



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

January 30, 1969

Religion Helped Pueblo
Crew Through Captivity

REGIONAL OFFICES

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 1350 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

BUREAU

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,
Telephone (615) 254-1631

WASHINGTON (BP)--Religion was an important factor in the lives of the members of the Pueblo crew during their captivity by North Korea, according to a report to the American churches by Rear Admiral James W. Kelly, a Southern Baptist and the Navy Chief of Chaplains.

Kelly summed up the religious experience of the Pueblo crew during the 11 months of their captivity: "Every effort to take away their faith in God only caused them to move in the direction of God. Every effort to subvert their faith only caused them to re-affirm it."

Commander Snyder, a Protestant chaplain, and Lieutenant Commander Hamilton, a Catholic chaplain, were part of the escort team which met the Pueblo crew upon their release at the base camp near Panmunjon on the day of their release. The chaplains stayed with the crew until they were admitted to the U. S. Naval Hospital, San Diego.

The chaplains reported to their chief that almost to a man the crew members "had moved in the direction of a deeper religious commitment, greater faith, and habitual prayer life" during their confinement.

It was not easy for the Pueblo crew members to be religious during their captivity, Kelly reported.

For one thing, prior to the captivity of the Pueblo efforts to have worship services had been given up, because never more than two showed up.

But the situation in captivity was described by one of the men, "all we had left was religion."

The North Koreans, however, it was reported, made it most difficult for the men to practice their religion. They had no Bibles or religious materials. No worship services were permitted. They were reprimanded for thanking God for their food.

In spite of this the men worked up a list of the books of the Bible, managed to recall the words of the 23rd Psalm and to write it out, and to piece together the Ten Commandments.

According to the report, the men prayed openly before one another, although they had to avoid being seen in acts of worship by their captors.

The Pueblo crew reported that they were told, "The Russians shot God down with a rocket!" Missionaries and ministers were held up to scorn by the North Koreans. "The Pueblo men were told that every cross in Korea was an antenna for sending espionage messages," Kelly said.

In response to the desire for worship services following their release, both Protestant services and Catholic mass were conducted for the men on the day of their release. An Army Jewish Rabbi was made available for the two Jewish members of the Pueblo Crew.

The following day a joint Protestant-Catholic Christmas Eve service was held for the crew. Every man attended.

The Navy chaplain chief reported that several of the men who had been indifferent to religion vowed that "it is going to be different now."

-30-

Annuity Board Trustees
Approve Four Proposals

(1-30-69)

DALLAS (BP)--Southern Baptist Annuity Board trustees authorized a "13th" dividend check to retired persons, elected four new officers including a new president, approved promotions for five staff members and changed the dates for future annual meetings during their 51st session here.

Most of the two-day meeting of the 60 state and local trustees was devoted to the review of a report by Executive Secretary R. Alton Reed covering work accomplished in 1968.

A speech explaining the rules of Social Security as they affect the minister was presented by Robert J. Myers, chief actuary for the Social Security Administration, Washington.

In his 14th annual report, Reed said the board paid a record \$6½ million in benefits to retired or disabled ministers and denominational employes or their beneficiaries, \$917,641 more than was paid in 1967.

Commenting on the recommendations approved by the trustees Reed said the major one concerned the authorization for issuing the "13th" check for the third straight year.

Each person who received a retirement benefit in 1968 will get an extra check amounting to 12 percent of his annual benefit. The extra check was made possible by interest earnings in excess of the retirement plan requirements, Reed said.

Darold Morgan, pastor of Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Dallas, was elected trustee president succeeding E. H. Westmoreland, pastor of South Main Baptist Church, Houston, who rotates off the board.

Reed said staff members promoted include Floyd B. Chaffin, L. Taylor Daniel and Fred W. Noe, who were elevated to senior associate secretaries from associate secretaries and Owen Henley and Davey L. Borders were advanced to associate secretaries.

The promotions were made to streamline the administration of the protection ministry of the board which has grown tremendously in recent years, Reed said.

The trustees also approved the first Tuesday and Wednesday of February as the official dates for all their future annual meetings, Reed said.

In his report, Reed pointed out that more than \$66 million has been paid in benefits during the 50 years the board has been in operation.

He said funds held in trust for more than 35,000 Southern Baptist ministers and denominational employes who participate in the protection program increased by more than \$20 million. These funds now total more than \$208 million.

