



# BAPTIST PRESS

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May 15, 1967

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Colorado Baptist Editor  
Endorses Abortion Law

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DENVER (BP)--An editorial in the Rocky Mountain Baptist, official publication of the Colorado Baptist General Convention, voiced approval of Colorado's new abortion law here.

Editor O. L. Bayless, writing in an editorial entitled "Moral Requirements of Scientific Advance," also endorsed the use of the birth control pill and approved of a bill adopted recently by the Oklahoma House of Representatives authorizing artificial insemination.

"Every scientific advance demands Christian response--to ignore such means exploitation of these advances by evil forces," said the editorial.

On the new Colorado abortion law, the editor said he could find "no organized concern of opinion about the measure among Southern Baptists. The majority who expressed themselves favored the legislation."

While making it clear he did not speak for all Baptists, Bayless' editorial endorsed the new abortion law, and said he did not believe the bill's critics who have charged it might make Colorado an abortion mecca.

"We do not believe that will happen--we do not believe the physicians of Colorado or accredited hospitals (in which the abortion must be performed) who are responsible for the application of the new law, will let it happen."

The editorial also endorsed the governor's action in signing the bill. "On the basis of vocal expressions and demonstrations, it was not a politically expedient decision," the editorial said.

"We believe the governor was right in signing the abortion bill, which as he said is completely permissive, not requiring any hospital, doctor, nurse, potential mother or any other person to act in any way to terminate a pregnancy at any time."

"We believe the bill provides medical safeguards not found in the old law," the editorial said.

"We believe it is morally right, to allow a three-doctor hospital board to permit legal abortions when:

"---The life or the physical or mental health of the mother is in peril.

"---A child might be born with a serious physical deformity or mental defect.

"---Pregnancy resulted from incest or rape, including statutory rape if the girl is under 16."

The editorial condemned, however, "abortions sought only to defeat the ends and responsibilities of parenthood..." Such, according to the editorial, "is wrong and violates the teachings of God's word."

"Abortion had better be controlled by the laws of a Christian society or we will continue further down the road of atheistic materialism," Bayless wrote.

On birth control and the pill, the editorial said: "We believe in family planning, which involves birth control. The pill is just an advancement of medical science in this area.

"To be sure this medium (the pill), like any other, can be abused by human beings. The abuse will be determined by the degree of man's civilization and religious maturity.

On artificial insemination, the editorial said: "We can find no basic wrong with artificial human insemination, which has been approved by the Oklahoma House of Representatives. The Oklahoma bill requires that both the husband and wife must give written consent to use of this technique.

"...We do believe the practice of artificial human insemination will create an area for increased marital difficulties during times of discord--many of which already exist in the divorce courts," the editorial concluded.

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Mission Board Appoints  
 Nine Career Missionaries

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ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board appointed nine career missionaries in May, including two missionaries to Puerto Rico.

The appointment of Mr. and Mrs. Donal T. Moore of Fort Worth as area missionaries to Ponce, Puerto Rico, brings to 14 the number of Southern Baptist missionaries serving there.

The seven others appointed at the Home Mission Board's May board of directors meeting are:

Miss Ione Johns of New Orleans to Cherokee, N.C.; Mr. and Mrs. Joel C. Pistone of San Pablo, Calif.; to Sacramento, Calif.; Orville H. Griffin, of Dayton, Ohio, to Cincinnati, Ohio; James H. Currin of Indianapolis, Ind., to Indianapolis; and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bennett of Louisville, Ky., to Spanish language school in San Antonio.

Moore, a native of Hereford, Tex., is a graduate of Baylor University, (Baptist), in Waco, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, where is now working on his doctor of theology degree. He has served as pastor of churches in Cisco and Ranger, Tex.

Mrs. Moore, a native of Laredo, Tex., is a graduate of Howard Payne College (Baptist), in Brownwood, Tex. She also attended Southwestern Seminary.

Miss Ione Johns was appointed by the board's language missions department as director of the child care program of the Cherokee Baptist Church in Cherokee, N.C.

She is a native of Pelahatchie, Miss., and a graduate of Mississippi College (Baptist) in Clinton. She will graduate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary this month. She has been a caseworker for the department of public welfare in Rankin County, Miss.

Mr. and Mrs. Joel C. Pistone were Home Mission Board student missionaries when appointed to career status. He was pastor of the First Spanish-Speaking Baptist Church in San Pablo, Calif.

Pistone will be pastor of the Primera Baptist Church in Sacramento. He is a native of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and a graduate of Baylor University, and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

Mrs. Pistone, a native of Hyannis, Mass., is a graduate of Baylor University's School of Nursing and was a registered nurse at the Marin General Hospital in San Rafael, Calif.

Roy Bennett, a native of Owensboro, Ky., completed his seminary studies this spring at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Previously, he was a school teacher in Criderville, Ohio, and pastor of the Wapakoneta Baptist Chapel in Wapakoneta, Ohio.

