



BAPTIST PRESS

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January 10, 1968

Positive Actions In Race Relations Urged By Baptists

By the Baptist Press

Baptist leaders in 13 states and two Southern Baptist Convention agencies have simultaneously released statements urging Baptists to take positive actions to improve race relations and help prevent a rash of race riots in 1968.

The two statements urged Baptist churches to open their doors to people of all races, Southern Baptist Convention agencies to consider employment of qualified Negroes at every level, and Baptists to tackle the root causes of racial rioting--injustice, poverty, unemployment, crime and family breakdown.

The statements were timed for release just prior to observance of Race Relations Sunday, Feb. 11, in Southern Baptist churches.

They were issued by the executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission in Nashville, and by the staff members of departments of work with National (Negro) Baptists in 13 states and at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

An open letter to Southern Baptists from the workers with National Baptists which was published in the January issue of Home Missions magazine in Atlanta called on individual persons, all Baptist pastors, all SBC churches, all associations and state conventions, and all SBC agencies to take specific steps toward improved race relations.

On the individual level, the National Baptist workers asked all persons "to open heart and mind, home and church to all people" regardless of race; and to work in employment, education and housing "for the Negro to provide the same opportunities that you want for yourself and your children."

All Southern Baptist churches were asked "to be open to any person as a means of witnessing to him," and to "close your doors to no man, that your ministry not be a negative one, but . . . a positive one . . ."

Baptist associations were urged to create joint committees with National Baptists to work together on a community level. It was suggested that speakers from both Southern and Negro Baptist organizations be placed on the programs of the respective associational meetings.

Negro speakers were also suggested for state-wide Baptist meetings and assemblies. The National Baptist directors further proposed joint sessions of the Negro and Southern Baptist state conventions, conference sessions for discussion of relevant topics, or joint rallies on missions and evangelism.

On the national level, all educational institutions were urged to open their doors to qualified Negroes for study; and SBC agencies were asked to consider "employment of qualified Negroes at every level where it is feasible."

Both the workers with National Baptists and the executive secretary of the SBC Christian Life Commission urged Baptist churches to observe Race Relations Sunday on Feb. 11 as a step toward improved race relations.

"What Southern Baptists do about the racial crisis in the summer of 1968 will be determined in large measure by what we do about Race Relations Sunday on Feb. 11," observed Foy Valentine, executive secretary of the SBC Christian Life Commission.

"The threat of a racially explosive summer in the months ahead could be significantly lessened if we as God's people would do to our Negro brothers as we would have them do to us in the remaining months of this winter and spring," he added.

Valentine issued a plea for Baptists "to get at the root causes of racial rioting--injustice, poverty, unemployment, crime, and family breakdown--with God's Good News in Christ."

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"To do evil in the current racial crisis is unthinkable; to do nothing is not an honorable alternative; and to leave the initiative to others is hardly a live option for the people of God," Valentine added.

The January issue of Home Missions magazine which published the open letter to Southern Baptists from the SBC workers with National Baptists also included an editorial by Walker L. Knight who wrote that it may be time for a bold, corporate act on the part of all Southern Baptist ministers as they observe Race Relations Sunday.

"If we believe that the Gospel is for all men, including those who live in our city regardless of race or language or caste, then why not on the forthcoming Race Relations Sunday this February let everyone say so, publicly, in no uncertain terms," concluded the editorial. "With everyone saying it, there will be no one to whom those bound to the ties of culture can turn for a 'cheap', emasculated Gospel."

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Seminary Music School
Gains New Accreditation

1/10/68

LOUISVILLE (BP)--The School of Church Music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has been granted associate membership in the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM).

Recommendation for membership was made by the Commission on Graduate Studies of the music school accreditation agency after two of its members conducted a detailed examination of the school's academic and performance programs.

In its official report on the seminary the panel commended the high caliber of faculty, students, curriculum and library resources at the seminary here.

Dean Forrest Heeren of the seminary's School of Church Music said the new accreditation, which applies to both the masters and doctors degrees, will permit a more flexible curriculum and a wider exchange of credits with other institutions.

The school continues to be accredited by the American Association of Theological Schools (AATS), which is responsible for the evaluation of seminaries and divinity schools.

Last year, Southern Seminary was one of two seminaries in the United States invited to participate in a national conference on church music education sponsored by the AATS.

Southern Seminary has the only school of music in the United States in which every faculty member holds an earned doctors degree and is a performing soloist active in both concert and local church life, Heeren said.

Last year, Southern Seminary awarded more graduate degrees to future SBC church musicians than any other seminary, college or university in the nation. It was the first SBC seminary to devote itself to training only college graduates and, as such, awards only masters and doctors degrees, Heeren added.

