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April 6, 1966

**Prolonging Life Without  
Purpose Wrong, Prof Says**

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HINTON, Okla. (BP)--"Prolonging life without giving meaning and purpose to that life is demonic," a Baptist seminary professor said in an address here.

William Hendricks, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, called rising longevity of life "one of the biggest problems faced by the contemporary church."

Hendricks, principal speaker for a Baptist-sponsored international student conference at Camp Canyon near Hinton, Okla., added that churches have so far been unsuccessful in finding methods which will answer the snow-balling problem of purposeless youth, frustrating middle years, and meaningless old-age.

"No longer must we speak to the elderly primarily in terms of life after death.

"We must consciously and creatively provide purpose, outlets of service, and a ministry of comfort to them in their circumstances," he said.

Parallel with a new emphasis on ministering to the aged, churches must also begin to retrain their youth to cope with the problems of old-age, Hendricks added.

"Young people must be prepared by interest and temperament to face loss of job, and the necessity of using leisure time creatively.

"They must also learn to retain values of the past, but to express them in contemporary language," he emphasized.

Turning to new developments in the area of medical science, Hendricks noted that the creation of life in a test tube and the reviving of "frozen" victims of incurable illnesses will have "theological significance."

"As yet, a total person has not been produced under laboratory conditions," the theologian pointed out.

"However, if such were to happen it would pose no threat to traditional theology which has always made a difference between discovery and revelation.

"If and when human life should be produced in the laboratory situation, it will then be asserted that this being is man in a theological sense if he also has the capacity to respond to God."

"The same chemical that has produced human life in womb will be used in producing life under laboratory conditions," he said.

"As to the matter of 'reviving the dead,' it is the understanding of traditional Christianity that when man leaves this dimension of existence, he enters the ultimate realm of existence. If the chemical aspect of man is later-revived, we may well assume that nothing will be remembered, or could be expressed about that other dimension of life which is basically unrelated to life under our present conditions."

Hendricks also cited communication as "one of the chief problems of contemporary churches

"It is imperative that we distinguish between methods and message," he asserted.

"Methods can and must be changed, discarded, and reformed. The essential Christian message must be retained, but translated in a way that will have meaning to the age in which it is proclaimed," he said.

John L. Plyler, Former  
Furman President, Dies

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GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--The president of Furman University (Baptist) here for 25 years, John L. Plyler, died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of 72.

Plyler was president of Furman from 1939 until 1964, a period during which the school's enrollment grew from 300 to 1,800 students.

He led the Baptist school to move from its downtown Greenville location to a new \$20 million campus near Paris Mountain, five miles from downtown, in 1961.

This, along with the building of endowment, and the strengthening of faculty and curriculum were regarded by Plyler as his major accomplishments.

The John L. Plyler Science Hall, now being increased to three times its original size, is named for him. Furman had accepted a \$611,898 federal grant for the construction, but the South Carolina Baptist Convention instructed the school to return the money and agreed to raise the \$611,898 among Baptist churches.

Plyler, who was president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention in 1948, retired as president of Furman in August of 1964. He was succeeded by Gordon W. Blackwell, then president of Florida State University, Tallahassee, who became president of Furman in 1965.

Plyler's death was completely unexpected, friends reported. He had been in apparent good health, and had visited the university campus the day before his death, April 5, to observe construction on the science building.

Funeral services were scheduled at First Baptist Church, Greenville, on Thursday afternoon, May 7, with memorial services scheduled at the university auditorium that morning.

Survivors included Mrs. Plyler and three sons.

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Stewardship Commission  
Promotes Fred Williams

4-6-66

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NASHVILLE (BP)--The administrative committee of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission has elected C. Fred Williams of the commission's staff as director of endowment and capital giving promotion.

Williams, promotion associate for the Stewardship Commission since June of 1965, succeeds James C. Austin, who resigned about a year ago to become executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist Foundation of Kentucky.

Williams will be responsible for planning, developing, and promoting endowment and capital giving programs and materials as part of the Stewardship Commission's program structure.

He will also edit and promote all tracts, pamphlets, films, and other materials produced by the commission in the area of endowment and capital giving.

Before joining the commission staff a year ago, Williams was Training Union secretary for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma for six years.

He previously was pastor of the First Baptist churches of Hugo, Cleveland, Mooreland, Calvin, Centrahoma, and Red Rock, all in Oklahoma.

A graduate of East Central State College in Ada, Okla., Williams earned the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and did other graduate work at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Okla.

Merrill D. Moore, executive director of the Stewardship Commission who announced Williams' unanimous election, commended Williams, saying, "He has quickly won the confidence and affection of all the Baptist Foundation executives and others with whom he works."

Williams, 45, and his wife have four children.

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SBC First Quarter Gifts  
To Missions Hit Record

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Contributions to Southern Baptist Convention world mission causes reached a record \$18.2 million at the close of the first quarter of 1966.

The \$18.2 million talley included contributions of \$5,803,716 through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program united giving plan, and \$12,461,931 to designated Baptist causes, mostly foreign missions.

The total of the two categories for January through March exceeded missions contributions for the same period last year by \$1.8 million, or 10.98 per cent.

Missions contributions by Southern Baptists were disclosed here in a quarterly and monthly financial report prepared by the Southern Baptist Executive Committee

The report showed that Cooperative Program giving increased \$233,234 or 4.19 per cent over contributions for the same three-month period last year; and that designated gifts increased \$1.5 million, or 14.46 per cent over designations during last year's first quarter.

