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July 7, 1970

Graham Calls for Spiritual  
Renewal to Honor America

By Beth Hayworth

WASHINGTON (BP)--Billy Graham, keynote speaker for the nationally televised Honor America Day religious service held here on the Fourth of July, called on all Americans to dedicate themselves "to a renewal of faith in God, equality, justice and peace for all."

The popular Southern Baptist evangelist, speaking on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, declared that Americans can honor their country best by rededicating themselves to God and to the American dream.

Graham addressed a crowd variously estimated to be from 15,000 to 30,000. It was predominantly white and apparently middle-class, with many young people and families with small children in evidence.

At the conclusion of his speech, Graham received a standing ovation that was exceeded only by that given to Kate Smith who sang earlier in the program "God Bless America."

Sharing top billing with Graham and the United States Army Band, were The Centurymen, a 100-member all male choir made up of music directors from Southern Baptist churches. Accompanied by the U.S. Army Band, the choir sang "America the Beautiful" and "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

Preceding the religious service, The Centurymen joined with the band in a 30-minute concert of patriotic and religious music.

The Southern Baptist musicians, coming from churches in 22 states, performed also in the all-star show, emceed by comedian Bob Hope on the evening of the Fourth, and joined in the grand finale of 300 voices, under the direction of Fred Waring, singing "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

In a message entitled "The Unfinished Dream," Graham declared that the dream embodied in the Declaration of Independence, signed 194 years ago, had its roots in the Bible and in the ethical and moral principles of the Judeo-Christian faith and the God of that tradition.

"What our forefathers began we must work to fulfill," Graham urged. He said their vision was "of one nation under God, where men can live as brothers in peace and in freedom."

Other Baptists on the morning program were two black ministers. E. V. Hill, pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in the Watts section of Los Angeles, was the master of ceremonies. E. L. Harrison, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., read from the New Testament.

Roman Catholic Bishop Fulton J. Sheen also participated in the morning program. He said small prayer and Bible study groups should be formed throughout the nation "to gain God's blessing." Such cells, he said, "could bring us together--Jews, Protestants and Catholics."

"Lately," Graham said, "our institutions have been under attack: the Supreme Court, the Congress, the presidency, the flag, the home, the educational system, and even the church--but we are here to say

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with loud voices that in spite of their faults and failures we believe in these institutions!"

The Baptist evangelist, speaking with his usual intense fervor, said that many people had "listened and watched while a relatively small extremist element, both to the left and the right in our society, have knocked our courts, desecrated the flag, disrupted our educational system, laughed at our religious heritage and threatened to burn down our cities--and are now threatening to assassinate our leaders."

Graham urged all concerned Americans--"white and black, hawks and doves, parents and students, Republicans and Democrats"--who hate violence and are alarmed over minority extremist tactics "to stop this polarization before it is too late."

Even as Graham praised America as a nation which "defends the right of her citizens to dissent," a group of about 500 "hippie" type young people expressed their disenchantment with America. Shouting anti-war slogans, sprinkled freely with obscenities, the fringe group invaded the reflecting pool in front of the Lincoln Memorial and tried to climb the steps to the monument.

Many of the protesters waved the Viet Cong Flag, carried the American flag upside down, or wore it stitched to the seat of their pants. The noisy protesters, who did not succeed in interrupting the service, were quickly dispersed by mounted park police to loud applause by the rest of the crowd.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Photos of Billy Graham and The Centurymen being mailed separately to state Baptist paper editors.

13,500 Youngsters Stage  
"Peace of Christ" Rally

7/7/70

FORT WORTH (BP)--The largest and most unusual "peace" demonstration Texans could recall was staged by 13,500 young people here just prior to Independence Day.

The youths, mostly teenagers, didn't burn any flags, break any windows or fight with police during the unique "Peace of Christ" rally. But their enthusiasm was obvious.

Onlookers, familiar with the two-fingered "V" for peace sign during anti-Vietnam war rallies last May, were surprised at the young people's adaptation of it.

Accompanying the usual peace sign was an extended index finger on the other hand and the chant "one way...one way...."

C. Wade Freeman, director of evangelism for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, said the new symbol is "the Christian's way of showing the world that Christ offers the only real, lasting peace." The same symbol was alluded to by Billy Graham in his Honor America Day address in Washington.

"We hope that Christian youth the nation over will adopt this sign for expressing their belief in the peace of God," Freeman said. "Certainly they should have the same privilege of demonstration as the violent radical."

The Texas Baptist Evangelism Division which Freeman heads sponsored the peace parade as part of the 1970 Youth Evangelism Conference in Fort Worth.

Filling Fort Worth's Main Street for about a quarter mile from the Tarrant County Convention Center to the county courthouse, the youths followed a large banner proclaiming "Peace of Christ."

