



BAPTIST PRESS

United Edition of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 2, 1970

**Irish Baptist Leader
Predicts More Trouble**

NASHVILLE (BP)--The general secretary of the Baptist Union of Ireland, predicted here more trouble, and perhaps rioting, at Easter and on another religious holiday July 12 in Northern Ireland.

Joshua Thompson, executive leader for the 7,000 Baptists in Northern Ireland, said that the government there is on "the horns of a dilemma" over whether or not to allow Catholics to hold their traditional marches and parades on Easter and on July 12.

"If they ban the Easter processions, they are in trouble with the Catholics; if they don't, they're in trouble with the Protestants," said Thompson. Either way, more trouble is expected at Easter, he commented.

Thompson and the treasurer of the Baptist Union of Ireland, John McCullough, both of Belfast, Northern Ireland, explained the complex problems of Catholic-Protestant relationships in Northern Ireland to executive staff members of the Southern Baptist Convention during a visit to the United States.

Thompson said that the problems are as complex, if not more so, as the racial situation in the United States, and pointed out that the rioting in Northern Ireland during the past year is not just a fight between Catholics and Protestants.

Basically, it is a racial and cultural conflict, with other complicating ingredients such as tensions between the North and South, economic factors, employment and housing discrimination, unequal voting rights and class differences, Thompson said.

The Baptist leader said that Americans need also to understand the historical and political aspects. Ireland actually has two main political divisions--the country of Northern Ireland (where the rioting has occurred) which is part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; and the Republic of Ireland, an independent nation.

Northern Ireland (population 1½ million) is 60 per cent Protestant and 40 per cent Catholic. The Republic of Ireland (population 3 million) is 96 per cent Catholic and 4 per cent Protestant.

Generally, the Protestants in Northern Ireland are natives of England and Scotland; the Catholics in Northern Ireland are natives of Ireland with some Spanish blood, Thompson said. The Protestants generally comprise the middle class; while the Catholics are in general the working class, he said.

There is no doubt that Catholics in Northern Ireland have been discriminated against, he said; just as there is discrimination against Protestants in the Republic of Ireland.

Thompson said that to his knowledge, none of the 7,000 members of the Baptist Union of Ireland have been involved in the demonstrations or rioting. "Of course, he quipped, "I can't account for all Baptists."

McCullough, a real estate executive and a Baptist layman, said that during the past few years, there had been "a very fine integration of Catholics into Protestant areas" in the field of open housing; but since the rioting, Catholics had moved out of areas where Protestants live.

"The Catholics will never go back to these areas," McCullough said. "A ghetto mentality has once again developed, and Protestants and Catholics have further segregated and divided."

McCullough said he felt the rioting had put the country back 50 years in relationships between people of differing religious, cultural, economic and racial backgrounds.

The Baptist layman said he has an opportunity as a real estate man to try to combat segregation and to improve relationships between people. "I tell those I come in contact with that I'm not a Protestant--I'm a Christian. And this gives me an opportunity to share what a Christian is."

Thompson said that one of the issues in the conflict is the question of voting rights. Local city or borough councilmen are elected by the householders and owners of property, under a franchise system that grants "writs" to property owners allowing them extra voting powers. Some property owners may have two or three votes; while some Catholics, with large families, may have only one vote; he said.

Thompson and McCullough said they did not agree with the system; and McCullough acknowledged that though he is granted an extra vote as a property owner, he does not use it.

The problem of separation of church and state is also imbedded into the issue in Northern Ireland, where Protestants go to the state-supported schools which by law must open with religious worship; and where Catholics go to separate Catholic schools.

At present, Catholic schools get 65 per cent of their capital funds from the government, and are demanding 100 per cent, Thompson said. A measure has just been approved to provide 85 per cent of the Catholic schools' capital needs, provided the Protestant-controlled government can nominate two members to the management committee of local Catholic schools, he added.

Baptists in Ireland have not taken a strong stand politically on the issue of separation of church and state in the past, but the April issue of The Irish Baptist is to include a study of the issues involved, Thompson said.

Thompson explained that some of the Baptist teachers in public schools use the religious worship services to proclaim the gospel, and they are in favor of maintaining the present system.

Thompson said that personally, he felt that religious instruction and worship should be eliminated from the state-supported schools, and that the churches should provide teaching on the same academic level. "But we have a long way to go before we can reach that level," he said.

