



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 17, 1966

Speaker Says Misspent Time May Cause American Downfall

FORT WORTH (BP)--Misspent leisure time, not forces from without, could be the downfall of America, a professor of social ethics from California told a Texas Baptist conference on "Christianity and the Workaday World" here.

The workshop, held at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, was sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Robert Lee, professor at San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, Calif., said there is a desperate need today for a theology of leisure.

The 37-year-old professor, author of 17 books, said that those advocating this theology of leisure are laughed at by the public because most people misunderstand the true meaning of leisure.

The Presbyterian professor said professional people find leisure in their work because they love what they are doing. This is not the case with many aged people, young people, housewives, and industrial workers, he said.

He advocated a program of help for the aged, who he said, feel useless in a society built on the precept of usefulness.

"Time for older people," he said, "becomes sort of a sociological death."

Lee said housewives do not have much to tax their imagination doing routine chores around the house and they often resort to bourbon to cure boredom.

In the workshop's closing message, Foy Valentine of Nashville, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, summarized the Christian's perspective of daily work.

Many of the stomach-aches, ulcers, heart attacks, neuroses and psychoses suffered by the worker stem from a wrong view of his work, Valentine said.

"Workers of the world have been challenged by Karl Marx to unite under the banner of Communism," he said, "but they will do much better to unite instead under the banner of the Carpenter King who dignified work but who would not and will not deify it."

The Baptist leader suggested that Christians should closely study the value and place of work from a Christian perspective.

He said the Christian worker must be concerned about what kind of work is to be engaged in, what quality of work is done, what use is made of time on the job, what business practices and work patterns are followed, and what advantage is taken at work of the opportunity to lift mankind through specific words and deeds of outgoing, sacrificial, obedient love.

Valentine's address, delivered to the seminary's faculty and students as well as to religious, labor, management and professional leaders participating in the workshop, closed the three-day state-wide Christian Life Workshop.

Speakers during the meeting included authors, architects, attorneys, pastors, industrial leaders, theologians, educators, labor union figures, businessmen, church personnel and professional people.

Attention was directed throughout the discussions to the area of Christian living as it relates to everyday work activities, said Jimmy R. Allen, secretary of the sponsoring Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Among the featured speakers was William Crook, southwest regional director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, which administers the War on Poverty programs.

In reference to the government's poverty program, Crook said that nothing this civilized had ever been tried before. He added that no other nation had gone back to pick up the pieces.

Crook, former Baptist pastor in Texas and former president of San Marcos Baptist Academy, said he could see in the Office of Economic Opportunity "a persistent compassion." He said this was difficult for most people because 83 per cent of Americans "don't believe in what we're doing."

Crook said that 54 per cent of the American populace, including many Baptists, feel the poor "ought to be poor because they are lazy." He said it is difficult to make some Americans realize that there are poor people in this country.

Quoting President Lyndon B. Johnson as saying that the way for the poverty program to succeed is to awaken the conscience of the country, Crook told the Baptists attending the workshop that they are the conscience of the country.

Tilford Dudley, director of the AFL-CIO speakers bureau in Washington, D.C., encouraged Baptists to become an integral part of the labor union movement.

"Organized labor and Christianity are partners," he said. Dudley earlier stated that he joined the labor union movement because he believed it to be the cutting edge for the Christian movement.

The Illinois native said that neither union nor church had succeeded well in race relations.

"Both," he said, "have come out with statements opposing discrimination because of race, but both have winked at violations of such principles."

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7,000 Make Decisions
During Graham Crusade

3-17-66

Greenville, S.C. (BP)--A total of 7,331 persons registered decisions during the Billy Graham Southern Piedmont Crusade here which drew such large crowds that Graham for the first time in 20 years was forced to preach two services each evening.

Total attendance for the ten-day evangelistic campaign reached 278,700, with an average of nearly 28,000 persons nightly jamming 21,500-seat Textile Hall here.

Overflow crowds converged on the hall during the first weekend when 8,500 were turned away. The Wednesday following the first weekend, Graham went to two services per evening, one at 5:30 and another at 8:15.

The high attendance came despite a boycott by Bob Jones University here, a fundamentalist school which Graham once attended and which in 1948 honored Graham with a doctor of humanities degree.

Bob Jones Jr., president of the school, had declared that Graham, a Southern Baptist, was doing "more harm to the cause of Christ than any living man."

Undaunted, however, Graham expressed love for Jones and preached sermons that packed the crowds into the meeting hall.

"This crusade has been one of the greatest and most thrilling experiences in my life," said Graham in the final meeting. "The hospitality and friendship extended to us have been overwhelming."

Biggest number of decisions came during a Thursday night youth night service when 1,313 came down the cement aisle of the seven-acre building to register decisions. All-pro End Bill Glass of the Cleveland Browns was a special guest speaker along with Graham for the night.

