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May 18, 1971

**Court Upholds Conviction Of
Non-Cooperating 'Objector'**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Refusal to cooperate with the Selective Service system to determine his draft status cost a conscientious objector his 1-D classification and resulted in a two-year prison sentence, according to an 8-1 decision by the United States Supreme Court here.

The Supreme Court upheld the conviction of Vincent F. McGee, executive director of the Business Executives Move for Vietnam Peace, who refused to pursue and exhaust administrative remedies to clarify his draft status.

The impact of McGee's conviction is that a person who claims to be a conscientious objector may forfeit his right to be classified as such if he refuses to cooperate with the Selective Service system to determine his classification.

McGee's case involved a series of compliances and non-compliances with the processes of his local Selective Service board.

According to the Supreme Court record, McGee applied in 1966 for conscientious objector status to his local Selective Service board, which advised him that his claim would be passed on when his student deferment expired.

His board was told in 1967 that McGee had been accepted for a graduate program in Union Theological Seminary, New York, where in his own view, he would "probably qualify" for a theological exemption. However, he made no request for ministerial student status, and no pertinent supporting information was presented.

Further, McGee refused to fill out a current information questionnaire sent to him on his graduation from college. He announced, moreover, that he would not cooperate with the Selective Service system.

He did not appear for a physical examination ordered to take place in October 1967. He did respond to an order to appear for induction in January 1968, and took a physical examination at that time. However, he refused to submit to induction.

In April 1967 McGee wrote to President Lyndon B. Johnson, enclosing the charred remnants of his draft card and declaring his conviction that he must "sever every link with violence and war." A copy of the letter was forwarded to his local draft board.

McGee was prosecuted and convicted on four counts: (1) for failing to submit to induction, (2) failing to report for pre-induction physical examination, (3) failing to keep possession of a valid classification notice, and (4) failing to submit requested information relevant to his draft status. He was sentenced two years imprisonment on each count, the sentences to run concurrently.

Justice Thurgood Marshall, who delivered the opinion of the court, pointed out that conscientious objector claims turn on three points: (1) the resolution of factual questions relating to the nature of a registrant's beliefs concerning war, (2) the basis of the objection in conscience and religion, and (3) the registrant's sincerity.

The court concluded that McGee's failure to clarify these three points by pursuing administrative remedies "was deliberate and without excuse." Therefore the court upheld his conviction and sentencing to imprisonment.

Home Mission Board
Elects Staff Member

ATLANTA (BP)--John H. Allen of Richmond, Va., was elected by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to lead in starting new churches in states west of the Mississippi River, effective June 15.

In its May meeting the board also appointed seven missionaries to career service.

Allen, pastor of the Southampton Baptist Church in Richmond, was named an assistant secretary of the department of church extension, the board's department for helping churches, associations and state conventions in planning techniques of church extension for maximum use of multiple ministries.

Allen will be chiefly responsible for determining needs for new churches in states west of the Mississippi River. He will consult with state and area personnel as well as Southern Baptist Convention leaders.

Pastor of the Richmond church for the past four years, the 39-year-old Allen is a native of Fort Worth. He graduated from Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex., and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. He has done post-graduate work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, the Medical College of Virginia and the American Association of Pastoral Counselors Training Center.

He was formerly a pastor in Texas and California and was superintendent of missions for South Dakota for five years.

He and Mrs. Allen, the former Anna Hoeksema, have two children.

In other action the board appointed seven missionaries to career service: Charles and Margaret Clayton will work in the Lake Tahoe area; Mrs. May Lynne Gurney, Air Force Academy; Eugene and Wanda Holman, Sells, Ariz.; and David and Barbara McCall, West Virginia.

Clayton is now pastor-director of Lake Tahoe Baptist Ministries. He lives in Carmelian Bay, Calif., near the California-Nevada border. The Kansas City, Mo., native is a graduate of the University of Colorado and Golden Gate Baptist Seminary. He has been a public school teacher and pastor of churches in California and Wyoming.

Mrs. Clayton, originally from Gadsden, Ala., attended San Jose State College and Chabot Junior College. She and her husband have one daughter, Heather Lee, age 13 months.

Mrs. Mary Gurney was appointed to serve with her husband, Dan, who was appointed a missionary by the board in 1968 and assigned as director of student ministries at the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs. Mrs. Gurney, who has been serving unofficially with her husband since 1968, is a native of Amorita, Okla., and attended Whitworth College.

The Holmans will serve the First Papago Baptist Church on the Papago Indian Reservation in Sells, Ariz., where 15,000 Indians live.

Holman leaves the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, Window Rock, Ariz., to assume the new position. He has been a social worker in Stockton, Calif., a public school teacher and pastor of several California churches.

Originally from Hobart, Okla., he graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University, attended Golden Gate Baptist Seminary and graduated from Southwestern Seminary.

Mrs. Holman, also an Oklahoma Baptist University graduate has attended Oklahoma State University, Southwestern Seminary and the University of the Pacific. She is a public school teacher.

