

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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**BUREAU**BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,  
Telephone (615) 254-1631FINAL WRAPUPReligious Educators Want  
More Social Issues Materials

By Beth Hayworth

HOUSTON (BP)--Religious educators formally requested agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention to develop more materials on social issues and problems of family life to use in local church educational programs.

The action came after members of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association heard speakers and panelists protest the inadequacy of present church programs and materials needed to produce well-rounded persons who are able to live creatively in the 20th Century.

In the resolution adopted the group admitted that for too long religious education directors in churches have failed to encourage involvement in social issues, saying this is the pastor's responsibility. It added:

"Helping our people overcome their prejudices and closed minds is largely an educational task. We recommend that our association members plan educational experiences in the churches designed to help our church members overcome their problems so that they can truly be a part of the answers of our day and not a part of the problem."

Ernest Loessner, professor of religious education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, presented the resolution as chairman of the findings committee.

Earlier, education and family life specialists had criticized the inadequacy of convention materials to train parents to do a better job of rearing children in a Christian atmosphere in the home.

Ellis Bush, secretary of the Alabama Baptist Convention's Sunday School Department, said national agencies had been designing programs and promoting plans that bypass the family and ignore the responsibility of parents to do what God intended for them to do.

In other action the educators elected Harold Souther of Kansas City, Mo., to succeed Al Parks of Montgomery, Ala., as president. Souther is minister of education for the Kansas City Baptist Association.

Russell Noel of First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla., was elected first vice-president and president-elect. Two other vice-presidents chosen were Miss Hazel Rogers, adult work consultant of the Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn., and Philip Briggs, associate professor of religious education at Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

In the final session the educators heard a young person who identified himself as "an angry young man" explain the disillusion of many young persons with the church.

"The world has waited too long without leadership from the church," said Raymond Sikes, a former US-2 volunteer with the Home Mission Board. "Youth, disillusioned by the hypocrisy of the adult generation, turns its energy from the church to the Peace Corps, the new left, drugs and sex."

Sikes, who is now a private school teacher, emphatically declared his commitment to help shape the present student generation for Christ. He expressed regret that the Southern Baptist Convention had been "too busy working to do much listening or thinking.

"I'm not kicking the structure. I'm kicking the people within because they are the ones who made that structure. Yes, I'm an angry young man and I'm glad I am. I hope I can do something about it."

A spokesman for an older generation of Baptists leaders earlier pleaded for Southern Baptists to become more involved in social and interdenominational issues if they are to be a part of the creative action in the latter part of the Twentieth Century.

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DARGAN-CARVER LIBRARY  
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

James G. Harris, pastor of the University Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Tex., was critical of those within the denomination who are trying to divorce evangelism and social responsibility.

He urged the Christian educators to develop persons who are concerned not only with the sin in the life of a man but also with the sins of the community and the world.

Harris also made a plea for more involvement in interdenominational affairs when short of "compromising alliances" and without hurting the fellowship among Baptists.

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SBC Expressed Concern  
Over Kennedy Murder

6/6/68

HOUSTON (BP)--Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention here expressed concern about issues ranging from the tragic death of Robert F. Kennedy to the use of profanity in television programming.

In a convention business session, the messengers elected Lee Porter, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bellaire, Tex., as second vice-president.

In response to a request from the floor of the convention, the exact vote Wednesday on the convention's statement concerning the crisis in nation revealed 5,687 approved it and 2,119 opposed it, about 72 per cent approving the statement.

The statement has been termed Southern Baptists' strongest pronouncement on race relations. It calls for Baptists to try to seek equality for all persons, to accept all persons irrespective of race into worship and fellowship at Baptist churches, and to secure opportunities in education, employment, citizenship, etc., for all persons.

The messengers voted to send a telegram of sympathy to the family of Senator Kennedy, and Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, led the messengers in a prayer for the Kennedy family.

Several resolutions were introduced and sent to the resolutions committee.

A resolution in response to the assassination of Sen. Robert Kennedy urged the Congress to enact a strong and effective gun control bill.

"In view of the easy availability of legal weapons, and in recognition of Sen. Robert Kennedy's strong urging of significant legislation in this area, we...urge the Congress...to enact a strong and effective gun control bill which shall cover all types of such weapons," said the resolution.

It was introduced by Robert Alley, professor at University of Richmond (Va.), and Gainer Bryan, former Baptist editor from Maryland and now freelance writer in Atlanta, Ga.

