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January 28, 1971

**Sunday School Board Approves
Guidelines for Publications**

NASHVILLE (BP)--The elected Sunday School Board in its annual meeting here approved "Principles and Guidelines" for writers and editors of church literature and Convention Press materials.

The guidelines are a part of the board's Editorial Policy Manual and are "intended to guide editors and writers in planning and producing manuscripts" for board publications.

Prepared by Howard P. Colson, editorial secretary of the board, the document defines the relationship between the board and the Southern Baptist Convention, indicates relationships between the board and the churches, interprets factors that affect acceptability and effectiveness of publications in the churches and sets forth ideals and criteria by which manuscripts may be evaluated.

The 14 points of the guidelines, discussed fully within the document, are:

"1. The primary purpose of the board's publication program is to serve the literature wants and needs of Southern Baptist churches.

"2. The need of personal regeneration and the way of salvation through Christ shall be a continuing emphasis in lesson materials.

"3. Prominent emphasis shall be given to the great evangelical realities of our common Baptist faith.

"4. The board's basic theological stance is expressed in the statement entitled, "The Baptist Faith and Message."

"5. The fact of varying outlooks and viewpoints within the board's constituency is recognized.

"What must be fostered throughout the denomination is a hearty acceptance of the inalienable right of each person to come to God and the Bible for himself, and of the right of every Baptist to have his own individual viewpoint recognized and respected by his fellow Baptists. The possibility of more than one interpretation of certain scripture passages and theological doctrines and current issues must be acknowledged.

"6. Certain differences of policy obtain as regards church literature, Convention Press books and Broadman books.

"Church literature publications and Convention Press books are specifically planned for use in the education programs of Southern Baptist churches. Broadman books are sold to the general trade as well as to Baptists, and they are not designed for church use but for individual reading.

"7. All church literature and Convention Press publications shall seek to foster denominational harmony and peace.

"8. The board's literature shall be characterized both by a warmhearted, compassionate spirit and by a serious regard for solid biblical, theological and scientific scholarship.

"9. The behavioral sciences, and to a lesser extent the physical sciences, have a contribution to make to board publications.

"It is certainly important that the best in educational theory and practice be taken advantage of to insure that the most desirable learning outcomes shall be achieved through the use of our curriculum materials. The physical sciences can furnish helpful illustrations of spiritual principles and help to enhance the wonder of God's physical universe.

"10. Utmost care and discretion shall be used by writers and editors when presenting interpretations and opinions not generally held by Southern Baptists, whether these be in the area of the Bible, theology, ethics, science or current social questions.

"11. Board publications shall be kept relevant to practical needs and current conditions.

"12. It is highly important for writers and editors to identify with the intended reader and to strive for simplicity of presentation.

"13. Writers and editors need to bear in mind that their materials are used in a church and denominational setting.

"14. The writer is always of crucial importance if a given publication is to be what it ought to be.

Copies of the 21-page document will be sent to all persons having major writing assignments for the board.

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Baptist VIEWpoll
Martin B. Bradley, Director

Church Leaders Take "Hardline"
Positions on Death Penalty

1/28/71

by Kenneth Hayes

NASHVILLE (BP)--The majority of a representative panel of Southern Baptist pastors and Sunday School teachers approve of the death penalty for persons convicted of murder, according to a recent Baptist VIEWpoll survey.

The current survey concerning the death penalty, supports an earlier survey conducted by the Baptist VIEWpoll in March, 1969.

The latest poll reveals that 66.3 per cent of the pastors and 56.2 per cent of the teachers on the panel approve of the death penalty for those convicted of murder.

The earlier poll found that 65.3 per cent of the pastors and 56.0 per cent of the teachers on the panel at that time approved of the death penalty.

Resistance among pastors to the death penalty has changed little over time (a decrease from 28.6 per cent to 27.3 per cent), but resistance to the death penalty concept among teachers has declined from 38.4 per cent to 32.6 per cent.

The percentage of pastors having "no opinion" on the death penalty issue remains at the 6 per cent level. The percentage of Sunday School teachers having "no opinion" on the death penalty concept has increased (up to 11.2 per cent from 5.6 per cent in March 1969).

The findings on this item for Sunday School teachers on the basis of sex are enlightening. While almost three-fourths (74.7 per cent) of the male teachers favor the death penalty, only 42.4 per cent of the female teachers favor it.

