

(BP)---FEATURES

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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October 14, 1969

Grid Star Highlights First Military Encounter

by John D. Carter

DEL RIO, Tex. (BP)--Two men eased into the darkened dayroom at Laughlin Air Force Base near here. The tall Air Force chaplain cleared his throat and asked, "How's the ball game going, fellows?"

"Cowboys ahead 35-7," came one bored reply.

From the corner, "Phillys takin' it in the ear."

"Rentzell has two TDs already."

The chaplain smiled. "How would you fellows like to meet a pro football player personally?"

"Great, when's he coming," came the reply.

"He's here right now. Men, meet Bill Glass."

The former all-pro Cleveland Brown defensive end then stepped forward to shake ten hands, all eagerly stretched out before him.

Glass was touring the barracks at Laughlin Air Force Base, to drum up interest in a unique Encounter Crusade at the local Civic Center. Thanks to cooperation from the wing commander and Lt. Col. Sam Brian, a Southern Baptist chaplain, the border city was hosting the first Encounter Crusade ever held for a military installation.

Other drawing cards for the crusade were testimonies by Paul Anderson, dubbed the "world's strongest man," retired Air Force General Robert P. Taylor, Dallas bank executive W. T. "Dub" Henry and Leon Ingram, much-decorated Vietnam helicopter pilot who recently dedicated his life to full-time Christian service.

Messages were presented each night by Theron V. "Corky" Farris, a staff evangelist for the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Crusade coordinators were Texas evangelist Jim Hester and Del Rio pastor Fred Wiesen.

At the invitation of Chaplain Brian, Glass presented the morning sermon at the Laughlin Protestant Chapel service and then toured the barracks, witnessing to airmen whiling away the sunny Sunday afternoon watching TV.

The Cleveland Browns star announced his retirement last June after 12 seasons of professional football, plus an All-America collegiate career at Baylor University. As he retired from pro-ball, Glass announced the formation of an evangelistic association, complete with officers and a board of directors, that would enable him to take a larger number of city-wide crusades in the coming years.

Asked if he had any plans to "un-retire" (a la Forrest Gregg of the Packers or Sam Huff of the Washington Redskins), Glass replied, "I really think 12 years is quite long enough.

"There was an agreement with the management in case there should be a major injury and they were in really dire need of my services that I would come back and play at least part of a season," he explained.

"If I do 'un-retire' it will be just this year. It's too rough a game to come back after a definite retirement period."

Glass commented that since his conversion at age 16, he has felt an increasing need "to share my faith with other people. And I've had this opportunity through pro football. It's been a platform from which I can communicate my faith."

Concerning his decision to hit the sawdust trail, the former grid star said, "This hasn't been something that I decided in one instant that this is what I should do, it's been a growing awareness that I must use this opportunity that pro football has given me."

Bill Glass' message is not a complicated one. He often refers to Washington Redskins Coach Vince Lombardie and his emphasis on basic fundamentals in football plays.

"Basic to football success is blocking and tackling," claims Glass, "and basic to success in life is to realize that I am creation and God is creator and I need to have a relationship with my creator; and he has arranged for me to have this relationship through an encounter with Jesus Christ. When I come to know him I have life and life eternal. Knowing him gives me purpose and direction here on this earth, and eternal life in heaven...and you can't beat that," Glass says.



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October 14, 1969

Baptist VIEWpoll

Baptist Leaders Split
On Wage-Price "Freeze"

by Martin Bradley

NASHVILLE (BP)--The latest Baptist VIEWpoll survey reveals that a slight majority of Southern Baptist pastors and Sunday School teachers feel that a wage-price "freeze" would be a "poor idea."

Representative panels of Southern Baptist pastors and Sunday School teachers were asked this question: "It has been suggested that prices and wages (salaries) be frozen--that is, kept at their present level as long as the Vietnam War lasts. Do you think this is a good idea or a poor idea?"

"Poor idea" was the response of 52.6 per cent of the pastors and 53.1 per cent of the Sunday School teachers. However, 40.3 per cent of the pastors and 34.8 per cent of the Sunday School teachers thought it would be a "good idea." The remaining 7.1 per cent of the pastors and 12.1 per cent of the Sunday School teachers had "no opinion" on the question.

The VIEWpoll results are in noticeable contrast to Gallup Poll findings. The Gallup Poll, using the same question, found that 41 per cent of the American people think that a wage-price "freeze" would be a "poor idea," while 47 per cent think it would be a "good idea." The remaining 12 per cent had "no opinion."

