



# BAPTIST PRESS

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650

Medical Team Ministers  
To Texas Latins, Negroes

420

By Al Morgan  
Baptist Press Staff Writer

BRACKETTVILLE, Tex. (BP)--The far-reaching effects are too distant to be realized now, but when the summer months end, Latin Americans as well as Negroes in this small West Texas community will remember 10 helping hands.

A long line of both Latin and Negro children as well as many adults formed at Brackettville's First Baptist Church when a medical team of two doctors and three nurses arrived.

The medical team set up a one-day medical clinic in the church's educational facilities, complete with three examining rooms.

Brackettville has no resident physician.

First patients included Headstart pupils attending school in the community. These were followed by others participating in Vacation Bible School.

Patients were examined and treated according to their specific needs. Many antibiotic medicines were dispensed along with vitamins. Children also received pre-school immunizations including smallpox vaccinations.

The clinic, operating in conjunction with the Vacation Bible School, served as an information outlet for the remainder of the week. Registered nurses remained on the field instructing local residents in sanitation and personal hygiene as well as other basic needs.

The medical team, however, was only a single part of a tremendous effort by members of First Baptist Church, Bellaire, Tex., near Houston, to minister along the Rio Grande River.

The over-all effort, directed by Pastor Lee Porter, included 50 adult men and women, plus 42 young people. Traveling in caravan style, the team arrived in Brackettville's sister city, Del Rio, Tex., by chartered bus and cars.

Girls were housed in a local motel while boys converted Del Rio's First Baptist Church Recreational Building into their home for a week. Men had earlier erected home-made showers in the rear of the building.

Corporation controllers and secular division and department managers rolled up sleeves to cook three meals a day for the group. In addition to the Brackettville work, four Vacation Bible Schools were held in Del Rio.

Every participant of the 92-member team paid \$30 fare, plus giving their time for the venture in missions.

Looking over the many church members participating in the special river ministry program, Porter summed it all up:

"I don't have to preach missions. Our people can stand in their own departments and tell of missions from first hand experiences."

Not all of the Bellaire membership could travel to West Texas. But they sent a truck load of clothes to aid the less fortunate.

Said one nurse, "I wish I had more room in my car. I couldn't bring all the clothes given me for these people."

The results: Latin American and Negro children joined Anglo children in games. Adult men and women of several nationalities talked in the shade of trees during recess periods and Jesus' love became the central theme.

The Del Rio-Brackettville effort is an example of what Texas Baptists are doing in the Rio Grande River ministry.

650

LBJ Calls For Prayer  
And Action For Justice

657

532

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--The President of the United States appealed to the conscience and soul of the nation for "peace based on one man's respect for another--and upon mutual respect for law."

In the face of riots and anarchy in major cities of the nation, President Lyndon B. Johnson turned to God-fearing people as he proclaimed a National Day of Prayer. He urged the people to go into their churches "to pray for order and reconciliation among men."

Quoting Psalm 85:10, the President said, "Let us pray for the day when 'mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.'"

But, he pleaded with the nation, prayers are not enough. He insisted that action must accompany praying. Solutions to riot conditions must not be based on fear, he continued, but the citizens must be "fired by conscience."

Appealing to highest motivations, President Johnson urged the nation: "Let us build something more lasting: faith between man and man, between race and race, faith in each other--and in the promise of America."

The aim of the national efforts to meet the needs of the people, he said, is "that this land may truly be 'one nation under God--with liberty and justice for all.'"

The President in no uncertain terms condemned the anarchy that has left riot-torn, looted cities in smoldering rubble.

"Let there be no mistake about it," he warned, "the looting, arson, plunder and pillage which have occurred are not part of a civil rights protest."

"There is no American right to loot stores, to burn buildings, to fire rifles from the rooftops. That is crime--and crime must be dealt with forcefully, swiftly, certainly--under law," the President declared.

Then the President turned toward solutions. "This is not a time for angry reaction. It is a time for action: starting with legislative action to improving life in our cities. The strength and promise of the law are the surest remedies for tragedy in the streets," he said.

The conditions that breed despair and violence, the president said, are ignorance, discrimination, slums, disease and not enough jobs.

The President was bitter toward Congress for its failure to continue strong implementation of the "Great Society" programs which he said are designed to prevent national tragedy. The Republicans sought to make "political hay" by accusing the administration for failures that have resulted in the riots. The President struck back and sought to put the blame on the Republicans.

In the meantime, Sen. Thruston B. Morton (R., Ky.) rebuked both Republicans and Democrats. He said that the tragedy confronted by the nation is too serious for political bickering.

All sides in the controversy seemed to be long on criticism and too anxious to blame somebody else. Most parties were short in solutions.

In the meantime calmer leaders in Congress and elsewhere appealed to the nation and its leaders not to "lose their heads" in the emergency.

Responding to demands for an investigation of riots in the nation, President Johnson appointed an eight-person panel composed of both Negroes and whites, Republicans and Democrats.

This advisory commission on civil disorders will "investigate the origins of the recent disorders," the President said, and will make recommendations to the President, Congress, state governors and mayors.

In the face of conditions, which many have described as the worst since the civil war, national leaders are appealing both to whites and blacks for respect for law and order, for honest consideration of conditions that produce disorder, and for peaceful national action based on concern for people.

Baptist Editorial Comments  
 On Firing of Catholic Teacher

652

546

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--An editorial in The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine has commended a Catholic laywoman for coming to the defense of a Catholic teacher who was fired because he publicly advocated a change in the Catholic Church's stand on birth control.

The Catholic lady, wrote editor Erwin L. McDonald, sounded "baptistic" in her letter to the editor of the Arkansas Gazette.

