



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**NATIONAL OFFICE**  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
Telephone (615) 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, Director  
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

**BUREAUS**

**ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041  
**DALLAS** Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996  
**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-5461  
**RICHMOND** Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151  
**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

October 19, 1972

**Baptist-Catholic Dialogue  
Urges End to Irish Conflict**

HOUSTON (BP)--A resolution urging an end to the conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland was adopted here by 80 participants in a regional Baptist-Catholic dialogue.

The resolution urged prayer for an end to the conflict, asked Irish Christians to work for the "quick removal of the physical violence", and cautioned Baptists and Catholics in America "to maintain an openness to each other so that a similar situation may never occur in the United States on a national or local level."

The statement also warned "men of good will everywhere (to) be on constant watch for the lack of dialogue which breeds contempt through ignorance."

It further cautioned the news media "to practice more precision in reporting the turmoil in Ireland, being fair enough to say consistently that the problems are rooted in cultural and economic causes as well as religious (causes)."

M. Thomas Starkes, secretary of the department of interfaith witness for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, introduced the resolution in the closing moments of the three-day dialogue session here.

The closing session also featured reports from six small groups that had spent the previous day discussing in depth six different topics of mutual concern.

Generally, there was overall agreement in the final summation period that Catholics and Southern Baptists have very much in common not only in basic beliefs, but also in mutual problems.

One Baptist commented that the basic beliefs of Catholics and Baptists are so similar that if only a few of the Catholic doctrines were deleted, Baptists would be together with Catholics on all the rest of the doctrinal beliefs.

Another factor which has improved relations between Baptists and Catholics has been that during the past 20 years, Southern Baptists have largely stopped viewing Roman Catholics as prospective converts although some Baptists do still think Catholics are in need of salvation, noted Wilson Brumley, executive director of the Union Baptist Association (Houston).

A Catholic participant added that Baptists and Catholics are especially united by a common problem--polarization within the church.

Most of the participants agreed following the dialogues, the second ever held, that the real key to improving Baptist and Catholic relationships would be in developing similar dialogue sessions on the grass-roots level in local communities.

The most often suggested approach voiced during the conference was for concerned and interested Baptist ministers and Catholic priests to gather for informal discussion groups in their own communities.

Others commented that such dialogue sessions on the local level should not be limited to Baptists and Catholics, but should include all faiths and denominations.

There was also general agreement that a national dialogue session between Southern Baptists and Roman Catholics would not be feasible, but that the emphasis should be on local and regional conferences.

-more-

**DARGAN-CARVER LIBRARY**  
**S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

The Houston session was the second such regional conference. The first was in February, 1971, in Daytona Beach, Fla. There have been three local dialogue sessions between Baptists and Catholics, held in Louisville, Covington, La., and Belmont-Abbey, N.C.

One conference participant pointed out that both the Daytona Beach and Houston dialogue sessions had been aimed primarily at the pragmatic and practical areas, but that the next such conference should deal with similarities and differences in the area of doctrine.

Theme for the conference this year focused on the subject, "Living the Faith in Today's World."

The six small group discussions dealt with the topics, "The Church Experiencing a Crisis of Faith and a Crisis of Culture, Who are the People of God, the Minister and Priest Today, Christian Responsibilities and American Minorities, Strategies for Outreach Towards Non-Believers, and Polarization of Attitudes within the Churches."

The dialogue conference, which met at the Sheraton-AstroWorld here, was sponsored jointly by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board department of interfaith witness, and the Roman Catholic Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs in Washington, D.C.

-30-

North Carolina Names  
New Foundation Executive

10/19/72

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--Edwin S. Coates, a Raleigh businessman, has been named executive secretary of the North Carolina Baptist Foundation, Inc., when E. Gordon Maddrey retires Dec. 31, after 10 years in the position.

Announcement of Coates' appointment was made by the chairman of the foundation's board of directors, Wade Brown of Raleigh.