Porter W. Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee, said that one of the most significant factors about the report is that 25 of the 29 Baptist state conventions are represented in the 4.19 per cent increase through the Cooperative Program.

"All but one of the state conventions show an increase in the 14.46 per cent gain in designated giving, reflecting world concern through the Lottie Moon Christman Offering for Foreign Missions," Routh said.

Foreign Missions received more than \$15 million during the three month period, the report revealed. Home Missions received \$1.1 million.

Biggest contributions came from Texas, where Baptists gave \$1 million to SBC causes through the Cooperative Program during the first quarter, and \$2.9 million to designated causes.

North Carolina Baptists and Georgia Baptists each topped the million dollar mark in designated contributions during the first three months.

During the month of March, Cooperative Program contributions totaled \$1.8 million, and designated gifts totaled \$2.9 million.

The missions contribution figures include only gifts through the Southern Baptist Convention, and do not include amounts given to support local and state-wide Baptist mission efforts.

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NOTE TO BAPTIST STATE PAPER EDITORS: List of amounts given by each state being mailed to you separately from the Executive Committee with complete financial report.

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Alabama Church Approves  
Gifts On Members' Deaths

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MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--The Court Street Baptist Church here has voted to provide a memorial gift of \$10,000 to the Baptist Foundation of Alabama upon the death of any of its members.

The memorial gift will be designated for the endowment of any Baptist school in Alabama, according to church action.

Carl G. Campbell, executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist Foundation, said it was the first church in the state to take such action.

Campbell called the action a fitting and significant step. "This way, the church honors a deceased member and does a lasting service to our Baptist colleges."

Glenn Smith is pastor of the Montgomery church.

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Seminary Slates Pastor's  
Conference, June 27-July 1

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FORT WORTH (BP)--"Current Issues for Southern Baptists" will be the theme for the tenth annual Pastor's Conference June 27-July 1 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

The conference will feature chapel addresses by W. Barry Garrett, director of information for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C.; and C. A. Roberts pastor of the First Baptist Church in Tallahassee, Fla.

Morning sessions will also feature discussions of issues facing Baptists today, led by J. D. Hughey, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board area secretary for Europe and the Middle East; and by Leon McBeth, Milton Ferguson, and Franklin Segler, all of the seminary faculty.

Thomas C. Urrey, professor of New Testament at Southwestern Seminary, will begin each morning session with a series of studies in the book of I Thessalonians. Evening sessions will begin with studies in the book of Amos conducted by Ralph Lee Smith, professor of Old Testament at the seminary.

Messages concerning the problems of church and state in relationship to Baptist institutions will be delivered each evening during the Pastor's Conference.

Speakers for the church-state emphasis sessions will be Abner V. McCall, president of Baylor University, Waco, Tex.; E. S. James, editor of the Baptist Standard in Dallas, Tex.; Garrett of the Joint Committee in Washington; and William Pinson, professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern.

Each will speak from his own viewpoint, and is expected to express varried opinions on the question of federal aid to church-related institutions.

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British Baptist Men  
Discuss Unity Trends

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SWANWICK, England (BP)--The British Baptist Men's Movement of Britain meeting here heard addresses on Christian unity and the ecumenical movement, and decided to establish an association to provide houses for students, retired ministers and missionaries.

More than 300 men attended the conference, carrying out the theme "One Church, One Faith, One Lord."

The housing project was approved as part of the organization's jubilee celebrations in 1967. In other business, the group elected officers and heard reports on its Operation Agri program, which raises funds to provide equipment for agricultural missionaries in India and the Congo.

Addresses were mainly on Christian unity and the ecumenical movement, followed by lively general discussions.

In the opening address, Canon Edward Patey, dean of Liverpool, said that the great thing about the ecumenical movement is the realization that Christians cannot grow in one faith as they should in isolation, but rather they need "correction from one another in Christ."

Economics Professor J. H. Dunning of Reading University, in an address on "One Church," declared that true unity is only possible by men and women living in and indwelt by the Spirit of Christ, a reflection of the perfect unity of Christ with the Father.

God's plan, he said, was not for Gentiles to be absorbed by Israel or Israel by the Gentiles, nor for Rome to be absorbed by Protestantism or vice versa, but the creation of a new being, "one new man in Christ."

Glen Garfield Williams, a Welsh Baptist minister serving as European secretary of the World Council of Churches' Division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service, said in an address he thought that in British churches there is too much concern about organizational unity.

True unity--that which exists already--is unity given by the Spirit, he explained.

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There is only one church, Williams said, adding that people ought not to be troubled about differences, but very troubled about divisions. The entire church belongs to the Lord of all history, not just those parts people like.

There is a temptation to run away from it all, he said, "especially from receiving from others the admonitions we like to give them." Williams said the ecumenical movement is especially a movement of confession and penitence.

In the closing address Irwin Barnes of Watford, who also conducted the conference communion service, said the continent of Europe had suffered more than others through religious divisions, struggles and wars.

The continent is pleading, "Send us your gospel but not your denominations," said Barnes, who is chairman of the continental committee of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland.

Howard Williams, president of the Baptist Union, preached the conference sermon in the crowded Swanwick Baptist Church.

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