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FEATURES

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Baltimore Baptist Youth
Minister In New York City

By Harold M. Martin
For the Baptist Press

NEW YORK (BP)--A Southern Baptist teenage girl stood at a bus stop in New York's Greenwich Village, while the wind scattered loose papers from piles of uncollected garbage during a sanitation worker's strike. She had just come out of a seven-story nursing home with 300 patients.

"This is real," she said. "You know, we're always talking about going out and helping people; this is doing it."

She and about 130 other teenagers from the Baltimore Baptist Association were in the midst of a two-day "Sandwich Safari" which was putting into practice the theme, "Youth on Mission."

One of the highlights on the trip for most of the youth was taking responsibility for the Sunday afternoon ministry to the nursing home. Some of them led a worship service in a recreation room, leading the singing, playing the piano, reading Scripture and poetry, and giving their testimony.

At the same time, the rest of the group fanned out through the building chatting with every patient.

"All my friends are in the cemetery," one elderly woman told one of the boys. "No one ever comes to see me."

Later one of the teenagers, Karen Murphy from Arbutus Baptist Church in suburban Baltimore, commented that for the first time in her life she had talked with an elderly person whom she had never before met. She said she had always thought of older folks as strangers.

A blond girl sitting next to Karen on the bus interrupted, "In Sunday School we only talk about things that are far off. We never talk about the problems in our homes and cities. I think we ought to be more truthful, be more ourselves in church."

Ministering at the nursing home was only one part of the busy schedule for the trip. Also on the agenda were a drive through Harlem, late-night walking tours of Times Square and Greenwich Village, a lecture and open discussion on urban sociology, a sacred concert by the Princeton Seminary Choir, a study and viewing of Euripides' drama "The Trojan Women," and visits and worship at several of the city's churches and Christian institutions.

"This trip isn't a lark noted James W. King, associate pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Towson, Md., who directed it. "We are doing some hard thinking about the role of the church in the mass society of modern America.

"Surely one of the first tasks is to become aware of 'how it is' to live in places like New York City," he added. "We can be more effective servants of The Word if we are knowledgeable, if we know 'how' and 'where' and 'why' the Gospel can be applied."

Armed with sleeping bags, two changes of clothing and plenty of sandwich supplies, the youth and their chaperones boarded three chartered buses and two cars on Friday afternoon for the four-hour drive to New York.

They slept on the floor of two gymnasiums at the Christ Presbyterian Church in the heart of Manhattan's garment district. William Sparks, pastor of Christ Church, said that he plays host to similar youth urban workshops almost every week. It is an attempt to present to youth the challenge of the urban setting and to study how the Gospel is relevant to its needs.

In addition to the workshops Christ Church sponsors several special ministries. It is most widely known for its Halfway House which helps convicts make the difficult transition from prison to normal living. The church also sponsors counseling and self-help groups for people who have been undergoing psychotherapy, a teenage coffee house, and the Theater of the Rising Sun where the youth saw the drama.

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Each young person paid a two dollar registration fee and five dollars toward transportation. The Baltimore Baptist Association subsidized the remaining costs. The youth council of the association planned and promoted the trip.

"This is the best kind of education," observed King, who is the associational youth director. "The youth actually see and get involved in mission."

King told the youth before the trip: "It is imperative that you keep an open mind to the program. We can be sympathetic to everything which is said and done, knowing that it was meant honestly and sincerely; yet we do not have to agree with everything."

At the end of the trip every teenager was asked to react and evaluate his experience.

Dennis Arnold, associational youth council president, voiced the most common reaction: "This trip has broadened everyone's view of religion."

Agreeing with Dennis, Carol Phipps from the Middle River Baptist Church said, "The biggest benefit for me was to realize that there are different concepts of worship. Different people in different situations see God in different respects. But the important thing is that these people have their own individual relationship with God."

Lucinda Dorval, a college student and one of the chaperones, felt that most of the youth had learned tolerance.

Other reactions ranged from confusion to skepticism to enthusiasm. Dennis, a member of the inner city Scott Street Baptist Church, was distressed about the worship service he attended.

"That church has really gone down," he explained. "The people just stayed to themselves in their own little groups. You must go out and reach people right around you. You must organize into groups, collect your beliefs and thoughts, explain and preach, talk about people's problems, and tell what Jesus Christ offers."

Dennis Hamlet, a college student from Seventh Baptist Church, another inner city church, said that he felt that the church should be talking in simpler terms which everyone could understand.

One boy in the group said, "The trouble with my church at home is that we all feel too satisfied. We all live in the suburbs in nice, clean houses, and we don't care what happens in the inner city."

But many of the teenagers, as a result of the trip, returned to Baltimore resolved to overcome the attitudes of unconcern and ininvolvement in their own community.