In a 1969 Gallup Poll survey, 51 per cent of the adult general public expressed approval of the death penalty, while 40 per cent disapproved of the death penalty for persons convicted of murder and 9 per cent had "no opinion." And, here again males favored the death penalty (60 per cent) much more than did females (44 per cent).

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The U.S. Supreme Court in November, 1970, heard two death penalty cases, and the future of 550 men and women under the sentence of death will be determined by their decision.

The last execution in the United States was on June 2, 1967, in Colorado.

The findings for the current poll are based on 92 per cent response from the Baptist VIEWpoll panel, composed of approximately 300 pastors and 300 Sunday School teachers selected to represent a cross section of persons holding those leadership positions in the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Church Wrecked By Celia
Has Record Year of Giving

1/28/71

PORTLAND, Tex. (BP)--Despite the fact its sanctuary was demolished and most members' homes were damaged by Hurricane Celia last August, First Baptist Church of Portland had a record year of missions giving in 1970.

Almost simultaneously with the report of record giving, the Portland church dedicated a new sanctuary to replace the one destroyed when Hurricane Celia swept across the town, located just north of Corpus Christi, Tex.

It was the church's third new sanctuary in five years. To help build it, the members raised \$10,000 in a "sacrifice offering".

The church, whose wrecked building was pictured in papers throughout the country, gave a total of \$15,500 to mission causes during the year, according to W. D. Broadway, pastor of the church.

The church members also gave a record \$109,000 in total offerings. The church's contributions in almost every area surpassed previous records.

In September, while members were still recovering from the shock of the Texas Gulf Coast's most destructive hurricane and trying to repair or rebuild their homes, they gave a record state missions offering of \$544.

In December, they broke another record by giving \$2,074 through the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions.

"The snapback was tremendous," said Broadway, who preached in the church yard on the Sunday after Celia's 155 m.p.h. winds left the sanctuary in a pile of debris.

"The people just dug sacrificially into their pockets," said Charles McLaughlin, secretary of the Texas Baptist State Missions Commission, who brought the message for the dedication of the new sanctuary.

Broadway observed that the record foreign missions offering required "less effort, less hard promotion, than any Christmas offering I remember. It just happened."

He noted that many of the members are still not back in their homes.

The pastor said that one of the things the church emphasized was that "we've been on the receiving end of so many blessings."

Baptists from Texas and several other states gave over \$200,000 to help 76 Baptist churches that were damaged or destroyed by the storm.

Broadway said total damage to the Portland church was about \$205,000.

The new sanctuary has double storm clips in the ceiling, additional supporting pillars and more steel reinforcement in the walls than its predecessor, Broadway said.

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"I can't say that it would withstand another storm like Celia, but it makes us feel better," he added.

In preparation for Celia, Civil Defense officials planned to use the Portland church as a refugee center. About 300 people would have been housed there, but Broadway felt concerned--not quite knowing why--and suggested they use a nearby school instead.

Two National Broadcasting Company television newsmen narrowly escaped being crushed by the collapsing building when their car bogged down as they sought to drive alongside the church for shelter.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: A Baptist Press photo of the devastation to the Portland church was mailed to you 8/7/70.

--Baptist Press

Authentic Relations Stressed
At Jewish-Christian Symposium

1/28/71

WACO, Tex. (BP)--The first symposium on Jewish-Christian relations to be held in the Southwest ended at Baylor University here with the assertion that authentic Jewish-Christian relationships are possible.

Roy Eckardt, chairman of the department of religion at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa., and a symposium participant, said Jewish-Christian confrontations and relations are influenced by two events and one threat.

The events are the slaughter of millions of Jews by Hitler during World War II, and the establishment of the modern state of Israel. The threat, he said, is the present Middle East crisis.

Eckardt, who spoke on "Toward An Authentic Jewish-Christian Relationship" said that an authentic relation, or one based on love and understanding, is "difficult but possible."

Sponsored by the J.M. Dawson Studies in Church and State at the Baptist school and by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the three-day symposium explored historical and contemporary Jewish thought and culture and current problems and concerns in Jewish-Christian relations.

In the opening lecture, Robert T. Handy, acting dean of Union Theological Seminary in New York said the scholarly, historical approach is the best way to study Jewish-Christian relationships in America.

"Faithfully used, the (historical) method can drive us to recognize our own premises and provincialisms; it can help us to keep them under review and under consideration," he said.

