

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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November 5, 1971

**Negro Baptist Board Deplores
SBC Withdrawal of Race Material**

NASHVILLE (BP)--The National Baptist Publishing Board executive committee adopted a statement here saying that withdrawal by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention of a quarterly for teenagers including a unit on race relations has caused "a setback in our Christian endeavors."

The statement by the Negro Baptist publishing house, which produces material for the four million-member National Baptist Convention of America, criticized the cancellation of the quarterly, *Becoming*, produced by the church training department of the SBC Sunday School Board.

The quarterly, for 14- and 15-year-olds, and a companion teachers' guide, had been withdrawn and revised at the last minute in the publishing process after James L. Sullivan, executive secretary of the SBC Sunday School Board, made a decision as editor-in-chief that the material would result "in misunderstandings."

"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," said Allen B. Comish, director of the board's Church Services and Materials Division, who recommended that Sullivan withhold the quarterlies.

Reacting to news reports of the decision by the Sunday School Board, the National Baptist Publishing Board issued a statement saying:

"We feel that, at a time when we of the Christian family are attempting to build better relationships among the races, better fellowship among the redeemed regardless of race, that such denunciation and calling back of the publication, *Becoming*, . . . because of the cover (photograph) depicting a black boy and two white girls is a setback in our Christian endeavors."

The Negro Baptist publishing house, which prints material for an estimated 50,000 Negro Baptist churches, noted that some of the churches in the Negro convention use some Southern Baptist literature. The statement added: "We feel the removing of the art text (sic) has done more harm than the quarterly would have done."

"Many of us in our pulpits," the statement continued, "in our Sunday Schools, BTU's (Baptist Training Unions), our Missionary Departments are encouraging Christian fellowship regardless of race, and we feel that the killing of the racial art text by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board offers material to those who are against integration or Christian fellowship in any form."

The statement from the Negro Baptist group, however, commended the stance of the writer of the material, Mrs. Twyla Wright of Casa Grande, Ariz., who said in a copyrighted story in the *Nashville Tennessean*, "As a Christian, I am disappointed that the material was not published."

"I wrote it with love for all Christian brothers, and I wrote it to help break down racial barriers," continued Mrs. Wright. "I do understand why it was recalled and the reason is the racial climate of the nation. I don't want the issue of recalling the quarterlies to create more disunity between black and white Christians. I wrote it in love and don't want the recalling to be in hate."

In other actions, the convention adopted a record budget for 1972, authorized planning for building and financing a state Baptist camp, and refused to censor professors at a Southern Baptist seminary for alleged liberalism.

Major discussion and debate centered on the report of the constitution study committee, which recommended that the convention delete from its constitution a requirement that churches must be in good standing with an association to send messengers to the state-wide convention.

Proponents of the change pointed out that in Baptist polity, one autonomous body should not determine the membership of another autonomous body.

Opponents expressed fear that deleting the associational provision would allow liberal and independent churches to join and dominate the convention.

On a close vote, the messengers approved the committee's proposal to delete the requirement.

In other action, the messengers defeated two proposals aimed at reportedly liberal professors of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

The first, offered by Hansford Smith, Kentland pastor, asked that state convention funds to the seminary be stopped until "steps are taken by its trustees to eliminate any and all professors who are teaching contrary" to the statement of Baptist Faith and Message, adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963.

Earlier Smith had passed out copies of an article, "Shall We Call the Bible Infallible?" by Southern Seminary Dean William Hull. The article was published in the December 1970 issue of The Baptist Program.

Another motion presented by Franklin Hall of Petersburg, Ind., asked Southern Seminary President Duke K. McCall to "take necessary steps to deal with this inconsistency and inform this convention of his action."

Both motions were defeated; the Smith proposal with only token support, and the Hall motion by a substantial majority.

The 1972 budget is for \$627, 835 and includes a record Cooperative Program goal of \$400,000, which is 13 per cent above the 1971 goal. Of this amount, 28.3 per cent will be shared with mission causes of the Southern Baptist Convention, up from 28.1 per cent in 1971.

The messengers asked the Executive Board to investigate and report next year on a possible state-wide stewardship campaign which would raise the level of giving in the convention's churches. This grew out of the need for funds to develop a 342 acre campsite near Monrovia, Ind. The report is to include plans for financing and developing the property.

The National Baptist Sunday School Board statement said that the board "substantiates" the position of Mrs. Wright, a member of Trinity Southern Baptist Church in Casa Grande, Ariz.

The statement was signed by T. B. Boyd, executive secretary; S. H. Simpson, board chairman; N. Samuel Jones, editor-in-chief; J. P. Nightingale; John H. Williams of Kansas City; and Paschal S. Wilkinson of Kansas City.

Meanwhile, in North Carolina, the predominantly Negro General Baptist State Convention meeting in Raleigh, N. C., adopted a resolution calling the action of the Sunday School Board "shocking and disappointing."

Officials of the Sunday School Board had no comment on the statements adopted by the two Negro Baptist groups.

Earlier reports indicated, however, that the photograph to which the statements referred was not a cover photograph, but was used inside the quarterly.

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Home Mission Board
Names 10 Missionaries

11/5/71

ATLANTA (BP)--Five married couples were appointed as full-time missionaries by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in a meeting of the board here.

Appointed to missionary status were Robert and Alice Dickerson of Mobile, Ala.; William and Mary Heck of Austin, Tex.; Juan and Valentina Pawluk of Los Angeles, Calif.; Jesse and Mary Elizabeth Senter of Evansville, Ind.; and Kenneth and Diana Veazey of Norfolk, Va.

A Pine Bluff, Ark., native, Dickerson was named center director under the board's department of work with National Baptists in Mobile. He is a graduate of Arkansas A & M College, College Heights, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Mrs. Dickerson, a native of Monticello, Ark., attended Arkansas A & M College and graduated from the University of Arkansas, School of Nursing, Fayetteville, Ark.

Heck will serve as director of Christian social ministries in the Austin Association. A native of Evansville, Ind., he is a graduate of Carson Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and the University of Louisville. A native of Clay, Ky., Mrs. Heck is a graduate of Carver School of Missions, Louisville.

A native of Poland, Pawluk will serve as missionary in the First Slavic Baptist Church in East Los Angeles. He attended the University of Argentina and seminary in that country. He is a graduate of California Baptist College, Riverside, Calif., and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. Mrs. Pawluk is also a native of Poland.

Senter is the new superintendent of missions for the southwest area of Evansville, Ind. A native of Gibson, Tenn., he is a graduate of Virginia Polytechnical Institute, Blacksburg, Va., and Southern Seminary. Mrs. Senter, a native of Cliffside, N. C., is a graduate of Wake Forest University, Winston Salem, N. C., Southern Seminary, and the University of Louisville.

Veazey is director and pastor of the Westminster Center in Norfolk, Va. A Clanton, Ala., native, he is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., and Southern Seminary. A native of Richmond, Va., Mrs. Veazey is a graduate of Averett Junior College, Danville, Va., Lynchwood College, Farmville, Va., and Southern Seminary.

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Indiana Baptists Delete
Limitation on Membership

11/5/71

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (BP)--The State Convention of Baptists in Indiana meeting here adopted extensive changes to the convention's Constitution, including the deletion of a stipulation in the past which states that messengers to the convention must come from churches in good standing with a local Baptist association.

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