



BAPTIST PRESS

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Sullivan Directs Revision
Of Quarterly after Printing

NASHVILLE (BP)--James L. Sullivan, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, reported to the trustees' executive committee in their regular October meeting that he directed the revision of a unit on race relations in a church training quarterly for 14-15-year-old youth, as well as the corresponding leadership quarterly, after the pieces had been printed but not yet distributed.

"I took the action in my role as editor-in-chief of all board materials," stated Sullivan. "The printed material was brought to my attention by Allen B. Comish, director of the Church Services and Materials Division, with his recommendation that it not be released."

The material in question, the second session of a two-session unit in the quarterly *Becoming* on the subject of a New Testament attitude concerning acceptance of other races, was written by Twyla Wright of Casa Grande, Ariz.

"A review of materials in the publishing process dealing with sensitive issues led us to observe that misunderstandings could result from release of this issue in its original form," stated Comish, who assumed responsibility for his division on October 1 of this year.

"One of the photographs which depicted a black boy and two white girls in conversation was subject to misinterpretation, as was some of the textual material," Comish said. "It could have been construed as improper promotion on the part of the Sunday School Board of integration in churches, which is an individual church matter under Baptist polity." The photograph was selected by the board's art department.

Sullivan agreed with Comish's evaluation of the material, adding, "We feel that we ought to be forthright in dealing with reconciliation among races and with biblical teachings concerning harmonious race relationships. We shall continue to deal with these topics, but in a manner that is in itself conciliatory rather than potentially inflammatory."

Substituted for the portion of Mrs. Wright's material which was replaced was copy on minority groups written by Mrs. Anne Craig, Nashville housewife. The replacement material is in current use in *Alive*, another church training study piece for younger youth.

The original study material had gone through routine review processes, but was felt to be especially subject to misinterpretation because of current problems in many localities involving racial misunderstandings, said board officials.

David P. Turner, leader of the central support group, which has responsibility for both art work and church literature publishing, stated that 140,000 of the pupils' quarterlies have been reprinted in order to insert the substituted session, plus 18,000 of the leaders' quarterlies, with revision of leadership suggestions.

No quarterlies were "shredded," as reported by Religious News Service, according to Turner, nor were they "removed from the docks and destroyed," which was erroneously stated in the same report. Turner said the quarterlies are still crated in the warehouse.

Cost to the board to make the revisions was estimated by Turner to be about \$8,000.

Two other publications have been withheld from distribution previously. *Context*, a quarterly for college age Sunday School students, and *The Collegiate Teacher*, the accompanying guide for teachers of the material, were not made available for the October-December, 1970, quarter.

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This action came at the request of staff leaders of the board's Sunday School department and was approved by the trustees in their semi-annual meeting in August, 1970. The action stated that the October-December quarterly and accompanying teachers' manual "are not up to editorial standards of the board." The race relations topic was not involved in this action, according to board officials.

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Missouri Baptists Oppose
Parochial, Prayer Amendment

10/28/71

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (BP)--The Missouri Baptist Convention adopted here a series of resolutions strongly opposing a prayer amendment to the U. S. Constitution, and criticizing President Richard Nixon for violating the First Amendment by appointing an envoy to the Vatican and by urging aid to parochial schools.

The resolution was critical of President Nixon for pledging "the use of the powers of his office to secure tax funds for parochial schools" and for appointing "a personal ambassador to the Vatican, which is an ecclesiastical entity, not a sovereign nation."

"We regard them (these actions) as violations of the letter and spirit of the First Amendment" to the U. S. Constitution, said the resolution.

Another resolution charged that House Joint Resolution 191, which proposes a "prayer amendment" to the Constitution, is a trend "toward a non-denominational establishment of religion authorized by law and financed by tax funds."

"The First Amendment," continued the resolution, "has stood as a defense against any government-backed establishment of religion, whether denominational or non-denominational."

The resolution quoted from the text of House Joint Resolution 191, saying it would authorize "non-denominational prayers" in "lawful assemblies in public buildings financed in whole or in part by public funds."

It interpreted the proposed amendment as "a threat to existing denominations," and urged "the defeat of the so-called 'non-denominational prayer amendment.'"

