



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
Telephone (615) 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, Director  
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

**REGIONAL OFFICES**

**ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Editor, 161 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, Telephone (404) 523-2593

**DALLAS** R. T. McCartney, Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996

**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

**BUREAU**

**BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD** Lynn M. Davis Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,  
Telephone (615) 254-1631

August 23, 1967

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"Let's Get Out" of Vietnam,  
Says Arkansas Baptist Paper

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--Saying the United States has fulfilled its commitment in Vietnam, an editorial in the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine here advocated pulling out of the Vietnam war.

The editorial charged that the Ky regime in South Vietnam has "no intention of permitting the people to have a fair and open election" and said that the present military dictatorship has discredited itself in its strong-handed manipulation of the elections.

"So we can thank Ky and Company," said the editorial, "for further opening the eyes of Congress and the American people to the utter futility of our continuing to pursue a war for liberation of a people so completely dominated by military junta as are the South Vietnamese."

The editorial pointed out that the number of American troops in Vietnam has risen from 20,000 when President Lyndon B. Johnson was elected on a promise not to widen the war, to more than 450,000 now with a call for more and more men.

"Any commitment we may have had in this fight has been met a thousand times over," said the editorial.

"There may have been a time when the big question for us was how to get out and save face. If that time ever was, it does not exist today. The question now is how can we save our soul if we stay in," said the editorial.

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine is the first Baptist state paper to advocate pulling out of the war in Vietnam. Most other papers have generally endorsed the U. S. policy in Vietnam, or have taken no stand.

Editor Erwin L. McDonald said in the editorial he agreed with a recent New York Times editorial which questioned the wisdom of continuing the Vietnam escalation.

The Times editorial said: "Our quarrel is with the concept that expanding the scale of warfare brings the United States closer to attainment of its war goals. Indeed, it becomes increasingly questionable that anyone in Washington is at all clear on what it is this country is seeking to achieve in Vietnam.

"Is it not time to recognize," continued the Times editorial, "that such large-scale infusion of military manpower merely mires the United States more irretrievably in a massive grand war on the Continent of Asia---a war in which there can be no victory and in which the steady growth in casualties and cost reduces the prospect of ever achieving a negotiated peace on terms that any government could accept without accomplishing its own downfall?"

McDonald agreed, but went beyond the Times position. He proposed that the United States request Premier Ky to submit his quarrel to the United Nations for arbitration. "If Ky will not listen to this, let's move out and let him have it," said the editorial.

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Baptist Press

Paul Geren Elected  
Stetson President

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DeLAND, Fla. (BP)--The board of trustees of Stetson University here has elected Paul F. Geren, a former Baptist educator and diplomat, as the new president of the Baptist school, effective Sept. 15.

Geren has most recently been counselor of economic affairs at the U. S. Embassy in Tripoli, Libya.

He will succeed J. Ollie Edmunds as president of Stetson, which has an enrolment of about 2,300 students. Edmunds is retiring.

A career diplomat as well as an educator, Geren has held diplomatic posts in Burma, India, Syria, Jordan, and the Federation of Rhodesia (now Malawi, Sombia, and Southern Rhodesia).

He was deputy director of the Peace Corps for several years and was also director of the Office of TeleCommunication and Maritime Affairs, serving in this post while the international Telecommunications Satellite System was being established.

The son of a Baptist minister, Geren was executive vice president of Baylor University (Baptist), Waco, Tex., for three years, 1956-59. He is a native of Arkansas. His father, H. M. Geren, was pastor of churches in Arkansas, Texas, and Washington, D. C.

He is a graduate of Baylor University, Louisiana State University, and Harvard University where he received his doctoral degree in economics. He taught at Louisiana State for two years after earning his master's degree.

He also taught at the University of Rangoon in Burma, and worked as a short-term missionary there for the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

During World War II, he was a combat medical soldier and an intelligence officer behind Japanese lines, earning the Bronze Star while serving with the famed Merrill's Marauders.

After the war he taught at Forman Christian College in Lahore, India, at Berea College in Berea, Ky., and at Southern Methodist University, Dallas.

In 1947 he was appointed a Foreign Service Officer by the U. S. State Department, serving in diplomatic positions in Bombay, India; Damascus, Syria; Amman, Jordan; and in the State Department in Washington, D. C.