Other highlights reflected gains in every area, Reed said.

Reed said 23,714 persons are now enrolled in plan "A", the basic part of the Southern Baptist Protection Program, which provides multi-family benefits. This represented an increase of 1,538 new participants over 1967.

The number of Baptist agencies which have retirement programs with the board reach 174, an increase of 29.

Reed said benefits paid for the first time included 309 age retirements, 139 widows, 48 disability, 83 children, 64 education and 22 variable. Variable benefits will be paid during 1969 on the basis of a unit value of 97 cents, up from 93 cents paid in 1968.

A memorial service for Wallace Bassett, former president of the Annuity Board was conducted by Westmoreland. Bassett, who died Oct., 1968, had served as a trustee for 48 years, 45 of them as president of the Board. Bassett was pastor of Cliff Temple Baptist Church here, and his successor, Darold Morgan, is the new president of the board.

Elected as new vice presidents to succeed those who also rotate off the board were Ned P. King, a Dallas layman who is president of Mercantile Security Life Insurance Co.; Stanley E. Wilkes, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Oak Cliff, a Dallas suburb; and Lafon Campbell, pastor of Georgia Avenue Baptist Church, Silver Spring, Md. Re-elected vice president was W. Dewey Presley, a Dallas layman who is president of the First National Bank.

-30-

Baptist Tells POAU, Support
Separation On Reason, Not Bias

(1-30-69)

NEW YORK (BP)--A Baptist seminary professor urged support for separation of church and state, "not based on fear of government, on anti-Catholic prejudice, or on blind devotion to a cause, but rather on carefully-thought out reasons based on facts assembled in an objective manner."

The appeal came from William M. Pinson Jr., associate professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, during a major address at the 21st national conference sponsored by Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Pinson warned against "the temptation to solve difficult issues by sloganizing," or "assuming an extremist posture in the defense of our position." He called for arguments based on "the positive as well as the negative," saying:

"It is not enough to tell churches and government what they ought to do. We should speak a responsible word about legitimate church and government action in the fields of education and welfare. We must encourage churches and government in efforts to meet the needs of men in society for justice, freedom, and opportunity."

Pinson said that continued militancy in support of separation of church and state might involve "tension, sacrifice, and perhaps even suffering."

Another Southern Baptist, Jimmy R. Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church in San Antonio, presided at the conference as vice president of Americans United. The president, Louie D. Newton of Atlanta, was unable to attend because of illness in the family.

Two major speakers touched on the role of the courts in separation of church and state.

Sen Mark O. Hatfield of Oregon, speaking at the conference dinner meeting, defended Supreme Court rulings which have disturbed some church groups by declaring:

"Supreme Court rulings prohibit imposed religious practices; they do not prohibit voluntary student expression of religious practices."

He declared that the rulings, such as the ban on required prayers, "maintain" the separation practice "while preserving freedom for religion." Hatfield added that the best answer for those protesting the court ban on required prayers was to ask the question, "Do you have family devotions?"

Leo Pfeffer, attorney for the American Jewish Congress who has argued several church-state cases before the Supreme Court, said that the courts had done the most to establish quality in education, eliminating religious doctrine, but it would be a mistake to "put all our reliance in the courts."

He called for mobilization of forces to express public opinion in the state legislatures which are dominated largely by "organized interest groups."

Pfeffer said that the public school system is facing "its greatest crisis" because attacks by church groups seeking funds for their private schools are weakening the entire American system of education.

A new attack is coming from racial groups now clamoring for "separate" schools, and this too, is weakening the public school system, he said.

-30-

President Nixon Thanks
People For Their Prayers

(1-30-69)

WASHINGTON (BP)--"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty." "Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?" "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of God."

The phrases and the verses were familiar. The voices were those of men prominent in official Washington circles: Robert H. Finch, the new secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare; Mark O. Hatfield, Republican Senator from Oregon; Ambassador Sevilla Sacasa, Nicaragua, dean of the diplomatic corps; and Spiro T. Agnew, the vice president of the United States.

The prayers of humility and dependence upon God and the admonitions from scripture were uttered amid the pomp and splendor of the grand ballroom of the Sheraton Park Hotel. It was the annual Presidential Prayer Meeting, sponsored by the Senate and House Prayer Breakfast groups which meet regularly for devotions when Congress is in session.

The honored guests were the new President of the United States and his wife.

