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Baptists Join Thousands In Poor People's March

By Beth Hayworth

WASHINGTON (BP) -- Baptist leaders from the District of Columbia and the American Baptist Convention joined with thousands of other churchmen to support the cause of the poor and the dispossessed by participating in the Solidarity Day march here.

The peaceful demonstration of some 50,000 persons marched from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial where special services were held. The march was planned as a climax to the Poor People's Campaign which has been going on for several weeks across the country and is centered now in the nation's capital.

Early in the day the Washington Baptists met at downtown Calvary Baptist Church and went together to the monument grounds. The leaders of this group were James O. Duncan, editor of the Capital Baptist, publication of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, and Clarence O. Cranford, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church.

The delegation from the American Baptist Convention was led by their executive secretary, Edwin H. Tuller, and the newly-elected president of the ABC, Culbert G. Rutenber, from Boston, Mass.

The ABC group came from Valley Forge and churches in Pennsylvania and carried a large sign identifying themselves.

Actually, the Baptists represented only a handful of the thousands estimated to be there in response to calls from other religious groups.

As one walked through the milling crowds of black and white, rich, poor and in-between, many church groups identified themselves with signs and slogans.

The National Council of Churches, representing 33 Protestant and Orthodox denominations was prominent in its presence. There were Methodists, Lutherans and Unitarians carrying their church signs. Jewish groups, from the Synagogue Council of America and the American Jewish Congress were there. The Catholics were obvious both with signs and with the clerical garb of many priests and nuns.

Members of the Church of the Saviour in Washington, D. C., added to the theme of the demonstration for the poor by carrying a large banner which said "Let not our wealth divide us, rather let us divide our wealth."

At one point during the afternoon's program, campaign director Ralph Abernathy announced that he had received a check for \$50,000 from the United Presbyterian Church. has pledged \$50,000 more to help pay the costs of the Poor People's Campaign.

The support of so many religious groups added to the spiritual impact made by the long list of speakers and musicians in their sermons, prayers and hymns.

Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle of the Archdiocese of Washington, prayed at the Lincoln Memorial service that God would heal the country of the "perversity that makes race and work count for so much and righteousness and love count for so little."

In the list of 26 speakers, Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the crowd's favorite. In a voice that rang like a bell down the crowded mall, she called on the women of the country to become leaders in a "renewal of moral and spiritual insights."

The wife of the slain civil rights leader who first conceived of a campaign for the poor, urged the women to form a "campaign of conscience" that would unite women from all religious and ethnic groups in a power bloc that would force "a rethinking and reordering" of national priorities.

Identifying what she called the "triple evils" of our time, racism, poverty and war, Mrs. King said:

"Women, if the soul of this nation is to be saved, you must become its soul. You must speak out against the evils of our time."

Mrs. King and the other program participants were surrounded on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial by several residents of Resurrection City, the temporary homestead of the poor in the nation's capital.

Only a few of the poor spoke for themselves in the long afternoon of speeches. For the most part, those who pleaded their cause were well known civil rights leaders such as Roy Wilkins, executive director of the NAACP, Whitney M. Young, Jr., of the National Urban League and Walter Reuther, head of the United Auto Workers. Spokesmen for black militarist groups were noticeably absent from the line-up of program personnel.

One senator, Edward Brooke, Massachusetts, was the only spokesman from government and congressional circles. The Vice President of the United States was there for a short while and so were about 100 senators and representatives.

Whitney Young told the crowd of marchers, made up mainly of black and white marchers and only a scattering of "red and yellow" persons, that this may be the last time blacks and whites could walk together in a non-violent march.

"Up to now we retain our faith in America...the nation must listen now before it is too late....The poor are tired of marching on sore feet and empty stomachs."

Young said it is time now for 'Washington to march to us' with jobs and food...and time for government leaders to 'march through our slums' and see how our perple live.

"America is rich...but America is not rich enough to waste the lives of millions of the poor," Young said.

The finale of the long day's activities was an hour-long sermon by the fiery new leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Ralph D. Abernathy, successor to the late Martin Luther King, Jr.

Abernathy, who said he speaks 'With a divine mandate from God for the poor," made it clear that the expiration date for the permit for Resurrection City alongside the mall had nothing to do with when the poor would depart from the nation's capital.

Sounding like a modern-day counterpart to the Old Testament Prophet Amos, Abernathy said:

"I don't care whether the Department of the Interior gives us a permit to stay in Resurrection City...I received my permit a long time ago...from God Almighty...and I intend to stay here until justice rolls out of the halls of Congress and righteousness falls from the administration."