Many of the smiling, neatly-dressed youngsters carried signs themselves with such phrases as "Turn on Jesus," "Get High on Jesus," and "Jesus is Real."

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It might have been called a torchlight parade due to thousands of flashlights the youngsters turned on during the rally. They said their modernistic torches symbolized "the light of Christ which shines through people committed to Him."

FortWorth Police Captain L. E. Wood said the "peace of Christ" demonstration was one of the best things he's seen in years: "As American as ham and eggs."

Capt. Wood said some of his men who worked overtime directing traffic around the cordoned off Main Street told him they would be willing to do it again "to see something like that."

"If the world's on the road to hell, kids like that can put up some detour signs," the police captain said.

Reactions of onlookers were usually, "It's a good thing," or "It's great," though negative reaction was expressed by some hippies in Fort Worth's nightclub section through which the peace parade passed.

Two long-haired young men scoffed at the demonstrators' declaration of Christ as the "one way."

"There's not just one way. How can they believe that? God is the universe." Nevertheless, they followed the parade to the courthouse where several young people talked to them about Christ and prayed for them.

The young people also fanned out over downtown Fort Worth and talked to people about Christ. A small crowd of teenagers stood outside a nightclub urging people to come out to watch the parade and respond to Christ.

In sessions at the convention center, the young people heard Astronaut William R. Pogue, a Southern Baptist deacon and member of the support crew of the forthcoming Apollo XIV flight; Cliff Barrows of the Billy Graham evangelistic team, 18-year-old Debbie Patton of Odessa, Tex., this year's Miss Teenage America; Myrtle Hall, Billy Graham soloist; and others.

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Baptist Aging Homes Leaders  
Urge Stronger Social Security

7/7/70

IRONTON, Mo. (BP)--Executives of Southern Baptist homes for the aging adopted a resolution here urging Congress to enact stronger Social Security laws to provide more funds for increasing numbers of retired people.

The resolution cited statistics indicating that the number of Americans 65 years of age and over will increase from its current 20 million to more than 25 million in 15 years and 31.3 million in 30 years.

"We too often neglect these senior citizens and carelessly overlook the contribution they can still make to our churches and to society," said the resolution adopted by the Southern Baptist Association of Executives of Homes for the Aging.

The resolution advocated legislation "that will provide senior citizens in the country with an annual cost of living adjustment in addition to the existing benefits."

The group further urged Baptists to better support their institutions for the aging and for churches and related organizations to find ways to minister more effectively to the total needs of the elderly.

Elected new president of the association was A. W. Brickle, superintendent of the Bethea Baptist Home in Darlington, S. C. Brickle,

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former vice president of the association, succeeds Elson Herndon, administrator of Baptist Retirement Towers in Kansas City, Mo.

Other new officers elected were Charles Neal, superintendent of Virginia Baptist Home, Inc., Culpepper, Va., first vice president; and Wm. P. Harris, superintendent, Baptist Home of the District of Columbia, Washington, D. C., second vice president.

Re-elected secretary-treasurer was W. L. Howse III, director of organization for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, Nashville. Howse was invited recently to participate in planning the White House Conference on Aging scheduled in Washington during the fall of 1971.

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Sunday School Board  
Announces Staff Changes

7/7/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--A new staff member has joined the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and another has been promoted.

C. Benton Williams, director of student work in Thailand as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary since 1959, has been named a consultant in international student work in the board's student department.

Charles R. Livingstone, supervisor of the adult section in the board's Sunday School department, will become manager of the department on Aug. 1. He will be responsible to A. V. Washburn, department secretary, for the department's overall planning and work.

A native of Knoxville, Tenn., Williams served as pastor of churches in Knoxville and Maryville, Tenn., and as a teacher and counselor at Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour, Tenn., before appointment as a missionary.

In Thailand he served as chairman of the board of directors of the International School, Bangkok, and in 1967 chaired the Orient Student Workers' Committee (Baptist).

Williams holds the bachelor of arts degree from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.; the master of arts degree in education from Texas Wesleyan College, Fort Worth; and the bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Livingstone succeeds Elmer Gray, who resigned to become academic dean of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

A native Kansan, Livingstone has served as pastor of churches in Barnsdall, Okla., and Braman, Okla., and associate pastor of a church in Blackwell, Okla. In 1965, he joined the Sunday School Board as editor of adult life and work materials in the Sunday School department and later supervised the department's youth section.

Livingstone was graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and did graduate study at the University of Oklahoma, Norman; George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville; and Southwestern Seminary.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Photo being mailed separately to state Baptist paper editors.

