

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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January 31, 1969

Students Express Optimism
At National Consultation

By James Evans McReynolds

NASHVILLE (BP)--A spirit of optimism, hope and expectancy was reflected by college and university students from 13 states meeting here for the first National Consultation on Baptist Student Concerns.

Sponsored by the student department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, the consultation offered students an opportunity for expression and a hearing from Southern Baptist agency leaders.

"The church is an institution given to us by Christ. It's just like any institution in that you can't change anything by standing on the outside throwing rocks at it. You've got to get on the inside and work," related David Smith a senior from Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, N. C..

"I have faith, I am not a fatalist. I believe Christ is a living reality in our world. I believe the church can be a forceful factor in solving the crises of our world," Smith added.

"This conference has shown me that other people have different ideas from myself, and that these people have opinions and facts to back up their ideas," John Turner, junior from Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, said.

"Now I understand that we need to dig deeply into the whys of our beliefs," Turner added.

After two days of brain picking in eight work groups, representatives from each group reported their summary statements on the issues discussed to agency leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The discussion groups centered on the topics of the new morality, poverty, war and peace, campus evangelism, civil rights, Christian life on campus, future life in the megalopolis, and problems of automation and impersonalization.

The agency leaders responded to the summary statements made by the students.

"We are highly sensitive to your age and what you think," Rabun L. Brantley, executive secretary-treasurer, Education Commission, responded.

"We would rather go along with you than with those who haven't moved an inch in many years," he added.

Students had expressed opposition to the war in Vietnam and lack of individual responsibility in tax support of the government. Plugging up loop holes which are used by the rich to avoid taxes and negative income tax for the poor were suggested. Some indicated approval of lobbying for legalized abortion. In the area of birth control, they agreed that information should be provided for needy families.

Miss Janis Glass, a student at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, suggested that the SBC offer protection for pastors who are turned out of their churches for speaking out according to their consciences.

Some students voiced their support to all suggestions, but most agreed that students are entitled to their individual beliefs.

"The church should not dictate what a man believes," David Smith of Mars Hill said, "Personal beliefs should have respect as they come from a man's own communion with God."

Students had suggested approval of interracial marriage, dancing as an activity of the Baptist Student Center, abolishment of Training Union, and other controversial issues.

"Churches do little to prepare students for college life," Dan Haskins, a senior at Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, pointed out.

"Churches often interfere or put pressures on some student groups with which they disagree," Haskins added. He also expressed a desire for better BSU-local church relationships.

"Some of the constructive thoughts students have brought out during this consultation will influence what our denomination does during the 70s," W. O. Thomason, acting secretary, student department, Sunday School Board, said.

"In ten years we will wake up to find that the students of today are leading our convention."

Larry Green of the University of Oklahoma, Norman, summed up his feelings by saying, "As we wrote down page after page of criticisms of the church and her work, we have decided that although the church has many faults, there are many good things about it, and we are staying with it."

The summary reports were taped and will be distributed to Baptist student directors as a reflection of the thinking of today's college student, and as resource material for student ministries.

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James Evans McReynolds is an information specialist in the office of public relations, SBC Sunday School Board.

Social Security Official
Warns Ministers On Taxes

(1-31-69)

By John D. Bloskas

DALLAS (BP)--A minister who allows his church to pay social Security taxes for him on an employe-employer basis may find himself facing many penalties and problems including the possible loss of some benefits, a top official of the Social Security Administration said here.

Robert J. Myers, chief actuary for the Social Security Administration in Washington, D. C., issued the warning during a speech to trustees attending the 51st annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board.

Myers said when a minister who allows his church to pay Social Security taxes is caught, then his troubles really begin.

First of all, he will have to file correct forms to straighten out his record. Then, after he obtains a refund of the employe taxes he paid, he will have to pay the self-employment taxes along with interest and penalties for all the years covered by the statute of limitations for Social Security. He said a church would also be refunded the taxes it paid for the minister during those years.

Although he did not elaborate on how some benefits could be lost, he did say there were various circumstances under which losses were possible. Each case would have to be dealt with individually, he said.

Myers emphasized his remarks primarily, he said, to alert each minister to file Social Security taxes properly from the very beginning so no problems could arise.

A minister cannot claim to be a minister performing the duties of a minister for income tax purposes and then assume he is an employe of a church for Social Security, he said.

He pointed out that the 1967 Social Security Act changed the status of a minister in Social Security significantly.

All ministers are automatically in Social Security as self-employed persons unless they apply for exclusion on the grounds of conscience. Only ministers who have never had Social Security coverage can apply for such exemptions.

Myers also expressed hope that churches would help their ministers financially so they could pay their self-employment taxes.

He cautioned the minister to report money his church gives him for this purpose. That money must be reported not only to Internal Revenue for income tax purposes but also to Social Security if the minister has not reached the current \$7,800 maximum coverage point.

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Myers praised the work Social Security and private pension plans, such as the one the Annuity Board administers.

"Both Social Security and private pensions have particular roles to play. Both are needed. Together, both can take care of future financial needs of a minister or his dependents," Myers said.

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Southwestern Seminary Gets
\$233,000 From Benefactors

(1-31-69)

FORT WORTH (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has been made permanent beneficiary of as much as \$223,000 for the estates of the late Laura Dunlap Sampson and W. Emmett Sampson, both of Houston before their deaths.