Owen Cooper, a layman from Yazoo City, Miss. and vice-president elect of the convention, introduced a resolution calling for law and order.

Referring to the "ruthless assassination of Senator Kennedy," Cooper noted, "This tragic event follows a series of similar violent crimes against individuals and society...."

Cooper called upon all Baptists to renew their allegiance to civil authority, to respect the rights of others and to cooperate fully with all agencies responsible for maintaining law and order.

The death of Senator Kennedy prompted another resolution by Joe T. Odle of Jackson, Miss. It called (1) for a rededication to a renewal emphasis on Christian witnessing, (2) prayer for a revival, (3) more attention to the Crusade of the Americas, and (4) pledge of support to W. A. Criswell, newly elected convention president.

"Our nation has been shaken and bowed in grief because of the assassination of Sen. Robert Kennedy, the latest in a series of tragic events which have shaken the world in recent years," said the lengthy resolution in its only reference to Kennedy.

In the resolution concerning profanity, Stafford A. Berry of Dillon, S. C., asked the messengers "to go on record as being opposed to such language being used on any TV program and to send letters to all TV networks requesting them to censor their programs more closely.

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S.L. Whatley of Mobile, Ala., asked the messengers to consider a resolution asking President Lyndon Johnson to appoint a clergyman to the recently formed special commission to study crime and violence in America.

When Franklin Paschall, convention president, pointed out that there was a clergyman already on the 10-member committee, Whatley said he would prefer to see an additional minister appointed.

Catholic Archbishop Terence Cooke of New York is the single clergyman now on the commission

Defeated in runoff for second vice-president was Walter L. Moore, pastor of Vineville Baptist Church in Macon, Ga.

Other candidates included John Tierney, an evangelist from Greenville, S. C., Clyde Skidmore, pastor of First Baptist Church in Bakersfield, Calif., J. R. White, pastor of First Baptist Church of Montgomery, Ala., and William (Dub) Jackson,

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Resolutions Presented  
On Church-State, Obscenity

6/6/68

HOUSTON (BP)--Perrenial resolutions on separation of church and state and the sale of obscene literature were presented to the Southern Baptist Convention here and promptly referred, like all resolutions, to committee for action on the final day.

Two other resolutions on highway safety and the doctrine of the church were also received and referred to the committee on resolutions.

G. Earl Guinn, president of Louisiana College, Pineville, La., urged the Convention to reaffirm a church-state resolution adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1913 and one that has been reaffirmed many times since.

In addition, it recognized that some Baptist institutions, including churches, "find themselves in the peculiar position of being urged to accept federal gifts for their operations and programs, with the very lives of some of these institutions seeming to depend on such acceptance."

The proposed statement indicated that "in many places" efforts are being made to divert federal funds to the maintenance of certain religious schools and institutions.

It called on the convention to take a stand between accepting tax funds on the one hand and basic Baptist principles on the other.

The resolution urged the convention "to express its sympathy with all who are having to fight efforts of any who would try to violate this principle."

A former United States Representative, O. K. Armstrong of Springfield, Mo., offered the proposed resolution on obscene literature and entertainment deploring the widespread distribution and sale of pornographic magazines and paperback books. It also condemned motion pictures that "present adultery and marital infidelity in an attractive manner... and that otherwise appeal to lustful interest."

Armstrong's statement notes the increase in juvenile delinquency and crime which are "undoubtedly influenced" by such media.

If adopted, the resolution would instruct the Christian Life Commission to work with other denominations and groups concerned with efforts to combat obscenity.

The resolution on highway safety was presented by J. Marse Grant of Raleigh, N. C., editor of the Biblical Recorder, and carried the support of W. Perry Crouch, executive secretary of the North Carolina Baptist Convention.

Citing the national death rate of 52,200 persons last year on the highway and the prediction that one out of every two Americans will eventually be killed or injured in an auto accident, the resolution urged Southern Baptists to observe June 30 as "Highway Safety Sunday."

The statement urged delegates to personally pledge themselves to do their part to "eradicate discourtesy, anger, impatience and selfishness on the highways."

In addition, the proposal suggests that delegates keep before local and national governing bodies "the documented fact that at least half of all highway fatalities are caused by drinking and drunken driving."

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If adopted, the statement would call on Southern Baptists to urge stronger legislation by all levels of government "to protect the innocent on our highways."

