

# (BP)

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

# ---FEATURES

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October 25, 1968

Seminarian Calls Chicago Gangs  
"Mixed Up Kids Out For Kicks"

By Bob Stanley

CHICAGO (BP)--It was like a scene from West Side Story.

Tough-looking teen-agers dressed in black leather jackets stood around the front of Rockwell Baptist Chapel here. They were all Puerto Rican in background, and the backs of their jackets bore the name of their gang, "Scorpions."

But instead of planning a rumble, these Chicago gang members had come to the little chapel to talk with Rafael Venegas, a native of Puerto Rico who was working with youth in the Puerto Rican and Polish areas of Chicago under the Southern Baptist US-2 program.

The younger brother of one of the Scorpions was thinking about dropping out of school, and the gang wanted Rafael to help persuade the boy not to quit.

Rafael agreed to try, and went along with the gang to find the brother.

For Rafael, it was a sign that he had been accepted. The 24-year-old Home Mission Board worker had gained the confidence of the Scorpions through two brothers who started coming to the chapel's Sunday school. Later they dropped out, but not before they had interested several of the gang in the chapel program and its teen club, which grew to some 25 members before Rafael left.

The two years in Chicago as a US-2 worker convinced Rafael that gang life in immigrant ghetto is just as bad as that pictured in the Hollywood movies.

"They're mixed-up kids, looking for something that will give them kicks," he said. "Most of them are junior high or high school dropouts."

But Rafael found these boys still can be reached for Christ, and he came to understand why many had turned to gangs for a sense of belonging they couldn't find at home.

"Home is a hell on earth for these boys," he said. "Their fathers would come home drunk and beat their mothers. They were from big families--seven children was the average--and the father was usually the only one working. He would spend most of his money on liquor and women. Could you blame these teen-agers for not wanting to spend time at home?"

Like most other minorities, the Puerto Ricans in Chicago suffer from their own clannishness, he pointed out. They migrate to the U.S. in hope of finding good-paying jobs, and some do find them. But instead of becoming a part of the American way of life, they keep to themselves, seldom learn to speak more English than just enough to get by, and drink their problems away in a neighborhood bar at the end of the day.

Rafael, who served as assistant pastor and youth director at the Chicago chapel from 1966-68, started his work single but was married in June, 1967, to the former Mary Dale Clifton, a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. After their marriage, she worked as a librarian in a Chicago school and helped in the program at the chapel.

After completing the two-year US-2 program last summer, Rafael and Mary came to Southwestern Seminary, where he is now working toward the master of divinity degree and serving as pastor of the Spanish mission in Moody, Tex. After graduation he hopes to do Spanish-speaking work either in the U.S. or abroad.

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Bob Stanley is a newsman at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, on furlough as a Southern Baptist missionary to the Philippines.

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Colorado Convention Urges  
Social Problems Understanding

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**BUREAU**

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AURORA, Col. (BP)--The Colorado Baptist General Convention meeting here adopted a resolution urging Christians to "seek a strong and sincere Christ-like understanding of social problems" of today's world, especially the problem of racial conflict.

The resolution also urged each Baptist and Christian in the state to "strive within his or her own heart to bring about a better understanding of the races based on the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the teachings of God."

Colorado Baptists closed their three-day convention with a service featuring a message by W. T. Liggins, Negro pastor of a local church, and music from a Negro Baptist choir.

It was the first convention session since four states which earlier had been a part of the Colorado convention had formed a new convention--the Northern Plains Baptist Convention--comprised of Baptists in Wyoming, Montana, North and South Dakota.

While some Baptists here had feared that the convention would suffer a set-back when it moved to a one-state operation, a spirit of optimism seemed to prevail when it was reported that almost every area of work noted increases this year, said O. L. Bayless, editor of the Rocky Mountain Baptist, state Baptist paper in Colorado.

Membership in Colorado convention churches increased eight per cent during the first year of the one-state operation, the convention was told. Increases were also noted in income, and enrollments in Sunday School, Training Union, music, and Baptist Men's organizations.

The convention adopted a record \$466,616 budget for 1969, an increase of about \$23,000 over the previous year's budget. Of the state Cooperative Program goal, 18 per cent will be sent to Southern Baptist Convention world mission causes.

New president for the convention is Bobby Bryan, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Cortez, Col.

Other resolutions adopted by the convention commended the Crusade of the Americas, a hemisphere-wide evangelistic campaign in North, Central and South America; urged government officials to stiffen laws and penalties for driving under the influence of alcohol as a traffic safety measure; and commended the Southern Baptist theological seminaries for their "unwavering belief in the authenticity of the Word of God."

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Rhea To Direct Music  
At Baptist World Meet

(10-25-68)

WASHINGTON (BP)--Claude H. Rhea Jr., consultant in church music and mass communication for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, has been named coordinator of music features for the 12th Baptist World Congress in Tokyo, Japan, in July of 1970.

The program committee for the congress, headed by Mrs. R. L. Mathis who is director of promotion for the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, met recently here to outline plans for the congress and select the music director.

Meeting with the committee was Yoshikazu Nakamima of Tokyo, executive secretary of the Japan Baptist Convention.

Mrs. Mathis, Rhea, and Robert Denny, associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, are planning to fly to Tokyo in November to confer with the congress arrangements committee headed by Shuichi Matsumura of Tokyo, a vice president of the Alliance.

An attendance of 10,000 from 70 to 80 countries is expected at the congress, scheduled July 12-18, 1970.

Registration forms for the congress are now being printed and will be ready for distribution on request after Jan. 1., 1969, said Josef Nordenhaug, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance.

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Georgetown College Drops  
Dancing Ban On Campus

GEORGETOWN, Ky. (BP)--The board of trustees at Georgetown College here voted 17-3 recently to drop the 139-year-old ban against dancing on the Baptist school campus.

