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January 8, 1968

Baptists Help Establish  
High School Ethics Courses

By George W. Knight  
Associate Editor, Western Recorder

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Teen-agers in at least five Kentucky communities are now receiving instruction on ethics in their public high schools, thanks to the leadership of the pastor of Chapel Park Baptist Church here.

It all started three years ago when R. Harold Mincey of Louisville was serving as pastor of the Eminence (Ky.) Baptist Church. Concerned for the moral and ethical instruction of the local youth, he suggested that the Eminence Council of Churches consider establishing a course on ethics in the Eminence High School.

After the legality of such a course was cleared with the Kentucky Attorney General, it was structured by the local church council and offered to interested students of the high school.

Eminence ministers of all denominations, including Mincey, taught the course on a rotating basis. Strictly voluntary and non-credit, it was taught on a "released-time" basis at the First Presbyterian Church in the northern Kentucky town.

This course--which considered such things as dating, family relationships, responsible citizenship, habits, the problem of prejudice and one's own sense of moral values--has been the basis for at least four other similar classes established at other Kentucky communities during the past three years.

Baptists of Henry County Association in the Eminence area were impressed with the program and instituted a similar course in the county high school. Although the class is strictly Baptist-sponsored, it meets in a classroom at the school. Any students who have study hall or other free periods when the class meets can sign up for the special course.

A similar class, "principles of correct moral conduct," was initiated last September at Todd County Central High School in Elkton, Ky. Sponsored by the local ministerial association, it, too, drew heavily from resource materials and suggestions made by Mincey.

The Eminence project also provided the inspiration for a course in morality and ethics at Shelby County High School in Shelbyville, Ky. Now in its second year, this project is sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Association of the Shelbyville school.

Teaching this class, by invitation of the P-TA, are local ministers of four denominations--Baptist, Catholic, Presbyterian and Christian.

Perhaps the most "sophisticated" program in ethical instruction to grow out of Mincey's proposal three years ago is that course now being offered at two public high schools in Louisville.

When Mincey moved to Louisville in 1966 to become pastor of Chapel Park Baptist Church, he brought his ideas about morality instruction for public high school students with him. Just a year ago, he first suggested the possibility of such a course in Louisville to the Shively Pastors' Association. This interdenominational ministers' fellowship of which he is a member liked the idea and voted to proceed with plans to sponsor such a program.

Mincey was appointed chairman of a committee charged with contacting school officials and working out details of the project. The classes got underway this fall at Butler and Western High Schools in Louisville following approval by the Jefferson County School Board.

Since the course places emphasis on the free and open discussion of the students, it is called "dialogue in morality." Each class is conducted by a team of ministers, one serving as the discussion leader and the other as a resource person.

Mincey pointed out that no class is ever taught by two ministers of the same denomination. "We wanted to make sure that no one had grounds for calling this a course in sectarian doctrines," he explained.

The eight ministers who teach the classes at the two schools on a rotating basis represent six denominations--Baptist, Catholic, Christian, Methodist, Presbyterian and United Church of Christ.

The Baptist teachers involved are Lewis Twyman, pastor of Hillview Baptist Church, and R. T. Wilkins, pastor of 18th Street Baptist Church in Louisville. Although Mincey does not teach at either of the schools, he is serving as chairman of a committee which recruits local ministers to serve as instructors for the course.

In addition to providing much-needed morality instruction for youth, the Louisville class has been valuable in other ways, the Chapel Park pastor pointed out.

Mincey believes the concept of morality and ethics instruction for high school youth is now catching on widely and that churches of all denominations will be cooperating to establish such non-sectarian courses for many communities in the years ahead.

"In many small towns. . . it would be practical for such a nonsectarian course to be taught in a local church," he said. "In this case, the school 'releases' the pupils to the church for religious instruction. Since the students meet off the school property, this course can interpret ethics from the Christian perspective and still remain within the bounds of the constitution."

However, if the class meets in public school facilities, the teaching of overt religious principles is ruled out, Mincey emphasized. In this case, the course must major on general ethical principles based on the Judaeo-Christian tradition.

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Detroit Mayor, VISTA Director  
To Speak At Seminary Meeting

1/8/68

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Detroit Mayor Jerome P. Cavanaugh and William Crook, director of Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) will be major speakers at a three-day National Conference on the Church and Urban America Jan. 31-Feb. 2 at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Mayor Cavanaugh, whom Newsweek magazine called "Urban America's most articulate spokesman", will bring the opening address to more than 500 expected participants on the topic, "Dynamics of Urban America."

Crook, head of the nation's domestic Peace Corps program and a former Baptist pastor, will discuss "Governmental Involvement in Urban America." Crook is a former president of San Marcos Baptist Academy in San Marcos, Tex., and former pastor of First Baptist Church, Nacogdoches, Tex.

To help clarify the needs of the city, scholars from several of the nation's top universities will be present, said Dean Allen W. Graves of the seminary's School of Religious Education.

Dan Grant, professor of political science at Vanderbilt University and a Baptist deacon, and Kenneth Kindelsperger, dean of the Kent School of Social Work, University of Louisville and an internationally known social work authority, will deliver major addresses.