He became executive vice president of Baylor University in 1956, and in 1959 was named executive director of the Dallas Council on World Affairs, Dallas, Tex.

He re-entered foreign service in 1961 with appointment to a State Department post, and later that year was named deputy director of the Peace Corps. He later became Consul General for the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in Africa, serving there before appointment to his latest post as economic affairs counselor in Lybia.

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Knoxville Churches Urge  
Lowering Race Barrier

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KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The Executive Board of the Knox County Baptist Association adopted a resolution here urging each church in Knoxville to accept church members regardless of race or color.

The resolution stated that the board was bringing "moral persuasion" to bear on the churches "to consider in the light of the teachings of Christ as revealed in the New Testament the opening of their churches for attendance and membership to people of all races and color."

An inter-racial committee of the association brought the resolution, saying that Baptists have expressed "moral persuasion" in the area of evangelism, education, stewardship, liquor, gambling, pornography and separation of church and state, and that it should deal with the moral issue of race relations with equal vigor.

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During an earlier board meeting, a young Negro girl had appeared in a religious drama presented by Western Heights Good Will Center.

Lewis Rhodes, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Knoxville, commended the performance, and observed that all Baptist churches should be open to people of all races. The Broadway Baptist Church is one of the few Southern Baptist churches in Knoxville that has Negro members.

The Knox County Baptist Association has voted to open its membership to Negro Baptist congregations, but none have sought membership.

Presenting the resolution on behalf of the inter-racial committee was Kenneth McMahan, pastor of Oakland Street Baptist Church, Knoxville.

Another Knoxville pastor, Jimmy Stroud of Park Lane Baptist Church, had presented a motion at the Southern Baptist Convention in Miami Beach asking that the SBC recommend that its churches accept Negro members, but the motion was ruled out of order because it was introduced on the last day of business and no time was available for its consideration.

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Baton Rouge Baptist  
Hospital Names Chief

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BATON ROUGH, La (BP)--Claude Kirkpatrick, businessman and industrial consultant here, has been named administrator of Baton Rouge General Hospital, an institution of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

A Baptist deacon, Kirkpatrick is a former member of the House of Representatives and former director of the State Department of Public Works.

Most recently, he has been an industrial consultant for such firms as Allied Chemical Corp., Superior Oil Co., and others. He also has business interests in Jennings, La.

Kirkpatrick succeeds the late H. H. Huckaby who died in March. Warren W. Simonds has been serving as acting administrator, and will continue in his position as assistant administrator.

The new administrator is a deacon at First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, and has been a member of the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, and the board of trustees for Louisiana College (Baptist), Pineville.

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Miss Geron Appointed  
Golden Gate Librarian

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MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Miss Cary Ann Geron, a former Missionary Journeyman serving as librarian assistant at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, has been named circulation librarian at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Miss Geron, a native of Dallas and graduate of Texas Woman's University, Denton, Tex., assumed the position Aug. 22. She served for two years as a Journeyman with the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

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George Jackson Named  
To Samford Extension Post

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BIRMINGHAM (BP)--George H. Jackson, promotion manager of The Alabama Baptists, has been named associate director of the Howard College Extension Division for Christian Training, the extension program of Samford University (Baptist) here.

Jackson has served on the staff of the state Baptist paper here for the past 6½ years.

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He succeeds G. Benton Towry, who resigned to become pastor of an Alabama Baptist church.

Jackson is a graduate of Samford and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and is former pastor of Baptist churches in Montgomery, Russellville, and former associate pastor of churches in Birmingham, Gadsden, Jasper (all in Alabama) and Orleans, Ind.

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Tribute Paid Donors  
At DBC Dedication

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DALLAS, Tex. (BP)--Maj. Gen. Thomas Bishop, Adjutant General of Texas, paid tribute to donors of the 200-acre Dallas Baptist College campus in a special summit plaza dedication program.

"Those whom we honor have faith, and I believe what's more, have put mighty faith to work in giving the site and campus for Dallas Baptist College," the military leader said.

Summit plaza is a grass-covered knoll in the center of the school's campus overlooking Mountain Creek Lake in Southwest Dallas. "The plaza will be the focal point of academic and spiritual life at Dallas Baptist College," said Charles Pitts, president.

A private group of 11 individuals donated the first 100 acres of the campus, while a group of more than 100 Dallas area individuals and businesses gave funds to purchase the second 100 acres.