"Today is really only the beginning. We will not give up the battle until Congress... opens the doors of America and allows the nation's poor to enter as full-fledged citizens into this land of wealth and opportunity."

He described the Poor People's Campaign, which will now probably continue indefinitely in Washington, as a "do or die effort" to help America save itself.

Perhaps the Solidarity Day march and the present and future status of the Poor People's Campaign can best be summed up in statements by two persons representing the broad spectrum of affluence and want in this land of plenty.

One opinion came from Mrs. Martha Grass, representing the Ponca Indians in Oklahoma. Telling the 50,000 peaceful demonstrators that the "waiting period is over," she said; "We shouldn't have to be here begging and demanding."

The other commentary was from Hollywood actor Marlon Brando who participated in the march: "There's something obscene about the fact that so many hungry people in the richest nation in the world have to meet this way in order to move Congress to get food to 10 million starving people."

Protection Plan Inquiry Brings Response From Board

NASHVILLE (BP)--"The Nashville Tennessean" has printed a feature story concerning the personnel and property protection plans of the SBC Sunday School Board.

The story was based on an inquiry concerning an editorial in the religious publication "Katallagete." The editorial, without naming the denomination, told of a publishing house in an unnamed city which had "devised a method of preventing riots on its premises." It further stated that the agency had installed "incapacitating gas."

Gomer R. Lesch, director of public relations for the Board stated that the "Katallagete" editorial was not sufficiently factual for the Sunday School Board to be recognizable in it. Persons without correct information had, however, assumed that there was a relationship.

"Original protective plans, recommended by a study committee, included use of the chemical mace in case of civil disturbance related to our property," said James L. Sullivan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Sunday School Board. "This was announced along with other plans to employees. Subsequently we decided that we would not use mace nor any other chemical or gas in emergency situations. This decision was not communicated in the same manner as the earlier one because it was not felt to be of sufficient significance.

'We have what we believe are adequate and constructive plans for protecting our personnel and the property with which Southern Baptists have entrusted us in the event of any emergency, whether it be fire, theft, civil disturbance, or any other reasonably predictable situation," Sullivan told Baptist Press.

When asked why information on protection plans had not been released earlier, Lesch stated, "It was released immediately in the Nashville area to groups we thought would be concerned. It hasn't really met the criteria for news until considerable misinformation has become widespread."

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Homeland Mission Ranks Boosted In Three Fields 6/21/68

ATLANTA, Ga. (BP)--Six persons were appointed as career missionaries by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here, including two missionary couples.

Appointees are Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lee Hood of North Carolina to Patterson Avenue Baptist Center in Winston-Salem; Sandra Patricia Hill of Alabama as associate director of the Baptist center in Alexandria, Va.; Mrs. and Mrs. James Robert Deguire of Texas as students at the Mexican Baptist Bible Institute in San Antonio prior to assignment to a language mission field; and Kenneth Mack Newman of Oklahoma as pastor of the Hawaii-Kai Baptist Church in Honolulu.

A native of Grantham, N. C., Hood had been serving as pastor of Love Memorial Baptist Mission in Goldsboro, N. C. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College (Baptist) in Jefferson City, Tenn. and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N. C. Mrs. Hood is the former Barbara Russell of Greenville, Tenn.

A native of Piedmont, Ala., Miss Hill recently graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. She also is a graduate of Berea (Ky.) College.

Deguire, a native of Lamesa, Tex., had been serving as pastor of Valley View Baptist Mission in Ogden, Utah. He is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University (Baptist) in Abilene, Tex. and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Mrs. Deguire, the former Martha Temple of Texarkana, Tex., also is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons and Southwestern Seminary.

A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee and Southwestern Seminary, Newman had been pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church of Ewa Beach, Hawaii. A native of Frederick, Okla., he was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Grandfield, Okla.

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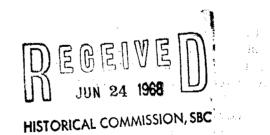
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Children and Coffee Cans Create Community Concern

By Nancye E. Miller

BUFFALO, N.Y. (BP)--Only a short time ago, the problem was what to do with 260 children, and now it is what to do with 250 empty coffee cans.

Both children and coffee cans were part of a program of Bible study, started recently by Byron Lutz, pastor of the 19-member Fillmore Baptist Chapel, Buffalo, N.Y.

