

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

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BAPTIST LEADERS REACT  
TO VATICAN APPOINTMENT

NASHVILLE, Tenn. --(BP)-- Baptist leaders were quick to react to President Truman's recent appointment in Washington of an ambassador to the Vatican in Rome.

General Mark Clark's appointment to the post brought from Dr. J.M. Dawson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, in Washington, the statement that "It is a deplorable resort to expediency which utterly disregards our historical constitutional American system of separation of church and state."

"It will be disruptive of national unity and dissipate good will between protestants and Catholics. It is a blundering policy for combating communism as protestant countries throughout the world are making the most effective stand against communism.

"The best way to lose the battle against a totalitarian state is for free countries to form a coalition with the Pope under a totalitarian church," he concluded.

After returning from a White House conference attended by about seventy-five national leaders in industry, business, education and religion, Dr. J.D. Grey, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church in New Orleans, Louisiana, issued the following statement:

"The President's nomination of General Clark as ambassador to the Vatican is not only unconstitutional and illegal but ill-timed and devious. In the White House conference, I noted almost unanimous resentment to the nomination made by the President just as the Senate was adjourning. The Vatican is a small "de facto" state of only 108 acres with no military force and with whom we have no exchange of commerce or citizenry. Most of the thirty-seven nations with legations at the Vatican hold the union of church and state in a manner repugnant to our democratic concept.

"If the Holy See possesses significant information useful in the fight against communism (which is problematical), it is to their best interest to share that with anti-Communist governments without official diplomatic relations. The President has disrupted our national unity at a time when we can least afford disunity. However, he has aroused and united freedom-loving America and alerted us to battle against the growing efforts of an organized minority to breach the wall separating church and state."

OKLAHOMA CHURCH VOTES BUDGET  
WITH HALF TO COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

ADA, Okla. --(BP)-- When the members of First Baptist Church in Ada adopted a \$114,000 budget for 1952 recently, they concurrently voted also to increase their support of world-wide missions through the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention from 20 to 50 per cent of the total budget.

The jump to a 50-50 division of their giving places the Ada congregation among the few Southern Baptist churches giving as much to the Cooperative Program as they use at home.

Paul Stephens, pastor, believes that the unanimous adoption of the increased budget (the current year's budget is \$100,000) and the 50-50 giving plan is a two-fold challenge to his 2,224 resident members, 554 of whom are tithers. He hopes that the example of his people will be an "encouragement to other churches" to do likewise.

The church is giving 20 per cent (\$20,000) for world missions this year. The 1952 budget will provide for \$72,000 channeled through the Cooperative Program for world-wide causes.

Out of the \$72,000 budget set up for local expenditures next year the congregation is liquidating a building debt and supporting four full-time mission stations in addition to all operating expenses.

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BLIND COUPLE INSPIRES  
DEACON TO GIVE HIS EYES

SHERMAN, Tex. --(BP)-- A blind couple who habitually sat in the pew behind him at the First Baptist Church in Sherman inspired a wealthy businessman to will his eyes to the Bank for Sight Restoration in New York,

Eighty-year-old Joe F. Etter died recently. His eyes were immediately removed by a Sherman specialist and sent to the New York Bank. But the eyes were willed to the Bank only after the specialist told Etter that a corneal transplant would not help the blind couple who had inspired the deacon's contribution.

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NORTH CAROLINA STUDENT WORKER

RALEIGH, N.C. --(BP)-- A member of the Baptist Student Union staff of the North Carolina Baptist Convention since August is Miss Reve Stewart. Miss Stewart has as her primary work the supervision and promotion of student activities in about sixty business and nursing schools in the state, announces James W. Ray, state student secretary.

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SBC THEOLOGY SCHOOLS RAISE  
FALL TERM ENROLMENT TO 3,799

NASHVILLE, Tenn. --(BP)-- Enrolment in the six theological seminaries supported by Southern Baptists has reached 3,799 for the fall term, over 400 more than the number registered at the beginning of the 1950 school year.

Reporting the largest student body in its history and the greatest number of students ever to enrol in a Southern Baptist seminary is Southwestern Seminary at Fort Worth, Texas. The final count showed 1,679 students, an increase of nearly 250 over last year.

Southern Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, has enrolled 930 students and New Orleans Seminary reports 638 in its classes.

The relatively new theological school in the West, Golden Gate Seminary in Berkeley, California, reports 194 enrolled this term, about twenty more than last year.

Newest among Southern Baptist institutions is Southeastern Seminary which opened its first classes this fall in Wake Forest, North Carolina, with eighty-five students.

Ninety-five students are enrolled in the American Baptist Theological Seminary (Negro) in Nashville, Tennessee. The American Seminary is partially supported by Southern Baptists in co-operation with the National Baptist Convention (Negro).

Also included in the nearly 3,800 students training in the Baptist schools are 178 enrolled in the Woman's Missionary Union Training School also located at Louisville.

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NORMAN COLLEGE IN GEORGIA  
ANNOUNCES NEW PRESIDENT

NORMAN PARK, Ga. --(BP)-- Guy N. Atkinson, director of the Extension Department of Christian Education at Mercer University in Macon, will begin his duties as new president of Norman College in Norman Park on January 1.

Atkinson was recently elected by the board of trustees to succeed Dr. Allen S. Cutts who resigned several months ago.

A graduate of Mercer University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Atkinson was active in pastorates in Georgia for more than twenty years before going to Mercer three years ago to launch the extension program.

Norman College is a junior college operating in co-operation with the Georgia Baptist Convention.

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