



REGIONAL OFFICES

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April 27, 1966

Dehoney Refutes Charge
Of Baptist Anti-Semitism

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JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)--The president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Wayne Dehoney, issued a statement here taking issue with the conclusions drawn by two sociologists who charged in a new book that 24 per cent of Southern Baptists are anti-semitic.

Dehoney criticized conclusions drawn from a survey conducted by Charles Y. Glock and Rodney Stark, both of the University of California, co-authors of a book entitled Christian Beliefs and Anti-Semitism.

In a "religious bigotry index" compiled by the authors from questionnaire answers, Glock and Stark concluded that Southern Baptists were "almost unanimous" in their attitudes that Jews are in need of conversion.

Said Dehoney: "Glock and Stark's logic has slipped and their reasoning is twisted."

"Bigotry and defamation such as anti-Semitism are deplorable," he stated. "But to label religious conviction about the Christian doctrine of salvation as race prejudice is the worst kind of defamation."

"Christians do believe that all Jews who reject Christ as the Messiah are therefore lost from God's redeeming love--as are all men of all races who have not responded to God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

"This is not racism," Dehoney said. "This is the Christian doctrine of personal salvation."

Glock and Stark said that 80 per cent of Southern Baptists in the survey agreed with a statement that the Jews can never be forgiven until they accept Christ.

Survey findings were based on answers to lengthy questionnaires from 2,326 Protestants in 97 congregations, and 525 Catholics in 21 parishes of the San Francisco Bay area. These results were checked against a national sampling of 1,976 interviews with church members and found to be generally accurate, the authors said.

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Layman Says Prayers
Assure Him Of God

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NEW ORLEANS (BP)--An Atlanta businessman told Louisiana laymen at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here that he knows God is not dead "because he answers my prayers."

Tom McCord, a construction company owner and a pilot, made the statement in an address at the New Orleans Seminary Christian Life Institute.

McCord added that in the work of the church as well as in the business world, "success is not measured by efforts but by results."

"I believe we are about to write a new chapter in the history of the church," McCord told the assembled laymen, "and it will come as a result of the witness of laymen--a fact which gives unlimited possibilities to the church. The laymen are to put action into the theology which our seminaries teach."

The Christian Life Institute, sponsored by the seminary's board of development, and the Louisiana Brotherhood Department attracted over 150 laymen from throughout Louisiana.

They participated in the theological studies and discussions, led by New Orleans seminary professors, and heard addresses by McCord, O. R. Carter, a New Orleans geologist, Henry Zahn, a construction supervisor for the Gulf Oil Corporation, and denominational leaders. Robert L. Lee, executive secretary of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, and George Schroeder, Southern Baptist Convention Brotherhood Secretary were among those who spoke at the New Orleans meeting.

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California Board Elects
Longshore Acting Executive

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--The Executive Board of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California has named Ralph Longshore of Fresno as acting executive secretary, to serve until a new state Baptist executive can be selected.

The board accepted with regrets the resignation of Grady C. Cothen as executive secretary, effective June 10. Cothen becomes president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla., effective July 1.

Longshore will continue his duties as assistant executive secretary in charge of the convention's missions division.

The board also named Richard Kay, assistant executive secretary in charge of the church services division, as assistant acting executive secretary.

Both Longshore and Kay of Fresno, continue normal responsibilities as division directors, dividing the responsibilities of executive secretary between them.

The board operations committee of the Executive Board was charged with the responsibility of selecting a new executive secretary. Eugene England, minister of music and education for the Calvary Baptist Church in Hawthorne, Calif., is chairman of the committee.

In other action, the Executive Board approved a \$1.2 million state Baptist Cooperative Program budget goal for 1967, an increase of \$55,000 over the 1966 budget. Of the total, 20 per cent will go to Southern Baptist Convention world missions causes.

The budget must get final approval from the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California in San Diego next November.

A resolution was adopted expressing concern for R. W. Lackey of Fresno, the convention's first executive secretary, who is critically ill in a local hospital.

Observers said the board members were surprised and stunned to learn of Cothen's election as president of the Oklahoma Baptist school, and of his decision to accept the position.

Cothen had been executive secretary, the state convention's top executive officer, since 1961. He was elected a vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1962.

661 Make Decisions
In Alabama Crusade

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MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--A total of 661 persons were added to the churches in Montgomery Baptist Association during a recent simultaneous evangelistic crusade.

According to Superintendent of Missions Frank Hixon, 422 people were won to faith in Christ and another 239 added by letter in the two-week campaign starting Easter Sunday.

The Montgomery association, with 30,078 members in 44 churches, was participating in state-wide crusade "Spiritual Conquest--'66", led by the evangelism department of the Baptist State Executive Board.

Roland L. Jarrard, state evangelism director for Alabama Baptists, predicted that, from this and other reports over the state, 1966 would be one of the greatest years in evangelism experienced by the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Leading in the Montgomery crusade was Vernon L. Yearby, associate secretary of the Baptist Foundation of Alabama. Yearby, former evangelism secretary for Alabama Baptists, had previously served as an associate in the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board division of evangelism.

Hixon pointed out that one church with 180 in Sunday school added 37 persons during the revivals, and another church with 455 in Sunday School added 36.

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Eliff Named Arkansas
Baptist Department Head

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LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention has elected J. T. Eliff as secretary of the convention's department of missions-evangelism, effective May 1.

Eliff has been director of the division of religious education for the convention since 1961. The departments of Sunday School, Training Union, Brotherhood and music make up the division.

S. A. Whitlow, executive secretary of the Arkansas convention who announced the action, said it is likely that the division organizational structure of the board will be displaced with a department type organization.

Before joining the convention staff in 1961, Eliff was a Baptist pastor for 27 years. He served churches in Arkansas at Lake Village, and Fordyce, and for more than eight years was pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.

He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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Federal Grant Approved
For Mercer Pharmacy

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MACON, Ga. (BP)--Mercer University trustees have approved an application of their Southern College of Pharmacy to the Public Health Service for a \$666,000 grant to erect a new building.

The pharmacy school, located in Atlanta, has been offered a tract of land in Dekalb County, adjoining Atlanta, and proposed a building costing \$1.2 million.

The Georgia Baptist Convention last year adopted a report of its education commission rejecting federal funds for any of its institutions. Mercer is owned and operated by the Georgia Baptist Convention.

It also turned down a request of Mercer for permission to borrow from a federal agency for a science building. The college was told to make the loan with a commercial agency.

Rufus Harris, Mercer president, announced following the trustee meeting that \$400,000 toward the science building had been contributed by Lawrence Willet of Atlanta and Mrs. Horton Watkins of St. Louis. The building will cost about \$1.5 million.

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