Also addressing the conference will be Fred Moseley, associate secretary of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board; J. N. Evans, director of the metropolitan missions division of the Home Mission Board; Southern Seminary professors Willis Bennett, who recently completed a study of inner-city churches in 20 major cities, and Kenneth Chafin, Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism. Garlan Offutt, professor at Simmons University in Louisville and a local Negro Baptist pastor will also speak.

In addition to addresses, there will be reaction sessions and discussion seminars led by those involved in the various ministries being examined.

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Jointly sponsored by The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the SBC Home Mission Board, the conference is an attempt to clarify the needs of an increasingly urban America and determine how the church can best meet these needs.

Dean Allen Graves of the seminary's School of Religious Education is coordinating reservations and program plans for the meeting.

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Local Arrangement Groups  
Named For SBC in Houston

1/8/68

HOUSTON (BP)--Twelve committees have been named to coordinate local arrangements for the Southern Baptist Convention when it meets here June 4-7, 1968.

Heading the 12 committees as general chairman of the steering committee is Lee Porter, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Bellaire, a Houston suburb; and as co-chairman, E. H. Westmoreland, pastor of South Main Baptist Church, Houston.

Serving as assistant chairmen are D. E. Sloan, area missionary at Union Baptist Association (Houston) for the Baptist General Convention of Texas; and O. A. Taylor, pastor of First Baptist Church, Spring Branch, another Houston suburb.

The 12 committees will handle such matters as publicity, registration, housing, hospitality, dinners, nursery, decorations, transportation, ushers, information, first aid, post office, and tours.

In Nashville, Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee which works on convention arrangements with the local committees, said that some Baptists still have not received the word yet that the convention will meet in Houston in 1968, instead of New Orleans as originally planned. Routh said some hotel reservation requests had been sent to New Orleans instead of Houston.

The meeting place was changed by the SBC Executive Committee in September of 1967 when it became apparent that the Rivergate Convention center would not be completed in time for the June convention in New Orleans. The Executive Committee voted to switch the meeting sites, meeting in Houston in 1968, and in New Orleans in 1969.

Chairmen of the 12 committees named to coordinate arrangements for the Houston convention are as follows:

Publicity, Robert Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church; Registration, Ralph Langley, pastor of Willow Meadows Baptist Church; Housing, Ted E. Gaze, pastor of West End Baptist Church; Hospitality, Don Berry, pastor of Memorial Drive Baptist Church;

Dinners, R. H. Dilday, Jr., pastor of Tallowood Baptist Church; Nursery, C. Allen Collier, minister of education for First Baptist Church; Decorations, Henry Adrion, III, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church; Transportation, Robert L. Latham, pastor of Sharpstown Baptist Church;

Ushers, Roy Lee Jones of Almeda Baptist Church and Jack Selcraig of Freeway Manor Baptist Church, co-chairmen; Information, L. Lee Walker, minister of education and music, First Baptist Church of Spring Branch;

First Aid, Joe Fred Luck, assistant to the executive director of Memorial Baptist Hospital; Post Office, Roy E. Ladd, pastor of Baptist Temple; and Tours, James S. Riley, pastor, Second Baptist Church of Houston.

A total of 41 persons have been named to the 12 committees and steering committee.

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BP PHOTO mailed to Baptist state papers

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Two Baptist Programs Slated  
On Two New ABC Radio Networks

1/8/68

FORT WORTH (BP)--The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission has begun production of two new radio programs for use on two of the new American Broadcasting Co. (ABC) radio networks.

The two new programs are called Pendulum, which is a religious variety program, and MasterPeace, a program of classical and semi-classical music masterpieces.

Both were premiered on the new ABC radio networks on Jan. 7, 1968. Beginning with the new year, ABC radio formed four separate radio networks, each tailored for a specific type of listening audience.

The four new ABC radio networks are called the American Contemporary Radio Network, the American FM Radio Network, the American Entertainment Radio Network, and the American Information Radio Network.

MasterPeace, the new Baptist music program, will be heard on the ABC Entertainment Network, boasting 150 stations. Pendulum, the variety program, will be heard on the Contemporary Network with 100 stations.

Paul M. Stevens, executive director of the SBC Radio-TV Commission, said that it was significant that ABC radio executives had extended an invitation to the commission to develop two new programs for the new networks, for it indicates the confidence of the industry in the quality of Baptist religious programming.

"The commission is delighted to be a part of the \$3 million expansion plan by ABC radio," said Stevens. The establishment of the four new networks has been described by one industry magazine as the most revolutionary development in the radio industry in about 20 years.

Stevens said that Pendulum will feature interviews with interesting people in show business, in politics and in religion. Music on the program will be semi-classical, popular, and religious. The show will contain a brief inspirational vignette by J. P. Allen, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

MasterPeace will be a program of the world's great music--classical and semi-classical--with interesting commentary and interviews, Stevens said. It will be produced by Jo Ann Shelton, director of program music for the commission.

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