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January 11, 1968

**Atlanta Bible Drive
Closes Successfully**

ATLANTA (BP)--The bold pilot project to distribute one million copies of paperback New Testaments in this metropolitan area of barely more than a million people met with some skepticism at its kickoff last fall.

But as the American Bible Society-sponsored campaign drew to a close in January, fewer than 75,000 of the "Good News For Modern Man" translations remained.

The initial door-to-door effort (co-approved by the Atlanta Christian Council) coincided with the National Bible Reading Week last fall, but the distribution through individuals, churches and other groups continued steadily into the new year.

As requests for the easy-to-read translation began to trail off, comments indicating the hidden impact of the distribution reached L. O. Griffith of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here, who headed up the organizing committee.

For example:

--From a woman in a state mental hospital: "If that Bible is as simple as the news releases say it is, it would be understood by me and would be a great comfort."

(Three churches in the city purchased the Testaments for wards of the hospital and sent them to a chaplain, Griffith said.)

--From a beauty operator: "I'd be glad to have copies of this New Testament in my beauty salon." As her customers' interest picked up, the operator began to distribute them through her salon at the 25-cent printing cost.

--From an Atlanta citizen: "I saw two boys selling the New Testaments at their Kool-Aid stand."

The list could go on. At least 75 percent of the city's 1500 churches participated in the project, representing an estimated 50,000 volunteer workers.

Individuals purchased cartons of the Testaments to distribute to employees, many in the city ordered copies to mail out at Christmas, some grocery stores stacked copies at the checkout counters and one man bought 4,000 copies to distribute free to students at Georgia Tech here.

One pastor announced to his congregation that an official of the federal penitentiary in Atlanta had said the translation would mean much to the inmates. At the end of the service a man walked down the aisle and presented a check for 1500 copies of "Good News For Modern Man," which were delivered the next week.

The Bible distribution campaign also seemed to stimulate many of the churches to a renewed evangelical fervor.

One pastor told Griffith: "I started preaching the Word to my people after this Bible distribution project started. I have been amazed at the hunger and the response of my people to Bible-based messages."

"This project gives the one thing that Christian groups can all do together," Griffith said. "It provided opportunity to do the primary work of the church of getting God's Word to people--and it gave all the people in a church a way to do this."

As a result of this Atlanta pilot run, the American Bible Society is planning similar efforts in cooperation with Christian groups in other major metropolitan areas.

1/11/68

Chaplain Chief Extols War
Effort, Hits At Dissenters

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U. S. Navy Chief of Chaplains struck hard at dissenters against the Vietnam war and praised American fighting men and the South Vietnamese people at a press conference here.

Rear Admiral James W. Kelly, a Southern Baptist, Chief of Navy Chaplains since July 1, 1965, expressed optimism and encouragement as he reported on his third annual visit to Vietnam.

Hitting at the protestors and dissenters against the Vietnam war, Kelly said, "It is both unjust and immoral" to strike at American fighting men "by constantly questioning the propriety and morality of their involvement."

"The time for dissent and protest against free-world involvement in Vietnam is not now. Yesterday, yes; tomorrow, yes; but today, no!" he declared.

Kelly said that his previous visits to Vietnam were concerned primarily with the work of the chaplains there. This visit, however, he said, was to probe the fighting man himself as well as the Vietnamese people.

Four points of encouragement were pinpointed by the chaplain chief.

1. "Our military and civilian people in Vietnam reflected more confidence in winning our objectives than I was able to discern on my two previous Christmas visits," he said.

2. "The South Vietnamese now have something tangible to rally around," he continued. He reported 625,000 Vietnamese in uniform dedicated to "driving out the Viet Cong and standing against Communistic aggression from the North." This attitude was unknown two years ago, he said.

3. "Our humanitarian outreach is making great strides," Kelly claimed. Specifically, he referred to the development of hospitals, orphanages, airfields, roads, bridges and useful skills that are being shared with the Vietnamese.

The technique "is to work not so much for the Vietnamese as with them," he declared. "There is elation in the hope that these same facilities will one day serve a peaceful purpose," he said.

4. There is a "deep religious concern on the part of our people in Vietnam," the chaplain observed.

"In all my 26 years in the military community I have never before seen this concern so mature and expressed with such depth," he reported.

This religious concern that includes military personnel in all categories, according to Kelly, is expressed by (1) "A God-centered morality about our involvement," (2) A conviction that "we are in the right place to preserve the peace in the world," and (3) "the price we are paying for freedom is worth it."

The morale of American troops in Vietnam is "phenomenally high, stable and consistent," Kelly found. "The chief factor in consistently high morale is the fighting man's conviction that what he personally is doing is crucially important," he said.

The American troops in Vietnam view demonstrations and dissent at home "as proceeding from ignorance and misinformation," he reported.

The chief of chaplains himself, however, had even stronger words about dissenters. He acknowledged that some "are informed persons who feel that we should not be at war in Vietnam."

The disapproval of the war by these persons, according to Kelly, "is genuinely sincere and their voices are powerful." But he said this gives "dignity and strength to militant dissent and lends its legitimacy to other groups whose motives are not so pure as their own."