Over 2,000 persons attended. Among them were cabinet members and wives, senators, congressmen, ambassadors from other countries, heads of parliament from abroad, mayors, governors and a host of others who managed to get invitations to the large prayer breakfast.

President Nixon told the gathering that he was sustained in the difficult role as President by the millions of prayers uttered for him by people across the nation and around the world. "We trust we can be worthy of your prayers and your faith," he said in concluding his brief remarks.

Billy Graham, the famed Baptist evangelist, was the featured speaker for the service. He told the national and world leaders that a new birth in the people gathered in that ballroom could cause a new birth in people around the world.

Graham's was not the only sermon preached. Ambassador Sacasa, a Catholic, prior to reading Psalm 24, discussed the symbolism of the cross of Christ with its "arms stretched open to receive all."

One of the stated purposes of the meeting was to pray for the nation's leaders. In leading this prayer, Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D., Maine) cited the times as one when "we are perplexed and deeply troubled" as a nation, and the only place to turn is to God.

Muskie, a Roman Catholic, prayed that during this crisis time, God would "teach us to listen to one another...to understand one another with the kind of sensitivity which springs from deep-seated sympathy and compassion...and to help one another beyond charity in the kind of mutual involvement which is essential if a free society is to work...."

The presidential prayer breakfast has been an annual event since 1952. For the first time this year, the event was broadcast live over the worldwide facilities of the Armed Forces Radio Service to U. S. military men around the world. It was estimated that 99 percent of the troops in Vietnam were listening.

-30-

Sunday School Board Names
Roselle Student Secretary

(1-30-69)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Charles M. Roselle, student secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention for 15 years, has been named secretary of the student department, Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Sunday School Board in its annual meeting here voted unanimously to elect Roselle to the position beginning March 1.

"This position has been vacant since December 1, 1967," James L. Sullivan, executive secretary-treasurer of the Sunday School Board, said.

"Even though the Southern Baptist Convention study of the entire area of student work requested by the Sunday School Board is now in progress, the assignment as of now is with this board, and we feel that we cannot abdicate leadership during these critical times," he continued.

"We have worked closely with the convention study committee and have their assurance that the election of a secretary at this time is an appropriate action," Sullivan added.

"We are grateful that we have secured for this strategic position a man whose life has been wrapped up in student work. Roselle is a dedicated churchman and a loyal supporter of the total denominational effort," said W. L. Howse, director of the board's education division.

"Himself a product of the student movement, he will give capable and imaginative leadership to the program of student work," Howse added.

A native of Mexico, Mo., Roselle is a graduate of Central Missouri State College, Warrensburg, and Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, where he earned a master of science degree in mathematics.

He has served as state student secretary, Missouri Baptist Convention and as Baptist student director at Auburn University, Auburn, Ala., and the University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Mo., and as Nashville area Baptists student director.

In 1966 Roselle was honored at the Tennessee Baptist student convention for 25 years of service in Baptist student work.

Roselle is a deacon at the First Baptist Church, Nashville, where he is a member.

Asked about the appropriateness of naming a student secretary prior to the final report of the SBC committee appointed to study the overall student work program, Albert McClellan, program planning secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention executive committee, said Roselle will bring insight leading to solutions of problems.

"Charles Roselle brings to the office an unusual awareness of the challenges and opportunities facing student work, because of his experience of the BSU (Baptist Student Union) study committee," added McClellan.

-more-

"He will undoubtedly be a major influence in helping student workers and others to see and understand the difficult and challenging problems faced by organized student work today. He will bring insights needed today leading to solutions of problems and the meeting of today's challenges," McClellan said.

J. Chester Durham, state student secretary of Kentucky, expressed his pleasure at the election of Roselle. "I don't think there is another man in the SBC who is more highly qualified to lead in this area of work in the next decade. He is not afraid of the future and thoroughly understands the directions in which student work ought to go."

Texas' veteran student secretary W. F. Howard said, "I am delighted at the election of Charles Roselle to this place of leadership in Southern Baptist student work. I feel that he has the confidence of all persons working in state and campus student situations.

"He has solid qualifications by virtue of his having served in both local and state phases of the work which gives him a broad understanding of the contemporary college scene and the type of ministry Southern Baptists should sponsor."

W. O. Thomason, assistant director, education division of the Sunday School Board, has been serving as acting secretary for the student department.

