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Nashville, Tennessee

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PROTESTANTS ARE MEETING
COMMUNIST CHALLENGE

WASHINGTON, D.C. --(BP)-- Protestants are meeting the challenge of Communism better than any other Christian group, according to a report of the Committee on World Issues presented by Dr. M. Theron Rankin. The report was made to the Joint Committee on Public Affairs, composed of representatives of America's leading Baptist groups.

The report stated, "The very diversity of those who constitute the Protestant forces is in itself a testimony to freedom and liberty. Even with our lack of complete unity and coordination, we are in a more favorable position to combat Communism than if we were under the necessity of conforming to a pattern and being regimented by an oppressive ecclesiastical hierarchy."

Dr. Rankin, who is the Executive Secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board, which has maintained a large number of missionaries in China, said concerning the Christian situation in China: "The communist control of the government of China in its bearing on the Christian church and missionary effort is bad. Moreover, on the human level, it does not give promise of being any better soon. The freedom of the church to do its distinctively Christian work has been greatly abridged at the point of declaring its gospel and the judgment of the gospel on the whole of life. It is abridged almost to the point of absolute prohibition with respect to vital contact with the world Christian fellowship. Almost all missionaries have been cut off from both the churches and the people. Most of them have left China. Almost all of the others are awaiting permission to leave. Even so, Christians are not without hope."

The committee also asked for general observance of United Nations Week, October 21-27, reciting UN's aims and achievements.

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IT'S A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FIRST FOR BOB

WACO, Tex. --(BP)-- Bob Easley has enrolled in Baylor University this fall even though he can't play football.

Bob was a Houston high-school star last year but because he attended a professional football game in Dallas recently as the guest of a Baylor alumnus, he lost his first two years of eligibility to play varsity football in the Southwest conference should he attend Baylor.

Bob insists that he never seriously considered any school but Baylor and he had no trouble deciding what came first. "I was born in a Baptist family and reared in a Baptist church," he said. "I still want a Christian education first. Second, I like to play football."

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CALIFORNIA BAPTISTS ELECT WALKER
TRAINING UNION-STUDENT SECRETARY

FRESNO, Calif. --(BP)-- Edmond Walker, pastor, Calvary Southern Baptist Church, El Monte, and Greek teacher in California Baptist College, has been elected to lead the combined Training Union and Student Departments of California Southern Baptists.

His election and the adoption of a \$150,000 state-mission goal for 1952 were the principle actions at a recent meeting of the state convention's board of directors.

Dr. Walker, a native of Arkansas and graduate of Ouachita Baptist College, came to California five years ago as pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church in Modesto. He has the Th.M. degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville and earned his Th.D. degree at Golden Gate Seminary in Berkeley.

He is a member of the board of trustees of Golden Gate Seminary and is the California member of the Sunday School Board.

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CHURCH NEWS WRITERS' INSTITUTE
SCHEDULED FOR BAYLOR CAMPUS

DALLAS, Tex. --(BP)-- The fourth annual Church News Writers' Institute sponsored by the Department of Public Relations of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, is scheduled for early October on the Baylor University campus in Waco, announces Dr. R. Alton Reed, director of the Public Relations Department.

Among the faculty members for the two-day conference will be David Cheavens, head of the Capitol Bureau of the Associated Press in Austin, Texas; Cullum Greene, Sunday editor of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram; C.E. Bryant, director of press relations at Baylor; and Walker Knight, associate editor of the Baptist Standard, Texas' denominational paper.

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NATIVE OF KANSAS BECOMES
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SECRETARY

WICHITA, Kans. --(BP)-- Ray Gilliland, manager of the Baptist Book Store in Wichita since last May and a native Kansan, has been named secretary of the Department of Religious Education of the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists.

Gilliland, a recent graduate of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, and student at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, will receive his B.D. degree from the Seminary after the completion of one correspondence course.

He succeeds W.E. Russell who recently resigned.

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DISPLACED MEMBERS ANALYZED
BY "BAPTIST PROGRAM" SURVEY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. --(BP)-- The Baptist Program, monthly pastors' publication, recently conducted a survey to see what Southern Baptist pastors were thinking about the displaced member problem. Dr. Paul Wheeler, pastor, Park Street Baptist Church, Columbia, South Carolina, here analyzes the answers to the questionnaire. Dr. Wheeler is a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

I. Causes stated for the large per cent of non-resident members:

- (1) Faulty evangelism.
- (2) Failure to enlist and indoctrinate new members.
- (3) Inactivity in the home church (Before moving from the community).
- (4) Lack of a sense of loyalty to Christ and the local church.
- (5) Failure of churches to encourage non-resident members to move letters.
- (6) Worldliness and indifference.
- (7) Lack of proper parental training and influence.
- (8) Temporary residence.
- (9) Difficulty some members have in making adjustment in new church life.
- (10) Desire of home church to hold them.

2. Solutions suggested:

- (1) Higher standard for church membership.
- (2) Enlist and indoctrinate all members.
- (3) Teach the members the requirement of the church covenant at this point.
- (4) Better co-operation by pastors.
- (5) Organization of new churches where needed.
- (6) Systematic plan of visitation of unaffiliated members.
- (7) Revision of church roll. Keep accurate records.
- (8) Write non-resident members urging them to join where they live.

3. Observations:

- (1) Most pastors are conscious of the seriousness of the problem.
- (2) The majority feel that something should be done about it.
- (3) Very few are taking any definite steps to solve the problem in addition to their regular church program.

4. Recommendations:

- (1) Keep the seriousness of the problem before the pastors and churches by
 - (a) articles in The Baptist Program, (b) in state papers, (c) tracts,
 - (d) posters.
- (2) Definite steps that may be taken by churches: (a) more consistent effort

more -- Displaced Members Analyzed

- (b) Impress upon members the duty of keeping the church covenant relative to this matter.
 - (c) Write non-resident members suggesting that they join a Baptist church where they live.
 - (d) Write pastors notifying them of members moving to their communities.
 - (e) Consistent visitation of unaffiliated members of the church community.
 - (f) Revision of church roll. Keep accurate records.
- (3) Consideration of the advisability of having a day or a month in the calendar of activities when all churches will be asked to make special efforts to solve the non-resident membership problem.

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FLOOD WATERS DAMAGE PROPERTY
OF MISSOURI-KANSAS SBC CHURCHES

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. --(BP)-- Damage to Southern Baptist churches in Missouri and Kansas from the recent Missouri River floods was heavy although the number of churches affected was few, reports Dr. T.W. Medearis, executive secretary of Missouri Baptist General Association.

Dr. Medearis suggests that although the damage was not sufficient to merit an appeal for aid on a convention-wide basis, any individual churches taking an offering for the flood relief, as some have, may send it directly to the executive secretaries of the two states.

Five Missouri churches suffered major losses and damage which will retard their plans for advance during the next year. Floors, interior fixtures and furniture were damaged or destroyed at Wakenda, Hartsburg, Cedar City community, Henrietta and Gilead Church at Sugar Tree. Repairs at the Henrietta church will delay progress in a long-planned-for building program.

Two churches in Kansas, those at Florence and Osawatomie, were damaged considerably, according to N.J. Westmoreland, state mission secretary, and two others will have curtailed advancement because of personal loss of members.

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