Handy, a Baptist, said "the historical method insists that we back our generalizations with evidence and submit both our interpretations and the sources on which they rest to those who differ from us, even to those we may regard as our enemies."

Speaking of Christian prejudices, Handy said, "When one is deeply devoted to the Christian way, and has found salvation and meaning for life in that faith, it is painful to have to look at the shortcomings."

Although there seems to be less anti-semitic sentiment in Christian churches today than in the past, "still the blight has not everywhere disappeared," he said.

Scholars representing more than 20 Southwestern colleges, seminaries and universities heard Seymour Siegel, professor of Rabbinic Theology and Ethics at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, describe Judaism as an ongoing experience of the Jewish people and of the adherents of Jewish faith as they live in the presence of God and with the realization of their destiny as the people of covenant.

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Solomon Bernards, director of the anti-Defamation League's department of interreligious cooperation, said anti-Semitic prejudices and Jewish-Christian tensions are seen in the difficulty that Jewish students have in gaining admission to colleges, universities and the professions.

He said anti-Jewish sentiment is difficult to label because it is not as overt as in the past. He also pointed out that in the past Jewish students have found it necessary to go abroad to study medicine and other disciplines, for example, because of discrimination against Jews in America.

"It is a constant battle," he said.

Bernards also noted that the history and cultural contributions of Jews have been omitted in text books.

Speaking against discrimination, Eckardt said part of the New Testament is anti-Semitic when it advances the idea that "the Jews killed Jesus."

But, he said, "heaven forbid that it is not an anti-Semitic book."

He proposed tentatively that Christians disregard those portions of the New Testament. Other-participating in the symposium disagreed, however, saying to do so would not be consistent with academic disciplines.

Eckardt said the Christian church contributed to anti-Semitism in Germany in that it did not positively combat it.

He also said anti-Semitism has a "life of its own" that does not depend upon the actions or thoughts of Jews for its existence.

Christians tend to expect too much from Jews, he said. "Often, today, Christians are simply unable to free themselves from their outrage against Jews."

"Christians ought to stop lecturing Israel as if churchmen are biblical prophets," Eckardt said.

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Sunday School Board Asks Authors To Rewrite Commentary Volume I

1/28/71

NASHVILLE (BP)--After two hours of debate on a committee report concerning Volume I of the Broadman Bible Commentary, the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board voted here to ask for rewriting of the Genesis and Exodus sections by the original authors, G. Henton Davies and Roy D. Honeycutt.

The action, with a few dissenting votes, was on an amendment to the recommendation of the special board committee chaired by Allen B. Comish of Columbus, Ga.

The committee recommended that the two authors and the general editor, Clifton J. Allen, be asked "to accept such a task (the rewriting), hopeful that it will be possible for this work to be done during the summer and fall of 1971 and thus make possible the publication of a revised edition of Volume I following the publication of the remaining volumes of the commentary."

The amendment which was finally approved was introduced by Nashville pastor Roger Shelton. For the words "such a task," it substituted the language of a motion adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in Denver, last June, by asking the authors to accept "the task of rewriting Volume I of the commentary with due consideration of the conservative viewpoint."

The committee recommendation was based on explorations it had requested from a subcommittee consisting of Comish, Allen and James L. Sullivan, executive secretary-treasurer of the Sunday School Board.

At the request of the full committee, Davies, who is principal of Regent's Park College, Oxford, England, and Honeycutt, professor of Old Testament at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, were written concerning the problem. They indicated

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a willingness to explore a revision of their material in trying to achieve a positive response to the request of the convention.

In a report which the special committee gave to the full board, five agreements by the two scholars were listed:

"1. They have agreed to explore a revision of their materials subject to further discussion concerning the extent and nature of the revision. This is not to be understood as involving major alterations or a redirection of the main thrust of the treatment of the issues of a given book.

"2. They are willing to engage in this effort to resolve a problem in the spirit of Christian conciliation, in response to a pragmatic situation and not as a matter of conviction that the material calls for revision.

"3. They feel that the general editor, representing Broadman Press, should take the initiative in pointing out areas which he feels may be helpfully rewritten and approaches which he feels can contribute to a resolution of the problem, particularly matters which may be improved by clarification of alternative viewpoints for more effective communication. The general editor has expressed a willingness to follow this procedure and accept this responsibility.

