

July 1, 1949

127 Ninth Avenue, North Nashville, Tennessee

BAPTISTS AGAIN REFUSE CHURCH UNION INVITATION

The Southern Baptist Convention has again refused to participate in church union movements, this time declining to send official delegates to a Conference on Church Union at Princeton, N. J., next December.

"We would agree with you concerning 'the challenge of secularism, materialism, and sin.' We do not agree that church union provides the answer to this challenge," declared Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary of the S.B.C. Executive Committee.

"As Baptists we believe in the freedom of the conscience of the individual to arrive at his religious convictions from a study of the Bible under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. We recognize that this freedom has produced varying interpretations and differences of opinion. We believe that the cause of Christ will be served best by each individual remaining absolutely true to his conviction concerning the teaching of the Word of God.

"It is further our conviction," Dr. McCall continued, "that any effort at church union must either dilute these convictions to produce a common denominator of faith for all who enter the union, or the union must ignore these differences and pretend a unity which is not a reality."

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40 SOUTHERN BAPTIST MISSIONARIES REMAIN IN COMMUNIST-HELD CHINA

The Baptist Foreign Mission Board has announced that 40 men and women missionaries of the Board voluntarily remain in Communist-held Shanghai and its vicinity. Twenty-nine of the missionaries are in Shanghai and the 11 others are stationed in Chengchow, Wusih, Soochow, Tsingtao, and Kunshan. Forty-five others are continuing work in South China.

"We regarded the coming Communist occupation as inevitable," Dr. Baker James Cauthen, secretary for the Orient, advised the Board from Shanghai. Decisions about evacuation were left entirely to each missionary. "Such decisions as were made were tested by the fact that when the great drive across the Yangtze began, ample transportation was available for every person who might choose to go," Dr. Cauthen said.

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While campaigning for funds for its own building program, the First Baptist Church of Washington, D. C. (the church President Truman attends) is also raising \$20,000 to rebuild bombed churches in Europe and Japan.

Southern Baptists operate 119 mission stations in 25 geographical areas overseas, staffed by 670 missionaries, on an annual budget of approximately \$5,000,000. An advance program now being promoted would increase the budget to \$10,000,000, and the number of missionaries to 1,750.

Sunday observance removes the rust of the week, says the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Journal.

Date of the 1950 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Chicago has been changed from May 10-14 to May 9-12, so ministers can return to their own churches for Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14.

"Displaced Baptists" was the term used by George B. Fraser, Washington, attorney, to describe 1,688,000 Baptists who have moved from their church homes without transferring church membership. A special committee has been set up to make plans for re-enlistment of these "non-resident" members.

A new book, "What About Smoking?," by C. Aubrey Hearn of Nashville, Tenn., declares that the average American spent \$28 for smoking tobacco in 1948, and the average American smoker spent \$62. This compares with \$6 given by the average American to all religious causes in 1948, and \$24 given by the average American church member in 1948.