When Lutz went to local school officials in late March requesting permission to start a "Release Time" program for the next school year, they not only gave him permission, but urged him to start it sooner--in April.

"Release Time" is a program of weekday Bible study, in which children are excused from public school classes to attend church-sponsored classes.

On the opening day of his classes, Lutz found himself faced with 260 children, mostly Negro, from the surrounding neighborhoods, near areas which have recently experienced riots. Almost half (129) of the children were from the first and second grades, and the rest from the third to sixth grades, of Public Schools #57 and #90 of Buffalo.

The sight of so many children lining up to go to church brought about this comment from one observer: "I'm sure glad to see this gang of kids going to church, because there are so many other places to go."

The tiny chapel used as the meeting place was full. Fifty extra chairs were brought in from the Frontier Association, where the church is located. However, space was not the only problem.

Lutz was not prepared with materials or workers. When word got around the association, workers volunteered from five of the Association's nine churches, and from one of its nine missions. One of the churches was Amherst Baptist Church, Tonnawanda, N.Y., which sponsors the Fillmore Chapel.

Lutz had not had time to order specially-prepared materials, so he relied strictly on teaching from the Bible, supplemented with rented filmstrips.

For many of the children, residents of an old Polish neighborhood, it was their first resl exposure to religious instruction. One, when told he must be quite because he was entering God's house, said, "Ma'sm is God really in there?" When reassured of that fact, he replied, "I'm sure glad the Devil is not in there. I'm scared of him."

Another child's response to the Frontier Association's first attempt at "Release Time" was: "This is the best school I've ever been in. I've never been to a school like this before. I'm sure glad you let me come. I heard someone say there was a Jesus, but I didn't know anything about him. I'm glad you have shown me all these pictures and stories about Jesus. No one ever told me before."

The release time program enlisted four new families into the chapel. Only one family was Baptist.

Such enthusiastic responses set Lutz thinking about possibilities for extending religious instruction beyond the school year. He immediately thought of Vacation Bible Schools. While still in thought, Lutz ran upon a "Lucy Lincoln Household Hint" in the "Buffalo Evening News." The ad read: "I have saved coffee cans..." His answering the ad got him the coffee cans for use in crafts programs in the planned Bible schools.

But it got him more than coffee cans. Answers to a similar ad he placed resulted in "coffee can chaos." He also received over 1,000 empty baby food jars, tuna cans, stationery, blackboards, free paper, meat containers, candy, pencils, cottage cheese cartons, aluminum trays, artificial flowers and grapes, egg cartons and numerous offers to save such items for his use. But most important, perhaps, was the membership placement of one family--enlisted through the reading of his ad.

Lutz himself received three jars of homemade jam and coffee at the home of one of his donors. In return, he left some gospel tracts.

Lutz reports that the children, saddened at the prospect of ending their "Release Time" classes May 6, were wildly excited when told they could attend Vacation Bible School this summer.

The Bible School will be held in shifts. One group will meet in the morning, at the church. A different group will meet in the afternoon, in a nearby park. Park officials have been cooperative in allowing this program, said Charles E. Magruder, Southern Baptist missionary for the area.

The association's Bible Schools numbered 19, with an attendance of 2,072, last year. This year, the churches plan 30 schools, with an estimated attendance of 3,000.

Lutz' ever-expanding plans for next year's "Release Time" and Vacation Bible Schools will include specially-prepared materials and the extension of "Release Time" to include the entire school year.

Miss Nancye E. Miller is assistant press relations editor, Sunday School Board of the SBC. This feature is to accompany the picture mailed to you May 28, called "Children and Coffee Cans"



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6,000 Expected For World Baptist Youth Conference

June 25, 1968

BERNE, Switzerland (BP) -- More than 6,000 young people from 65 countries throughout the world are expected to attend the 7th Baptist Youth World Conference here July 22-28, making the Baptist meeting one of the largest international conventions ever to assemble in the historic Swiss capital.

In late June, pre-registration figures showed that 3,800 youth from North America, 1,000 from Europe, and 500 from the rest of the world plan on attending, according to Robert S. Denny of Washington, D. C., associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance which is sponsoring the meeting.

A dozen speakers have been announced for the seven days of meeting. They include Evangelist Billy Graham; Paul Tournier, Swiss physician and author; and the artist Annie Vallotton.

There also are two college deans, Sam Proctor of the University of Wisconsin and Othelo D. de Leon of Central Philippine University; three theology professors, Kenneth L. Chafin, Carl Lundquist, and Culbert G. Rutenber, all of the U.S.A.; two denominational executives, Gerhard Claas of Germany, and Nilson Fanini of Brazil; and a student, Solomon Gwei of West Cameroon.

