



# BAPTIST PRESS

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February 27, 1967

Schools Urged To Lead  
Baptist-Jewish Dialogue

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NASHVILLE (BP)--A Jewish rabbi, speaking to the Association of Baptist Professors of Religion meeting here, urged Baptist colleges and seminaries to open their doors to Jewish scholars for courses in Jewish studies as a major thrust of a "Baptist-Jewish dialogue."

Rabbi Arthur Gilbert of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in New York called for better understanding of the beliefs held by Christians and Jews, and urged educational institutions to take the lead in the dialogue.

"That you have invited me to consider the movement toward a Jewish-Southern Baptist dialogue marks a genuine thrust forward in our relationship," Rabbi Gilbert told the Baptist religion professors.

"We have too long lived together separately in the United States," he said. "We have talked about each other, but not often have we talked to each other."

Rabbi Gilbert observed that relationships between Christians and Jews in the United States have been characterized by tension and separateness, often resulting in misunderstanding.

Stating that following desegregation crises, Jews were branded as the brains and money behind a plot to mongrelize the races, Rabbi Gilbert added that 20 incidents of Swastika desecration of Jewish synagogues still take place each week in some part of the United States.

"When the Christian, who is really Christian, views these events, he shudders in horror and protests his deep love for the Jews.

"But that love, itself, is conditional," he added. Many Christians confess their love for Jews "and then in the next breath contend that Judaism is defective, incomplete, inadequate--and unless Jews receive the Word they are doomed to damnation. That kind of love is not easy to accept."

The Rabbi also pointed to statistics revealed by a recent book on Christian Beliefs and Anti-Semitism which disclosed that two-thirds of the Baptists surveyed believed the Jews were most responsible for crucifying Jesus, that 80 per cent of Baptists believed the Jews would never be forgiven the sin of the crucifixion until they accept Jesus as the true savior, and that three times as many Baptists as Methodists believe that Jews are more likely to cheat in business than Christians.

He said the book, despite its shortcomings, made it clear that "up to 30 per cent of Southern Baptists have swallowed false, secular, stereotypic conceptions of the Jew, which if reinforced by distorted notions of Christianity make that Baptist a most undependable friend and neighbor."

"Now is the time to emphasize those teachings that you know to be true: Christianity had its origins in the Jewish religion; it takes nourishment still from Jewish scripture; ...Jesus was crucified by the sinfulness in men's hearts;...His sacrifice was intended to cleanse men of their hatred, it must not become the occasion of prejudice."

"Anti-semitism is a sin against the Jewishness of Jesus," he declared. "For the Christian, anti-semitism is a spiritual suicide."

Urging educational institutions to take the lead in dialogue with Jewish scholars, he said such dialogue would be possible only if (1) each side believes that God has something to teach through his life with the other, and (2) each side agrees to use the dialogue as an occasion for learning and not for proselytizing.

He suggested that Jewish scholars might conduct week-long seminars for Baptist college faculty members on a state-wide basis. Two of five Jewish seminaries are already open for such dialogues with Christian groups.

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In reaction to Rabbi Gilbert's presentation, Vanderbilt University religion professor John Killinger of Nashville said participants in such a dialogue must understand that each might have to change his point of view.

"We will never have a true dialogue until Baptists take the risk of becoming Jews, and Jews take the risk of becoming Baptists.," Killinger said. "But we must not try to evangelize either.

"It is strange, that in our discussions, we cannot get away from Jesus," Killinger said. "He is the point of intersection where Jews and Christians meet, yet he is also the point of contention. Perhaps ultimately Jesus can make of the world one people."

In business session, the Baptist Professors of Religion elected William Hull of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., as their president.

Elected vice chairman was David Moore of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.; and named secretary was Harold McManus of Mercer University, Macon, Ga. Both are Baptist schools.

Next meeting of the association will be held in Atlanta, Feb. 23-24, 1968.

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Baptist, NBC-TV Crews  
Film Two Documentaries

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FORT WORTH (BP)--A television production unit from the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here has departed on a month-long expedition to help film two documentary programs for use on the National Broadcasting Co. (NBC).

The three-man Baptist film crew is part of a television filming unit from NBC-TV which will produce the two half-hour color documentaries to be shown next year.

The camera crew will travel to New York, London, Jerusalem, and Tel-Aviv, Isreal, with actual filming expected to last about three weeks.