Ray O. Jones of Knoxville, Tenn., presented the resolution on the doctrine of the church, urging the Convention to reaffirm its faith and confidence in the organized church as "the body of Christ on earth through which our Lord works."

Jones, pastor of First Baptist Church of nearby Fountain City, said the church had been publicly berated, belittled, and even denounced because of some statements by religious bodies and leaders. He cited particularly a quotation he attributed to Edmund A. Steimle of Union Theological Seminary that "God is no longer to be found in churches, but in streets and ghettos."

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NOTE TO EDITORS: final report on resolutions approved by convention will come Friday, June 7 (9:30 a.m.). The resolutions reported in the above two stories were presented, but not adopted.

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#### Inner City Ministry Described to Convention

HOUSTON, (BP)-An innovative weekday program that involves laymen from many professions giving their time and services to needy children in the inner city of Fort Worth, Tex., was described here for Southern Baptist Convention messengers.

J.P. Allen, pastor of the Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, told of the work that 150 volunteers are doing to help break through the walls of isolation created by racial differences and poverty in their community.

Speaking to the annual report of the Brotherhood Commission, missionary education agency for men and boys, Allen said:

"These men have looked for the first time at dropouts, at ragged clothes, at dirty faces,"....and discovered that they are human beings just like everyone else.

The new weekday program involves men from many professions, including dentists, doctors and lawyers giving freely of their time and professional skill to minister to particular needs in the area.

In addition, they are all involved in an "adoption" program, promoted by Broadway Baptist Church, to create personal and family relationships with the deprived children, he explained.

"The doors of our church have been opened outward into this community for a long time," Allen admitted. "The church didn't mean not to see, but they didn't see. They believed in mission work by representation."

The Great Commission was not given to boards and agencies, Allen emphasized, but to the local churches, pointing out that laymen had led the church in discovering and seeing the needs in their community.

C.E. Autrey of Atlanta, director of evangelism for the Home Mission Board, continued the emphasis at the 11th session of the Southern Baptist Convention on ministering to the total person as he made a plea for participation in the Crusade of the Americas.

"We must intensify our efforts to solve the problems of humanity," Autrey urged in speaking to the report of the Home Mission Board.

Stressing over and over that man cannot be broken up into compartments, he added:

"We are not to confuse the social ministries of the church with evangelism, but the church must deal with such things as poverty, social maladjustments and racism."

Referring specifically to the evangelistic effort of the Crusade of the Americas, Autrey declared that the crusade must be a "multi-racial" effort.

"We cannot overlook any race nor can we afford to draw out and spotlight any particular race as having priority over another. God has called us to minister to all races. We disown our missionaries if we don't preach to all these groups."

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~~Annie Armstrong Offering  
Gets Easter Name Addition~~

HOUSTON (BP)--The name of the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions has been changed by the SBC Woman's Missionary Union Executive Board, adding the word Easter to the name.

It's now officially called the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

The offering and a week of prayer for home missions are promoted annually by WMU along with Brotherhood assisted by the Sunday School Board. Last year's offering reached \$4,008,470.

Miss Alma Hunt, WMU executive secretary, said the name change does not affect the date of the week of prayer and offering. They will continue to be the week after the first Sunday in March regardless of the date of Easter.

"We believe this action will do for the Annie Armstrong Offering what the tie with Christmas has done for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions," Miss Hunt said.

"If there is a season which should make us aware of people without Jesus it is Easter," she added.

Arthur L. Rutledge, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board, said he was pleased with the name change. "Linking the home mission week of prayer with Easter should add depth to the observance."

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~~McCall Presented Award  
By Seminary Trustees~~

6/6/68

HOUSTON (BP)--Duke K. McCall, president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, was honored by the seminary's trustees during the Southern Baptist Convention here.

The seminary board presented their 1968 E.Y. Mullins Denomination Service Award to McCall on the occasion of his 25th anniversary as a Southern Baptist Convention agency head.

In 1943 he became, at 28, the youngest person ever to head a major theological school when he was named president of New Orleans Baptist Seminary.

In 1946 he was elected executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

After five years in that post, he became the youngest person ever to serve as president of his alma mater, Southern Seminary. He has just begun his eighteenth year as chief executive of the denomination's oldest institution.

McCall has also been a key figure in the Baptist World Alliance and in the North American Baptist Fellowship.