Sampson was a rancher and oilman, and with his wife, gave financial assistance to several students who have attended Southwestern Seminary. They also established trust funds with the Baptist Foundation of Texas.

After the period of trusteeship necessary for such funds has been accomplished, the sum will be established as the Laura Dunlap Sampson and W. Emmett Sampson Memorial Endowment Funds.

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Fortenberry Named Manager
Of Fort Worth Book Store

(1-31-69)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Phil D. Fortenberry of Louisville, Ky., has been named manager of the Baptist Book Store at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

A native of Tylertown, Miss., Fortenberry received his bachelor of science degree from Mississippi State University, Starkville, and his bachelor of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He has served as clerk at the Baptist Book Store on the campus of Southern Seminary, and has been minister of youth at Davis Memorial Baptist Church, Louisville from 1967 until January of 1969.

The Southwestern Seminary store is one of 51 Baptist book stores owned and operated by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Kentucky Church Ordains
Two Women As Deacons

(1-31-69)

GEORGETOWN, Ky. (BP)--Two women were ordained Baptist deacons by the Faith Baptist Church here, apparently becoming the first women in the state to be deacons in a Southern Baptist church.

Mrs. Robert Snyder and Mrs. Wallace Williams, both of Georgetown, gained the distinction. The church is without a pastor at the present time.

Although they are the first in Kentucky, they are not the first in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Recently the Greenwood Forest Baptist Church in Cary, N. C., ordained Mrs. Douglas M. Branch, widow of the late executive secretary of North Carolina Baptist State Convention, as a deacon. But the story was not considered unusual in that state.

But in Kentucky, it was big news. The Western Recorder, the Baptist state paper, devoted an entire page to the story, compared to only one paragraph in the North Carolina paper on the ordination of the widow of the late convention executive secretary.

"We want to make sure that everyone understands that this is not a group of wives of ordained deacons," said Harold Wahking, moderator of the church. "These women are regular deacons as we understand the term used in the New Testament.

"They will serve as 'undershepherds' of part of the church just like every other deacon," he continued. "They will visit the sick, encourage those who need spiritual uplift, and assist in other ways. Our deacons handle no business matters. That is the responsibility of the trustees."

Mrs. Snyder, whose husband Robert is chairman of the deacon committee, said that while working on her doctor of philosophy degree at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., she attended a church that had women deacons.

Mrs. Williams said that other denominations have women deacons and some even have women ministers, adding that women are assuming more influential roles in all of society.

But the church and the women have received some criticism. One pastor in another county called Mr. and Mrs. Snyder and was extremely critical. "What really disturbed me, said Mrs. Snyder, "was his refusal to admit the autonomous nature of the local Baptist church."

Moderator Waking concluded: "We don't pay much attention to that type of criticism..., but we know our action is going to upset some people. We aren't rushing into this on the spur of the moment.

"We have tried to go slow and tell people in advance what we were planning to do," he said. "We can support with the New Testament proof that women deacons are legitimate, but some people won't even listen."

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Southwestern Students Plan
"Pioneer Penetration" Effort

(1-31-69)

FORT WORTH (BP)--For the 11th consecutive year, students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here will participate in a field evangelism program tagged "Pioneer Penetration."

More than 100 students have applied to be a part of the 1969 venture which will take them into a dozen states for evangelistic campaigns as a part of the Crusade of the Americas, a hemisphere-wide 1969 Baptist evangelism effort.

"Pioneer Penetration" is underwritten by the seminary and the Panhandle Baptist Foundation, Inc., a foundation operated by a group of laymen in West Texas interested in evangelism and missions and headed by C. J. Humphrey of Amarillo, Tex.

Roy Fish, professor of evangelism and director of the project, called it a "great opportunity for students to get involved in evangelism, the heart of everything we ought to be doing."

Last year 80 students at Southwestern Seminary led evangelistic efforts in 70 churches in 12 states as part of "Pioneer Penetration." The project resulted in 606 decisions, 241 professions of faith, 204 additions to the churches, 11 volunteers for vocational Christian service, and 159 other decisions.

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Southwestern Elects New
Advisory Council Officers

(1-31-69)

FORT WORTH (BP)--The Advisory Council at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here elected an attorney and banker from Round Rock, Tex., Tom Joseph, as its new chairman.

The Advisory Council, composed of 39 Baptist laymen, helps the seminary to plan, promote and interpret its efforts in theological education, and seeks to create good will for the seminary and channel this into active support, seminary officials said.

At its annual meeting here, the council voted to expand its total membership from 36 to 39 members, and named W. A. (Dub) Barker, manager of Trinity Industries in Denton, Tex., as vice chairman. The members of the council represent five states and all kinds of businesses and professions.

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Union Awards Editor,
Teacher Top Awards

(1-31-69)

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)--The editor of the Baptist Standard, state Baptist paper in Texas, John J. Hurt of Dallas, has been named to receive a distinguished service award by Union University, a Baptist school here.

Hurt, a 1931 graduate of Union University, received the award along with presentation of a distinguished alumni award to Albert A. Stone, general manager of the Jackson Sun here, and a distinguished faculty and staff achievement award to Gladys Stone of Jackson.

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