Thompson had little comment on Bernadette Devlin, a key figure on the Catholic side of the controversy; and Ian Paisley, outspoken Protestant clergyman.

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"Family Evangelism"
Told Java Baptists

3/2/70

by George R. Trotter

BOGOR, Indonesia (BP)--A Southern Baptist missionary to Guatemala has challenged the Baptist churches and missionaries in Indonesia to make use of "family evangelism."

During a tour of Java, speaking in rallies in nine of the principal cities, Hubert N. (Ted) Lindwall told how he had stumbled onto a method of reaching entire families for Christ.

In Guatemala two laymen followed his suggestion to hold services in homes on a coffee plantation, and these efforts resulted in family after family becoming Christians.

"At first, I was naive enough to believe that my preaching (through an interpreter) was the reason for these decisions" testified the former California pastor. "Then I learned otherwise. I found that the two believers had a different concept of home services than mine.

"I meant for them to meet in one another's homes, taking turns. Instead, they held their services in the homes of non-Christians! These were the homes whose members had made professions of faith in public meetings."

Lindwall went on to explain that individuals make their professions of faith before their own families. Many times, the whole family will decide at the same time.

Pointing out that this phenomenon is evident in the Book of Acts, Lindwall related that the person professing his faith before his family is more easily brought to profess his faith before the whole church than is the individual who accepts Christ in the presence of only an evangelist.

"Continued meetings in the home often serve to win other members of the larger family as well as friends and neighbors," the field evangelist declared.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: George R. Trotter is a Southern Baptist missionary from Clarksville, Va., stationed in Bagor, Indonesia.

4/11/70

Baptist Institute in Italy
Nearly Doubles Enrollment

RIVOLI, Italy (BP)--A Baptist language institute in Northern Italy has almost doubled its enrollment during the past year.

Main reason for the increasing popularity is the school's reputation, according to Southern Baptist Missionary Charles W. Oliver who works at the school. Oliver is a former high school teacher in Phoenix, Ariz., and is a native of Texas.

The institute, located at Rivoli on the outskirts of the densely populated city of Turin, currently has 66 students. Last year 36 were enrolled.

The school provides a bridge between the tiny Baptist constituency in Italy and the Italian society as a whole, said Oliver, who is program director for the institute.

"It helps Baptists to become better accepted," he said. "We offer as much personal attention to the students as possible."

The enrollment gain can partly be attributed to the fact that the institute, now in its fourth year, is adding a new class level every year until it has five, according to European Baptist Press Service. It will reach this point during the 1970-71 academic session as it moves toward official status as a five-year lyceum (secondary school).

Oliver expects enrollment to reach a peak of 125 students. About one-third of this peak enrollment would live at the school.

The purpose of the language institute is to make a student proficient in three modern foreign languages. Oliver specializes in teaching English.

German and French are the other two main languages, and a Russian class is also being taught at the moment.

In addition, the institute has classes in chemistry, physics, art, Latin, mathematics, physical training, and Italian literature. The school charges for its instruction and plans to become self-supporting.

Denominational affiliation has nothing to do with meeting entry requirements, Oliver said. It is hoped that personal attention given students and the philosophy of the teachers form an indirect Christian influence.

At the end of five years of lyceum study, students take a government examination. Those who pass the examination receive diplomas and are eligible to enter a university.

Also on the institute's grounds are a small Baptist seminary and a neighborhood kindergarten which cares for 70 children. A night school for adults has 52 people studying English.

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Hymn Writing Winners
Announced for 1970

3/2/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--First and second place winners of the 1970 Southern Baptist hymn writing competition have been announced by W. Hines Sims, secretary of the church music department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Mrs. Diane Owen Jordan of Signal Mountain, Tenn., won a first prize award of \$200 for her entry, "Arise Now, Fellow Christians of the Nations." Mrs. Jordan, a youth choir director and wife of a Baptist pastor, based the message of her hymn on the 1970 Southern Baptist Convention theme, "Living the Spirit of Christ in Openness and Freedom."

The second place award of \$100 went to Mrs. Kate Wilkins Woolley of Nashville, Tenn., for her hymn "Free to Be Me." Mrs. Woolley is the wife of Davis C. Woolley, executive secretary of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The contest, sponsored by the church music department of the board, is designed to encourage and stimulate creative hymn writing among Southern Baptists.

Almost 300 entries were received from 27 states and Colombia.

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