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**Baptist Beliefs Preached  
At Kentucky Catholic Mass**By George Knight  
Associate Editor, Western Recorder

BEAVER DAM, Ky. (BP)--For probably the first time in Kentucky history, a sermon on "What Baptists Believe" was followed here with the celebration of a Catholic Mass.

It happened at the Holy Redeemer Catholic Church here when Pastor Wesley O. Hanson of the Hartford (Ky.) Baptist Church preached on Baptist beliefs.

In his sermon, Hanson discussed what Baptists believe about the church, God, the plan of salvation and the security of the believer.

Then he returned to his own church to conduct regular Sunday morning worship services while the Catholics at Holy Redeemer church celebrated the Mass.

According to Henry J. Soenneker, bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Owensboro, this marked the first time that a Protestant minister of any denomination had preached during a regular worship service at any Catholic church in the Owensboro diocese. This diocese includes Catholic churches in the whole western Kentucky area.

Hanson's opportunity to preach at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church grew out of his close personal friendship with Joseph O'Donnell, parish priest of the Beaver Dam congregation. O'Donnell's invitation to Hanson was enthusiastically approved by the lay council of the Catholic congregation and by Bishop Soenneker.

Hanson, who has been pastor of the Hartford church for the past 11 years, said he felt perfectly at ease while delivering his 20-minute sermon on Baptist beliefs.

"Many of the people in the congregation were good friends of mine," the Hartford pastor said. "As far as being in a strange place, I felt no strangeness at all. I simply felt that I was part of a reverent and meaningful worship service; I really didn't look upon it as a Catholic service."

The Hartford pastor said his congregation seemed to react very favorably to his preaching at the Catholic church. Some persons even asked about the possibility of O'Donnell filling the pulpit at the Baptist church at some future date, Hanson continued.

Actually, the Catholic priest has participated in previous community services held at the Hartford Baptist Church. For the past two years he has been a member of the choir which sang at the annual Christmas program sponsored by churches of all denominations in the Hartford area.

O'Donnell, a native of Chicago, has served the Beaver Dam church and another small Catholic parish at Fordsville, Kentucky, since 1966. He describes himself as a person with deep ecumenical interest and concern.

"The great work of Christianity today is ecumenism," the Catholic priest said. "We Christians have to learn to be one with each other or Christianity will become a mere remnant in American civilization."

When asked if by "becoming one with each other," he meant organic union of church groups or cooperation across denominational lines, O'Donnell replied: "We first have to learn to love and understand each other and pray with one another; then let the Holy Spirit work this out."

The Beaver Dam priest served during 1967 as president of the Ohio County (Hartford area) Ministerial Association. He attended a day's session of the recent Kentucky Baptist Evangelistic Association and participated a year ago in a continuing theological education conference at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Urban America Conference  
Urges Training For Ministry

By Dallas Lee

LOUISVILLE (BP)--True or false: The city of Chicago is as much the work of God as the Grand Canyon?

Until Southern Baptists can answer "true" to this question without equivocation, they will not be able to minister effectively in urban America, a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Professor declared here.

"We talk about gangsters and pollution in the city," said evangelism professor Kenneth Chafin, "but we never mention the floods, the erosion, and the Gila Monsters in the Grand Canyon."

Chafin, speaking before about 160 Baptist pastors and mission leaders at a conference on Urban America at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said that Christians must develop a more wholesome attitude toward the city.

"There is a built-in bias here," he said. "But it is not just the Christian community that is guilty. Americans in general tend to over-sentimentalize the country and caricature the city."

Chafin summed up the tone of the three-day conference by calling for a crash program of educating and training Southern Baptist pastors and laymen for urban ministry.

The stable suburban church, though criticized during the conference, was pinpointed as the one point of strength from which Southern Baptists could launch service ministries to poverty-plagued inner cities.

"From where I look at it," Chafin said, "the only potent resource in manpower and money is the suburban church."

Earlier VISTA Director William H. Crook had told the conference that the church is healthy and intelligent enough to have its own program to fight poverty and its attendant miseries---family breakdowns, lack of motivation, suspicion and fear, and the self-perpetuating momentum of ghetto life.