Mrs. Bennett was appointed along with her husband to attend the language school in San Antonio. She is a native of Spencer County, Ky., and attended Campellsville College, in Campellsville, Ky.

Orville Griffin, pastor of the East Dayton Baptist Church in Dayton and president of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, will be superintendent of missions for the Greater Cincinnati and Southern Hills Baptist Associations in Ohio, effective June 1.

The Georgetown, Ky. native is a graduate of Georgetown College there (Baptist) and he has been a pastor in Frankfort, Ky.

James H. Currin, state Sunday School secretary for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, was appointed mission secretary for Indiana Baptists.

He succeeds Francis J. Redford, who recently joined the Home Mission Board staff in Atlanta. Currin, who has served in Indiana and Kentucky pastorates, will coordinate the establishment of new churches and mission posts in Indiana.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Baptist Press carried brief stories earlier on election of Griffin by Ohio state missions board and election of Currin by Indiana state board. Both stories were mailed May 1. If you have already carried these two stories, you may want to kill last four graphs of this story.

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55,578 Make Professions  
During SBC Bible Schools 428

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptists spent an average of only 17 cents a day on each of the 55,578 boys and girls who made professions during vacation Bible Schools in Southern Baptist churches during 1966.

The professions of faith were made in 18,316 Bible schools throughout the SBC.

It was an average of 2.2 professions of faith per five-day Bible school, and 4.2 professions per 10-day school.

These figures are given in a report of the 1966 Southern Baptist Convention-wide Vacation Bible Schools, issued recently by the research and statistics department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here.

The report shows that in 16,818 schools, 180,453 juniors were reported unsaved, and in 9,279 schools the number of unsaved intermediates was 18,316.

The total enrollment of boys and girls was 3,388,924 in 30,348 schools with an average attendance of 2,817,826. Among the 30,348 total were 2,419 Mission Bible Schools.

College students accounted for 12,966 faculty members in 17,820 schools.

Of the 34,222 churches in 1,189 associations, 27,116 (79.2 percent) had a school and 7,106 (20.8 percent) had no school. Only three associations failed to report at least one school.

Based on the 2,817,826 attendance, there was a school average attendance of 93 pupils. The percentage of enrollment present daily was 83.1 percent. The average length of a school was 6.8 days with an average of 2.9 hours.

A breakdown by departments reporting (including faculty) shows: 15,615 nursery (3 year) departments with enrollment of 191,804; 20,973 beginner with 485,946 enrollment; 21,176 primary with 651,059 enrollment; 21,303 junior with 710,053 enrollment; and 18,110 intermediate with 268,008 enrollment.

Reporting the cost of the schools were 17,210 churches, who spent \$1,722,795, an average of \$100.31 a school. Using this average cost, the total cost of 30,348 schools was \$3,044,248. Average cost for each pupil enrolled was \$1.14 or \$.17 a day.

A total of \$524,830 was given through the Cooperative Program by boys and girls in 16,983 schools. This was an average of \$30.90 a school.

In 3,625 schools, the boys and girls gave \$134,833 to designated causes, an average of \$37.20 a school. Thus the total mission offerings amounted to \$659,713, an average of \$32.01 a school. Not reporting in this category were 9,740 schools.

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Howard Payne College  
Names Blanton Dean 429

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BROWNWOOD, Tex. (BP)--Milburn W. Blanton, currently serving as president of Missouri Western College, St. Joseph, Mo., has been named dead of Howard Payne College, (Baptist) here.

Blanton has done graduate and post graduate work at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, and has done post doctoral study at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. He has the doctor of education degree from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

He served in the U.S. Army as a member of a combat engineer outfit during World War II. He is a native of Arkansas and has been a member of the Arkansas Legislature.

After having served as a teacher and a superintendent of schools in Arkansas, Blanton was associated with Nebraska State College, Mississippi State College for Woman, Columbus; and Southern State College, Springfield, S.D.

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Carter Elected Oklahoma  
Baptist Foundation Head

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OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Newly-elected executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma is Tom E. Carter, who for the past five years has been assistant executive secretart of the agency.

Carter, 59, was elected to head the official trust and endowment agency of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma during the Foundation's annual board meeting here.

Carter will officially assume the new responsibilities on Jan. 1, 1968 when Augie Henry, current executive secretary of the Foundation, begins retirement.

Before joining the Foundation staff, Carter was for eight years executive director of the Baptist Hospitals and Golden Age Homes for Oklahoma Baptists.

He previously had been pastor of several Oklahoma churches including the First Baptist Church, Pauls Valley, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Tulsa; and First Baptist Church, Heavener, Okla.

Born in Kansas, Carter grew up in Enid, Okla. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and Tulsa University, Tulsa.

