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**Meat Crisis Causes Menu
Changes in Texas Churches**

By John Rutledge

DALLAS (BP)--Members of many Texas Baptist churches may find themselves eating Wednesday night supper at home after the meat price ceiling is lifted Sept. 12.

Rising food costs and the meat shortage have already forced most church kitchens to raise their prices and change their menus. Skyrocketing meat prices expected in the fall may prove these measures to be too little, too late.

First Baptist Church in Dallas, largest church in the Southern Baptist Convention, which operates a seven-day-a-week cafeteria, has raised the price of its plate dinners 25 cents and is serving more casseroles, dietician Eva Gass said.

"I hear that meat will be so high you can't serve it. We've already started serving meat with soy additives," she said.

There are no plans to cut down on serving hours.

"Most church kitchens operate in the red," Miss Gass said. "We've managed to keep our heads above water until now."

Cecil Douglas, music-youth director at Grandview Baptist Church, El Paso, Tex., described the meal situation there as a "losing proposition."

He said he began buying food six months ago from a neighborhood grocer who gives the church a discount, but it may not help after the ceiling is lifted.

"It hasn't been discussed in any church committee, but my personal opinion is that we might discontinue the supper or go to a covered-dish meal," Douglas said.

Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, has not raised its meal prices, but, "we're hurting," business administrator Doyle Chauncy said.

"I haven't run any cost analysis, but we need to go up on our prices. We are losing money," he added.

He said some dishes had been cut from the menu and the quality had gone down. "We've gone to more precooked foods like lasagna rather than cook it ourselves."

First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., raised the price of its Wednesday night supper 35 cents at the first of the summer and has been serving more fish, poultry and meat loaf dishes. Business administrator Lloyd English said the new prices may affect attendance during the school year.

"We'll just face it when it comes," he said.

First Baptist Church, Irving, Tex., has informed its members that meat dish prices will be figured on a weekly basis. Sagamore Hill Baptist Church, Fort Worth, began pricing food items individually rather than by the plate. First Baptist Church, San Antonio, has raised the price of its Wednesday night meal from 75 cents to \$1.

First Baptist Church, Beaumont, Tex., is considering raising its price because "it's

costing us way more than we're taking in," business administrator Jimmy Sheffield said. "Everything is so unsettled, we're just waiting to see what happens."

Some Texas Baptist churches were more fortunate than others during the beef shortage. First Baptist Church, Longview, has a larger-than-average freezer and bought the beef it needed in advance.

"We have a multitude of pensioners and we're trying to work this to their convenience, but sometime we will have to impose the cost on them," Charles Vermillion, business administrator, said.

"Three weeks from now, though, we're going to be in such a drastically different arena that I don't know how we'll manage."

First Baptist Church, Amarillo, which serves an average of 30,000 meals per year, has raised the price of its dinner from \$1.25 to \$1.55 and has bought food to last a month.

Dietician Mrs. H. C. Burke, Jr. said she feels the kitchen should be non-profit but self-supporting and therefore prices will have to go up.

"I'm scavenging meat substitute recipes like never before, but I have to please little children and older people with finicky appetites," she said.

"I haven't seen the supply problem this bad in the eight years I've been dietician," she said, "but I'm not pushing any panic button."

Mrs. Burke said she tries to ease the problems by reading agricultural reports, buying in advance and informing the church members about the situation.

"I try to take time to explain to the people why this year's banquet costs more than last year's, she said. "We need to work at communicating with the people."

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John Rutledge is a staff member of the Baptist Standard, news magazine of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

White Pastor Baptizes
Black Despite KKK Pressure

Baptist Press

FLORIDA CITY, Fla. (BP)--A white Baptist pastor here proceeded with plans to baptize a young Black airman, despite intimidation by the Ku Klux Klan, according to an editorial in the Florida Baptist Witness.

Editor Edgar R. Cooper said 20 Klansmen appeared at First Baptist Church, Florida City, on a Sunday night in mid-August, when Lawrence Bethel, 21, an airman stationed at Homestead Air Force Base, was scheduled to be baptized by Pastor Richard Fales, along with seven whites.

Bethel had responded to Fales' invitation and made a profession of faith in Christ that morning at the church, which he attended with a friend.

The news got out, the journal of the Florida Baptist Convention reported, and Fales, 30, received two Sunday afternoon telephone calls--one asking permission for Klansmen to wear robes to the baptism and the other asking if they would be welcome at the service.

Despite "no" answers to both questions, Cooper said, the Klansmen appeared. Two attended the service and the rest circulated outside the church.

"Afterwards the church members found anti-black material on their cars--some picturing sexual relations between apes and Negroes and drawings attempting to show the inferior characteristics of blacks," the editorial said.

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Some members of the church later reported the Klansman jumped into cars after the service and harrassed a group of cars escorting a car in which Bethel was riding back to the air base. They said one car was run off the road by Klansmen who reportedly displayed guns and clubs.

Cooper said Fales refused suggestions by a few who thought it might be wise to either cancel the evening service or at least the baptism or to eliminate Bethel from the group to be baptized.

"He has been saved and he has the right to be baptized like anyone else along with the rest," Cooper quoted Fales as saying.

The service proceeded and Cooper said Fales reported, "It was one of the best services we have had in a long time.

"God is being glorified in this," the pastor further commented. "We have been getting calls from all over the state congratulating us for not giving into the bullies."

Recalling boyhood experiences with "nefarious" Ku Klux Klan intimidation in Baptist churches in the Homestead area in the late 1920s and early 1930s, Cooper wrote, "We applaud the courage and conviction of a pastor and people who refuse to be bullied by a racist mob.

"We also commend the young convert who, in the face of real physical danger, said he 'wanted to go ahead and be baptized as Jesus said he should.' Baptism apparently meant more to him than just a formal ritual--a command to be obeyed no matter who objects.

"We are grateful," continued Cooper's editorial in the paper's Aug. 30 issue, "that in America progress is being made in race relations. Much of this accomplishment is due to ministers like Richard Fales and congregations who believe and have the fortitude to proclaim that the gospel is for all men and that we are all one in Jesus Christ.

"Perhaps courage will beget courage and many more Baptists will be willing to stand up for their convictions. We hope that bold-hearted Christians will insist on freedom no matter what the coercion," Cooper wrote.

"The freedom to believe as we will, and the freedom for a church to baptize and embrace into their fellowship whom they will is not too much to expect in America."

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McCall Named Black Studies
Coordinator at Seminary

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Emmanuel L. McCall, associate secretary of work with National (black) Baptists at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, has been named coordinator of an expanded Black Church Studies Program during three annual, month-long "mini-mesters" at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

McCall, who will retain his Home Mission Board post, has accepted the assignment for three years, 1973-76, as the seminary seeks "to increase its efforts to fill a critical need for black seminary graduates and increase understanding among whites about black church life and culture and realistic approaches to ministry in a multi-racial society," a seminary spokesman said.

A 1956 graduate of Southern Seminary, McCall, a black, has served as a visiting professor during the seminary's January interterm for three years in the Black studies program.

The seminary will add two other visiting professors to supplement McCall's efforts--William H. Rogers, director of the department of interracial cooperation for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and Edward L. Wheeler, a black Baptist pastor from Atlanta.

A seminary spokesman said the expanded Black studies program will "hopefully increase the flow of trained ministers to Black Baptist conventions whose churches have long been engaged in cooperative efforts with the Home Mission Board and provide more black candidates for appointment as home and foreign missionaries."

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