



**BUREAUS**

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November 10, 1971

**Dallas Church School to Offer  
Minority Group Scholarships**

**DALLAS (BP)**--A parochial school planned by First Baptist Church here hopes to offer scholarships to minority group students in the inner core of downtown Dallas, according to its pastor, W. A. Criswell.

Criswell, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said in a press conference here that there is a 50-50 chance the school will open by September, 1972, and a 100 per cent chance of eventual opening.

The school would include 12 grades in a new \$3 million educational building to be added to the church's \$8 million complex and would have 1,000 to 2,000 students paying a monthly tuition of \$50-\$60, Criswell said.

Although Criswell said Dallas' court ordered busing plan had "heightened interest" of many church members in a school of this type, he denied that current plans are related to integration and busing.

"I've wanted a school here for 27 years," said the pastor of the 16,900-member congregation.

"By law and interpretation," he said, "from the Supreme Court on down, public schools are prohibited from teaching a religious faith. They must be secular. I agree that public schools ought to be secular, but that doesn't mean a religious faith shouldn't be taught.

"Public and religious schools are not mutually exclusive. A child has a soul, a moral sensitivity. There is no basis for ethics and morality without God," Criswell said.

The pastor of the denomination's largest congregation added that public schools are a "vital link in training of American citizens and will always be the bulwark of society."

Asked about his own opinion of busing, Criswell said, "I'm hoping the courts will change their minds. Busing children miles and miles across the city to a strange neighborhood is catastrophic. It doesn't contribute to the welfare of the child or to his better education."

Earlier, Associate Pastor Mel Carter, who is in charge of investigating plans for the school, had told the Dallas Times-Herald that the church had started getting calls in July just before court-ordered busing went into effect, asking if the church would open a school.

Asked if busing would be a factor in transporting students to the downtown church, Criswell responded that he felt most would come in cars, as they do on Sunday. But he added that any busing would be voluntary and not mandatory. "There's a great difference," he said, "between coercion and voluntary response."

The church's deacons turned down a proposal for a school four years ago, but Criswell said that his people "would be deeply in sympathy" with it if details can be worked out. The present proposal will be submitted to the deacons and the congregation.

Criswell said an earlier attempt by San Marcos (Tex.) Baptist Academy to start a branch at the church failed when the state's accrediting agency said the church's halls were too narrow.

Criswell noted that his congregation is integrated, although "very few" blacks are members. He said the church is open to members of all races and that the school would be also.

He said evangelistic efforts through First Baptist Church inner city ministries have not succeeded in bringing many blacks into the membership.

Low attendance by blacks at the church is similar to what happens "in the whole fabric of society," Criswell continued.

A tendency exists all over the world, he said, for racial groups to stay together. He cited several examples, including Chinese, who have fought integration in San Francisco, blacks and Mexicans.

The important thing, he said, is to have a situation which is open to all who will come.

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**Robison Crusade in Colorado  
Results in 573 Professions**

145  
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COLORADO SPRINGS (BP)--An evangelistic crusade sponsored by 16 Southern Baptist churches here has resulted in 573 professions of faith, and extensive news media coverage in an area where Baptists had received little previous public exposure.

The crusade was led by Evangelist James Robison of Fort Worth. On the final night, more than 3,000 persons jammed the Municipal Auditorium.

Snow that blanketed the area and glazed streets with ice cut attendance at one point, but by the end of the week, Baptist leaders were considering the possibility of extending the crusade for several more days.

A total of 813 decisions for Christ, including 573 professions of faith, were recorded during the eight-day crusade.

Crusade Chairman Lewis Adkison, pastor of Circle Drive Baptist Church here, said the number of conversions was "greater than we had anticipated."

Two Colorado Springs newspapers, which had seldom publicized the work of Baptists in the area before, carried daily news reports on the crusade, helping to communicate the work and concern of Baptists to the entire community, Adkison said.

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**World May Become "Environmental  
Pigsty," Seminary Professor Says**

320  
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LOUISVILLE (BP)--"If the modern prodigal--the waste maker, polluter, naturopath, spoiler and the pirate--continues to take nature and force it to glorify himself instead of the Father in heaven, he may find himself managing an environmental pigsty," a seminary ethics professor said in a lecture series on ecology here.

Henlee H. Barnette, professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, made the statements as part of the seminary's Norton Lecture Series.

Barnette, who currently is studying the "environmental crisis" while on sabbatical at the University of Florida's newly-created department of environmental studies, said in the lectures here that Christian doctrines of God, man and nature can provide needed positive responses to the "environmental crisis."

"What people do to, for and with their environment depends largely upon what they think of God, nature, themselves and their destiny," Barnette said.

He also called for Christians to become involved in seeking solutions to the ecological problems facing the world.

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At the heart of the "ecological crisis" is the "need for affirmation of the Christian belief that the world is God's creation," Barnette said.

"God cares for and rejoices in his creation. In his creative acts, God involves himself in his creation, suffering with his suffering creatures and achieving his eternal purpose of redemption in history," the professor continued.

Christians in today's society must reassess, however, the biblical imperative to "be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it (Gen. 1:28)," since this command "is largely fulfilled," Barnette warned.

This passage "cannot mean that contemporary man must reproduce to the point of threatening his very existence," Barnette added.

"To subdue and have dominion over all the earth cannot mean that man has the right to destroy it for his own selfish ends," he said.

As stewards of God's creation, man must learn to take care of nature, he observed.

A fuller understanding of nature as good must be a part of the Christian response to the environmental crisis, he added.

Nature is more than "a mere stage on which the drama of redemption takes place," Barnette stated. "Rather it must be seen from the biblical perspective as an integral part of God's divine drama of redemption of both man and nature."

Barnette said the incarnation of God in the person of Jesus "is further evidence of the goodness of the material."

"An ecological theology includes God's covenant relationship to the good univers which he created," he added.

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Theology of Hope Affirms God's  
Work in History, Professor Says

185  
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MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--A Southern Baptist seminary professor, in special lectures at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here, said that a new "theology of hope" is one of the most exciting movements in theology today.

Wayne Ward, professor of Christian Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, outlined the theology of hope during the first annual Derward W. Deere lectures at Golden Gate Seminary here. The Deere lectures are named in honor of the late Old Testament professor at Golden Gate.

The theology of hope movement, Ward said, is taking hold in other religions and is rooted in the nature of biblical faith.

The vision today is of God "on the move, out ahead of us, leading the way into the future," Ward said. The kingdom of God is "taking shape now," and "we are to become now, step by step, what God wants us to become."

Ward observed that the realization that God is working through history is a hope for men today.

"That hope involves a vision seen by the first-century Christians, that fired their imaginations to shape or change the situation. Christians have that same hope today in Jesus Christ and the biblical faith," Ward said.

Ward is a former colleague of Deere's. Until his death in 1968, Deere had taught Old Testament at Golden Gate for 18 years. Faculty members at Golden Gate voted earlier this year to combine their faculty lectureship fund with a fund started by Deere before his death to establish a chair of Old Testament.

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**BAPTIST PRESS**

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