



BAPTIST PRESS

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April 21, 1969

Baptist Students Press For
Greater Voice In Decisions

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WACO, Tex. (BP)--Delegates from student bodies of five Texas Baptist colleges and universities met here at Baylor University to draft a constitution forming a new organization--the Texas Association of Baptist Student Governments.

Thirteen delegates, attending the meeting also adopted a statement calling for more response by their college administrators to the student voice.

Students attending the meeting represented Dallas Baptist College, Dallas; Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene; Houston Baptist College, Houston; Wayland Baptist College, Plainview; and Baylor University, Waco.

The constitution is now being circulated among potential member schools for ratification.

Being sent along with the constitution is the statement criticizing school administrators for their "inadequate response" to student desires for a greater voice in decision making.

The statement points out that the "failure of certain administrations to respond to the reasonable requests of students has resulted in violence," but adds: "As Baptist students we have not chosen to react in such a manner."

The Baptist student claim they have relied on "reason and dialogue" through "established administrative structures" thus far.

The statement closed with an assertion that "students should receive primary consideration in all university decisions affecting his general welfare and education.

"If Baptist colleges and universities are to flourish, administrators and trustees must focus greater attention on the student personality and his needs," added the statement.

The constitution for the new organization cites the unique qualities of Christian education, and calls for "cooperation both collectively and individually, among our students, faculty, administration, trustees, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas in a concerted effort to progress as institutions of Christian education."

Current plans call for the student body representatives to meet twice each year.

-30-

Baptist Win Top Religious
Public Relations Awards

(4-21-69)

WASHINGTON (BP)--Southern Baptists and American Baptists dominated the winner's circle in the annual Creative Communications Awards sponsored by the Religious Public Relations Council meeting here for its 40th anniversary convention.

Of the 16 awards presented by the council, Southern Baptists won six awards and an American Baptist won two top honors.

The top award of the organization, the Paul M. Hinkhouse Memorial Award, went to Lester C. Garner, public relations director for the American Baptist Board of Education and Publication, Valley Forge, Pa. The Hinkhouse honor, presented for outstanding graphics design, was a \$150 cash award.

Honorable mention in the Hinkhouse award went to John D. Bloskas, communications director for the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, Dallas, for the board's annual report; and to Stephen C. Tippens, public relations director for the Methodist Publishing House, Nashville. Each received a \$50 cash award.

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Three awards went to Floyd A. Craig, public relations director for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, Nashville. Craig won first place honors in photography and public relations campaign categories (both for the commission's promotion of Race Relation Sunday), and third in writing for an article on "New Breed of Missionary" written jointly by Craig and Jim Newton, assistant director of Baptist Press, Nashville.

Newton won second place in the photography category for a Baptist Press Photo taken by Craig, while the two were on a reporting trip to South America last summer.

Second place in the public relations campaign category went to John Earl Seelig, assistant to the president at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, for the seminary's 60th anniversary and the seminary president's 10th anniversary observance.

During the last four years, Southern Baptists have won 25 of the 68 awards presented by the Religious Public Relations Council to its members for outstanding communications efforts.

At the Washington meeting, Merit Awards were also presented to two newspapers, a national magazine, a television network, and two television stations for their contribution to Christianity through religious journalism.

The awards went to The Spectator, daily newspaper in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada; the Christian Science Monitor; Boston, Mass.; Life Magazine, New York; American Broadcasting Co., New York; WPIF-TV in Hershey, Pa.; and WXYZ-TV, Detroit.

The award to ABC-TV was presented for three television programs in their Sunday religious programming series entitled "Directors." One of the three programs, "Rembrandt and the Bible," was produced by ABC-TV in association with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth.

Three Southern Baptist public relations experts addressed the three-day convention at the Shoreham Hotel: W. C. Fields, public relations secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, Nashville; Gomer R. Lesch, public relations director for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; and Craig.

Fields and Craig both spoke on creativity in communications, and Lesch discussed the generation gap.

The Religious Public Relations Council is an inter-denominational organization of professional public relations workers for Christian religious groups, with about 550 members nation-wide.

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Ridgon Named To Head
SBC Seminary Extension

(4/21/69)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Raymond M. Rigdon, a staff member of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board for the last 20 years, has been named director of the Seminary Extension Department of the Southern Baptist Convention seminaries.

Rigdon's appointment was announced by Olin T. Binkley, president of the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and chairman of the administrative committee for the Seminary Extension Department of the six SBC seminaries.

A native of Georgia, Rigdon will move from his position as editorial services staff consultant for the church training department at the board's office on Ninth Avenue, to the Seminary Extension office at 460 James Robertson Parkway, effective May 1.