Several other resolutions were adopted by the convention, meeting at First Baptist Church of Springfield.

The convention urged support of an organization called Missourians Against Parochial Aid in their effort to schedule a referendum on the parochial aid issue in Missouri, urged that the legislature adopt stronger drunken driving laws, opposed efforts to legalize pari-mutuel gambling in Missouri, and urged more participation by laymen in Baptist work.

Elected as president of the convention was F. R. "Dick" Cole, pastor of First Baptist Church, Raytown, Mo.

A budget for 1972 totalling \$5 million was approved by the convention, along with long range goals projecting a possible budget of \$7.9 million by 1976. The 1972 budget, an increase of \$1.1 million over actual receipts for 1971, would allocate 35 per cent to Southern Baptist Convention world mission causes.

Several major staff changes approved by the convention's Executive Board were announced publicly for the first time at the convention.

Bob Woolley, minister of music for First Baptist Church in Raytown, Mo., was named secretary of the convention's church music department, effective Jan. 1. He succeeds Dale Brubaker, who is retiring this year.

John Crutchfield, former director of program services for the convention, was named head of the department of evangelism, succeeding Luther Dyer who has accepted the pastorate of a church in Miami, Fla.

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H. L. McClanahan, retiring president of the convention and superintendent of missions for the Black River Baptist Association in the "Boot Hill" section of Missouri, was named assistant to the executive secretary and director of program services.

Elwood Kelly, pastor of First Baptist Church, Richmond, Mo., was named director of men and boys' work.

The convention will meet next year at St. Johns Baptist Church, St. Louis, on Oct. 24-26, 1972.

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42,000 Attend Texas
"Spiritual Spectacular"

HOUSTON (BP)--Nearly 42,000 Baptists, black, white and Mexican-American, broke down racial barriers during the first joint meeting of Baptists from six conventions within the state.

Billed as a "Spiritual Spectacular," the joint meeting featured preaching from speakers of all three racial groups attending the meeting at Houston's Astrodome.

At the close of the rally, an estimated 2,500 responded to an invitation to "accept Christ's free gift of salvation and to commit their lives to the spectacular life exemplified by Jesus Christ," according to Texas Baptist officials.

Widespread applause had greeted a message earlier by Caesar Clark, a black Baptist pastor from Dallas who also is editor of the National Baptist Voice and vice president of the Baptist Missionary and Education Convention of Texas.

Clark, pastor of Good Street Baptist Church in Dallas, preached an inspirational message on God's free gifts to man through Jesus Christ.

Astronaut James B. Irwin, a Southern Baptist layman who was backup lunar module pilot for the Apollo 15 journey to the moon, told the crowd that he had always "felt closer to God when I am in high places on the earth or in the sky."

He added that "God's help was there" when he spent three days on the moon's surface last July. He attributed this to the prayers of thousands of people on earth.

Irwin said that as he and his fellow astronauts travel over the nation, there is a common response among the people: "We prayed for you," they say.

In another major address at the rally, Kenneth L. Chafin, director of the Evangelism Division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said that people have tried to shut God out of their lives and to lock God in the Bible. "God is everywhere that people need help," Chafin said.

Before the rally began, about 12,000 youth jammed the Astrohalla, an auditorium at the Astrodome, for a "Spiritual Revolution Now (SPIRENO)" rally led by Houston Evangelist Richard Hogue.

During the Astrodome meeting later that night, Hogue told the crowd of 42,000 that more than 1,000 young people had made "decisions for Christ" during the SPIRENO rally a few hours earlier.

At the close of the "Spiritual Spectacular," an estimated 2,500 responded to the invitation given by Rudy Hernandez, pastor of First Mexican Baptist Church in Corpus Christi, Tex.

Music during the rally was provided by Miss Myrtle Hall, a soloist for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Team, by several bands, and by an 8,000-voice choir from Baptist schools and churches across the state.

The joint interracial rally was sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas (Southern Baptist); the Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas; the Baptist Missionary and Education Convention of Texas; the American Baptist Convention of Texas; the Baptist Progressive State Convention; and the Mexican Baptist Departmental Convention of the B.G.C.T.

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