Southeastern Seminary Names
Two Summer Guest Professors

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Two guest professors will teach during the two summer sessions at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

William L. Lumpkin, pastor of Freemason Street Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va., will teach a course on "Baptist Confessionalism." Lumpkin is a former professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Edward Hughes Pruden, pastor-emeritus of First Baptist Church in Washington, D. C., will teach "Present Issues in Christian Education." Pruden is now pastor-in-residence at Meredith College in Raleigh, N. C.

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Arkansas Association Disbands,
Citing Lack of Active Support

5/18/71

LESLIE, Ark. (BP)--The Stone-Van Buren-Searcy Baptist Association voted 25 to 13 here to disband and encourage the churches of its membership to affiliate with other associations.

Reasons for the action, according to association moderator Dorsey L. Crow, pastor of First Baptist Church in Marshall, Ark., were financial difficulties and lack of active support from the association's churches.

Eleven churches were listed as members of the association, which was organized in 1923.

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Mobile Bible School
Begins in Indonesia

by William N. McElrath

BANDUNG, Indonesia (BP)--A traveling Baptist Bible school in Indonesia finished its first term recently with 145 students successfully completing the first two courses offered.

The East Java Baptist Bible School has no campus. Instead, students assemble in nine widely scattered centers. A 10th center may be added soon.

Use of programmed textbooks and short school terms are other distinctives of the new effort in theological education, directed by Southern Baptist Missionary Ebbie C. Smith.

Smith, with the assistance of national Christians and fellow missionaries, has pioneered in preparing Bible study and related materials for programmed instruction.

Most of the students are poorly trained pastors, lay pastors, Sunday School teachers or other local church leaders. However, one member of the school's supervisory committee a middle-age translator and high school teacher who is fluent in four languages, has also signed up for further study.

Enrollment is limited to persons 18 years of age and older. Non-enrollees of various ages, however, often audit weekly class sessions which are held in local church buildings or members' houses.

Students in one village south of Kediri gather at their church almost every night for mutual support while doing their homework assignments.

The nine centers initially established reach out in a radius as far as 75 miles from Kediri. Now there is a good prospect that Djember, a major city more than twice that far away, will also open a branch.

At Djember, one of Baptists' newest locations in East Java, missionary Warren Rice and a pastor with the unlikely name of Mohammed S. Islam will be the Bible school teachers.

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Five six-week terms with two courses in each are being planned each year. A student who completes 30 courses over a minimum of three years will be granted a certificate of graduation.

Since 1954 the Baptist Theological Seminary of Indonesia in Semarang, where Smith formerly taught, has trained many vocational Christian workers. However, its distance from East Java has posed a problem for Baptist development in that populous area.

Though centrally located on the Island of Java, Semarang is still many hours away from East Java towns and villages which have seen rapid church growth in recent years.

Also, the seminary's courses of study, even in its Bible school division, demand an academic level and length of residency which are out of reach for many Baptist lay pastors and other local leaders.

Through the years Indonesian Baptists have tried to meet the need for close-to-home training with study courses and laymen's leadership schools. Still there has been a lack of well-planned, overall theological education at the grass roots, until Smith started the Bible school.

Before the Smith family went on furlough in 1969, their missionary co-workers in annual session voted to begin a Bible school ministry centered in Kediri, East Java, with Smith as director.

Upon his return in mid-1970, Smith began drafting plans and preparing materials under the guidance of a joint missionary-national committee.

Programming has long been familiar in many educational circles, but programmed textbooks for theological study, especially in the Indonesian language, are a rarity. With little previous experience but a fair grasp of principles, Smith plunged into his new job.

Each short section (less than half a page) in Smith's textbooks is followed by a simple question. To find the correct answer, plus further explanation, a student has only to turn the page. If he has answered incorrectly, he is encouraged to turn back and reread the material.

Using this elementary form of linear programming, Smith rapidly prepared all the books needed for the first two school terms. Indonesian Baptists translated them; Smith's wife, Donna, typed them in preparation for offset printing which was done by "mail order" at the Indonesia Baptist Publishing House in Bandung, West Java.

On March 1, the East Java Baptist Bible School was formally launched. Smith, his missionary colleague Leslie Smith, (no relation) and two Baptist nationals constituted the beginning faculty.

Working out of Kediri four evenings each week, they enrolled 170 people for the first six-week term's offering of two basic courses.

Students were instructed to use their programmed textbooks at home. Weekly class sessions majored on answering questions and adding depth to the subjects being studied.

Response to the East Java Baptist Bible School has been enthusiastic, according to Smith.

"I have never been involved in anything so well supported by both nationals and missionaries," Smith said. "Everywhere people are going out of their way to help."

Smith and his fellow workers are still busy turning out programmed texts. He has expressed a hope that these materials may prove useful in countries other than Indonesia since manuscripts are first prepared in English.

Though he has been a teaching fellow at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and a professor at the Baptist Theological Seminary of Indonesia, Smith said that the teaching in the Bible school "is some of the most exciting I have ever done."

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