

August 3, 1966

Bible School So Big
Traffic Jams Caused

By Bert Tucker
Baptist Press Staff Writer

DALLAS (BP)--Traffic tie-ups in downtown Dallas are unpredictable, but not unusual.

Except one. It occurred every weekday at noon for two weeks when the First Baptist Church of Dallas dismissed its Vacation Bible School, comprised of a record enrollment of more than 2,300 children.

Three Dallas police patrolmen had regular assignments to direct traffic as the massive exodus of children took place around the downtown buildings of the big Dallas church. Officers also were on hand each morning as the carloads of children arrived.

Average daily attendance in the Bible school was about 1,500, believed to be the biggest anywhere. With more than 13,000 members, the First Baptist Church of Dallas is the largest church in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Associate Pastor J. Woodrow Fuller said the all-time high enrollment was especially encouraging in the gains made in intermediate, senior, and young peoples' departments. About 130 youth were added this year over the 1965 enrollment.

Fuller, associate to Pastor W. A. Criswell and responsible for all church programs, said that none of the figures included the Vacation Bible Schools held at the church's six missions in Dallas.

"And I certainly don't think we've lost any quality in the school with this surge of some 300 enrollees over our 1965 VBS," Fuller said.

He attributed the success of the school to a long series of faculty meetings, church member participation, and strong members in Bible teaching.

He said 40 to 50 juniors made professions of faith in a decision service led by Criswell during the second week of the school. About \$400 in children's offerings taken each day is being sent to the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program for mission causes around the world.

Twenty-five years ago when George W. Truett was pastor, the church's Bible school had 150 children enrolled. Also in comparison, the total expenses of the Bible school in the mid-1930's was under \$30, while this year's budget was \$3,700.

And there were no traffic jams then.

-30-

BP Photo mailed to state Baptist papers.



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Nashville, Tennessee 37219
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August 3, 1966

Views Clash on Value
Of 'Prayer' Amendment

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By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--Sharply differing views on a proposed "prayer amendment" clamored for approval at hearings here before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments.

Both religionists and legal witnesses disagreed on the impact of the Supreme Court decisions on prayer and Bible reading in public schools and the contemplated effect of the proposed amendment.

Senators of the subcommittee were likewise divided in their attitudes and approaches to the court decisions and the amendment. Sen. Birch Bayh (D. Ind.) is chairman of the subcommittee.

Some said the court decisions banned all prayer from schools. Others said that only state sanctioned prayers and required devotions were involved.

Under consideration was a proposed constitutional amendment by Sen. Everett M. Dirksen (R., Ill.) and cosponsored by 47 other Senators.

Proponents of the measure asserted that their only objective was to make it possible for school children to engage in "voluntary prayer." However, constitutional lawyers and others testified that the amendment would substantially alter the First Amendment and would give to public authorities much power in the realm of religion.

C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, acting upon the authority of resolutions by the Southern Baptist Convention, American Baptist Convention and the Baptist Joint Committee, vigorously opposed the proposed amendment and affirmed the adequacy of the First Amendment to protect the religious freedoms of the people.

During the first two days of the hearings, scheduled for the first two weeks of August, other religious leaders opposed the amendment. They were Monsignor Robert F. Drinan, dean of the Boston Law School, Boston, Mass.; David Hunter, deputy general secretary of the National Council of Churches; and William Moors for the Unitarian-Universalist Association.

Professor Paul Freund, Harvard University Law School, Boston, Mass., a nationally recognized authority in constitutional law, opposed the Dirksen amendment.

Attacking the Supreme Court decisions and advocating the "Prayer Amendment" were two attorneys who had previously lost their cases before the courts. They were: Bertrand Daiker, New York, attorney for the respondent in the New York Regents' Prayer Case, and Edward J. Bazarian, New York, attorney for the parents in the "Milk and Cookies Prayer Case" in New York (Stein V. Oshinsky).

Favoring the Dirksen amendment were Leonardas Contas, Boston, dean of the Holy Cross School, representing the Greek Orthodox Church, Archdiocese of North and South America; also Gary G. Cohen representing "Protestant Ministers for School Prayers and Bible Reading." The latter group is sponsored by Carl McIntyre, president of the International Council of Christian Churches.

The proposed amendment which has caused the stir says in full: "Nothing contained in this Constitution shall prohibit the authority administering any school, school system, educational institution or other public funds from providing for or permitting the voluntary participation by students or others in prayer. Nothing contained in this article shall authorize any such authority to prescribe the form or content of any prayer."