McDonald did not condemn the Catholic Bishop, Albert Fletcher, for firing James Drane of the St. John's Seminary in Little Rock.

The Baptist editor said both Catholic priests were friends, and that he "held my Baptist tongue" when the action was taken because he did not feel it was right "for a Baptist editor to apply Baptist polity to a Catholic situation."

But the letter to the editor by Mrs. James A. Benedum of Little Rock "has opened my eyes to the fact that there are principles involved in the action against Dr. Drane that concern not only Catholics but Baptists and Methodists and Presbyterians and all the rest of us," McDonald wrote.

"The laywoman. . . gets to the heart of the matter when she declares the most disturbing aspect of the Drane dismissal to be 'that the action constitutes the elimination of a person!'"

"Taking as a basic premise that 'each person is unique' and 'needed in his or her totality,' Mrs. Benedum decries a widespread practice today of 'eliminating persons,'" said the Baptist editorial.

Quoting frequently Mrs. Benedum's letter, McDonald said she defended Drane by saying he was merely expressing his own convictions, something that should be encouraged among individuals of the church. Quoting her further, he wrote:

"The Church needs this expression of its members, unique persons making up the people of God; it needs to listen, evaluate, and search for the truth that lies therein'. She feels (as Baptists generally have felt across the years) that individual Christians--even priests--must be free to determine for themselves what God through the Holy Spirit and 'in the stress of events and the fluctuation of circumstances' is saying to them.

"Truth is unchanging, writes Mrs. Benedum, 'but our knowledge of it is ever expanding.'

"The problem of the church, she continues, is that it seems to want to limit the truth by eliminating persons. 'When the church or anyone else eliminates one person and his ideas, she also limits the freedom of all the other members of the church to know the truth that one eliminated person was meant to express,' she declared."

McDonald commended Mrs. Benedum for pointing out that it is not the business of priests or bishops to indoctrinate the laity in the sense that they tell the people what they must believe and what they must not believe.

"This Catholic lady," the editorial said, "sounds 'baptistic' as she writes:

"The priest's own belief is not all-important to my faith. He wasn't called to the priesthood because he is the perfect believer. Priests are growing and developing in faith as all of us are doing.

"Man, be he priest or lay person, is one who is in a process of becoming. To think of the priest as the perfect believer who indoctrinates would be alien to good reasoning."

The Arkansas Baptist editorial observed that Baptists fool themselves if they take for granted that all who claim the name Baptist are consistent in contending for this sacred right, not only for themselves but for others.

"It is refreshing indeed," McDonald wrote, "to be reminded of certain basic principles of religious liberty by a Christian other than a Baptist.

"The real spirit of ecumenicity is to be found not so much in organization as in a fearless and continuing search for truth, wherever it is found," the editorial said. "And for Christians, our source of light is the Holy Spirit indwelling in us."

Baptist Sunday School Board  
OK's \$36 Million Budget

653

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RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a \$36,165,000 budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 at its semi-annual meeting at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly.

The budget reflects an increase of almost \$3 million. Sales of church literature, income from publishing and Baptist Book Store profits will provide the amount.

After costs of sales and operating expenses have been cared for, \$7,298,000, or 70 per cent of available earnings, will be allocated to support Southern Baptist churches through 17 educational and service programs. The remainder will be used for capital improvements and reserves.

The board also authorized construction of additional hotel-motel type structures at its two assemblies during the coming fiscal year.

Three additional units, including 46 bedrooms with private baths, will be added to Thunderbird Plaza, a motel-type unit at Glorieta Baptist Assembly, N.M.

At Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, N.C., construction of a 60 bedroom hotel-type structure was authorized. To be called Holly Hall, the new hotel unit will include private baths and provisions for winter use.

In other actions the board:

--Authorized enlargement of the auditorium at the board building in Nashville. The structure, to be used for worship, music, drama and educational programs, will seat about 1,150.

--Approved a new grading plan and curriculum products to be effective Oct. 1, 1970. The adult division of the plan was authorized to be divided into young adults (18-29), adults (30-59) and senior adults (60 up). Preschool children's and youth division were approved by the board in January. All literature will be correlated similar to the present Life and Work series for young people and adults. Uniform lessons will be offered for youth and adult divisions.

--Elected Samuel E. Maddox of St. Joseph, Mo., as president of the board; Julius C. Thompson of Nashville as chairman of the executive committee and Roy Babbs of Nashville as secretary.

--Named Kenneth McAnear, office supervisor of the board's Training Union department as manager of Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly.

--Promoted Wayne H. Chastain to director of the office of management services.

--Adopted an educational objective for the development of curriculum materials. The objective is: "To help persons become aware of God as revealed in Jesus Christ, respond to him in a personal commitment of faith, strive to follow Christ in the full meaning of discipleship, relate effectively to Christ's church and its mission in the world, live in conscious recognition of the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit and grow toward Christian maturity."

-30-

Baptist Layman Named  
President of PR Group

654

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140

DALLAS (BP)--Dyar Massey, a Baptist layman who is director of development at Emory University in Atlanta, became president of the American College Public Relations Association during their 50th anniversary convention here.

Massey, a member of Clairmont Hills Baptist Church in Atlanta, is also a former president of Sigma Delta Chi, national journalistic society.

John Earl Seelig, assistant to the president at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, has served as chairman of the coordinating committee for the anniversary convention.

Southern Baptist institutions with representatives attending the convention included Baylor University, Waco, Tex.; Bishop College, Dallas; Campbell College, Buies Creek, N.C.; Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark.; Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo.; Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.; the Baptist Foundation of Texas, and Southwestern Seminary.

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