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South Africa Crusade
Expected To Continue 330

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ATLANTA (BP)--A spokesman for the Baptist Union of South Africa said here that plans for a revival crusade in his country are likely to continue, despite Southern Baptist cancellation of their supporting role.

Keith W. Reid, secretary for the South Africa Baptist Christian education department, said that Southern Baptist preachers had lost a great opportunity for evangelism.

The Baptist Home Mission Board here was to have recruited about 100 preachers for the September crusade, but backed out when the Baptist Union and the South African government placed stipulations on the agreement, including a statement that an integrated party of evangelists could not be welcomed at the airport, and that preaching on race was forbidden.

South Africa is governed by a policy of strict separation of the races, and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board was originally to have recruited about 20 Negro preachers for Negro churches participating in the crusade.

Reid said loss of Southern Baptist support may delay the simultaneous crusades in about 100 of the Baptist Union's 138 churches. He expressed disappointment in the decision, however, emphasizing that his reaction is personal and reflects no official stand of his denomination.

"It seems to me that there is widespread ignorance regarding the complex racial situation that exists in South Africa and some of the problems which have to be faced regarding languages, wide divergence of cultures and stages of development on the part of various segments of the South Africa population," he said.

"One hundred American pastors visiting South Africa would have had the opportunity to see the situation for themselves, would have formed their own conclusions, and would have been able to view South African race problems with a good deal more knowledge and sympathy than present inexperience allows," he added.

Reid said he saw no reason for the "no-preaching-on-politics" stipulation, since visiting preachers "were unlikely to spend the short time available attacking government policies."

He said, however, that South African authorities had told the Baptist Union that American preachers would be granted visas as evangelists and "they would be expected to be evangelists and nothing else."

Reid said that the Executive Committee of the Baptist Union is composed of representatives of every major racial group in the nation. He said there is no official restriction against multi-racial worship in the churches, although practical considerations of language and personal preference make it impractical in most cases.

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Statement On Crusade 331

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Here is a statement by Keith W. Reid, secretary for Christian education for the Baptist Union of South Africa, in reaction to Southern Baptists' cancellation of a supporting role in the South Africa revival crusade:

"I would point out that any opinion which is expressed here is purely personal and not official. The Baptist Union of South Africa will, in due time, convey to the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention its official reaction to the cancellation of the TransAtlantic Crusade, but I believe that my own personal sense of deep disappointment at the news of the cancellation of the crusade will be shared by the Executive Committee of the Baptist Union of South Africa and every individual Baptist church member. I also believe that the decision to cancel the crusade was not made without careful consideration of all the factors involved, and the inevitable repercussions which will follow both in the United States and among South African Baptists. Preparations for the crusade are well advanced, and there was an encouraging spirit of expectancy both among the missionaries and the churches in which they would have preached. I am fully aware that this must have been a difficult and probably agonizing decision to make. -more-

"It seems to me that there is widespread ignorance regarding the complex racial situation which exists in South Africa, and of some of the problems which have to be faced regarding languages, wide divergence of cultures and stages of development on the part of the various segments of the South African population. One hundred American pastors visiting South Africa would have had the opportunity to see the situation for themselves, would have formed their own conclusions, and would have been able to view South African race problems with a good deal more knowledge and sympathy than present inexperience allows.

"Rightly or wrongly, the South African government has embarked upon a unique experiment in race relations, and has asked for time and tolerance while that experiment is being worked out. It is inevitable that these policies arouse both violent disagreement and equally enthusiastic endorsement inside and outside of South Africa. The majority of the electorate of the country and a great many Africans themselves have endorsed the policy of separate development of the races, and it seems that some progress is being made in this development. As a private observer it seems to me that the situation in South Africa at the present time is peaceful and racial tensions are at a minimum.

"The stipulation of 'no politics' preaching seems hardly necessary in view of the fact that one hundred visiting preachers, in South Africa for only a few weeks, are unlikely to spend the short time available attacking the policies of the South African government, when they came to preach the Gospel to lost men and women. Nevertheless, it was conveyed to the Baptist Union by the South African authorities that if the Southern Baptist preachers came to the country as evangelists and were granted visas on that basis, they would be expected to "be" evangelists and nothing else. South African Baptist leaders felt that while such a stipulation should, and would, be unnecessary, nevertheless it was their responsibility to convey it to the Home Mission Board, and this they have done in all good faith.