"4. The authors and the general editor are committing themselves to undertake this revision of Volume I insisting on maintaining their integrity while at the same time pledging to do all that is feasible to achieve a positive response to the request first made by the Southern Baptist Convention.

"5. The authors involved and the general editor are asking that what they undertake in good faith will be accepted in good faith by the board and will have its acceptance and support."

The focal point in the lengthy discussion seemed to be the desire of the elected board to respond positively to the action of the Southern Baptist Convention, a board official said. Digressions seemed to hinge on meanings of words in the background statement, intentions and theological positions of persons involved, and actual content of the commentary.

The extent of the "acceptance and support" expected on the part of board members was discussed by Shelton, who asked: "Are we to accept it before we see what they have written?"

James Potter, a Charlotte, N.C. pastor, suggested his feeling that "acceptance doesn't mean we concur. We're talking about acceptance of a deed."

Board President Conrad Willard of Miami, Fla., along with Comish, suggested that this term in the report implied acceptance in the same way the volume was first accepted by the board; acceptance of the overall work of the commentary, rather than agreement with all theological stances.

Jonas Stewart, Tennessee Baptist Foundation executive, raised a question concerning the proposed rewriting. "Did not they do the best they could to begin with? I think they gave us the best they have. If they did less, I have a question as to their integrity."

Hankins Parker, a pastor from Miami Springs, Fla., stated that "the position we are taking is that these men in rewriting must be true to what they have already written. The commentary expresses many points of view."

Allen made a lengthy general statement concerning the background of the commentary project. He noted that in the projection and preparation of the work, "there was no thought that it could be official."

The general editor stated that it is "futile to publish a Bible commentary supposed to be the work of reputable scholars and have it be divided into theological stances and camps, one to be branded conservative and the other branded liberal, when none of the commentary is really 'liberal.'" He also noted that the Baptist position is "to come to the Bible individually with freedom, and we can't have any 'the' position."

Don Harbuck, pastor of El Dorado, Ark., a member of the special committee, said that the committee felt clarification could be accomplished in a revision, and that alternative positions could be expressed in clearer statements. "If we don't do this, and if we bring back what these men have done and we act as an editorial committee as a whole, we have disestablished what the Sunday School Board has operated on for all the years of its existence," Harbuck said. "If the wishes of some people are carried out, we have forever destroyed the publishing capacities of the board," he continued. "This recommendation (the original recommendation of the committee) is the best that we can do consistent with maintaining the Sunday School Board."

Mrs. Wilma Zuercher, a Bluffton, Ind., housewife, pointed out some portions of the commentary that troubled her greatly. She pointed out what she considered a "snobbish" position was expressed at times.

Franklin Owen, a Lexington, Ky., pastor, called for a positive effort. "We need to think on the difference between a creed and a commentary." He stressed that they are not the same. He agreed that he felt "there are a goodly number of places that need to be eased."

G. A. Magee, pastor of Eunice, N.M., stated, "I do not feel that this recommendation (the original recommendation of the committee) will do what the convention has asked us to do."

Pastor Levon Moore of Pontotoc, Miss., called for board members to distinguish between the content of the commentary and the procedure under consideration. "If we try to solve all matters of content, we need to resign our positions as pastors and laymen and camp here. We need to move on away from content. We do have responsibility as a board concerning procedure."

William Burkey, Los Angeles superintendent of metropolitan missions, expressed confidence in the editorial staff of the Sunday School Board. "If these men now believe that this can be done, we ought to undertake it."

A substitute motion by Stewart to refer the matter back to the committee was defeated. The Shelton amendment was made, and was adopted by voice vote after a few minutes of discussion, during which Allen pleaded for a "chance to be positive in trying to effect a revision. I have tried," he said, "to represent a position of conciliation--of pulling together."

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FINAL WRAPUP

Personnel, Commentary Key
Sunday School Board Actions

1/28/71

NASHVILLE (BP)--The elected Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in its annual meeting here named key leadership personnel in the board's staff reorganization and took action leading toward the rewriting of Volume I of The Broadman Bible Commentary.

The board also heard a report that church literature circulation was not as high as expected; approved a document outlining Principles and Guidelines for the Writing and Editing of Sunday School Board Church Literature and Convention Press Materials; deleted one periodical and added another; approved a new name for the student department; approved a report on church covenants to the Southern Baptist Convention; and approved making Glorieta Baptist Assembly available off-season under certain conditions for religious and charitable organizations.