Arizona Kills Hospital Sale;  
Approves Dismissal of Trustees

7/7/70

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--Messengers to a special called session of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention voted 494-22 here to rescind a previous vote of the convention to sell its three hospitals.

The action added another episode to a complex situation which has

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been debated in and out of the Arizona courts. It represents the third vote on the issue and the second time the convention has changed its mind on whether to sell the hospitals.

The messengers also upheld dismissal by the state convention's Executive Board of trustees in the convention's hospital association and elected additional replacements for them. They also ratified previous election by the Executive Board of six trustee replacements.

Meanwhile, the original trustees, who were dismissed for voting to sever ties of the hospitals with the Arizona convention, have refused to step aside for their replacements.

The background of the debate is complex.

Last September, a special called session of the convention resulted in a 422-208 decision to keep the hospitals rather than sell them.

In November, however, the regular convention session nullified the previous special session's action by a slim 133-125 vote to sell the three hospitals in Phoenix, Scottsdale and Yuma, Ariz., plus land on which another hospital was to have been built in Tucson.

A convention official said the latest vote not to sell became necessary when trustees refused to cooperate with the Executive Board in an attempt to sell the Phoenix hospital to the J. Allen Ginn Jr. Charitable Foundation.

The Executive Board therefore recommended that the convention rescind the vote to sell and take whatever action necessary to regain control of the hospitals. The special called session affirmed the request.

However, observers feel that once the current web of litigation surrounding the situation is cleared away the decision to sell or not to sell may be resubmitted to a future convention.

The November session of the convention empowered the state's Executive Board to sell the hospitals and directed it to provide 40 per cent of the funds derived from the sale to Grand Canyon College, a Baptist school in Phoenix which has had some financial difficulty.

The Arizona Baptist Hospital Association, an organization comprised of trustees of the three hospitals, was asked to cooperate with the Executive Board.

The following January, the Executive Board voted to sell the Baptist Hospital of Phoenix to the Ginn foundation. The board also voted to allot 60 per cent of the income from hospital sales not going to Grand Canyon College to establish an adequate ready cash reserve for the convention's church loan and church bond funds.

A U.S. District Court suit, filed by a Phoenix attorney in the name of his wife, Gracia R. Duecy, challenged the authority of the convention to sell the Phoenix hospital. The convention filed a motion to dismiss the Duecy suit. Mrs. Duecy is not a Baptist.

Then the Phoenix hospital's attorneys filed an answer to the suit and also filed a cross claim against the Arizona convention and its Executive Board in support of the Duecy suit.

The hospital association's members reportedly did not oppose the Duecy suit and the cross claim, according to a convention official.

Seventeen members of the Arizona Hospital Association brought the controversy to a head by voting to change the association's articles of incorporation so that trustees of the hospitals would elect their own successors, rather than the state convention.

A convention spokesman said the trustees apparently sharply disagreed with action by the convention and the Executive Board to divert funds from hospital sale to non-hospital usage.

Subsequent action prior to the most recent vote of the special called session not to sell has become increasingly complicated.

The Duecy suit was dismissed in U.S. District Court for lack of jurisdiction.

The offer of the Ginn foundation to purchase the Phoenix hospital was withdrawn.

The Arizona convention filed a suit against the trustees in the hospital association, asking the court to nullify amendments to their articles of incorporation which would sever ties with the convention. The hospital association filed a counter claim.

The Executive Board dismissed all trustees in the hospital association "who had not resigned or pledged their cooperation with the convention," according to the Baptist Beacon, the convention's state paper.

Although a provision in the constitution of the state convention grants the Executive Board power to "recall" trustees who have refused to cooperate with the convention, the trustees refuse to admit such power exists.

In a telegram sent to a special hearing conducted by the Executive Board before their dismissal, the 17 dissenting trustees said, "...We wish to point out that the Articles of Incorporation of the Arizona Baptist Hospital Association and of the three Baptist hospitals make no provisions for recall and that we do not believe the Executive Board has the right or power to effectuate recall."

Still pending is the suit filed by the Arizona convention against the hospital association and the association's counter claim.

Observers say the litigation will continue unless the ousted trustees agree to cooperate with the convention.

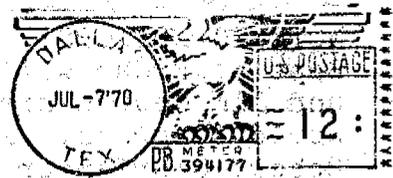
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NOTE TO EDITORS: A reminder--until July 28, the Dallas Bureau of Baptist Press will serve as the national office. Both W. C. Fields and Jim Newton are in Tokyo, Japan, handling coverage of the Baptist World Congress. Editors and reporters are asked to contact either Robert O'Brien or Orville Scott of the Dallas Bureau. Nashville will resume mailing on July 28.



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