The E.Y. Mullins Award, named for a former Southern Seminary president known for his denominational leadership, has been granted previously to educators Gaines S. Dobbins and Sydnor L. Stealy, and leading pastors C. Oscar Johnson, Theodore F. Adams and Herschel Hobbs, all of whom have held key posts in Baptist life.

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~~Pleitz Re-elected Chairman  
Of Executive Committee~~

HOUSTON (BP)--James L. Pleitz, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pensacola, Fla., was re-elected here to a second one-year term as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Jack Robinson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Augusta, Ga., was named vice-chairman; Mrs. Ned King of Dallas, secretary; and Porter Routh, executive secretary.

The 58-man Executive Committee oversees certain work of the denomination between annual sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Collective Guilt, Social Action  
Views Differ At SBC Press Parley

By Jim Newton

HOUSTON (BP)--Contrasting views on the role churches should play in responding to the nation's crisis and the question of collective guilt for slain national leaders were expressed here by eight top religious leaders.

The newly-elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, W. A. Criswell of Dallas, said the church should try to change men's hearts, and that America shares no collective guilt in the assassination of Sen. Robert Kennedy and other slain national leaders.

Differing viewpoints, however, were expressed by several other religious leaders who gave more emphasis to programs of social action and a sense of responsibility for permitting violence to exist in the nation.

The statements were made in a press conference for eight local and national religious leaders of Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal, Catholic and Jewish faiths.

Each of the eight religious leaders made opening statements deploring the assassination of Sen. Kennedy and expressing grief and concern over his death.

Criswell, pastor of the 15,000-member First Baptist Church of Dallas, charged it is unfair, unjust, untrue, unkind, and unbrotherly to argue that America shares a collective guilt for the death of either Sen. Kennedy or his brother, the late President John F. Kennedy.

"America is not like that," declared Criswell. "That assassin is like that; but there are 200 million people in America, and all are not like that."

Bishop Paul E. Martin, bishop of the Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, said he felt that probably there was no directed connection between the Arab-Israeli conflict, but rather "this was an individual act of a misfit."

Rabbi Moshe Cahana of Congregation Brith Shalom in Houston said, however, that there is a sense of collective guilt when there is tension in society that allows violence and hate to exist.

"When three prominent leaders are killed in such a short time period, we ought to pause and reflect...in a moment of soul-searching about ourselves and society," said Rabbi Cahana.

Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville, stated there is too much hate in America, and that churches need to build bridges of understanding and share the gospel of love and reconciliation.

The question of how the church should be involved in changing society drew differing responses from the religious leaders.

Criswell said his church was trying to do this by changing people's hearts. "You can't change the outside of a man and change anything. He has to be changed inside." He told how his 15,000-member church is seeking to do this.

Robert Hayes, a Negro Methodist clergyman who is a district superintendent for the United Methodist Church in Houston, said there must be an honest confrontation with the issues.

"There is too much play acting in the pulpit," he said. "Are you really preaching, and do you really mean it?" are typical questions some Negroes often ask of ministers, he said.

He decried those church people who spend so much time fighting liquor by the drink and horseracing, "while outside the place is about to go into flames."

"Foolishness," he declared. "It's silly to debate whether liquor is going to be sold by the quart or by the ounce. What difference does it make?"

Calling death a terrible thing, Hayes said a death worse than the loss of human life-- racial oppression--has existed among Negroes for 300 years.

(more)

"Now the bommerang has begun to turn around to you," he said. "The shoe is on the other foot.

"You can speak about freedom and property rights because you have them," he told the white panel members and reporters. "My people don't."

The religious leaders advocated gun control laws, but Hayes said they were not enough. Most deaths among Negroes are not by guns but by knives, because knives are cheap," he said.

What is really needed is honest confrontation with the issues, and with Negroes as persons, he said. "They don't want handouts, they want dignity."

Several other panelists advocated programs of social action by local churches, including Bernard J. Ganter, chancellor of the Galveston Houston Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church; Rabbi Cahana, Bishop Martin, and Robert T. Gibson, dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Houston, representing the Episcopal Diocese of Houston.

Both Criswell and H. Franklin Paschall of Nashville, current president of the SBC, said spiritual things should be given priority.

"There is a general disregard of God (in America). A change in the attitude of heart where murder begins is needed," said Paschall.

