



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2366
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) Gomer Lesch, 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

July 2, 1973

**Educators Plan 1976
National Convocation**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A national colloquium on Christian education will be sponsored by the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in June, 1976, coinciding with the bicentennial celebration of the Declaration of Independence.

The meeting will seek to affirm the unique role of Christian education and mobilize the resources of Southern Baptists in support of their seminaries, colleges and schools, according to Ben C. Fisher, executive secretary of the commission.

The Education Commission, a Southern Baptist Convention national agency which promotes the work of Baptist schools, also authorized the formulation of advisory teams made up of Baptist college personnel to assist Baptist institutions in meeting and maintaining accreditation requirements.

The action came on an appeal by Thomas Turner, chairman of the science department, Wake Forest University, and an internationally known physicist.

A major factor stressed by Turner was the need for assisting Baptist institutions to state more adequately their Christian purpose and to stress the importance of relating Christian purposes to the life of the institution.

The commission requested its staff to evaluate potential dangers to Baptist institutions in various tax reform proposals and to work with appropriate agencies to register Baptist concerns.

The action followed a statement on the possible threat to Baptist schools presented to the commission by Lewis Nobles, president of Mississippi College.

In a related meeting, the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools, made up of representatives of 73 institutions, reaffirmed its commitment to academic excellence as a major supporting element in Southern Baptist life and work.

Elton Trueblood, Quaker theologian, delivered three addresses to the association. He warned that the Christian college is in grave danger and called on Baptist leaders in higher education to take an aggressive stance in preserving their tradition.

"Don't be ashamed of either piety or intellectual toughness!" Trueblood said.

A plan for collaboration in student recruitment between the Baptist Sunday School Board and the colleges was presented to the Education Commission by Allen Comish, director of the board's church services and materials division. The plan involves more extensive use of board publications for wider dissemination of information on Baptist colleges, and the utilization of Baptist students as summer workers in churches.

Earl Guinn, president of Louisiana College, was elected to succeed William K. Weaver, Jr., president of Mobile College, as chairman of the Education Commission.

Mrs. Mary Crowley, a business woman from Dallas, Texas, was named commission vice chairman.

George Capps, pastor, First Baptist Church, Cookeville, Tennessee, was re-elected secretary.

Abner McCall, president of Baylor University, was elected president of the Association of

Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

Randall K. Minor, president of Shorter College, was named association vice president. H. I. Hester was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

-30-

Robert J. O'Brien Named
News Editor, Baptist Press

7-2-73

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Robert J. O'Brien of Dallas, press director for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, has been named News Editor for Baptist Press, the news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He will begin his duties in Nashville on August 15, according to W. C. Fields, director of Baptist Press.

O'Brien joined the Texas Baptist staff in 1968 after three years as an editor of youth publications with the Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis. He succeeds James R. Newton who moved to the Brotherhood Commission staff on June 25.

Previously, O'Brien was a police, sports, and general assignment reporter and religion editor for five years with daily newspapers in Newport News and Richmond, Va.

A native of South Carolina, O'Brien is a graduate of Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va., with a double major in journalism and history. He was named by Sigma Delta Chi as the outstanding journalism graduate of the school in 1961.

He received a Master of Science in journalism, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., in 1962.

O'Brien will be responsible for news stories released daily through Baptist Press to the 33 Baptist state papers, the religious press, and to the secular news media.

Baptist Press is a cooperative news operation among Southern Baptists, involving five bureaus, approximately 300 Baptist news and public relations personnel, numerous "stringers" or part-time correspondents, plus press representatives in 76 countries around the world.

"We are fortunate to have coming to the staff a young man with such a broad background of special training and experience," Fields said.

"We expect to add a Feature Editor to the Baptist Press staff to work along beside Mr. O'Brien beginning October 1st," Fields added.

O'Brien is an accredited member of the Public Relations Society of America, Sigma Delta Chi, national professional journalism society; Baptist Public Relations Association; Southern Baptist Press Association; and was president-elect of the Dallas chapter of the Religious Public Relations Council, an international inter-faith public relations organization.

He is married to the former Shirley Bradley of Amherst, Va. They have two sons, Eric Bradley, age 4, and Paul Bradley, age 2.

-30-

(Photo of O'Brien mailed to Baptist state editors.)

Trueblood Warns of Dangers
To Christian Colleges

7-2-73

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--"The Christian college is meant to be a peculiar kind of pumping station on the life-line of civilization," noted author Elton Trueblood told Southern Baptist educators from throughout the nation.