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C O R R E C T I O N

On Baptist Press feature mailed 1-4-68 by Roy Jennings, headlined: California Is Prime Target of Project 500, please change figure in last graph of story. Last sentence should read: "From the total offering of \$5½ million, the last \$1 million..." (\$1 million instead of \$1,500,000 as sent). Thanks.

--Baptist Press

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Family Wins \$5,070; Gives
\$1,500 to Church, Missions

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--The Southern Baptist Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions is \$1,000 richer because a Birmingham Woman's Missionary Union member figured a crossword puzzle correctly.

Mrs. W. Leon Spain answered her phone recently and heard Vincent Townsend, Jr., director of public affairs for the Birmingham News and Birmingham Post-Herald announce that she had won \$5,070 in the newspapers' Cashword Puzzle Contest.

The news was an answer to prayer, Mrs. Spain later said. Her husband, an ordained Baptist minister who has held pastorates in Alabama, Oklahoma, and California, had been in poor health and unable to work full-time.

Hospital bills and expenses of a family with nine children overpowered his half-normal income.

Mrs. Spain eyed the Cashword Puzzle as one way the Lord might help them meet mounting bills. So five weeks ago the Spains made a family project of working the puzzle. Prize money had been mounting during a 35-week run without a winner.

Last week they filled out the tricky puzzle with a prayer.

They talked about "When we win the puzzle prize," not "If." Mr. Spain said to his family, "When we win it, we'll give \$1,000 to the church."

Mrs. Spain earmarked that thousand to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. Another \$500 was tithed through Glen Iris Baptist Church.

"We have a special interest in foreign missions," Mrs. Spain said. Their daughter, Sarah F. Spain, is a Southern Baptist missionary journeyman appointee in Colombia.

Two Spain daughters are members of Girls' Auxiliary, the WMU branch for girls. A son is in Royal Ambassadors, missions organization for boys. Another daughter is a former employee of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union headquarters in Birmingham.

Mrs. Spain plans to share the prize money with a sister who has recently had a cornea transplant. Two sons in college will also benefit from the windfall.

Commenting that she wants to spend the money unselfishly, Mrs. Spain said, "After we turned the puzzle in, I started wondering if the Lord could trust me with that much money."

The Spains qualified for the maximum prize because they are subscribers to the two Birmingham papers plus the Sunday Birmingham News. They had become subscribers only a month earlier.

Ironically, Spain, who spent 25 days in the hospital in October with a neck injury, was checking his pay statement, wondering how he could stretch the money to cover mounting Christmas bills, when the telephone call came saying the family had won the \$5,070.

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Pulitzer Newsman
Scheduled At Baylor

1/10/68

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Hodding Carter, 60, Pulitzer Prize winning editor, will be a featured lecturer during the spring semester at Baylor University (Baptist) here.

Carter gained national attention in Greenville, Miss., where he was owner and editor of the Delta Democrat-Times from 1938. He was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1946 for his progressive editorials on desegregation in Mississippi.

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Collins Donates \$1 Million
For Baylor Medical Project

DALLAS (BP)--A gift of \$1 million to Baylor University Medical Center here has been made by Carr P. Collins Sr., prominent Texas Baptist layman.

Collins' gift will go toward the construction of a center for continuing care, said Dewey Presley, chairman of the Dallas board of trustees of Baylor University.

The project will cost about \$3 million and will be named the Carr P. Collins Center of Continuing Care. It will be built atop a 500-car self-parking garage. The \$1 million cost of the parking garage is to be self liquidating, said Presley.

The center will be a seven-story structure providing facilities for 250 medical and surgical patients and 50 psychiatric patients.

Presley said the construction on the new facility would probably begin next fall with completion tentatively slated 18 to 20 months later.

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Buckner Benevolences
Ready For Centennial

1/10/68

DALLAS (BP)--Trustees for Buckner Baptist Benevolences have set machinery in motion for the beginning of a 10-year program which will lead to the welfare agency's 100th anniversary in 1979. A steering committee will formulate plans during 1968 for the centennial observation.

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Project 500 Gets
Boost From Gifts

1/10/68

ATLANTA (BP)-- Southern Baptists' record financial gifts during 1967 provided a bonus for Project 500, the denomination's two-year push to start new churches and missions in 500 strategic locations.

The \$25,169,804 given through the Cooperative Program unified budget plan exceeded the budget goal of \$24.2 million by \$969,804.

This "advance section" of the budget, as denominational leaders refer to it, is divided between the two mission boards: two-thirds to foreign missions, and one-third to home missions (\$323,268).

"In anticipation of an advance section of at least \$300,000 the Home Mission Board in its fall meeting allocated \$300,000 for Project 500, most of which will be used for church pastoral aid," said Arthur B. Rutledge, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board.

"The administration will recommend at the board's March session that the additional \$23,268 also be designated for Project 500."

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