He succeeds Ralph A. Herring, who retired as director of the SBC agency on Dec. 31, 1968, and is now living in Charlotte, N.C. An associate in the department, G. Ray Worley of Fort Worth, has been serving as interim director.

Binkley said in making the announcement that Rigdon has "exceptional competence in the field of adult education," and added that he felt the work of the Seminary Extension Department under his leadership "will advance toward the achievement of the high purposes for which it was established and is maintained."

The Seminary Extension Department was founded in 1950 to provide continuing education for laymen and ministers through correspondence courses and extension centers.

During his 20 years with the Sunday School Board, Rigdon has held several key positions. He joined the board's staff as editor of "Sunday School Young People," and in 1953 became director of editorial services (later editor-in-chief) in the board's church training department.

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Rigdon is a graduate of Mercer University, Macon, Ga., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, where he earned the doctor of theology degree. He has also done graduate study at George Peabody College, Nashville, and Teachers College of Columbia University, New York.

He was a high school principal in Georgia before joining the Sunday School department of the Baptist Convention of Georgia.

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"Upward" Creative Arts
Winners Announced

(4/21/69)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Winners of the 1969 Upward Creative Arts Competition have been announced by the Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Entries in the sixth annual competition came from high school youth 13-17 from throughout the nation. They were judged on suitability of subject matter for inclusion in Upward magazine; on creativity, depth of thought, style, clarity of expression and spiritual significance.

William Stephens, editor of Upward, a leisure-time magazine for youth, has announced the following winners:

Fiction: First award, Janelle Buchanan, Fayetteville, Ark., member of Fayetteville First Presbyterian Church, \$15. Second award, Dan C. Wall, Kettering, Ohio, member of Kettering First Baptist Church, \$10.

Essay: First award, Christina Delgado, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., member of Ft. Lauderdale First Baptist Church, \$10. Second award, Robert Larry Parker, Raleigh, N.C., member of Forest Hills Baptist Church, Raleigh, \$5.

Poetry: First award, Julie Emily Ford, Atlanta, member of West Manor Baptist Church, Atlanta, \$7.50. Second award, Mark Gallien, Martin, Tenn., member of Martin First Methodist Church, \$5.

Black-and-white drawing: First award, Debby Quinton, Kevil, Ky., member of La Center Baptist Church, Kevil, \$10. Second award, Susan Frances Perry, Raleigh, N.C., member of Forest Hills Baptist Church, Raleigh, \$5.

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Brooks Resigns As Pastor;
Protests Tax Aid To Mercer

(4/21/69)

ATLANTA (BP)--One of Georgia Baptists' most outspoken opponents of federal aid to religious institutions, Hugh Brooks, has resigned as pastor of Atlanta's West End Baptist Church because of issues revolving around Mercer University's vote to seek three federal grants for building construction.

Brooks resigned effective June 1, but did not announce any plans for the future.

On the Wednesday night prior to his Sunday morning resignation, the West End Baptist Church defeated a proposal from its deacons that the church pull out of the Georgia Baptist Convention "if it allows its institutions to seek and accept tax money." The vote count was 183-121, against the proposal to withdraw from the convention.

The church did, however, approve a three-point resolution which expressed displeasure with the Mercer action; urged the Georgia Baptist Convention to "take whatever course of action is open...to stop Mercer or any other convention institution from seeking or accepting tax money;" and urged the convention to sever ties with Mercer or any such institution if any institution "would continue to compromise the principle of church-state separation."

After Brooks announced his resignation, the church went back into conference and voted to rescind its actions of the previous Wednesday night, and to appoint a special committee to study the entire church-state issue and report back to the church in two weeks.

The church did not formally accept or reject Brooks' resignation.

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April 21, 1969

4

Baptist Press

Brooks made the motion at the 1965 Georgia Baptist Convention which prevented Mercer from getting a federal loan for its science center.

In 1968, he led the West End church to withdraw from the Atlanta Baptist Association because the association gave Atlanta Baptist College authority to seek government funds.

Last November, he made the motion at the Georgia Baptist Convention which would have prevented any educational institution from seeking or accepting tax funds. But Mercer went ahead and voted to seek three federal grants for construction anyway.

In his resignation statement April 20, Brooks said: "My concern for religious liberty, and my feeling that to say we believe something but to refuse to stand for it leaves us compromised and therefore untire, give me another alternative but to take my personal stand on what I believe my Lord to have taught."

He added: "It is my earnest prayer and fervent hope that soon enough concern can be generated by those who really believe in religious liberty and the separation of church and state which allows it, to cause them and their churches to stand against any organization or body which will continue to compromise that position."

Before going to West End Baptist Church more than three years ago, Brooks was pastor of the Scott Boulevard Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga. He is from Corbin, Ky., educated at Eastern Kentucky State College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.



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