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500 Baptist Pastors Surveyed:
Nixon, Wallace Favored By Most

DeLAND, Fla. (BP)--A survey of about 500 Baptist ministers in Florida and Louisiana disclosed that a majority said they would vote for either Richard Nixon or George Wallace in the 1968 presidential elections and reflected strong "hawkish" views on the war in Vietnam.

Forty-four per cent of the pastors said they would vote for Nixon if the election were held tomorrow, while 36 per cent indicated a preference for Wallace.

The remaining 20 per cent was divided almost equally between Hubert H. Humphrey, Eugene McCarthy, Nelson Rockefeller, and Ronald Reagan.

The survey was conducted in July by Richard R. Clayton, chairman of the sociology department at Stetson University, a Baptist school here.

Baptist ministers were questioned on how they voted in the 1964 presidential election, how they intend to vote in 1968; what their attitude is toward the war in Vietnam, and what role they feel the federal government should play in financing church related colleges and universities.

Attitudes toward the war in Vietnam were assessed by a series of five questions with which the respondents could agree or disagree, strongly or moderately.

Reflecting a "hawkish" stand, 75 per cent agreed, many strongly, that the United States cannot afford to lose in Vietnam.

Sixty-nine per cent felt that if the U. S. present strength fails to bring victory, the U. S. should escalate the conflict. Almost half, or 47 per cent, felt that the U. S. should not seek peace if it means giving the Viet Cong a voice in South Vietnam's government. "The U. S. should use nuclear weapons in Vietnam if such weapons are essential to victory" found support from 44 per cent of the Baptist ministers surveyed.

And, to further substantiate the "hawkish" stance of the ministers, 36 per cent felt that the U. S. should continue the war in Vietnam even if it means bringing on World War III.

It seems obvious that most of the Baptist ministers in this study thing a "military" victory is necessary in Vietnam, regardless of the level of conflict required to bring about such a victory, Clayton said.

With regard to the role of the federal government in financing church-related colleges and universities, the pastors were likewise very conservative, he added.

A total of 81 per cent felt that church-related universities should not receive any kind of financial assistance from the federal government.

The reasons given for opposition to federal aid were varied. Some 69 per cent felt that it would violate the First Amendment to the Constitution and 77 per cent felt that federal aid would violate traditional Baptist policy. Over 80 per cent were afraid that federal aid to Baptist colleges would bring some form of federal control. Another 73 per cent felt that federal aid to church-related schools would violate the "Biblical injunction against church-state cooperation."

A composite picture of the political attitudes of Southern Baptist pastors in Louisiana and Florida would find them very conservative, rather hawkish on the Vietnam war and strongly opposed to federal assistance in church-related colleges, Clayton concluded.

A native of Louisiana, Clayton is a graduate of Louisiana College (Baptist) in Pineville, La., and a 1966 graduate of Florida State University. He will be completing his doctor of philosophy degree in sociology at the University of Tennessee in the fall.

Appleton Named Alabama
Baptist Student Secretary

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--Jon Appleton, 33-year-old pastor of First Baptist Church in Opelika, Ala., has been named secretary of the student department of the Alabama Baptist State Executive Board.

A graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., Auburn University, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Appleton is the son of Zack Appleton, pastor of Acipco Baptist Church, Birmingham.

"We feel an urgent need to develop an even more effective Christian ministry to the more than 23,000 Baptist young people who are attending state schools in Alabama," said George E. Bagley, executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist State Executive Board in commenting on Appleton's appointment.

He was elected to the post by the convention's Executive Board at its annual meeting, filling a vacancy created by the resignation of Maurice Willis. Appleton begins the duties Sept. 1.

- 30 -

Church Organized In 1962
Has 542 In Bible School

8/5/68

NORTH KINGSTOWN, R.I. (BP)--A six-year-old Southern Baptist church has conducted the largest Vacation Bible School in the state of Rhode Island.