Paschall added that Christianity and hate and racism are incompatible, and that society must be built on love that fulfills law.

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Take A "Trip" With God,  
Evangelist Tells Hippies

By Dallas Lee

HOUSTON, (BP)--Sunset Strip evangelist Arthur Blessitt stepped into the spotlight at a psychedelic nightspot here called "The Cellar" and told a raucous crowd of young adults:

"Tune in to God, have Jesus turn you on, and drop out of slavery to sin."

"Let's talk about a 'trip' to Calvary," he said, "the ultimate 'trip', a trip that lasts, an eternal high with God."

Blessitt, 27, who operates "His Place" on the Sunset Strip in Hollywood, is one of several Southern Baptist ministers in town for the annual Southern Baptist Convention who have spent their evenings in night spots such as The Cellar.

For the most part, the crowd listened respectfully, although bikini-clad waitresses continued to patter back and forth between tables.

After about 15 minutes of preaching and an hour of individual confrontation, five persons--including one employee--had made apparent professions of faith.

One young sailor from Holland testified in broken English to those around him:

(more)

"I've heard some about Jesus in school, but this is the first time anyone ever said he would help me pray."

The owner of the club said over the microphone after Blessitt had preached:

"Let's give this guy a hand. It takes a lot of guts for a preacher to come into a joint like this."

There was applause and a few cheers.

Although some skepticism was evident Blessitt was treated with respect and perhaps as many as 25 people out of the 100 or so present bowed their heads when he prayed.

About 10 other Southern Baptist preachers were in the audience, and as the band reestablished the atmosphere that customers had paid a dollar apiece for, they distributed tracts and gave Blessitt's bar room witnessing technique a try.

The large lettering on one column of the black room, which read "Why Not Now?," may have provided some encouragement.

The idea is nothing new with Blessitt. "His Place" on Hollywood's nightclub row called Sunset Strip was started by Blessitt about three months ago. He said it attracts 300 to 1,000 young adults and teenagers every night. It is independently supported by donations.

Blessitt preaches at "His Place" every night at midnight and says that he gets response almost nightly from runaway teenagers, members of motorcycle clubs, and hippies.

"They like to come to a place that is really groovy, but doesn't have all this hassle," Blessitt said.

Contending churches must learn to move out to where lost people are, Blessitt said:

"I preach to more lost people in one night than most churches do in six months.

"If all your friends are Christians," he said, "you are running with the wrong crowd. Every Christian should have lost people as friends."

Blessitt practices what he preaches. He carries a pocket of tracts which he shares with men he stops on streets to tell about Jesus.

One night during the convention, a hardtop convertible pulled up at the corner where Blessitt was standing and the driver leaned over to the window to ask Blessitt for directions to the telephone company.

"Why, do you have to call someone?" Blessitt asked.

"No, man, I got to meet somebody."

Blessitt leaned in the car and said, "Did you know you can call Jesus right now and be saved?"

Before the traffic light had changed twice, Blessitt had testified to the man, read a portion of Scripture from a ragged pocket-size New Testament and prayed with him.

Asked if he really believed decisions in such brief encounters were genuine, Blessitt said he felt he had no right to doubt a man's decision unless the man himself said it was not real.

"Doubting a decision like that is a lack of faith," he said.

To critics who often voice skepticism about professions of faith made in bars and alleys, Blessitt said he usually replies:

"It takes a lot more guts for a man to bow his head and pray in a bar than it does in a church, where it is expected of him. Multitudes of Christians are afraid to pray even on the street."

Blessitt refers converts to Baptist churches by writing the pastor and requesting acknowledgement that contact with the new Christian will be made.

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He does not have a very high referral average from this approach, however, because of the type of people he refers. Once a pastor told him:

"We'll accept any Anglo Saxons who are shaven."

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Midwestern Seminary Alumni  
Elect Vickery President

6/6/68

HOUSTON (BP)--Eugene Vickery, associate pastor of the South Main Baptist Church here, was elected president of the Midwestern Seminary Alumni Association Thursday.

The alumni elected other officers, awarded four additional charters for state alumni chapters, and heard reports from three professors of their recent sabbatical programs.

Robert Vegiard, Columbus, Ohio, pastor, was elected vice-president and Fred Banks, Independence, Mo., layman, secretary-treasurer.

Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, and Ohio state chapters were officially recognized during the session.