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Plan For Church Role  
In Riot Cities Endorsed

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NASHVILLE (BP)--A Southern Baptist Convention official has endorsed a Presbyterian plan outlining 18 specific steps that churches and ministers should take in dealing with racial crises on the local level.

Foy Valentine, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission, urged Baptist pastors and churches to study the plan and use "these practical suggestions as an effective approach."

Valentine said the racial crisis in America offers a critical challenge to Baptists to get at the complicated roots of the riots which have plagued the land--unemployment, slums, family breakdown, inadequate law enforcement, crime and poverty.

"The gospel of Christ, when truly believed and consistently practiced is God's adequate anecdote to the poisons of apathy, racism, violence and anarchy," Valentine said.

He especially urged Baptist churches and pastors to follow the specific suggestions prepared by the Commission on Religion and Race of the United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., which outlines what local churches and ministers can do before, during, and after racial riots.

The Presbyterian plan suggests the following steps:  
Before the Crisis:

1. Plan meetings with the mayor and police officials to offer constructive advice on preventative measures and riot control. What do they plan in the event of trouble? What instructions have been given to patrolmen, etc.? These and other questions should be raised. The main points in such discussions should include: Oppose instructions to use guns on vague targets or to "shoot to kill;" small provocations should not be met by storm trooper police tactics; let the people express their grievances about police procedures now; the police must correct their approaches to non-whites in maintaining order, making arrests, etc.; continuous police-community and human relations training is necessary; more Negro policemen, and higher ranks are required; prepare to make use of services of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the U.S. Department of Justice.

2. Set up effective liaison with leaders in the hard-core ghetto and with some Negro clergy. Purpose: To find out what people want and to help them get it.

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3. Organize a task force of clergy to go into the ghetto to meet with people, but have something concrete to offer, if only token - e.g., some definite job openings, some low-cost housing for sale or rent, volunteer lawyers for legal problems, advisers and leg men who will run down welfare hangups and other problems with the bureaucracy, food and clothing for hard-core cases.

4. Get out interpretative materials for white congregations, giving facts about ghetto life in your community. Use photographs, personal statements, statistics. Get their pressure on the mayor, police chief, businessmen, newspapers, poverty agencies, welfare bureaucracy, federal government.

5. Get city officials to initiate a crash program in code enforcement, dropping penalizing restrictions in welfare procedures; trash and garbage collection; street cleaning and lighting; neighborhood swimming pools; tutoring programs; neighborhood cultural events; summer jobs for youth. More basic issues are adult jobs, housing, school segregation, welfare policies and police brutality. These need continuous work by clergy - united across denominational and racial lines, if possible.

During the crisis:

1. Have clergy teams working in the riot area with the Negro civil rights organizations and ad hoc indigenous groups which have been contacted previously.

2. Have a team of two ministers at every police station, jail and hospital as observers and chaplains.

3. Keep in close communication with public official in order to offer services, observe and participate in decision-making.

4. Get clergy interpretations on radio and TV, panel discussions, sidewalk interviews.

5. Watch closely the bail and incarceration process used and demand the restraint of force and concentration camp procedures.

6. Urge that people be permitted and encouraged to tell their side of the story without prejudice and to the highest level of officialdom.

7. Isolate the issues that should be taken advantage of in the follow-up.

After the crisis:

1. Continue and consolidate the group of clergy who have been meeting on an emergency basis. What has emerged may be the most effective church action group in the city. But don't fragment communitywide efforts; dovetail with secular groups.

2. Disseminate to the white community and the churches carefully prepared interpretations of what happened, why, and what is now needed to redress the grievances of the minority community.

3. Keep a close check on people who are still in the hospital or are being unlawfully held in jail....

4. Organize volunteer lawyers, physicians and other helpers for spot assignments where help is still needed.

5. Deploy one or two Negro ministers, who can be released from their congregations, to set up "forward observation and listening posts in the ghetto for keeping contact and assessing reactions to remedial efforts."

6. Continue in close contact with the mayor, governor and business leaders to see that promises are kept and specific programs are actually put into effect.

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Arkansas Special Committee Report  
Advises Wait on Junior College

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LITTLE ROCK (BP)- The Arkansas Baptist Convention Executive Board heard a report Aug. 22 recommending the convention wait a year to study acceptance of a junior college.