Rumors of a wage-price "freeze" continue to be heard in various circles, but the Nixon administration declares it "has ruled out wage and price controls as a way of dealing with inflation under conditions that are now foreseeable."

On the international scene, VIEWpoll panel members were asked this question: "Would it be better for the United States to keep independent in world affairs -- or would it be better for the United States to work closely with other nations?"

"Work closely" was the judgment of 84.1 per cent of the pastors and 78.4 per cent of the Sunday School teachers. But, some of the pastors (15.4 per cent) and Sunday School teachers (18.4 per cent) feel that the United States should "keep independent." One pastor (0.5 per cent) and nine (3.2 per cent) Sunday School teachers had "no opinion" on the question.

Using the same question, the Gallup Poll found in late January that 72 per cent of the Americans favor a "work closely" policy, while 22 per cent favor a "keep independent" policy. In connection with this question, Gallup has found that the appeal of isolationism is gaining in the nation. In 1953 only 15 per cent of the Americans favored such a policy, and in 1967 only 16 per cent favored it. However, today 22 per cent favor such a policy.

It would appear that the international happenings of the last two years are causing some to desire a policy of isolationism, the Gallup report indicates.

Current VIEWpoll findings are based on 87 per cent response of the panel members.

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Sunday School Board Changes
Assembly Attendance Policy

10/14/69

NASHVILLE (BP)--Conditions for attendance by youth groups at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist assemblies have been changed by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here.

According to Hubert Smothers, director of the board's service division, the change was introduced because most assembly conferences are planned for adult church leadership.

For the first time during the 1970 season, every youth under 18 must be accompanied by his parents in order to attend all conferences except the youth leadership, church recreation, foreign and home mission and Bible conferences.

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~~These exc ptions~~ are conferences which have within their program a youth section. In order for a youth under 18 to attend a conference which has activities for young people, one adult counselor must be provided for every five boys and one adult counselor must be provided for every five girls.

Persons interested in attending a conference at either Glorieta or Ridgecrest assembly may apply as late as April 15, 1970 for reservations.

Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of N.C., 18 miles west of Asheville. Glorieta Baptist Assembly is located near Santa Fe, N.M. The assemblies are owned and operated by the Sunday School Board.

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President Sets October 22
As National Day of Prayer

10/14/69

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Richard M. Nixon has proclaimed Oct. 22, 1969, as a national day of prayer.

"At a time in our nation's history when the power of prayer is needed more than ever, it is fitting that we publicly demonstrate our faith in the power of prayer," the President said.

Nixon quoted the first President to live in the executive residence known as the White House, John Adams, who wrote to his wife, Abigail: "Before I end my letter, I pray heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this house and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but wise and honest men ever rule under this roof."

Commenting on the prayer, Nixon said: "Its very simplicity speaks to us today, across the years that separate the time of Adams from our own. Prayer knows no boundary of time; we in America today, in the spirit of Adams, seek the blessing of God and our nation and its leaders."

Congress by joint resolution in 1952 provided that the President "shall set aside and proclaim a suitable day each year, other than a Sunday, as a national day of prayer, on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals."

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Crusade Rally Biggest
Baptist Meet in State

10/14/69

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (BP)--A Crusade of the Americas rally here attracted more than 5,500 Baptists from a half-dozen or more different Baptist conventions, making it the largest attended Baptist meeting ever held in Minnesota.

The rally actually marked the beginning of the evangelistic effort in the state as part of a hemisphere-wide Baptist crusade during 1969, said Warren Littleford, superintendent of missions for the Northland Baptist Association, a Southern Baptist organization of churches in the state.

Littleford, who said it was the biggest Baptist meeting in the state, was one of the co-chairmen for the rally. The other was Bruce Fleming, executive secretary for the General Conference of Baptists in Minnesota, a Swedish Baptist group.

Attending the rally were American Baptists, North American (German) Baptists, National (Negro) Baptists, Southern Baptists, Swedish Baptists and members of various independent Baptist bodies.

Principal speaker was Arthur Blessitt, who directs a ministry to youth and hippies on Sunset Strip in Hollywood, Calif.

Paul Stookey of the Peter, Paul and Mary nationally-known folk trio also spoke briefly, describing his pilgrimage toward the Christian life by singing a selection of folk songs, interspersed with comments.

Littleford said that Paul recently made a profession of faith in Christ, and this was his first time to give his testimony before a large audience.

Other music was brought by the New Hope Singers of California, a Christian rock group.

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