Since 1961, Coates has been president of Engineered Farm Systems, Inc., distributor of specialized agricultural processing and materials handling systems. Previously he was an agricultural engineering specialist with the state agricultural extension service.

-30-

Radio-TV Commission Names  
Tandy To Head Fund Drive

FORT WORTH (BP)--Charles D. Tandy, chairman of the board and chief executive officer for the Tandy Corp., here, has been named national chairman of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission's Second Step Enlargement Program to raise \$2 million.

Tandy's appointment and acceptance were announced during the three-day annual meeting of the commission's board of trustees here.

The trustees also honored Herschel H. Hobbs of Oklahoma City who is beginning his fifteenth year as speaker on the Baptist Hour radio program, approved the selection of Carl Bates of Charlotte, N.C., as speaker on the Baptist Hour for the summer months of 1973, and adopted the use of corporate structure and titles for staff members.

"We are requesting use of corporate structure and titles to help people outside the denomination to recognize the status of the people with whom they are working, and to accommodate the industry from whom we ask so much," said Paul M. Stevens, head of the agency.

Under the new titles approved, Stevens' title will be changed from executive director to president.

Hobbs, who retires at the end of this year as pastor of First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, addressed the trustees at a banquet held in his honor.

Tracing the history of the commission, Hobbs told the trustees, "If we are to meet the challenge of tomorrow, we must begin by meeting the challenge of today.

-more-

"The message of God is being beamed electronically (by the commission) across the boundaries of countries where missionaries cannot go because of the rules of men," Hobbs said. "Electronic waves don't need visas," he quipped.

During the meeting, James Holcolmb, director of marketing for the commission presented a check for \$105,980 from commission employees for their part in the Second Step Enlargement Program.

The staff, more than anyone else, understands the importance of the enlargement program and what it will do for the commission, said Holcolmb, who directed the employees' effort. Each staff member participated in the campaign, with gifts averaging \$1,000 each, he said.

"We wanted to be the first to complete a Second Step program, because we feel a deep sense of responsibility for the work of the commission, and we wanted to set an example for the people of Fort Worth where the enlargement campaign has begun," Holcolmb said.

The campaign, which Tandy will head, will be designed to provide new radio-television-videotape facilities for religious programming, including the largest studio of its type. It would double the size of the present commission facilities here.

The facilities also will include a center for training pastors of all faiths the art of religious broadcasting, said Stevens. The commission staff will serve as faculty for the training center.

The campaign began when the commission received a \$500,000 gift from an unnamed donor, with the stipulation that the commission raise matching funds. Trustees were told here that the original \$500,000 gift had already been matched, and that the funds had been invested to draw interest for commission operating expenses.

The \$2 million campaign will officially begin Jan. 1, 1973, and conclude in 1974. The national enlargement program will be conducted in 34 major cities across the nation. Plans are already underway for the first such efforts in Fort Worth, Knoxville, Tenn., Roanoke, Va.; and Shreveport, La., Astronaut James B. Irwin will make appearances and assist with the program in several of the cities.

Tandy said he became interested in serving as national chairman because "I want to be connected with an institution that, 9,000 times a day, presents a clear, straight, spiritual message." He called the commission "a window to the world, reaching between 70 and 100 million people a week" through its programs.

Stevens, in announcing Tandy's selection to head the effort, described him as "a man noted for his vision and his business acumen."

Tandy has been chairman and chief executive of the Tandy Corporation, well-known for its leather products, since 1964.

# (BP)

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

# ---FEATURES

produced by Baptist Press

460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
Telephone (615) 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, Director  
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

October 19, 1972

## Awesome Challenge Faces Baptist Literacy Missions

By Tim Nicholas  
For the Baptist Press

Southern Baptists' only literacy missionaries, a retired couple who receive no financial support for their work, plus 175 other volunteers who work in literacy missions, face an awesome, impossible task.

They are seeking to minister to the overwhelming needs of an estimated 6 million adults in the nation who cannot read or write.