Carlson pointed out that this amendment is an extension of public powers "to provide for" or "permit" certain activities in relation to prayer. He emphasized that the "authorities" specified in the proposal included not only school authorities but also those who administer "park buildings, post offices, public office buildings, court houses, etc."

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He observed, "All of these 'authorities' are to be protected against any prohibitions on certain specified actions that pertain to prayer. This is in contrast, Carlson said, to the history of the Baptist movement which "has carried a protest against the use of the powers of government for the imposition of religious ideas or religious practices."

The Baptist leader attacked giving power to public authority to "provide for" and "permit" prayer. "The term 'providing for' is so broad," he said, "as to be almost limitless in the scope of actions covered. It could mean simply assigning a room to a group for a meeting, but it could also mean building a chapel and naming and paying a leadership for the activity."

Carlson declared that the right to pray belongs to the people and that government has no right to "permit" or to deny this privilege. "A permit system, then, operates not only to afford opportunity for an activity but also to regulate it," he asserted.

In a similar view, the Roman Catholic spokesman attacked the proposed amendment as being unnecessary, internally contradictory, ineffective in improving the piety of the nation, and divisive. He described the language of the proposal as "unbelievably amorphous and ambiguous."

Drinan, who had been requested to testify on the Prayer Amendment by Catholic, Protestant and Jewish individuals and organizations, said that its passage by Congress "would be a profound mistake."

The Supreme Court could not and did not forbid "voluntary" prayers by pupils, Drinan said. He emphasized that the new proposed amendment does not provide for it.

Drinan said he wondered why more than 40 Senators were proposing such an amendment when the overwhelming majority of church leaders and religious bodies opposed it. He said that he knew of no professional organization of educators that would endorse such an amendment. Even experts on constitutional law who will support it are as scarce as religionists and educators who will support it, he declared.

While most of those who supported the Dirksen Amendment, including Dirksen himself, agreed substantially with the Supreme Court cases on the actual points ruled upon by the court, they said that widespread misinterpretation of the decisions could be corrected only by a constitutional amendment.

Those who opposed the amendment asserted that correction of the misunderstandings that exist could be accomplished by better reporting by the press, by more responsibility on the part of the members of Congress, and by better administration by school officials.

All admitted that the problems involving religion in public schools are difficult. But it is possible and more to be desired to find proper and adequate solutions without a constitutional amendment, many of them claimed.

The hearings will continue through the second week in August with a wide range of witnesses scheduled to testify both in favor of and opposed to the Dirksen amendment.

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Mashburn Resigns Men's
Post For Church Job

8/3/66

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--David T. Mashburn, associate in the men's department of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission here, has resigned to become minister of education and assistant to the pastor of First Baptist Church, Lumberton, N. C.

Mashburn, an employee of the Brotherhood Commission for 13 years, said the new job was part of a plan to spend pre-retirement years in service in a church. He is 57.

He will begin his new duties Sept. 1, serving with Pastor A. Warren Hrych with whom Mashburn worked as minister of education at an Augusta, Ga., church for two years.

Born and reared in Andrews, N. C., Mashburn served as educational director for six churches in North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, and Tennessee for a total of 20 years before joining the Brotherhood Commission in 1953.

At the Brotherhood Commission, he served in the men's department, majoring in associational field services. He is the author of the Associational Brotherhood Manual.

No replacement has been chosen, said George W. Schroeder, executive secretary of the Brotherhood Commission.

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100 Baptist Laymen
Hold Northeast Crusade

By Walker L. Knight

FRAMINGHAM, Mass. (BP)--A hundred Southern Baptist laymen from 13 states paid their own way in order to give eight days to telephoning, door knocking, and personal witnessing in four New England cities.

They leave behind them two budding church-type missions, a strengthened group of struggling churches, and a number of individuals with new spiritual relationships.

The laymen were taking part in the first step of a four-year emphasis by the Southern Baptist Convention on starting churches and church-type missions in the populous Northeast.

Forty telephones had been installed in hotel rooms or community centers in Framingham; Providence, R. I.; Portland, Maine; and Worcester, Mass. Each is a city where Southern Baptists have little or no work.

The laymen, and some wives, telephoned more than 37,000 families in four days, attempting to locate people with spiritual needs and an absence of church influence in their lives.

Floyd Montgomery of Plainview, Tex., a school teacher, last year had spent two weeks on a similar laymen's effort in the Northwest.

"I did more witnessing about my faith in Christ on the telephone in Worcester than I did in two weeks knocking on doors out West," he said.