A 600-voice international choir directed by William J. Reynolds of Nashville, Tenn., will lead the musical program. The Baylor University Band, from Waco, Tex., directed by Donald I. Moore, will play pre-session music and accompany congregational singing.

Also featured will be the 'Wordmasters," a speech choral group from Georgetown College, a Baptist school in Georgetown, Ky.

"International fellowship will be given even greater emphasis than the speech-making sessions," Denny said. A formal discussion panel will follow each morning speaker, with representatives from scattered nations participating. This formal discussion will then be followed each day by 200 discussion groups, with the conference delegates meeting in Bernese school rooms to discuss church and world affairs on a person-to-person basis. Afternoons will be devoted to fellowship and sightseeing.

This will be the seventh in a series of the international youth conferences sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance. The first was in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in 1931. Others have met in Stockholm, Zurich, Rio de Janeiro, Toronto and Beirut.

Sessions will be held at Berne's municipal auditorium, Ausstellungshalle. Hotels will be filled to overflowing, with several thousand international visitors expected to stay in the Berne private homes.

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Monday Holiday Bill Gets Final Approval By Senate

6/25/68

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U. S. Senate has voted to approve the Monday Holiday Bill which provides for more three-day weekends for the nation.

The measure was passed by the House in May and now goes to the President for his signature. With little opposition in Congress and throughout the country to the legislation, there seems to be no doubt that the President will sign the bill into law.

If signed, the new law would take effect January 1, 1971.

The legislation calls for three public holidays to be changed so that they fall on Monday. They will be:

- Washington's birthday, the third Monday in February;
- Memorial Day, the last Monday in May;
- Veterans Day, the fourth Monday in October.

A new national holiday in honor of Christopher Columbus will be observed on the second Monday in October.

These four, in addition to Labor Day which always falls on Monday, will give workers five three-day vacationettes throughout the year.

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Baptist Press

Colorado Missionary Killed Accidentally

TELLURIDE, Colo. (BP)--Denver James Bennett, 38, a Southern Baptist missionary in the Colorado mountains, was killed accidentally here when a truck he was repairing slipped and fell off the jack.

Funeral services were held (June 22) at the First Baptist Church of Telluride where Bennett had been pastor since 1966 when he was appointed as a mountain missionary by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

He also was a member of the Executive Board of the Colorado Baptist General Convention and served as moderator of the Uncompangre Baptist Association.

A native of Detroit, Mich., who lived mostly in Oklahoma, Bennett was a graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. He had been pastor of Baptist churches in Texas, Oklahoma and Wyoming.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Lou Ella Mills Bennett; and three children, Debra Lynn, Dianne Lee, and Denver James Bennett, Jr.

Burial was in Holdenville, Okla. The family had requested contributions to a memorial fund for First Baptist Church, Telluride, in lieu of flowers.

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J. Dee Cates Resigns As Arizona Editor

6/25/68

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--The editor of the weekly state paper published by the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, J. Dee Cates, has been named director of public relations for the Scottsdale Baptist Hospital here.

Cates, a native of Texas, had been editor of the Baptist Beacon for the past six years.

His resignation was announced in a column published in the Baptist Beacon written by Charles McCay, executive secretary of the Arizona convention. McCay praised Cate's service in the column, saying "He has done his job well."

No new editor, nor interim editor, has yet been named by the convention's Executive Board. Cate's resignation was effective June 30.

Before becoming editor, Cates was field promotion secretary for the convention for several months, serving previously was pastor of Eastside Baptist Church in Phoenix. Previously he was pastor of churches in Sweetwater, Malone, Fort Worth, and Texarkana, Tex.

Cates, 54, is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University (Baptist) in Abilene, Tex., and earned the doctor of theology degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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Church Architecture Consultant Named at Sunday School Bcard 6/25/68

NASHVILLE (BP)--Roland A. Smith, formerly secretary of religious education for the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, Salt Lake City, has been named consultant in the church architecture department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here.

In his new position, Smith will consult with churches across the convention concerning building requirements and needs.

Smith, a native of Shreveport, La., received a bachelor of arts degree from Louisiana College, Pineville, and a master of theology degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth.

From 1941 until 1959, he held pastorates at Trinity Heights Baptist Church, Shreveport; Sharon Baptist Church, Atlanta; Central Baptist Church, Phenix City, Ala.; Central Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz., and Highland Baptist Church, Salt Lake City.