One documentary will feature the work and ministry of a Baptist school and mission at Petah Tiqua, Isreal. The second will portray archaeological work directed by James K. Pritchard of the University of Pensylvania, at Tell es-Sa'idiyeh near Tel Aviv.

Paul M. Stevens, director of the SBC Radio-TV Commission here, and Miss Doris Ann, director of religious programming for NBC, are coordinating the filming.

Also representing the SBC agency are Truett Myers, television consultant, and John Stevens, writer. Other NBC production unit members are Joseph Vadala, photography director, James Geraughty, sound man, Stephen Petropoulos, assistant cameraman, and James Schaeffer, unit manager.

The same team filmed three hour-long documentaries produced jointly by NBC-TV and the Radio Television Commission: "Walk Beside Me," on the Apostle Paul, "The Inheritance," on the Hebrew people, and "The Vine," on the life of Christ.

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New Spanish Publication  
For Pastors To Be Started

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NASHVILLE (BP)--A new Spanish publication for the pastors of Spanish-speaking Southern Baptist churches will be produced beginning in July.

The new publication will be produced with the cooperative efforts of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department here, and the language missions department of the SBC Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

"El Pastor Bautista" (The Baptist Pastor), in newsletter format will be distributed free to pastors of nearly 1,000 Spanish-speaking Southern Baptist churches.

Purpose of the publication is to provide help in calendar planning, to interpret denominational programs and emphases, and to share testimonies of successful work, officials said.

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Methodist Bishop Speaks  
At Midwestern Seminary

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--A Methodist bishop outlined four basic criticisms of the radical new "Death of God" theology during lectures at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Gerald Kennedy, bishop of the Los Angeles Area of the Methodist Church, criticized radical young theologians during the H. I. Hester Lectureship at Midwestern Seminary here.

If the radical theologians who say "God is dead" mean what they say they mean, then they don't deserve the name Christian, Bishop Kennedy said.

In the second place, if they don't mean it, they should take an English course.

Thirdly, he said, if they're trying to get attention, they should have more honor than that.

Finally, if its just a semantic thing--a question of the meaning of words--it's a joke on their readers, the Bishop said.

Bishop Kennedy also lauded the ecumenical movement, but opposed creation of a big super-church.

"It is true," he said, "that in some ways the ecumenical movement is one of the great things happening in our world.

"I can speak to Baptist, Presbyterian and other groups and enjoy the fellowship, but when it gets to a big super-church, I stop there," he said.

"If they ever get that far, I'm going to come down and see if some Baptist will put me on the staff," he said.

Bishop Kennedy said one reason he opposed a big super-church composed of many existing denominations which have merged is because it would need boards and secretaries with a more complicated group of organizations than they now have.

"The ecumenical movement is like relatives coming to visit," he quipped. "It's all right until they begin to move in."

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Journalism Prof Leaves  
For Hong Kong College

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WACO, Tex. (BP)--A former Peace Corps volunteer in Africa is en route from Texas for Hong Kong where he will be the first journalism teacher at Hong Kong Baptist College.

Ray Hubener, a Baylor University graduate, will be teaching a course in journalism and two English classes at the Hong Kong school. He also will be doing public relations work for the school and will be working with other Hong Kong university officials on setting up a journalism department for the Baptist college.

Hubener is being sponsored by the Femtress Foundation here in an "effort to get some Christian journalism working in Hong Kong," said H. M. Femtress, chairman of the board of Newspapers, Inc., and a former Baylor University trustee.

Femtress became interested in the idea of setting up journalism instruction at Hong Kong Baptist College last summer when he and Mrs. Femtress visited the school while on a tour of the Orient.

Hubener is a former editor of the Baylor Lariat, campus daily newspaper at Baylor University, a Baptist school here.

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Mary Hardin-Baylor Names  
Director of Development

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BELTON, Tex. (BP)--A retired Baptist pastor, W. L. Shuttlesworth of Tyler, Tex., has been employed by Mary Hardin-Baylor College as director of development.

While his primary work will involve the solicitation of funds for the college, he will also work with the entire development program of the college, including the long-range development plans. His first task at the Baptist college here, according to president Leonard Holloway, will be the solicitation of funds for the current "Clear-The-Slate" campaign.

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