-30-

BP PHOTO mailed to state paper editors

#

Elected Sunday School Board
Recommends New Periodicals

(1-30-69)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Two new magazines, one for use by pastors in sermon preparation and one for student workers, have been proposed for those special groups in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The members of the elected Sunday School Board, in its annual meeting here, voted to recommend the two new publications to the program committee of the SBC Executive Committee, which must approve new SBC publications.

The board recommended the two quarterly magazines for release in 1970.

"Proclaim," a 52-page magazine, would be edited by the board's church administration department. The publication would provide resource materials to assist pastors in sermon preparation. Subjects suggested and resources offered would be related properly to curriculum emphases.

Content would also include helps for developing sermons concerning specific biblical texts, doctrinal themes, special events of the denominational or Christian calendar and pastoral care topics.

A 36-page magazine designed to provide program and administrative resources for the campus program of student work, "Collage" will furnish information about student life and current events. The magazine would go to state and local directors of student work, Baptist Student Union executive council members, church staff members and church leaders who minister to students.

It would replace "Key News," currently circulated to a smaller audience.

The board also approved new curriculum periodical items for 1970.

Four four-page quarterly leaflets will be developed for use in Sunday Schools. "Your Invitation," containing information about Uniform lessons, is designed for use with prospects as an introduction to a church's Bible study program; "Invitation to Bible Study," pertaining to Life and Work curriculum, is for the same purpose; "Test Your Knowledge" is to be produced in two editions, one each for Uniform and Life and Work lessons. It will contain objective tests covering the quarter's lessons.

Four sets of 11" x 14" teaching pictures will be developed for use in the church training program. The "Preschool Teaching Pictures" are designed for use with the five-year-old age group. Each set contains 24 color pictures.

-30-

Sunday School Board Names
New Editorial Secretary

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has named Howard P. Colson as its new editorial secretary.

Colson, formerly editorial services staff consultant in the board's Sunday School department, succeeds Clifton J. Allen, who retired Dec. 31, 1968, after 31 years' service with the board.

A native of Illinois, Colson is a graduate of Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill., and holds master of theology and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

After serving in pastorates in Tennessee, Indiana and Missouri for twelve years, Colson served as professor of the Baptist Chair of Bible adjacent to the University of Missouri, Columbia.

He joined the board staff in 1949 as an editorial associate and was made editor in chief of Sunday School lesson courses in the board's Sunday School department in 1951. In 1964 he became director of editorial services in that department and served the department since December 1967 as editorial services staff consultant.

Colson is author of the Convention Press book Preparing to Teach the Bible, and an adult Training Union study course book Living in the Faith, published by Broadman Press.

-30-

BP PHOTO mailed to state Baptist papers.

#

Pueblo Crewman Says
Faith Kept Him Sane

(1-30-69)

WAYCROSS, Ga. (BP)--A crewman of the U. S. intelligence ship Pueblo wrote his Southern Baptist pastor here that his faith in God "kept me alive and sane during those 11 lonely months" in a North Korean prison camp.

Wayne Anderson, 26 year old Pueblo crewman, made the statements in a letter to John Beach, pastor of the Hebardville Baptist Church here.

Anderson wrote that he wanted to thank "you and the members of the church for all your prayers...and for the comfort and assistance you gave to Mother and Dad during this last year. I know the support you gave enabled them to bear the terrible strain and worry."

The young man said that the faith he learned in the Southern Baptist church here, and the knowledge that God was with him kept him alive and sane.

"Many, many times in that awful prison, I sat with my eyes closed and imagined myself sitting in our church," he wrote. "I could hear your sermons and I could hear the congregation singing the hymns I loved so very much.

"No amount of Communist propaganda and lies could take those thoughts away from me," he wrote. "Thank you all for giving me those memories. They kept me whole."

Beach said that the church and the city of Waycross are planning a Wayne Anderson Day on his return home.

Beach said he was very active in the church before entering the service, serving in the church's Training Union, youth choir, and as general secretary of the church's Sunday School.

"He's an exceptional young man," Beach said. "He's a very deep thinker and a very spiritual person. I consider him one of the finest young men I've ever had the privilege of knowing. It was my privilege many years ago to baptize him as an intermediate boy," he added.

Anderson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Anderson. His father is a retired railroad worker.

-30-



BAPTIST PRESS

*460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219*

DAVIS C. WOOLLEY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 NINTH AVE. N.
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203

RECEIVED
JAN 31 1989
HISTORICAL COMMISSION