

**BAPTIST PRESS**

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April 25, 1967

359

Chaplains Program Praised,
Criticized At Celebration

672

WASHINGTON (BP)--The military chaplaincy was both praised and criticized at the 50th anniversary of the General Commission on Chaplains and Armed Forces Personnel here.

The Chaplain's Commission is composed of 36 Protestant member denominations. Headquarters are in the nation's capital. A. Bay Applequist, a Baptist, is the executive secretary.

Eight Baptist bodies are members of the Chaplain's Commission. Although not a member, the Southern Baptist Convention's Chaplain's Commission cooperates as a "consultant."

Throughout the nation's history Baptists have been active in the military chaplaincy. The present chief of chaplains, U. S. Navy, is James W. Kelly, a Baptist.

Since 1917 five of the chief of chaplains, U.S. Army, have been Baptists. The immediate past chief of chaplains, U.S. Air Force, was Baptist Robert P. Taylor. Another Baptist, William L. Clark, is the present deputy chief of chaplains, U.S. Air Force.

At the 50th anniversary banquet at Bowling Air Force Base here, Gen. J. P. McConnell, chief of staff, USAF, said, "Our chaplains could do a better job." He was highly critical of chaplains who sit in their offices and expect the people to come to them.

"More chaplains should be out on the battlelines and the flightlines," McConnell continued. They ought to be out where the men are, he said.

Appraising the work of chaplains in general, McConnell said: "As a Protestant, I want to say that the best chaplains are Catholics. I don't know why, but they are."

On the other hand, Philip M. Hannan, Roman Catholic archbishop of New Orleans, praised the chaplains as the "men of God" who demonstrate the ways differing religions can cooperate.

"Let us not underestimate the force of the chaplaincy in our society and nation," Hannan urged. "It is one of the strongest basic institutions for the spiritual welfare of our society, affecting a large percentage of our youth and the mode of ministry of our clergy," he continued.

Speaking of American society, the New Orleans archbishop said that "the principles of our Constitution and our way of life presuppose a belief in God."

In an attack on Communism he said of America, "We could not be a nation without a belief in God, for we would not have anything in common strong enough to build a stable society. The United States is the realization of the fatherhood of God in the world of politics."

Earlier in a sermon at the Washington Cathedral (Episcopal) Dwight E. Loder, Methodist bishop of Michigan, said that "the chaplaincy is the church in outreach."

"The chaplaincy in the armed forces is not the government becoming church or the church becoming government," Loder continued. "It is the fellowship reaching persons wherever they are. It is the fellowship being the church everywhere." he said.

Loder denied that the chaplaincy contributes to militarism. "The chaplaincy is not the church blessing war as the best answer for solving the human problem," he explained. "It is the community of faith reaching persons drawn into the armed forces wherever they are and into the hell of war when it is necessary."

The Methodist Bishop reflected a similar view of the chaplaincy in relation to other faiths as that of the Catholic bishop. He said, "The chaplaincy is the ecumenical church in a unique and magnificent relationship. It reaches more than armed forces. It includes mental institutions, prisons, hospitals, homes and church institutions."

Today there are approximately 4,000 chaplains in the Army, Navy, and Air Force, while 300 full-time chaplains serve the Veterans Administration.

The Chaplains Commission is a civilian agency formed by its member denominations for consultation and for developing an adequate spiritual ministry to armed forces personnel.

Among other activities, the Chaplains Commission works for high qualifications for chaplain candidates, suggests ways to improve the chaplaincy, represents the denominations and their chaplains to government officials and agencies, works as a liason between the chaplaincies' administration and various civilian faith groups and denominations, serves as a coordinating agency between government and the churches concerning religion and morality in the armed forces, and monitors trends in church-state relationships that have a bearing on the chaplaincy.

-30-

SBC Will Die If It Preaches Social Salvation, Fish Says 360

4/25/67 322

FORT WORTH (BP)--Decrying the so-called "new evangelism," an evangelism professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here said that Southern Baptists will sound the death knell to their denomination and dig their own grave if they cease to emphasize the spiritual redemption of the individual.

Roy J. Fish, during a hard-hitting message on contemporary evangelism before faculty and students at the Baptist seminary here, strongly opposed the approach of the "new evangelism" aimed at redeeming society rather than the individual.

"In the coming years," he predicted, "there is going to be pressure on us to emphasize the redemption of the structures of society rather than the individual in society.

"But never lose sight of the fact that soup, salve and sewing classes are not salvation," he said.

Much of the Christian community is calling for a gospel that does little more than put a new suit of clothes on a man, Fish charged. "But we must preach a gospel that puts a new man in a suit of clothes."

"It has come to the place," he quipped, "where the gospel has been reduced to the motto: 'Be kind to grannie and to the cat.'"

He challenged the new generation of preachers to emphasize the message of the Risen Christ.