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February 15, 1968

**Baptist Laymen Brainstorm
Crusade of Americas Actions**

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CHICAGO (BP)--About 35 Baptist laymen from six different nation-wide Baptist conventions in North America met here to brainstorm ways of involving laymen in the forthcoming Crusade of the Americas evangelistic crusade.

The unofficial group took no votes or actions, but adjourned with the hope of leading their respective Baptist conventions to apply and adapt the ideas generated during the brainstorming sessions.

The meeting was called by Owen Cooper, president of the Mississippi Chemical Corp., in Yazoo City, Miss., and chairman of the hemispheric-wide laymen's committee for the Crusade of the Americas.

The crusade, with major evangelistic thrusts scheduled in the spring of 1969, will involve Baptists in 28 countries in North, Central and South America. Each Baptist body is planning its own part of the crusade.

Laymen from six different Baptist conventions in the United States attended, and Cooper said they expected laymen from 11 conventions, but heavy snow, illness, and conflicting meetings prevented laymen from five conventions from attending.

Laymen and convention officials from the following conventions attended; the National Baptist Convention of America (Negro), Southern Baptist Convention, Baptist General Conference (Swedish), North American Baptist General Conference, and the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference.

Although the American Baptist Convention is not officially participating in the Crusade of the Americas, the immediate past president of the convention, Carl W. Tiller of Washington, a layman, was present at the meeting.

Much of the meeting time was spent in discussing ways that white and Negro Baptist groups could work together, perhaps in conducting inter-racial rallies and evangelistic services on a community-wide basis, Cooper said. The consensus was that each convention and Baptist groups on the local level must decide the best approaches, Cooper added.

Concern was expressed especially for the involvement of laymen in praying for the evangelistic effort, Cooper stated. Plans for matching churches and families in North, Central and South America were outlined. The plan, called Pact, is being coordinated by the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention, but is open to all Baptist bodies in the Western Hemisphere.

Cooper said the men brainstormed ideas for lay involvement in the evangelistic effort on the local church, community, state, convention-wide, and inter-convention levels.

Plans were also presented for the Pan American Laymen's Congress scheduled in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 15-21, 1968, and ways of stimulating attendance at the conference were discussed.

Plans for mission tours for laymen prior to the hemispheric-wide laymen's conference in Brazil were also outlined.

The laymen also discussed lay involvement and attendance in a North American Continental Congress scheduled in Washington, D. C., Oct. 10-13, at the Shoreham Hotel.

Both the Washington and the Rio de Janeiro conferences will be on invitational basis.

University of Richmond
Approves Federal Aid

RICHMOND (BP)--Trustees of the University of Richmond here, a Baptist school, have voted to apply for federal funds for purposes other than grants for capital construction, but they carefully stipulated that such funds must not infringe upon "academic or institutional freedom" nor limit the school's religious program.

University of Richmond President George M. Modlin said that the policy statement was adopted in compliance with the action taken in November by the Virginia Baptist General Association.

The convention at that time approved a motion submitted by Reuben E. Alley, editor of The Religious Herald, requesting the trustees of each school sponsored by the denomination to formulate a policy with respect to the use of federal funds, with the exception of the use of federal grants for capital needs.

The policy subsequently adopted by the University of Richmond board of trustees would permit application for federal funds except grants for capital needs for the benefit of the school, the student and faculty as long as the following restrictions are met:

"(1) The federal funds are not to be used to provide facilities for religious instruction and programs, and (2) the use of the funds does not result (a) in any infringement on academic or institutional freedom, or (b) in any limitation on the religious program and purpose of the University."

In his semi-annual report to the trustees, President Modlin said that federal funds for education, research and training are available through more than 200 programs administered by more than 40 federal agencies. Many of these programs, he said, are "operated for the benefit of higher education."

Modlin also reported an enrollment of more than 6,000 students, the beginning of construction of a new dormitory to house 150 men, the near completion of a \$1.75 million Fine Arts Building, and a current operating budget of more than \$5 million.

Modlin said that Virginia Baptists gave some \$340,000 to support the University of Richmond through the Cooperative Program for current operations and capital purposes.

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Baptist Assembly, Camp
Managers Set Constitution

2/15/68

ROACH, Mo. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Assembly and Camp Managers meeting here adopted a constitution and bylaws for the three-year-old organization, and elected new officers.

Elected president of the group was Arthur Koehler, manager of Windermere Baptist Assembly where the meeting was held.

The constitution set forth three purposes of the newly-created organization: (1) to educate in a more effective management of assemblies and camps, (2) to provide inspiration, fellowship and sharing of experiences, and (3) to grow in love and appreciation of one another.

The organization is composed of Southern Baptist assembly and camp managers and their employees, and denominational workers charged with assembly or camping responsibilities.

Other officers elected by the group were Malcolm Burgess, manager of Eagle Eyrie Baptist Assembly in Lynchburg, Va., as vice president; and Mrs. C. L. Martin, wife of the manager at Palacios Baptist Encampment, Palacios, Tex., secretary.

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