In taking action on the commentary, the elected board gave approval for Clifton J. Allen, general editor of the commentary, to confer with Volume I writers G. Henton Davis of London and Roy L. Honeycutt of Kansas City, Mo., and asked the two scholars "to accept the task of rewriting Volume I of the commentary, giving due consideration of the conservative viewpoint.

The motion approved by the board expressed hope that the rewriting could be done this summer and fall so that the revised edition of Volume I could be published following the release of the remaining volumes of the commentary.

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Five new division directors were named by the board in implementation of a vast re-organization plan to take effect Oct. 1.

The new division heads, their current positions and new titles include: Bob Boyd, secretary of the church recreation department, Assemblies Division Director; Allen H. Comish, pastor of Waldrop Memorial Baptist Church, Columbus, Ga., Church Services and Materials Division; W. O. Thomason, assistant to the director of the Education Division, Book Store Division Director; Wayne Chastain, director of the office of management services, Management Services Division director; and James Clark, manager of the church literature department, Broadman Division director.

Group directors in the church services and materials division also were named by the board. They are James Daniel, now study and research consultant, named church program services group director; Charles Livingstone, now manger of the Sunday School department, appointed church program organizations group director; and David P. Turner, current manager of the budget and accounting staff, named central support services group director.

Morton Rose, programs design consultant of the education division, was elected as assistant to the director of Church Services and Materials Division.

During the executive secretary-treasurer's report, James L. Sullivan told board members that earnings from sales of church literature have not been as high as expected thus far this year and said the sales total was about \$500,000 less than for the first quarter.

In the report, Sullivan cited good acceptance and sales of the new study course materials as well as enthusiam and gains for the new Vacation Bible School materials.

He attributed the lag in church literature earnings to slow sales and high inventories.

"Churches are ordering literature by average attendance figures rather than enrollments," Sullivan said.

The slow sales and changes in literature ordering habits are offshoots of the nation's "tight money" situation, Sullivan added.

The board also was told the staff would work toward stabilizing the financial situation by: making studies to determine if items can be eliminated; by trying to determine if specifications (size, amount of color, etc.) can be decreased; to determine if the board is offering too many options in the same age groups; to determine if the board is producing items in special materials which are not economically feasible; determining if some of the items should be combined; and determining whether the board should produce specialized materials, but price them high enough to bear their own costs.

It also was reported that churches having problems with literature would be identified in attempts to find ways to better meet their needs.

Efforts also will be made to trim expenses and reduce inventories, the board members were told.

Sullivan indicated, he was optimistic, but said at the same time that stabilization of the board's financial picture is necessary.

The board also approved the document on principles and guidelines, which was written by Editorial Secretary Howard P. Colson and will be distributed to writers of materials for church literature.

In the action on periodicals, the board voted to delete Source Digest from the list of church training publications following the July-September 1971 issue and add Baptist Adults.

Baptist Adults was added because of demand for a periodical similar in content and format to the "Baptist Adults" formerly published in the Christian Training Series.

The new Baptist Adults will be added to the Convention Uniform Series beginning with the October-December 1971 issues and will provide materials divided into parts for discussion, daily Bible readings and the missionary prayer calendar. It will be recommended to those persons now using Source Digest.

The board also approved National Student Ministries as the new name for the student department of the board. In the new organization, the National Student Ministries will be supervised by the director of the Church Services and Materials Division. Charles Roselle, the current student department head remains in his position.

In the board's adopted report to the Southern Baptist Convention on church covenants, the congregational nature of the church was noted. The report called for continued emphasis on the appropriateness of each church formulating and adopting its own covenant.

As an aid to churches desiring to formulate their own covenants, the board's church administration department is preparing for distribution at least three typical church covenants. At least one of the three will contain a statement of "abstinence from illegally dispensed drugs, pornography, and other evil products which can be bought and used" as cited in the Denver action of the Southern Baptist Convention asking the Sunday School Board to study revision of the covenant as appearing in the Baptist Hymnal.

Further study also is slated concerning inclusion of a covenant in the Baptist Hymnal.

In other action, the board approved making Glorieta Baptist Assembly available to religious and charitable organizations during the off-season, subject to criteria set up by the board such as legal requirements and harmony of the organizations' purpose with the purpose of the assembly.

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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