Other dissenters were classified as "uninformed, misinformed and deformed." Kelly defended their right to dissent. But, he said, "I only question the judgment and the propriety of their dissent which does detriment to those young Americans who in good faith responded to the requirements of their homeland and who stand firmly upon the proposition that their sacrificial involvement is both essential and right."

In a supplementary statement to the press, Kelly said that "reports of the use of marijuana by Marines and bluejackets in Vietnam are grossly exaggerated."

He reported that there is evidence that the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese have deliberately placed supplies of the drug, which grows freely there, "in the vicinity of our troops in an effort to subvert them."

"Needless to say," he continued, "once this was learned, and the troops warned, even the few inclined to try it sensed the danger."

"Our young men have sense enough to leave such narcotics alone...if only other booby traps in Vietnam could be handled so easily I would be most grateful," he concluded.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Pictures are being mailed to you under separate cover by the Department of the Navy.

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Texas College President
Joseph Clapp, Succumbs

1/11/68

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex. (BP)--Joseph C. Clapp, 51, president of the University of Corpus Christi (Baptist), since December, 1965, died Jan. 10 after suffering an apparent heart attack.

He was pronounced dead on arrival at a Corpus Christi hospital.

Funeral services were conducted Jan. 12 at the First Baptist Church here, with burial in Jackson, Tenn.

Only two months before his death, Clapp had led the school in receiving accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Before his election to the presidency at the University of Corpus Christi, Clapp served 18 months as vice president for development.

He was a native of Fulton, Ky. He graduated from Fulton High School in 1934 and received the bachelor of arts degree from Union University, Jackson, Tenn., in 1938. He later earned the bachelor of divinity, master of theology and doctor of theology degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La.

He also studied at Tulane University and Vanderbilt University Divinity school.

Clapp served as vice president for development and public relations director at William Jewel College, Liberty, Mo., for four years before coming to the University of Corpus Christi.

During the years 1948 to 1954 he was associated with William Jewel, first as professor of religion and then as director of the Hubert Eaton Foundation for the Science and Art of Persuasion. In 1954 he became director of public relations for New Orleans Seminary and later taught religion at Furman University.

He served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Greer, S. C., from 1956 to 1961 after nine months as interim pastor. He also pastored rural churches in Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana and Missouri.

Among survivors are the widow; a daughter, Carol; his mother, Mrs. Joseph C. Clapp of Fulton, Ky., and a brother, W. H. Clapp, pastor of the Southside Baptist Church of Spartanburg, S.C..

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Baptist Press Staffer Named

1/11/68

NASHVILLE (BP)--Mrs. Sandra Bell of Lexington, Ky., has been named editorial assistant on the staff of the Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention here. She will work with the director and assistant director of the news service in the daily production of news stories which go to Baptist state papers and more than 150 religion editors of daily newspapers.

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Educators Ask Steep
Rise In Federal Aid

1/11/68

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--A new education proposal designed "to curb teacher revolt and stem summer riots" could stir up a hot religious controversy in the nation if the program is enacted into law by Congress.

The National Education Association (NEA) has asked Congress to approve a new \$6 billion education program to supplement, not replace, existing federal education programs.

The proposal which would affect 53 million school-age pupils would require at least half of the funds to be used "for increasing teacher salaries and attracting additional qualified persons into teaching."

The remainder of the funds would support new or expanded summer programs in riot-prone ghetto neighborhoods and other areas, pre-school offerings, post-high school programs and other vital educational undertakings, according to Braulio Alonso, president of the Education Association.

The church-state controversy could arise in at least two areas. In the first place, the proposals are for public school education. Supporters of private and parochial schools may either protest the legislation as discriminatory or fight to have pupils in their schools included.

The second area of controversy could develop in the various states, if the proposal is enacted into law. The NEA asks that the funds be disbursed in the form of grants to states to be administered by the state departments of education. This means that the church-state fight will be carried from the federal level to the state level.

The NEA statement points out that the federal government now provides about eight percent of the nation's school tax dollar. Many leaders in education and legislation believe the government's share must rise to at least 25 percent within a few years.

In announcing the new education thrust, Alonso asserted that "today's teachers are definitely determined that education, as the real cornerstone of our democracy, be measurably improved."

As evidence of this mood he pointed out that teacher strikes, sanctions against school boards, mayors, governors and other officials, mass resignations and other forms of vigorous protest have been gaining momentum.

One illustration is Florida. There 35,000 teachers gathered in one gigantic rally last August to protest deterioration of Florida education, Alonso noted. More than 30,000 teachers in Florida have pledged to resign en masse March 1 if the educational climate has not been cleared, he said.

The basic proposal of the NEA plan is to provide each state with \$100 per school age child. There would also be an equalization formula to give more assistance to states with lower educational resources.

The NEA in Minneapolis last July approved a resolution recommending an \$8,000 minimum for beginning teachers, with a maximum of at least \$16,000 for experienced staff.

The estimated average salary for classroom teachers this year is \$7,296.

Alonso noted that quality teachers are the prime factor in quality education. The new proposal would help to recruit and retain top-notch teachers, he said. This would be done by boosting salaries, reducing class size, freeing teachers for professional tasks and by expanding and enriching school programs.

Although the NEA is asking that the legislation become effective in fiscal year 1969, this is unlikely to be achieved because of the economy mood of the Congress, the normal time-consuming legislative process for new programs, and by possible controversy over public aid to parochial schools.