"It may be of interest to know that the Executive Committee of the Baptist Union of South Africa is multiracial in character and consists of representatives of every major racial group in the Republic. There is no restriction upon multiracial worship in the churches, although practical considerations such as language differences and personal preference make it impractical in most cases. The South African government affords every opportunity for genuine evangelism and bonafide Christian activities among all race groups, and has not prohibited true Christian fellowship between races. There is no doubt in my mind that had the crusade been held, and had Africans or members of other non-white groups desired to participate by attending the meetings in our Baptist churches they would not have been prevented from doing so.

"I am convinced that a great opportunity for evangelism by Southern Baptist preachers has been lost, but I am also convinced that the crusade, although possibly delayed, will continue, though it can no longer be a "Trans-Atlantic Crusade." It is difficult at times to see God's purposes being worked out in the disappointments and seeming catastrophes that befall us and our carefully laid plans for his glory, but this is part of the "all things" of Romans 8:28, and it seems that once again South Africa must be prepared to 'go it alone.' Perhaps in the end we shall be the stronger and better for it."

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NOTE TO EDITORS: The full text of Reid's statement is carried at his request.

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Furman University Loan
Receives Final Approval 332

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Furman University, (Baptist) Greenville, S.C., has received final approval of a \$1,150,000 college housing loan for a dormitory addition. Announcement was made here by Secretary Robert C. Weaver of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Reservation of funds for this project was announced in December 1966.

Furman, a Baptist school, is one of 16 church-related colleges to receive approval of federal funds totaling \$19,421,000.

Of the 16, two are Lutheran, two are Methodist, nine are Roman Catholic and there is one each Church of God and Evangelical Reformed institutions.

The College Housing Loan program is authorized by the Housing Act of 1950 to help colleges and hospitals expand their facilities to absorb the increase in student enrollment.

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Texas Baptist PR Group
Elects Clem, Gives Awards

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SAN ANGELO, Tex. (BP)--The Texas Baptist Public Relations Association meeting here elected Russell Clem of Baylor University College of Medicine, Houston, as its president and awarded 13 "superior" citations for public relations work during 1966.

Five of the superior awards went to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and three were presented to Baylor University College of Medicine.

Clem, newly-elected president of the state-wide Baptist public relations group, is director of public relations for the medical school in Houston.

President-elect named to assume the association's leadership next year was Taylor Henley, director of public relations, Baptist Memorial Geriatrics Hospital, San Angelo.

Other officers elected were: program vice president, Bob Havins, Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex.; membership vice president, Charles Richardson, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex.; secretary-treasurer, Martha Ueckert, Hardin-Simmons University; newsletter editor, the news director for Howard Payne College; and awards chairman, Eugene Spruell, East Texas Baptist College, Marshall, Tex.

In addition to the awards won by Southwestern Seminary and Baylor Medical College, two awards each went to the Southern Baptist Radio-Television Commission, Fort Worth, and to Hardin-Simmons University.

Other superior citations were presented to the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, Dallas; Memorial Baptist Hospital System, Houston; and the stewardship division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas.

In the closing address of the meeting, Floyd Craig of Oklahoma City exploded three myths about public relations which, he said, must be set aside if Baptist public relations leaders are to assume a responsible role in their own institutions and agencies.

The myths are, he said: (1) "if all is quiet, you must be doing your job;" (2) the false assumption by public relations men that they "could really accomplish something if the administration understood public relations," and (3) that "All we need is a brochure and a news story" to solve communications problems.

Craig, communications director for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and recently-elected public relations director for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, Nashville, amplified each of the myths and offered five solutions to the dilemma.

"Southern Baptist public relations people," he said, "must be (1) tough-minded, (2) have a good set of guts, (3) must study, recognize and predict social change, (4) must be a "People's advocate", and (5) must have a deep commitment to the Lord."

"Our supreme example in all public and human relations is Jesus," Craig pointed out. "His public ministry was pre-eminently a personal ministry."

"Our role of being responsible is not a path of easy rules, but involves the ability to explode some old myths and adopt some tough personal standards," he concluded.

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CUTLINES

BAPTIST PRESS PHOTO

WINS TOP PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARDS--John Earl Seelig (right), assistant to the president at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, receives a \$250 cash award for the best entry in the 1967 Religious Public Relations Council's Creative Communications Award. Presenting the award, along with two plaques for two other top awards in the competition, is Marvin Wilbur, executive secretary of the council. W. C. Fields, (center), public relations secretary for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, presided over the Philadelphia convention as outgoing president. (BP Photo)

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