Crook, a former Baptist pastor, said the church's major resource is concerned people, rather than money, and remarked that enough energy and resources is expended on one sweetheart banquet to move six families out of poverty permanently.

A strong emphasis was also placed in the conference on churches working in partnership with community agencies and other Christian groups in urban areas.

"Our tendency is to make local autonomy, local exclusion, and every situation a competitive one," Chafin said. "We are so afraid we are going to help somebody."

Southern Seminary Ethics Professor Willis Bennett told the conference that the new era of cooperation among denominations stressed service and not structure.

Faced with the overwhelming challenge of America's burgeoning cities, Bennett said Christian groups are beginning "to recognize common values, common needs, and to seek common places where they can work together effectively.

"The thinking seems to be that if we can't work together on the way to our separate altars, then perhaps we will be able to meet as we journey back into the world," Bennett said.

The city is bigger than any one denomination and lack of coordination to avoid overlapping services is "irresponsible," he added.

"The question is not whether there will be coordination between denominations in the city, but how," he said. "Dialogue or joining together to do something that all agree needs to be done, does not threaten the identity of a group."

Bennett cited examples of constructive cooperation among denominations, such as jointly supporting surveys and studies in metropolitan areas, launching joint resort ministries, pooling resources for social action efforts, or for specific service ministries such as telephone counseling services.

The ethics professor also said that churches must use social welfare agencies as "allies rather than enemies," and must seek to supplement such efforts.

"If as a religious body we are to have much impact on a city, we need to cooperate with other people who are trying to improve the quality of life and bring the church's voice to bear on some of the city's overwhelming problems," he said.

"We need to recognize that God works in non-ecclesiastical ways, and we must not discount it. Rather we must make use of such efforts by referral and by acquainting our people with potentialities," Bennett observed.

Other speakers during the conference were Dan Grant, Vanderbilt University political science professor; Kenneth Kindelsberger, dean of the Kent School of Social Work at the University of Louisville; E. H. Westmoreland, pastor of the South Main Baptist Church in Houston; Garland Offutt, pastor of West Chestnut Baptist Church and first Negro graduate of Southern Seminary here; Fred Moseley, assistant executive secretary of the SBC Home Mission Board; and J. N. Evans, Home Mission Board metropolitan missions director.

The conference was sponsored jointly by the SBC Home Mission Board and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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SBC Annuity Board  
Creates New Position

2/2/68

DALLAS (BP)--The Southern Baptist Annuity Board ushered in the agency's 50th year by voting to send a "13th" check to retired persons, creating a new staff position and approving the executive secretary's report of work accomplished in 1967.

The two-day meeting of the 60 state and local trustees was climaxed with the unveiling of an oil painting of R. Alton Reed, executive secretary, and a speech by Robert A. Baker, professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In his 13th annual report to the trustees; Reed said the board paid a record \$4.8 million in benefits to retired or disabled ministers and employees or their widows. The amount exceeded the 1966 payment by more than a half million dollars.

In addition, the trustees approved the issuance of a "13th" check to persons receiving retirement benefits. Each retired person will receive a check amounting to 12 percent of his annual benefits. The extra check was made possible by interest earnings in excess of the retirement plan requirements.

Reed said the "13th" check issuance is part of the policy changes adopted by the trustees in 1967. He expressed confidence that these checks would be available in the future.

The action to create a second associate secretary post in the investment division came upon joint recommendation of the finance and administrative committees after a study revealed the need in administering the ever-growing investment portfolio.

The new associate will be responsible for the stocks and bonds portfolio, Reed said.

Present officers, experts in the field of real properties and liquidating leases, will devote full-time work to the growing investment area.

In other areas of work, Reed reported that \$59.9 million has been paid in benefits since the board's beginning in 1918.

He said funds held in trust for Baptist ministers and denominational employees participating in the retirement program rose to more than \$188 million, an increase of almost \$19 million over 1966.