Professors Roy L. Honeycutt, Everett V. Reneer, and George D. Thompson shared experiences of their study away from the campus last year.

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Practice Brotherhood In Race,  
Ecumenicity, SBC Urged

By Jim Newton

HOUSTON (BP)--A Southern Baptist pastor from South Carolina urged the Southern Baptist Convention here to practice Christian brotherhood in the areas of race relations, ecumenicity, and denominational fellowship, even if such actions get opposition.

"I for one would rather have a little heresy mixed with a lot of love than to have pure orthodoxy ruined with a nasty spirit," declared Joel C. Murphy, pastor of the Citadel Square Baptist Church in Charleston, S. C.

"We just need, in Southern Baptist life, a lot of brotherly love, in action," said Murphy.

"I'm strongly insisting that two people who know Jesus even though one is black and the other white, though one is sprinkled and the other immersed, though one backs into his collar and the other walks in, should feel like brothers, talk like brothers, and live like brothers," he stated.

Murphy, former pastor in Louisiana and Mississippi, said of racial brotherhood, "For Southern Baptists, as for all Christians, I do not want the historian to write: The State forced the Church to treat people as God desired from the beginning."

He added that he would not suggest what Baptist churches and deacons and ushers ought to do, but added: "I do wish all of us could and would without prejudice and without politics ask Christ Himself what he would do and then do likewise."

In the area of ecumenical relations with other faiths, Murphy warned the Southern Baptist Convention against building a fence about the denomination and leaving more on the outside than they put on the inside.

He also advocated some advice given three preachers who engaged in a theological fight and were told, "Just forget converting the world until you learn to love one another."

He decried labeling people. "Some of you are, right now, working harder at the task of labeling me than at the task of getting the point being emphasized."

"Before you say, 'that fellow sure is for one big church,' let me remind you that the word now under consideration is 'Brotherhood,'" he added.

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Murphy addressed the 15,000 messengers on the subject, "Good News of Christian Brotherhood," in the major address of Friday morning.

From a theological viewpoint, Murphy disagreed with those who believe in the brotherhood of all men, saying that "all men are not brothers."

He argued that only Christians are brothers, for only they are the children of God. They are separated from other men, and from God, he claimed, by sin.

Sin, he said, separates man from man, and makes all men who are not Christians the sons of the devil instead of the sons of God, said Murphy, who quoted scriptures to back his views.

"I'm aware of the fact that groups within and without the Christian community believe in and speak of the 'brotherhood of all men,' but this, on the authority of the scripture, I must and do deny," he stated.

He added, however, that all Christians are blood brothers whether they be capitalist or Communist, German or Jew, Caucasian or Negro, professor or moron, housewife or maid, corporation president or truck driver.

During the Friday afternoon session, the report of the Southern Baptist Hospitals, Inc., disclosed that both hospitals owned by the Southern Baptist Convention are treating patients regardless of race or economic status. The New Orleans hospital admitted its first Negro patient this year, said Hardy M. Harrell, executive secretary of the hospitals.

Harrell also said that much progress has been made in the equal employment policy of both the New Orleans and Jacksonville, Fla., hospitals, where Negro employees fill positions in the business and professional offices, in nursing services, and as department supervisors.

The New Orleans hospital has refused to sign the Civil Rights Compliance act on the basis of separation of church and state, but is admitting Negro patients and practicing equal employment.

In another area of ecumenical relations, the SBC's Committee on Canadian Baptist Cooperation reported it had worked out a set of guidelines concerning relationships between five Baptist bodies in the United States and Canada.

The guidelines suggested that churches affiliate with Baptist bodies indigenous to the territory of the location, and discouraged derogatory criticism of other Baptist bodies. The guidelines also asked the churches to guard against endeavors which would likely contribute to harmful competition and hurtful misunderstandings.

In other agency reports, the Southern Baptist Chaplains Commission reported that 666 Southern Baptists are serving on active duty with the military, including 100 in Vietnam.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs reported that Baptist churches and the government are increasingly presenting overlapping programs in the area of human welfare and human rights, especially in low-cost housing, Social Security for ministers, planned urban development, judicial review proposals, welfare, and state constitution revisions.

The SBC Historical Commission told the convention of its observation last year of the 100th anniversary of the birth of W. O. Carver, outstanding Baptist historian; and of plans for the observance of the 125th anniversary of the SBC in 1970.



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**AIR MAIL**