In lectures to the annual meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools here, Trueblood told 200 Baptist educators from 65 Baptist schools that the future of the Christian college is in grave danger, and warned them to take an aggressive stance in

-more-

preserving their tradition.

He cited four evidences of decline among Christian colleges, listing the decline of the influence of chapel services, moral permissiveness on the campus, the paradox of intolerance, and the lowering of academic and personal standards.

Trueblood warned the educators not to look down on the influence of required chapel attendance, or to fall into the trap of advocating voluntary chapel. Theoretically, voluntary chapel is better, but it doesn't work, he said. Attendance goes down, quality speakers cannot be attracted, and the program dies.

In addition to decrying moral permissiveness in sex on the campus, and the lowering of academic standards at colleges and universities, Trueblood decried the decline of manners among students, and the poor use of English grammar by students.

"At some colleges there is more drug pushing than there is in the world," Trueblood lamented.

He noted that whereas there is much tolerance regarding sexual attitudes and actions among today's students, there is extreme intolerance of ideas.

As an example he cited a protest against the war in Southeast Asia during which there was vociferous shouting and chants against the government's policies, but there was not one speaker representing the other side. This, he argued, is a denial of reason and intelligence.

"Complete freedom, if it is empty freedom, always leads to decay," Trueblood said. "Freedom must not be empty, it must be controlled by an ultimate purpose."

He issued a plea for non-conformity, urging the Baptist college presidents to be willing to be unpopular, to maintain high standards and be willing to stand up for them despite opposition.

The Christian college can work in a magnitude which no state or tax supported institution can. It provides an option people would never otherwise have, he said, urging the educators to "keep more options open."

Explaining that Christian colleges must offer a combination of the intellectual and the spiritual, the noted author called the word "and" the "holy conjunction."

We too often say "or," feeling that we must have devotion "or" rationality, when both are necessary. You need both a warm heart "and" a clear head, he emphasized. Don't be ashamed of either piety or intellectual toughness.

Advocating the combination of a liberal arts and a vocational education, Trueblood told how these two were combined in his friend, Herbert Hoover. When Hoover first entered Stanford, he planned to study geology. Advised to study Latin also, Hoover and his wife later made the first translation of a Roman work on metallurgy, combining both facets of his education.

"I believe it is possible to have an education that is both vocational and liberal," the educator said, "the vocational providing motivation and the liberal arts providing breadth. Christian collegians are not in an ivory tower; they should produce new government employees, doctors and engineers because vocation is a Christian idea.

But we need the liberal education to apply the lessons of history to today, he added. "If you are only contemporary you have no experience on which to draw. If you are merely ancient you will not be pertinent," Trueblood said.

In a dialogue session afterwards he said the term "liberal" has come to a disturbing connotation and another word may be needed. We want education that is "liberating." One which liberates us from the limitations of geography and time, he said.

The written word helps us break from prejudices of the 20th century to any century where we can obtain help from other people and cultures, he added.

Trueblood outlined six ways in which he thought Christian colleges can contribute to the educational system saying that they should reject the purely contemporary, support the idea

of strict requirements, choose the right kind of professors, emphasize manners as part of education, maintain the ideal of chastity, and teach a rational theology.

Christian colleges can contribute a sense of roots and give a cultural background, he said, because the Christian faith refers to what is old as well as to what is new.

Emphasizing again the need for the study of antiquity, he said that "we ought to be humble enough to learn from every generation," since greatness may come independent of time. Better to be in contact with a great mind of long ago than many superficial minds of today, he added.

Although many colleges have given up required chapel and New Testament study, Trueblood said that "A Christian believes in requirements." He told the educators that he was glad certain things were required of him, because he would not have done some of these things on his own.

"It is important that piety not take the place of competence," he emphasized, but competence and commitment to Christ are equally important.

Trueblood said that it is also the duty of the Christian college to instill "gentility" into students by teaching a well-mannered life-style. Referring to the formal dining rooms of earlier college days, he called today's college cafeteria the "devil's best effort to destroy culture."

In summing up, the educator stressed that a Christian college can offer a "rational theology." Christian students are aware of original sin, he said. The most trouble is in colleges where students have grown up thinking everything is inherently good and have become disillusioned.

"Much violence is perpetrated by ex-idealists" he said. "Basic Christianity makes people sophisticated" he added. Christian training teaches us to be realists about inherent sin. A Christian knows there will be trouble in the future. The more we have knowledge of sin, the more we can stress grace.