The convention will receive the report at its annual session in November.

The chairman of the special committee, Mason Craig, presented the report as a matter of information to the Executive Board at its regular meeting. Craig, pastor of First Baptist Church of McGhee, said the committee feels the convention should accept the college but wait a year to study the results of the Baptist Education Study Task. He said the matter of financing should also be examined.

Southern Baptist College, located in Walnut Ridge, wishes to become an institution of the convention. It seeks to be brought under the same board of trustees that now serves Ouachita Baptist University as a senior educational institution.

Southern Baptist College was established in 1941 by H. E. Williams, its president. It has an enrollment of about 300 and is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The independent Baptist college has received budget allocations from the Arkansas state convention for a number of years. Under the proposed budget for 1968 it will receive \$51,460 for operating expenses and \$33,736 for capital needs.

Ouachita Baptist University, Arkansas Baptists' only senior college, will receive \$363,703 for operating and \$130,959 for capital needs under next year's budget.

A proposal to make the Baptist student department a separate institution with its own board of trustees was discussed at length. A committee promoting the idea feels the new organizational pattern would unify the total BSU program and would bring support from new sources.

A layman from Harrison has headed the committee promoting the change for the last two years but the matter was postponed until the convention in November.

In other action the Board:

-Approved a 1968 budget of \$2,496,267, a \$130,175 increase over 1967. \$821,932 were allocated the Southern Baptist College for world missions.

-Accepted an invitation from Denver Baptists to participate in a July evangelistic crusade. Arkansas will contribute \$10,000 in cash and enlist ministers and music directors to help.

-Approved plans for Lawson Hatfield, secretary of the Sunday School department, to help Alaska in a Sunday School enlargement campaign.

-Approved four new programs by the state mission department. One will send a full-time minister to the resort city of Hot Springs. Another will establish a child care ministry in Little Rock to be an office of the Baptist Children's Home in Monticello.

The third new program will establish an inner city church ministry in Little Rock involving the Second Baptist Church. A fourth program will prepare leaders for a ministry to the deaf over the state.

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C O R R E C T I O N

Editors, please make the following correction in Baptist Press story on church development awards, mailed Aug. 22, 1967.

Graph 1 - Don Dyer is pastor of Plymouth Park Baptist Church rather than (Tom Dyer, as sent).

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*460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219*

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS  
127 NINTH AVENUE, NORTH  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203

RETURN REQUESTED

Baptist Press  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

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FORM 421 (REV 2-67)

**News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention**

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CUTLINES

8/23/67

Baptist Press Photo

**FAIRBANKS FLOOD VICTIMS EVACUATED:** More than 9,000 residents of Fairbanks, Alaska, including about 1,300 Baptists, were evacuated by boat, helicopter, tanks, and trucks when the Chena River flooded its banks. In the background is the Calvary Baptist Church of Fairbanks. Flood waters completely filled the basement and rose above the pews in the sanctuary. (BP) Photo by E. W. Hunke, Jr.

CUTLINES

8/23/67

Baptist Press Photo

**BAPTIST REFUGEES FROM FLOOD:** Southern Baptist Convention officials caught by the raging floods in Fairbanks, Alaska, recently were evacuated to a refugee center at the Lathrop High School. Water was four feet deep in the lobby of the hotel where they were staying in Fairbanks to attend the Alaska Baptist Convention, which was cancelled because of the flood. Waiting for the waters to subside are (left to right) Donald Ackland, SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville; Glendon McCullough, SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta; Mrs. Porter Routh (back turned) of Nashville; E. H. Westmoreland, Houston pastor and president of the SBC Annuity Board; and Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, Nashville. (BP) Photo by E. W. Hunke, Jr.

CUTLINES

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Baptist Press Photo

**ANCHORAGE BAPTISTS AID FAIRBANKS FLOOD VICTIMS:** Baptists in Anchorage, Alaska, set up a clothing center at the International Airport here to aid more than 4,000 refugees who flew to Anchorage following the tragic floods in Fairbanks, Alaska. The clothing will also be trucked to Fairbanks for distribution by Baptist churches there. The 5,600 Baptists in Anchorage responded immediately with aid for their sister city, setting up the center the day following the floods as refugees began to arrive. (BP) Photo

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