Graham preached identical sermons during the last five nights of the crusade. The twin services enabled an average of more than 10,000 persons to attend the crusade who otherwise could not have attended had single services been continued, crusade officials said.

Graham said he felt stronger at the end of the crusade than when he began, saying that God had given him additional strength.

Graham's next crusade opens in London beginning June 1 for 33 nights.

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Court Rules Out Sale
Of Alcohol in Stadium

ATLANTA, (BP)--Temperance forces have won the first round in their legal battle to keep liquor out of Atlanta Stadium.

A Fulton Superior Court enjoined sale of mixed drinks in a proposed club at the stadium on two grounds.

One was that the original contract between the Stadium Authority and the city and county did not permit a private club. The other was the stadium is a public facility and a private club is not legal.

Jack U. Harwell, associate editor of The Christian Index, Georgia Baptist Convention publication, was a plaintiff in the action.

The 53,000-seat stadium becomes the home in April of the Atlanta Braves of the National League and later in the year will be the home of the Atlanta Falcons of the National Football League.

Lawyers for the Stadium Authority and the Atlanta Braves said an appeal would be carried to the Georgia Supreme Court. It is doubtful the court could rule before the baseball season is over.

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Louisiana College Group
Elects Baptist President

3-17-66

PINEVILLE, La.(BP)--Edward McMillan, chairman of the Louisiana (Baptist) College history department here has been elected president of the Conference of Louisiana Colleges and Universities.

The organization is made up of 19 public and private colleges and universities in Louisiana.

Active in community and denominational organizations, McMillan is a member of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, a member of a special nine-man committee that is studying church-state relations for Louisiana Baptists, and the recorder of a Baptist Education Study Task (BEST) committee.

McMillan joined the Louisiana College faculty in 1961 and has served as professor of history and academic dean.

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Baylor Starts
New FM Station

3-17-66

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Baylor University's radio station, KWBU-FM, became a reality recently.

Within minutes after a telegram arrived at the Baptist school from the Federal Communications Commission authorizing the station operation, the transmitter switch was thrown and the station began broadcasting.

The educational, non-commercial FM station will operate 18 hours daily Monday through Saturday, at a frequency of 89.9 megacycles.

The station will broadcast from a 250-watt transmitter. Signals should be received on FM receivers within a 25-mile radius of Waco.

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Richmond Church Suit
Over Negroes Dismissed

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--A suit challenging the admission of two Nigerian students to membership in the First Baptist Church of Richmond has been dismissed from court on a legal technicality.

The plaintiffs failed to name the church itself as the defendant, and instead made the complaint against trustees and deacons of the church.

In a two-page opinion dismissing the suit, Chancery Court Judge William A. Moncure Jr., said that the motion by the defendants asking for dismissal "must be granted as it (the suit) does not allege any cause of action against these individuals."

Four members of the church had filed the suit Nov. 1, stating that a church constitution adopted in 1827 stipulates that church policies cannot be changed without a vote of two-thirds of the white male members.

The four plaintiffs contended that action of the church last January to admit two Nigerian students at Virginia Union University (Baptist) as church members was invalid because only 1,487 persons out of the 4,000-member church voted, and most of those voting were women.

They named as defendants in the suit three trustees of the church, the chairman and the secretary of the deacons, and the chairman of a special study committee which recommended creation of a committee to consider all membership applications.

In handing down the decision, Judge Moncure ruled that they named the wrong defendants, and that the persons cited in the complaint had no control over the action of the church.

Said the judge: "The complaint is made against specified members in their official capacities, but not against the church as an entity.

"Yet the actions to which objections were made were the actions of the church as an entity," the judge ruled.

The judge made it clear that he was not ruling on whether civil courts have jurisdiction in church membership matters.

One of the four plaintiffs, H. Lester Hooker, said following the decision, "My intention still is to have this case decided on its merits."

Three of the four plaintiffs told the Richmond Times-Dispatch that they would await further discussions with their attorney, John J. Wicker, Jr., before deciding on their next move.

Wicker said they could possibly file an amended or a supplemental petition naming the church, or bring a new suit. He did not say if they would do so or not.

The two Nigerian students, both sons of Nigerian Baptist ministers, have meanwhile continued as faithful members of the church. The students, Adedokun A. Oshoniyi and Gideon S. A. Adegbile, were accepted into full church membership as exceptions to a church policy dating back to 1840 which stated Negroes would be members of their own churches.

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Baptist College Prof
Goes To Indonesia

3-17-66

LIBERTY, Mo. (BP)--Barclay M. Newman, associate professor of Greek at William Jewell College (Baptist) here, has resigned to become translation consultant in Indonesia for the American Bible Society.

He will serve as an advisor and co-ordinator for missionaries and other persons engaging in scripture translation, working under the auspices of both the American Bible Society and the Indonesian Bible Society.

Newman, who has been on the William Jewell faculty since 1960, is a graduate of Union University (Baptist), Jackson, Tenn., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He taught both in the religion and ancient language department at William Jewell.

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