He said it is the Christian's business to give the good news and not just good advice. "We're not in the business of telling what the world is coming to but we're here to tell of him who came into the world."

Fish chided those who preach the "theories of men rather than the Word of God."

"Sermons," he added, "have become doses of psychological uplift and when Christ is mentioned things get real vague.

"But the last place in the world for stammering and indefiniteness is in the pulpit," Fish said.

There is something wonderfully attractive and appealing to the hearts of fallen men in the preaching of the resurrected Christ, the professor said. "It will add something to your preaching which is so desperately needed in our world today.

"If we show our people Calvary towering over the wrecks of time our preaching will not be in vain," he said.

Fish is a former pastor of the First Baptist Church, Fairborn, Ohio, and former president of the Ohio Baptist Convention.

-30-

Eight Seminary Students To Lead Bahamas Work 361

4/25/67 210

FORT WORTH (BP)--Eight Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary students will participate in an eight-week summer missions program in the Bahama Islands.

They will conduct vacation Bible schools during the day and evangelistic services at night, according to Verne Campbell, student sponsor for the group.

-more-

360-361

"Boats and seaplanes will be utilized for travel to the out islands," Campbell said. "Last year's team worked on 14 islands."

This year's mission marks 18 consecutive years of seminary student participation in the Baptist evangelistic program in the Bahamas. Last year there were 285 decisions including 200 professions of faith in the Bible schools and revivals.

Missionary Ernest E. Brown Sr., is the coordinator in the Bahamas, and with Campbell, plans the itinerary, makes advance preparation and handles housing.

The team includes Fred Lowery, Heath Springs, S. C., Linda Starr, Maiden, N.C., Karen Reno, Columbus, Ohio, Ross Rogers, Pascagoula, Miss., Paul Rohde, Houston, Tex., Jerry Gray, Metairie, La., and Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, Huntington Beach, Calif., sponsors.

Southwestern students and faculty annually contribute approximately \$3,000 for the eight-week mission. This provides round-trip transportation and meals. Lodging is provided by the local committee.

The students leave Fort Worth June 6 and return in early August.

-30-

Solons Ask President For
'Bible Translation Day'

362

4/25/67

252

WASHINGTON (BP)--A resolution has been introduced in the U.S. Senate asking President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim the 30th of September as "Bible Translation Day."

Senators Fred R. Harris (D., Okla.) and Sam J. Ervin Jr., (D., N.C.) are co-sponsors of the joint resolution. A similar measure passed the Senate last year.

The resolution takes note of over 2,000 tribes living in out-of-the-way areas of the world "in cultural isolation without books or even an alphabet and much less the Bible."

It further declares that the translation of the Bible into these tribal languages and the production of an alphabet and a grammatical analysis of the language have cultural, economic, social and political significance apart from the spiritual effect.

The resolution pays tribute to a group of linguistic scholars in the U. S. engaged in the task of Bible translation on a non-sectarian basis with the cooperation of foreign governments and institutions of higher learning.

When it was introduced, Sen. Harris said he was particularly interested in the resolution because of his "admiration and respect" for the Summer Institute of Linguistics, which operates a Linguistics Institute, among other places, at the University of Oklahoma each summer.

If passed, the resolution would invite "the governments of states and communities and the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities."

According to the measure, the date of September 30 is appropriate because it is the anniversary of the death of Saint Jerome, the first translator of both the Old and New Testaments.

-30-

Congressmen Condemn U.S.S.R.
Suppression Of Jewish Life

363

4/25/67

182

WASHINGTON (BP)--More than 300 members of the U.S. House of Representatives have signed a joint statement condemning the suppression of Jewish spiritual and cultural life in the U.S.S.R.

The statement was timed to coincide with the beginning of the Passover season, sacred to Jews the world over.

The text of the statement points out that the Jews are the only Soviet nationality group to be denied schools and other institutions of Jewish learning, teaching and publishing necessary for perpetuation of the Jewish heritage.

-more-

362-363

April 25, 1967

4

Baptist Press

It further states that they are forbidden formal and official contacts between Russian Jewish clergy and co-religionists in other countries. Moreover, Jews are not allowed any form of nationwide federation of congregations or of clergy.

Signers of the joint statement said that the inequities imposed on Soviet Jews "must be protested by everyone who values human rights of all individuals and all groups everywhere."

The list of signatures includes those of Congressmen with a wide variety of political views. Every state of the Union is represented. Among the signers are Speaker John W. McCormack (D., Mass.), Majority Leader Carl Albert (D., Okla.) and Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford (R., Mich.).

-30-

C O R R E C T I O N

4/25/67

Editors, please make two corrections on page 1 of today's mailing, story headlined: "Chaplains Program Praised, Criticized at Celebration": Graph 2, line 2 should be "A. Ray Appelquist..." (not A. Bay Applequist). Graph 6, line 1, should be "Bolling Air Force Base", not "Bowling..." Thanks.

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