The first listing contains the thesis titles approved by the graduate committees of each of the seminaries' schools of theology, religious education, and church music, as of Dec. 1, 1965.

The titles, listed by fields of study, are followed by the degree sought, name of student and institution.

Additional information on a particular research project can be requested from the student or the graduate chairman of the institution involved, said Davis C. Wooley, executive secretary of the SBC Historical Commission.

A revision of the list will be published at least once each year. Copies of the December, 1965, edition are available from the Historical Commission for 25 cents each.

All graduate theses completed by students at the seminaries during the past three years have been included in a listing entitled, Index of Graduate Theses in Baptist Theological Seminaries, 1963-1965.

--more--

Last November, the Historical Commission published an Index of Graduate Theses 1894-1962, and a few copies of the initial index (1894-1962) are available for \$1.50 each. The new 32-page supplemental volume is available for 50 cents per copy.

-30-

Houston Couple Gives  
Baylor 134 Acre Tract

2-8-66

WACO, Tex. (BP)-- A Houston couple has donated 134 acres of land near Houston valued at \$250,000 to Baylor University here.

Proceeds of the gift from Mr. and Mrs. Willard L. Russell will be applied to the cost of the Sid W. Richardson Science Building now under construction at the Baptist school, and toward equipping the psychology department in the new building.

The tract of land is near the Baytown, Tex., city limits and is in the general area of a proposed U.S. steel mill. Russell is a former Baylor psychology teacher. Both he and Mrs. Russell are Baylor graduates.

-30-

Study finds No Trend  
Away From Death Penalty

2-8-66

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP)---There is no world-wide trend toward abolishing the death sentence, but there is a significant international decline in executions, according to findings in a recently published study by a Wake Forest College Professor here.

The international survey was made by Clarence H. Patrick, professor of sociology at the Baptist school and chairman of the North Carolina Probation Commission.

Results of the study were printed in the winter issue of the Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology and Police Science published by the Northwestern University School of Law.

Patrick selected 146 countries for the study and received replies from 128. Purpose was to determine the current status of the death penalty in various countries of the world and the difference in practice from country to country, not to establish a case for or against capital punishment, Patrick said.

Of the 128 countries responding to the survey, 106 reported having provisions for capital punishment.

At present more than 50 per cent of the countries of the world have no executions for capital crimes during the course of the year, the study revealed.

The average number of the combined executions annually (1958-1962) in 89 countries answering the question was 535.3.

"Although this number may appear large," Patrick wrote, "it represents a phenomenal decline when compared with the number of executions in earlier years. Actually the yearly number of executions in the world today appears to be less than the number which took place in some single countries at an earlier time," he said.

During the last 30 years the average number of executions per year in the United States decreased from over 150 to less than 50, according to the study.

The countries which provide for the death penalty list an average of six crimes punishable by death, Patrick reported.

This is in striking contrast to practices of many years ago, Patrick said. "At some periods in the past, the number of capital crimes was virtually limitless," he wrote. "For example, in Great Britain today only four crimes are punishable by death as compared to over 200 (crimes) in the 18th century. In about 50 per cent of the countries four or fewer crimes are so defined (as punishable by death), he said.

-more-

Murder and treason are the offenses most frequently listed in the survey as capital crimes. Other capital crimes, in order, were listed as espionage, arson, homicide accompanied by another serious crime, rape, robbery (usually armed), insurrection or rebellion, parricide and sabotage.

Of the countries that reported on the method of execution, 54 used hanging and 35 used the firing squad. Beheading is reportedly used in eight countries to carry out the death sentence.

Electrocution and asphyxiation are the two most common methods used in the United States, and seven states use hanging.

Although beheading is the principal method used in Saudi Arabia, it may be replaced by stoning to death in the case of a woman guilty of adultery.

Only nine countries reported that they have executions open to the public. In 81 countries the executions are closed, and in nine others some are open and some are closed to the public.

-30-

Meredith Prof Joins  
Baylor Religion Staff

2-8-66

WACO, Tex. (BP)---Daniel B. McGee, assistant professor of sociology at Meredith College (Baptist) in Raleigh, N.C., will join the religion faculty at Baylor University here in September as associate professor, specializing in Christian ethics.

"McGee will share in teaching of basic courses in Old and New Testament and will offer new courses in the study of Christian responsibility in all areas of man's social life---political, economic, domestic and others," said Ray Summers, chairman of Baylor's religion department.

The Baptist school will offer courses next fall for the first time relating to major social issues such as nuclear warfare, poverty, and civil disobedience, Summers said.

McGee is a graduate of Furman University, Greenville, S. C., Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.; and Duke University, Durham, N.C., where he earned the doctor of philosophy degree.

-30-

Indiana Baptists Okay  
Foundation, Encampment

2-8-66

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)---The establishment of a state Baptist foundation and the purchase of an encampment site were authorized by the Executive Board of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana during its quarterly meeting here.

The board asked its executive committee to proceed with writing a charter for the foundation. The charter must be approved by the annual meeting of the convention next fall.

The encampment site is located in West Central Indiana near Turkey Run State Park. The board agreed to pay \$33,000 for the undeveloped 163-acre tract.

The 1966 state missions offering, with a goal of \$11,000, will be used to provide facilities at the new encampment.

In other action, the board voted to continue a study of the organizational and program structure of the state Baptist staff. Albert McClellan of Nashville, program planning secretary for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, will conduct the study.

The board also approved a three-year printing contract for the Indiana Baptist, a semi-monthly publication of the convention which will be issued weekly beginning in April.

The meeting was held just prior to the annual state Baptist evangelism conference here.

-30-