The trustees approved a motion stating "that the students of Georgetown College be allowed to include on-campus dancing as part of their social program."

The issue had been pressed by the student government association after a poll showed that every Greek-letter organization and most independent organizations supported dancing.

A five-member committee of students presented the request to the board of trustees. Bill Farmer, editor of the Georgetown College student newspaper and minister of music in a Kentucky Baptist church, spoke for the group.

"Almost 70 per cent of the students at Georgetown College are Baptist," said Farmer. "And dancing is a part of the social activity for most of them."

Stating that the committee felt the students should have the right to decide for themselves if they will dance or not, Farmer said that "We are requesting the right of local autonomy as practiced in our churches."

Support for on-campus dancing was received from the faculty as well as the students.

At least three of the five divisions of the Georgetown faculty had gone on record as supporting on-campus dancing, and none had officially opposed it.

There has been some opposition in the administration, faculty and student body, but the percentage has not been large, said Tom Corts, administrative assistant to the president.

Speaking for the administration, Corts said: "We hope this will be implemented with good guidelines that will make it a constructive part of the program, but it will have to be implemented with great care."

Georgetown College is now in the position of being the only college operated by Southern Baptists which explicitly permits on-campus dancing, college officials said. Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N. C., and perhaps some other Baptist colleges, has permitted dancing for years without adopting an official policy statement, and this practice has drawn fire at the state convention level in North Carolina.

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Fellow Africans Give Relief  
Funds For Biafran Refugees

(10-25-68)

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptists of West Cameroon have contributed about \$260 for the relief of refugees in the Nigerian-Biafra war, the Baptist World Alliance here has reported.

The Cameroon gift was cited as the most significant of several contributions received in response to a recent appeal for relief funds by Frank H. Woyke, associate general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance. The appeal was directed to the 84 national Baptist organizations affiliated with the Alliance.

The gift was forwarded to the Alliance by Stephen N. Nteff of the Cameroon Baptist Convention through the North American Baptist General Missionary Society which has mission representatives in West Cameroon.

Assistance to refugees in the Nigerian-held territory is being administered by the Nigerian Baptist Convention. Aid within Biafra is being channeled through Southern Baptist Convention missionaries in that area, said Woyke.

It is estimated that 3 million persons have been made homeless by the Nigerian-Biafran conflict. One recent report said that 8,000 were dying of starvation every day.

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Virginia Baptists To  
Consider Study Report

RICHMOND (BP)--A 24-member committee created by the Baptist General Association of Virginia to study the overall work and structure of the state Baptist body will recommend several financial and budgetary changes, more study of several areas of work, and an anti-racial discrimination clause for all Virginia Baptist agencies and institutions.

The committee's recommendations will be presented for possible adoption at the annual meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia in Hampton, Va., Nov. 12-14.

"We recommend that the Baptist General Association request its agencies and institutions in their admission and/or employment policies to consider any qualified applicant regardless of race," said a miscellaneous recommendation of the committee.

Most of the recommendations dealt with organizational structure, financial matters, and relationships between Virginia Baptist agencies and institutions.

Regarding educational institutions, the committee recommended that financial support be phased out within five years of 1970 for Averett College, a junior college in Danville, Va.; Virginia Intermont College, junior college in Bristol, Va.; and two academies--Hargrave Military Academy of Chatham, Va., and Oak Hill Academy in Mouth of Wilson, Va.

The recommendation suggests that these four institutions seek support from other sources, and that "if they are hampered in this endeavor by the existing relationship to the denomination, some new relationship should be considered by the Education Committee of the General Board in consultation with the trustees of the schools, with ultimate reference to the General Association.

The committee recommended that financial support for University of Richmond and Bluefield College in those respective cities be continued during the coming year "while further studies are made of their future relationship with the Baptist General Association by the Committee of 24" in consultation with the schools' trustees.

Concerning benevolent homes and ministries, the committee recommended the creation of reserve trust funds for both Virginia Baptist Home (for the aged), Culpeper, Va., and for the Virginia Baptist Children's Home, Salem, Va.

In both cases, the committee recommended setting a goal for the trust fund based on the average cost per person per average tenure, and the use of interest income from the trust fund for operational costs when the goal is attained in the distant future.

In the case of the home for the aged, Cooperative Program budget allocations would be discontinued when this goal is met. The budget committee and General Board of the convention was asked to study the changing needs for Cooperative Program funds at the Children's Homes in the future.

Concerning the Virginia Baptist Hospital, the committee recommended more support for its School of Pastoral Care, and that the School of Nursing be classified as a part of the hospital ministry and not as an educational institution.

In a key organizational change, the committee recommended that the budget committee which recommends the annual budget of the association become a committee of the state-wide association instead of a committee of the association's General Board.

Minor reorganization changes were recommended for the General Board, and the committee recommended continued study of the structure of the general state missions program administered by the staff of the General Board.

Trustees of the Religious Herald, Baptist state paper of the association, were requested to develop plans and enlist the necessary staff to expand the role of the state paper.

"We recommend that the trustees of the Religious Herald consider the advisability of employing independent consultants to make an objective study of the Religious Herald and its ministry to Virginia Baptists in the light of our rapidly changing society and world and our current needs," said the committee report, published in full by the Religious Herald.

Continued and further study was also recommended for 19 areas of work in the state Baptist association. Included were such study areas at the ministries to the mentally retarded, the needs of ministry to unwed mothers, the total ministry and witness on college campuses, the question of pastor-church relations, the involvement of youth and young adults in official Baptist life, work and ministry in urban centers, the question of church-state relations, etc.

None of the committee recommendations are final until approved by the messengers to the Virginia association meeting in November. Ernest L. Honts is chairman of the committee of 24.



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