He has done additional study at Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, and the University of Minnesota Law School. In 1966, the Linda Vista Baptist College, San Diego, Calif., conferred an honorary doctor of divinity degree on Carter.

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West Named Louisville  
Missions Superintendent

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LOUISVILLE (BP)--The Long Run Association of Baptists in the area surrounding Louisville, Ky., has named G. Allen West Jr., of Nashville, as its new superintendent of missions.

West for 25 years has been pastor of the Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville, a 1,400-member church that had only 50 members when West became pastor in 1942.

West will be chief administrative officer of the Long Run Association which works with 125 Baptist Churches and a dozen missions with a combined membership of 92,000 Baptists.

He is the immediate past president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and is a former member of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee and the Sunday School Board of the SBC.

A native of Georgia and Florida, West is a graduate of Stetson University, Deland, Fla., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, where he earned the doctor of theology degree the year he became pastor of the Woodmont Church in Nashville. Stetson gave him an honorary doctor of divinity degree five years ago.

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The Commission Wins Two  
Awards From Press Group

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CHICAGO (BP)--A Southern Baptist publication, The Commission, won two awards at the Evangelical Press Association meeting here as the "best missionary periodical" and for the "best general article."

First place plaques were presented to the publication for both categories. The winning article was written by Eric Clark in the April, 1966 issue, and entitled, "I've Seen a Corner Where Beauty Died."

The Commission, monthly publication of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., was one of eight periodicals receiving first place awards in "Periodical of the Year" categories.

It was one of nine receiving first place awards in the "Higher Goals in Christian Journalism" categories. It was the only Southern Baptist publication receiving recognition.

Floyd H. North is editor of The Commission, which also has won awards at each of the past two conventions of Evangelical Press Association.

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Chosen as "Periodical of the Year" by the association was the Lutheran publication, This Day, selected for "its all-around editorial excellence" in 1966.

The Evangelical Press Association is made up of 170 publications with an estimated circulation of more than 20 million.

Several Southern Baptist publications are members of the organization, which will hold its 1968 session in Minneapolis, Minn.

Southern Baptists attending this year's meeting were Joe Odle and Joe Abrams of the Baptist Record, Jackson, Miss. Odle led a conference at one of the sessions.

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Dallas Church Switches Sunday  
Night Services to Ballparks

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DALLAS (BP)--The Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church here has voted to end Sunday night services in its huge auditorium for the summer months, and to replace them with preaching from nearby baseball field diamonds.

Beginning June 4, and continuing throughout the three summer months, the outdoor services will be held in an effort "to get out of the pews and into the streets with the gospel."

The new concept in evangelism, said the pastor of the 2,300-member church, Neil T. Jones, will not be any "high pressure" revival series, but rather "brief, 15-20 minute impact messages with short invitations."

Jones said the approach is designed to reach into the heart of the community and tap human resources not previously reached.

"We know the lost person is no longer coming to church. We're going to take the church--not the building, but the body of believers--into the field for the harvest," Jones said.

Six weeks of services will be held in the Harry Stone Recreation Center park in Dallas, about six blocks from the church; and another six-week period will be held in the opposite direction in Mesquite, Tex., a Dallas suburb bordering within a few blocks of the church. Informal dress is being urged for those who attend.

"I'm scared, and don't mind telling you so. I don't know what to expect," Jones remarked. "Success of the program will depend on the Shiloh Terrace people."

Jones said he believes the church is the first Southern Baptist congregation in a major metropolitan center undertaking such a summer approach.

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Bellevue Church To Build  
Memorial Garden For Lee

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MEMPHIS (BP)--Dedication services have been slated by Bellevue Baptist Church for a Memorial Garden in honor of Dr. R. G. Lee, pastor emeritus of the Bellevue church, and famed Baptist pulpiteer.

The garden, called the Lee Memorial Garden, is to be dedicated during the Tennessee Baptist Convention when it meets at Bellevue Baptist Church on Nov. 15.

The memorial garden is to be located on the southeast corner of Bellevue and Court Streets alongside the sanctuary where Dr. Lee preached for 26 of the 33 years he was pastor.

It is to include a bronze bas-relief memorial plaque on a marble base, and a memento-trophy-library building where Lee's personal effects will be kept. The garden is to be filled with trees, shrubs, meditation spots, and fountains.

At a cost of \$50,000 a special committee of the church is planning and organizing the construction and financing of the memorial garden.

The committee, headed by Hugh Dyer and John C. Cameron, with Bellevue Pastor Ramsey Pollard as honorary chairman, is promoting the garden and offering an invitation to "everyone and anyone who has ever been blessed by the life, witness ministry of and association with Dr. and Mrs. Lee. . .to have a part in creating the Lee Memorial Garden."

Lee, now 80, continues to preach frequently. He retired from the 8,100-member church in 1960 at the age of 73.

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