But others were knocking on doors in these four cities, getting the same type of information.

The telephoning was a prelude also to three days of evangelistic meetings in each city. Newspaper advertising, handbills, and radio interviews helped to draw people to the services.

"No great numbers turned out," said Elmer Sizemore, area missionary in Framingham. "This is not the only way we can count success here; we started our first work only seven years ago.

"We are very pleased with the results: the pledge by four families in Providence and by six in Portland to start chapels, the large list of people in spiritual need, the boost this has given our 17 churches and eight chapels."

Sizemore said the laymen, who had been enlisted by the SBC Brotherhood Commission, made a lasting contribution, and "they really got involved themselves."

Malcolm Carter of Greenville, S.C., an automotive dealer, became so interested in starting the chapel in Providence that he pledged \$2,500 through his church toward the support of a pastor.

Another layman, working with the Maine Street Baptist Church at Brunswick, Maine, bought them a new piano and promised another for the new mission at Portland. He is A. S. Hamilton, owner of Hamilton's Inc. Furniture in Waco, Tex.

"The Southern accent on the telephone was no problem," Sizemore said. "In fact, everyone was well received by the people here, and they were actually surprised at how friendly the people are."

Sizemore said some changes would be made in the effort next year when 200 laymen are coming for a like effort in five other cities.

"We may start the telephoning sooner, so the laymen will have names of people to visit. We also plan to use television more, especially in New Haven, Conn.," he added.

The laymen represented Pennsylvania, Maryland, Texas, South and North Carolina, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, Ohio, and the District of Columbia.

William A. Powell and Don Mabry of the survey and special studies department of the SBC Home Mission Board directed the telephone survey.

Preaching at the evangelistic services were David Hall of Phoenix, Ariz., at Providence; Gray Allison of Atlanta at Framingham; Charles Wisdom of Wichita, Kan., at Worcester, and W. D. Lawes of Atlanta at Portland.

The Northeast Crusade's four-year emphasis is sponsored by the Baptist Convention of Maryland, the SBC Home Mission Board, the SBC Brotherhood Commission, and other Baptist agencies

Baptist Mission Gifts
Up; Total \$31 Million

NASHVILLE (BP)--World missions contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention for 1966 topped the \$30 million mark during July, with a total of \$31,563,466 reported by the SBC Executive Committee here.

The increase in missions giving included a 1966 total of \$13,585,550 through the convention's Cooperative Program unified budget plan, plus \$17,977,916 given by Baptists to designated missions causes of their choice.

So far during the year missions gifts, both designated and undesignated, have exceeded missions contributions for the same period of 1965 by a total of \$2.7 million, or 9.66 per cent.

The SBC Executive Committee, which receives the missions gifts from Baptist churches and channels the funds to world mission causes, reported an \$844,597 (6.63 per cent) increase in Cooperative Program budget contributions, and an increase of \$1,934,565 (12.06 per cent) in designated gifts, for the first seven months of 1966.

During the month of July, the Executive Committee reported Cooperative Program gifts of \$1,999,668, and designated contributions of \$485,067.

Already during 1966, a total of more than \$20 million has been distributed to the SBC Foreign Mission Board in designated and undesignated funds. The SBC Home Mission Board has received \$6.3 million.

The total missions contributions reported by the Executive Committee include only funds given through SBC channels, and do not include church contributions to support local and state-wide missions programs.

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Ohio Baptist Board
Recommends Budget

8/3/66

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)--A record budget exceeding \$1 million for the first time in its history was given initial approval by the Executive Board of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, it was reported here.

The board, meeting at its Seneca Lake summer assembly, voted to recommend to the state convention in November a budget of \$1,105,569.

In other action, the board voted to create a new department of work and employ two additional state convention workers and three new county missionaries.

The record budget would include an anticipated income of \$594,194 in state Cooperative Program contributions from Ohio convention churches, plus additional funds from Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

The proposed budget would allocate 32 per cent, or \$190,142 to the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget plan to support Baptist mission causes around the world. This is an increase of one per cent, or \$38,930.

The new department of work was created by splitting the present department of Brotherhood and annuity to form two separate departments.

The new annuity department will investigate the possibility of establishing a state-wide Baptist Foundation for Ohio Baptists.

The new budget provides for employment of an additional associate in the convention's Sunday School department, and for an additional Baptist Student Union field worker.

It also provides for three new missionary associates to work in Ohio counties where Baptists now have no missions programs.

-30-