Greenmeadow Baptist Church, organized here in 1962, held a Bible school for 542 children this year. It was "the largest in the state of Rhode Island of any denomination and probably the largest in the entire New England area," said Charles R. Hawley, pastor of the church.

The Bible school, staffed by 64 men and women, resulted in 27 conversions and two commitments for mission service.

Greenmeadow reported only 209 resident members last year. Sunday School members totaled 428 in 1967, and Greenmeadow's Bible school registered 393 children last year.

Hawley attributed the additional 149 children this year to church members who traveled "the second mile in their work and effort."

- 30 -

World Missions Gifts
Continue To Increase

8/5/68

NASHVILLE (BP)--Contributions to world missions through the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee office here topped the \$35 million mark in July, with \$15.3 million in contributions through the Cooperative Program unified budget plan.

The \$35 million figure is an increase of more than \$2 million over total gifts for the same period of 1967, and the \$15.3 million in Cooperative Program contributions exceeded similar gifts for the same period last year by \$673,819.

In addition to the Cooperative Program contributions, the \$35 million total includes \$18,697,486 in gifts to designated, specific Southern Baptist missions causes.

On a percentage basis, total gifts for the first seven months of 1967 increased 6.12 per cent; Cooperative Program contributions increased 4.6 per cent; and designated gifts increased 7.32 per cent.

Contributions for the month of July again topped the \$2 million mark, with \$2,255,307 in Cooperative Program contributions and an additional \$487,462 in designated gifts.

Of the \$35 million total, \$22.8 million has gone to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and \$7.9 million to the SBC Home Mission Board.

Twenty Southern Baptist Convention agencies and organizations received financial support through the Cooperative Program, and three other organizations which do not receive Cooperative Program funds received designated gifts.

- 30 -

Baptist Producers of "Job"
Drama Win Catholic Award

WASHINGTON (BP)--Orlin and Irene Corey of Shreveport, La., Baptist producers of the famed drama "The Book of Job", have been named recipients of the 1968 Religious Drama Award of the National Catholic Theatre Conference.

The Coreys were selected because of "their world-wide contributions to religious theater through their original productions of "The Book of Job" and "Romans By Saint Paul," said Sister Mary Immaculate, executive secretary of the National Catholic Theater Conference.

"With these two awesome productions, acknowledged classics of the modern theater, the Coreys have represented the religious faith of America on the stages of many nations, always to the acclaim of critics and the ovation of audiences delighted with their artistry," said the Catholic drama group head.

"This award is a recognition of their achievements in creating theater of faith and wholeness in a time of doubt and division," she added.

The award was presented at the time that "The Book of Job" was in its tenth annual summer session of production in the outdoor theater at Pine Mountain State Park, Pineville, Ky.

Last January, the Columbia Broadcasting System telecast nationally the Corey's original sermon-cantata, "Romans by St. Paul", on the television series, "Lamp Unto My Feet" produced by the Southern Baptist Radio-Television Commission.

The Religious Drama Award from the Catholic theater group is not an annual award, but is presented only occasionally for outstanding contributions. Only two previous presentations have been made--in 1959 to Archibald MacLeish for his play, "J. B.", a modern version of Job, and in 1967 to the English theatrical producers, Mr. and Mrs. E. Martin Brown.

The award was to be presented in Chicago during the annual convention of the National Catholic Theater Conference (Aug. 14). The Coreys, however, were to receive the award in absentia since they were in England for the annual summer school of the Religious Drama Society of Britain.

When notified of the award, Corey said, "My wife and I are moved by this unexpected recognition of our work and the work of our talented company. As theater artists, we deeply respect the praise of our peers.

"As Baptists," he added, "we are touched by this evidence of mutual interest and faith. This gratifying award is proof of the power that draws together Christians and all mankind."

Mr. and Mrs. Corey are members of the First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., where both serve on the faculty of Centenary College. They are directors of a drama group called the Everyman Players.