He reported gains in other areas, too. New members increased to 2,218, as compared with 1,943 in 1966. Baptist agencies with retirement programs for their employees reached 145, eight more than previously reported. Six hundred persons began receiving benefits; these included 442 for retirement, 119 widows and 39 for disability.

Baker, in his speech, highlighted the board's history, which he recently completed in a book titled, "The Thirteenth Check," which will be published later this year.

The trustees re-elected E. H. Westmoreland of Houston as president. Vice presidents elected include Dewey Presley and Ben H. Wooten of Dallas, Carroll Chadwick of Center, Tex., and Sam Reeves of Arkadelphia, Ark.

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America's Leaders Declare  
Dependence On God, Prayer

WASHINGTON (BP)--The nation's top government leaders paid tribute to the meaning of prayer and faith in God for their lives at the annual Presidential Prayer Breakfast meeting here at the Shoreham Hotel.

President Johnson spoke. Vice President Humphrey read from the New Testament. Sen. Joseph D. Tydings (D., Md.) read from the Old Testament. The army chief of staff brought the message.

Prayers were offered by Secretary Robert C. Weaver of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, John A. Volpe, governor of Massachusetts and Price Daniel, director of the Office of Emergency Planning.

"Your President prays," Johnson stressed in his short message to some 1,200 men representing national and state leaders in government, business and the professions, the judiciary and many persons from the diplomatic corps.

The President did not mention the war in Vietnam nor the recent Pueblo incident involving North Korea. He did speak of the time of winter as "a time of despair." Through it all, Johnson said, God gives "a saving faith."

"We cannot know what tomorrow will bring," the President continued. "We can know that to meet its challenges and to withstand its assaults, America never stands taller than when her people go to their knees!"

Following his address to the men, Johnson went to the prayer breakfast for wives of government leaders and their guests, including many wives of foreign diplomats.

Here the President did mention Vietnam and said that Americans are fighting there "as we fought years ago to prevent any further expansion of totalitarian coercion over the souls of men."

The Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Harold K. Johnson, told the men's prayer group that it is time for each person to reflect upon the meaning of Genesis 4:8,9 where Cain asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

"The answer is yes. I am my brother's keeper," the military leader emphasized.

"We dare not be indifferent to our brother's needs, whether those needs be material, spiritual or just plain communication," Gen. Johnson said.

The Army Chief said that the solution to the problems of the world, conflicts between nations and the problems of our cities and streets is to "turn to God."

He explained that he did not mean "in a superficial way, but in a human and compassionate way--as man to man and friend to friend."

Gen. Johnson concluded his sermon by quoting the words of Jesus, "This is my commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you."

"We can never hope to match his matchless love, the general said, "But we grow in grace and glory every time we try," he said.

The annual prayer breakfast in Washington is a joint meeting of the breakfast prayer groups that meet each week in the U. S. Senate and the House of Representatives. Started in 1942, the weekly meetings are private and nonsectarian.

In addition to the meeting in the nation's capital, governors and mayors throughout the country held simultaneous prayer breakfasts. Also, parliamentary bodies of more than 40 countries have inaugurated similar meetings for prayer.

Editor Asks For Open  
Ecumenical Meetings

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Baptist editor here has called on Southern Baptists to get out of the discussions on evangelical ecumenism unless the meetings are opened to the press.

James O. Duncan, editor of the Capital Baptist, publication of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, complained that the discussions which were attended by "Baptist leaders" have been closed meetings.

Although the meetings have been closed to the news media, Duncan points out, they were followed by news releases.

"These news releases all seem to point to an attempt to put the 'evangelical' groups together for some big crusade out in the future," the editorial said.

"We, like most Baptists, don't like closed meetings," he continued. "We think the meetings ought to be open or that Baptists ought to get out," he concluded.

Then Duncan warned, "If some Baptist leaders think they have a difficult time now getting churches to follow a program, wait until they come out with one that was devised in secrecy and in which local people had no part."

The two meetings to which the Duncan editorial refers were held at a motel at the Virginia end of Key Bridge in Washington, D. C. although not officially sponsored by Christianity Today, the meetings were called by Carl F. H. Henry, the retiring editor, in cooperation with other interested persons.

