



BAPTIST PRESS
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January 22, 1973

**Baptists Pray, Protest, Pass
Out Cookies at Inauguration**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptist participation in the inauguration of President Richard Nixon for his second term ranged all the way from protests against the Vietnam War to conducting worship services in the White House.

American Baptist Convention president, Gene Bartlett, a dozen students and two professors at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, were in town to protest the war policies of President Nixon, especially the bombing of North Vietnam after the peace negotiations broke down near the end of 1972.

The Baptist Women of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention sponsored a prayer meeting in the First Baptist Church, "manned" a refreshment station on the parade route to serve cookies and coffee to weary tourists and distributed religious tracts to the throngs in the nation's capital on inauguration day.

The day after inauguration Baptist Evangelist Billy Graham, assisted by a Catholic Archbishop and a Jewish Rabbi, conducted worship services for the President and his invited guests in the East Room of the White House.

The American Baptist Convention president was one of the speakers at a peace convocation at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church on Friday night before the inauguration. Bartlett was also a participant and sponsor of the "Inauguration of Conscience" at the Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church just off the campus of American University, a national Methodist school, the day after the inauguration of the President.

The "inauguration of Conscience" and the convocation were not a part of the anti-war demonstrations during the presidential inauguration, although the theme was essentially the same--stop the bombing, stop the war.

E.V. Hill, a black Baptist, and president of the California Baptist Convention, offered the opening prayer at the inauguration ceremonies at the east front of the U.S. Capitol building. Other prayers were interspersed throughout the ceremony by Rabbi Seamore Seigel, professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, Archbishop Iakovos, primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in North and South America, and Terrance Cardinal Cook, archbishop of New York.

President Nixon took his oath of office with his hand on two Bibles opened at Isaiah 2:4, where it says, "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

Graham at the White House worship service told the President and the 300 guests that he would like to have the Ten Commandments read every day in America's classrooms. He said that "our young people flounder because they are uncertain as to what is right and wrong. "Who can improve on the Ten Commandments?" he asked.

Later in an interview, Chief Justice Warren Berger of the U.S. Supreme Court said that Graham's suggestions would raise constitutional questions, that the practice of reciting the Ten Commandments in the nation's public schools would come close to being ruled unconstitutional.

In addition to Bill Linehart of the American Baptist Convention's office in Washington, a dozen Southern Baptist Seminary students and two professors joined the thousands who converged on Washington during the inauguration to protest the Vietnam war.

The Southern Seminary students were organized and led by Lou Irwin, a second year student in the school of theology. A native of Morgan City, La. and a graduate of Tulane University,

Irwin is majoring in social work.

Irwin reported that in addition to the dozen seminary students who joined three bus loads of people from Louisville in the Washington protests, more than 100 seminary students and professors helped pay for and signed a two-page anti-war protest in the Louisville newspapers.

The two Southern Seminary professors who joined the students in the Washington protests were Henlee Barnett and Paul Simmons, both of the seminary's ethics department.

Estimates of the protest crowd ranged from 30,000 by the police to 100,000 by the demonstrators themselves.

Irwin explained why they were protesting the war. "Many people have been upset and frustrated about the war," he said, "and we have been seeking a way to express ourselves."

He said that many of the people in the United States who are opposed to the war feel that they are not being heard. He admitted that the protests would not be very effective in stopping the war, but, he said, "this was the best way I felt I could express myself in this situation."

The Baptist women's prayer breakfast the morning of the inauguration was under the sponsorship of the women's department of the District of Columbia headed by Mrs. Kathryn Grant.

Approximately 150 persons were present at the breakfast. Mrs. Grant said that they were surprised that most of the persons present were men and a large group of young people.

In addition to patriotic songs and prayers, Congressman John Buchanan (R., Ala.) was the featured speaker. His subject was "The Christian in Government." The congressman, who had recently returned from a trip to Russia, said that the greatest right people in America enjoy is to follow God in what they feel Him leading them to do.

Following the prayer meeting, groups of four youth and one adult dispersed to intersections along the parade route and distributed copies of the Gospel of John and an evangelistic tract. Mrs. Grant estimated that there were at least 250,000 tracts and gospels available for distribution.

During the day the Baptist women served cookies, coffee and tea at a refreshment center in the building of the Potomac Electric Power Company on the parade route. The cookies had been baked by the women in the Baptist churches in the District of Columbia area.

Mrs. Grant said that in addition to the physical refreshments there was a table with religious tracts and the Gospel of John available for the visitors. She reported that many people not only took copies for themselves but that many came back for extra copies to give to their friends.

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Missionary's Daughter
Wins WMU Scholarship

1/22/73

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--Catherine Mary Graham, daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries in Lebanon, has been awarded a scholarship by the Southern Baptist Women's Missionary Union Executive Board in recognition of excellence in college studies.

Miss Graham, a recent graduate of Houston Baptist College, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Finley Graham, missionaries to Lebanon who currently are on furlough at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

She was awarded the \$200 Elizabeth Lowndes Award, bestowed annually to the "MK" (Missionary Kid) graduate with the most outstanding college record. She is now a junior high school teacher in Houston.

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