-30-

Singing Oklahoma Churchmen
Featured On NBC Radio Shows

FORT WORTH (BP)--The National Broadcasting Company is featuring a Baptist choral group, the Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma, on its "Great Choirs of America" radio program during the month of August and the first Sunday in September.

Composed of music directors from Baptist churches throughout Oklahoma, the 51-voice choir was founded by Gene Bartlett, church music secretary for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. James D. Woodward, chairman of the church music department at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla., directs the group.

They are frequently heard on "The Baptist Hour," produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here, and have appeared on television and in numerous concerts throughout the country. Two records of the Singing Churchmen have been produced by the SBC Radio-TV Commission here.

NBC originates the programs each Sunday in New York at 8:06 a. m., for all affiliated stations, the SBC Radio-TV Commission reported.

-30-

Marine Sargeant Ordained;
Volunteers for Vietnam

WOODBIDGE, Va. (BP)--Marine Sargeant Harold L. Shipp, who won the Bronze star for evacuating wounded Marines in Vietnam, has been ordained to the Baptist ministry, but his plans don't immediately include a pastorage.

Shipp has volunteered for a second time to serve in Vietnam where he will combine military duty with off-duty work with missionaries and churches in Vietnam. He was ordained by the First Baptist Church of Woodbridge, Va.

Sgt. Shipp has been serving here for the past year as a motion picture cameraman with the Marine Corps' East Coast Motion Picture Unit, and will be going to Saigon for duty with the Military Assistance Command in Vietnam.

But during off-duty hours, Shipp will spend much of his time working with Southern Baptist missionaries in Vietnam and "preaching the gospel."

It was here, in 1960, that Shipp became actively engaged in church work while stationed at the Marine Corps Development and Educational Command in nearby Quantico, Va. Two years later, in 1962, the church which later was to ordain him licensed Shipp to preach. And in 1964 he was ordained a deacon at Pearl Harbor Baptist Church in Hawaii.

A native of Alabama, Shipp attributed much of his religious convictions to his mother, Mrs. W. A. Shipp, a widow who lives in Wetumpka, Ala. His brother, Bobby Shipp, is also an ordained minister and pastor of First Baptist Church, Butler, Ala.

But the military has also shaped his life. He joined a Naval Reserve unit in Montgomery, Ala., at the age of 14, and enlisted in the Marine Corps at the age of 16. When it was discovered he was underage, he was released near the end of his basic training, but he re-enlisted several weeks later after turning 17 and obtaining his parents' written consent.

After war broke out in Korea, he stowed away on a Navy troop transport headed for Korea, and six months later after he became 18 and eligible for combat duty, he volunteered for service in Korea as a machine gunner.

He was wounded in Korea and returned to the United States in 1951, but two years later he volunteered to serve in Korea and returned. After the Korean conflict ended, he was released from active service in 1954, but he re-enlisted in 1956 and became a still photographer, later becoming a motion picture cameraman.

In 1965, he volunteered for duty in Vietnam, serving as a combat photographer and working with the DeNang Press Center. It was then that he won the Bronze Star Medal for heroism in evacuating wounded Marines by helicopter under heavy enemy fire, an event widely covered by the Baptist Press.

Returning to Quantico in 1966, he has been in charge of the motion picture film archives and has been a speaker at numerous civic and religious meetings in 10 states.

Sgt. Shipp, who continually violates the age-old military principle of not volunteering for anything, said that at age 35, "everything I wanted most in life I got twice."

He twice volunteered for the Marine Corps. He volunteered for duty in two wars--twice: Korea and Vietnam. He served twice at the Marine Corps Development and Educational Command at Quantico near here.

Twice he was a member of First Baptist Church of Woodbridge, which both licensed and ordained him for the ministry. And he was twice ordained--once as a deacon, once to the gospel ministry.

Now he is going back to Vietnam for the second time in a two-fold role--as a Marine and as a minister. There, he plans to continue the work with missionaries and other church groups he started during his previous stay in the country.



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