Prominent Southern Baptist leaders were present for the discussions. Baptist Press carried reports of the meetings on Oct. 4, 1967 and Dec. 6, 1967. The next meeting is scheduled for March 9-10, 1968.

At a meeting in Nashville in December a number of Southern Baptist state paper editors requested W. C. Fields, director of Baptist Press to seek to have such meetings in the future open to the press, particularly the religious press.

In response to this request, a spokesman for the evangelical group said that "the prospects are not good" for open meetings in the planning of evangelical ecumenical activities.

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Music Consultant  
Accepts Baptist Post

2/2/68

NASHVILLE (BP)--Charles H. Downey has assumed duties as consultant in the church music department of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention here.

A native of Beaumont, Tex., Downey received a bachelor of science degree from Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., and a master's degree in music education from Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Tex.

In his new position Downey will work with ministers of music across the SBC in their total music program. He will help establish, develop and evaluate music programs in the churches.

He has served as minister of music in First Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.; Queensboro Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.; Park Place Baptist Church and Second Baptist Church, Houston, Tex.

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Virginia Editor Honored  
For 30 Years Of Service

RICHMOND (BP)--Reuben E. Alley, editor of The Religious Herald, said at a dinner in honor of his 30th anniversary as editor that he came to a denomination 30 years ago that is gone today.

The dinner was given at Northminister Baptist Church here in recognition of Alley's 30 years as editor of The Religious Herald, state Baptist paper for Virginia. The dinner was sponsored by the trustees of the Religious Herald Publishing Association.

At the dinner, Alley said that in the past 30 years, Baptists have come from a simple to a complex organizational structure.

"Complacency," he said, "has grown until we have a dearth of interest." It is only on rare occasions that people take time or effort today to express an opinion about anything of importance, he observed.

"As an editor," Alley added, "there sometimes comes a feeling of absolute futility." He observed that at times it seems impossible to say anything which will cause people to listen. The editor studies, writes, re-writes, studies and rewrites; then the finished product goes into the paper "which becomes a dark hole."

Alley has been editor of the Virginia paper longer than any other editor currently serving one of the other 28 Baptist state papers. He said his major goal through these 30 years has been the pursuit of truth.

The Religious Herald, first published Jan. 11, 1828, has had continuous publication in Richmond and is the oldest religious magazine in continuous publication in the United States.

During its 140 years, the paper has had only five editors. Virginia Baptists purchased the paper September of 1937. A charter was obtained with 10 stockholders who elected Alley as editor. The charter provided for the nomination of trustees by the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

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Illinois Board Votes  
Increased SBC Gifts

2/2/68

CARBONDALE, Ill (BP)--The board of directors for the Illinois Baptist State Association voted to recommend an increase in the percentage of its contributions to Southern Baptist mission causes during its quarterly meeting here.

The proposal, which will go to the state convention in the fall, would increase the portion of Illinois Cooperative Program gifts by one percent a year until gifts going outside the state (including special mission offerings) equal the portion retained in the state.

At present, 64 percent of the Cooperative Program contributions from Southern Baptist churches in Illinois are used to support the state convention, and 36 percent are sent to the Southern Baptist Convention for nation and world-wide missions.

In other actions, the board authorized its state missions committee to use \$25,000 from the contingency section of the 1968 budget to take options on possible new church sites in Northern Illinois. The \$25,000 would be replaced by contributions to a special state missions offering next fall.

The board also approved a personal loan of \$7,000 to the convention's executive secretary, James H. Smith, to purchase a 172 Cessna plane, to be repaid in three years. The executive secretary will own the plane and be responsible for maintenance, hanger fees, insurance, etc.

A recommendation that the state convention suggest that churches pay the expenses of at least one layman and their pastor to the annual convention was approved in an effort to get wider lay participation in the convention's business affairs.

George Wheeler, the convention's Brotherhood secretary, was authorized to attend the Pan American Laymen's Congress in Rio de Janeiro next July as part of lay involvement in the Crusade of the Americas.

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