It was concern for literacy work that brought Gene and Bettie Novinger of Newport News, Va., out of retirement in 1967 and into full time missions work as Christian Service Corps volunteers through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The Novingers had read of people learning to read and write by using word and picture association, so they enrolled in a training class.

Their interest intensified, and Gene decided to retire early from his government accounting job and volunteer for full-time literacy work.

After contact with Mildred Blankenship, literacy specialist of the SBC Home Mission Board's department of Christian social ministries, they were assigned to Las Cruces, N.M., in 1967, to teach in a Spanish-speaking congregation.

Depending solely on their retirement money, the Novingers have been in Las Cruces with the Volunteer Service Corps since that time, teaching, working in a weekday ministry, and doing public speaking.

"In effect," said Miss Blankenship, "the Novingers are our only literacy missionaries," even though they are not career missionaries and receive no financial support.

Actually, added Miss Blankenship, "the phrase 'literacy missions' is a misnomer" because the volunteers who work in this area also work in tutoring and teaching conversational English, along with teaching the adult non-reader.

When Miss Blankenship came to the Home Mission Board in 1962 as consultant in literacy missions, she was told that she could not expect to have any literacy missionaries on the field, that she could start no new programs, and could only work through existing channels of the church and denomination.

Now there are about 175 resource people across the nation doing volunteer work by teaching workshops whereby others can learn how to teach adults to read.

These workshops consist of 16 hours of intensive study to train other volunteers who, in turn, become involved in local literacy programs, most often operated by Woman's Missionary Union groups in Baptist churches.

Often, she noted, it is the volunteer who profits more from teaching than the student.

"A volunteer's spiritual life and concept of missions becomes stronger," she said. "Timid souls who wouldn't teach a Sunday School class find that they can relate to a non-reader.

One volunteer, Miss Elizabeth Painter of Jacksonville, Fla., related an experience with a young woman named Ann who could not read, and was convinced of her inability to learn. "She had to memorize where I lived by the location, not the house or street name," said Miss Painter.

-more-

DARGAN-CARVER LIBRARY  
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

They worked through several of the reading instruction books, and Ann enrolled in a barber college. With a talent for cutting hair, she had tried to enter the barber college earlier, but had been rejected because she could not read or write.

But after the instruction from Miss Painter, Ann took the barber's examination, studying with the help of Miss Painter.

During the exam, the haircut she gave was judged the best of the 68 taking the test. "I felt like a proud parent when she came by my apartment to show me the letter stating she had passed the written examination and was qualified to be an apprentice barber," Miss Painter said.

One of the big problems in literacy work, according to Miss Blankenship, is to get men involved as volunteers. Most of the volunteers are women. But a woman can't go into a male prison to teach inmates to read; and in many cultures, a man won't study English from a woman teacher unless the pressure is very great, Miss Blankenship said.

Teaching conversational English to recent immigrants, or internationals, can also provide a unique exposure to Christianity. Sooner or later the student will ask, "Why are you doing this," Miss Blankenship said.

A young Pakistani in North Carolina wanted his East Indian wife to be able to converse with her neighbors, so he called on Mrs. Thurman Allred, wife of the associational missionary in Concord, N.C., who is well-known for her work in literacy missions.

The Pakistani said his wife, Amra, was a follower of the Islam religion. He knew Mrs. Allred was a Baptist, and they discussed each other's religions often.

As a teaching aid, Mrs. Allred recorded on tape the Book of Job for Amra to read while she listened to the words. After a few weeks, Amra went to Mrs. Allred's home and played a tape--of herself reading Job. "This I understand," said Amra, "It is very good."

Mrs. Allred observed that "with these words, she had endorsed my choice of a beginning place for teaching her the scriptures" as well as teaching her to read English. "Gradually I hope to move to some of the New Testament that she accepts as well, and eventually to the Person of the Book. It will be slow, but it will come."



**BAPTIST PRESS**

460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

RECEIVED  
OCT 29 1972  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC

LYNN MAY HO  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
127 9TH AVE. NO.  
NASHVILLE TN 37203