He served as associate in the religious education departments of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, Phoenix, before his employment at the Utah-Idaho Convention.

He is married to the former Janice Greer of Grand Saline, Tex., and is the father of three children--Connie, 20, Arthur, 15, and Daphne Anne, 9.

Austin, Nutt Get New Seminary Assignments

LOUISVILLE (BP) -- The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here will make several changes in its public relations and development offices Aug. 1 in connection with the final year in a fund drive for the Billy Graham Chair of Evangelism Endowment Fund to underwrite an expanded program of evangelism training.

James C. Austin, associate director of the endowment campaign, will add the responsibilities of director of alumni affairs, including placement of graduates.

Grady L. Nutt will become director of college relations, with duties largely in student recruitment, and will be assistant director of the Graham evangelism chair fund drive. For the past four years, he has served as director of alumni affairs and assistant to the president.

Paul Kirkland, executive director of the seminary's foundation, remains director of the campaign.

The three men, plus Seminary President Duke K. McCall and Director of Administration Badgett Dillard, will be members of a new development "task force" to coordinate the campaign in its final 12 months.

Chairman of the new task force will be Wesley M. (Pat) Pattillo, executive assistant to the president, and supervisor of information and public relations, alumni affairs and student recruitment.

The Billy Graham Chair of Evangelism Endowment Fund has now reached \$225,000 of the \$500,000 goal, seminary officials said.

Kenneth L. Chafin has occupied the Billy Graham Chair of Evangelism since its creation in 1965. The seminary has developed a research center for the study of evangelism, drawing upon Graham's designation of the seminary library as the official depository for materials relating to his worldwide crusades.

Chafin has also organized evangelism teams of students to go into major metropolitan areas, such as Detroit.

Termination date for the campaign has been set by the Southern Baptist Convention as mid-1969.

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Four New Faculty Members Named At Southwestern

6/25/68

FORT WORTH (BP)--Four new faculty members have been named at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here for the 1968-69 school year.

According to seminary president Robert Naylor, the new faculty members will be Bert B. Dominy, assistant professor of theology; Hoke Smith Jr., guest professor of missions; David F. D'Amico, instructor in church history; and M. Douglas Ezell, instructor in New Testament.

Dominy is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and Southwestern Seminary where he has completed all work toward a doctor of theology degree and is engaged in the preparation of his doctoral thesis. Since 1966, he has been instructor in religion at Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex.

A missionary to South America since 1952, Smith returns to Southwestern during his furlough from the mission field. He is a graduate of the University of South Carolina where he received the bachelor of arts degree and of Southwestern Seminary where he earned the doctor of theology degree. During their years of foreign missions work the Smiths have made their home in Costa Rica, Colombia and Argentina.

D'Amico is a native of La Plata, Argentina. He is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., and Southwestern Seminary where he is currently working toward his doctor of theology degree. Since 1962 he has been pastor of a group of Cuban refugees under the sponsorship of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Tex., and served as pastor of Goodwill Baptist Church, Fort Worth.

A graduate of Louisiana State University and Southwestern Seminary, Ezell has completed all class work toward his doctor of theology degree and at present is working on his doctoral thesis. He has been the seminary reference librarian during the last year.

Seminary PR Director Returns To Pastorate

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--John W. Goodwin, assistant to the president at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, has resigned to become pastor of First Baptist Church in Kirksville, Mo.

Goodwin, who has served in the area of public relations, student enlistment and alumni work for the seminary for the past four years, will assume the new position July 15.

A native of Port Neches, Tex., Goodwin is a graduate of Louisiana College (Baptist), Pineville, La., and Midwestern Seminary. Before joining the seminary administration, he was pastor of Baptist churches in Louisiana and Missouri.

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McNeil Named Christian Life Commission Intern 6/25/68

NASHVILLE (BP) -- Ken McNeil, 24, graduate student at Vanderbilt University here has been named the first summer intern of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Foy Valentine, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist agency, said the new intern will study the Christian Life Commission program, represent the commission at conferences and assemblies, and work on basic research and special projects for the commission.

McNeil is working on a doctor of philosophy degree in sociology at Vanderbilt. He is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Tex., where he received both the bachelor and master of arts degrees.

A native of Lubbock, Tex., McNeil was president of the Baylor Baptist Student Union and has served as a Baptist Student Union summer missions representative in Thailand in 1965 and as a Home Mission Board summer worker in Massachusetts and Rhode Island in 1964.



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