

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICESBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor**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, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996**MEMPHIS** Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 254-5461**RICHMOND** Richard M. Styles, Acting Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

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Southeastern Plans Urban
Studies Project in D. C.

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here authorized a one-year academic and data-gathering urban studies project in Washington, D. C., to begin in January, 1977.

The project is part of a comprehensive long-range planning effort underway at the seminary, said Southeastern President Randall Lolley.

"We have had a consistent program for training in rural ministry as well as urban studies seminars through the years," Lolley said. "This new project will provide us much-needed data on how better to train seminarians for ministry in urban settings.

"More and more the Atlantic seaboard is becoming a strip city and it's mandatory that Southern Baptists meet the challenge for theological education posed by this emerging situation."

Details of the academic program will be forthcoming. Preliminary plans are to offer in Washington, D. C., courses for credit which will take advantage of the unique learning resources in the nation's capital.

Project facilities will be provided by the Capitol Hill-Metropolitan Baptist Church, located on Capitol Hill, Lolley said.

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New Orleans to Give Credit
For La. College's CoursesBaptist Press
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ALEXANDRIA-PINEVILLE, La. (BP)--Louisiana College, a Baptist school here, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary have entered into a joint agreement that makes it possible for Louisiana College students to receive up to 16 hours credit in religious education toward a seminary degree.

The announcement was made by James A. Young, chairman of Louisiana College's department of religion, who said that under the contract students majoring in religious education at the college will be able to select from nine courses toward work at New Orleans.

The courses are given three credit hours on the college level but two hours by the seminary, Young said, so, "A student may get seminary credit hours for a maximum of eight courses or 16 credit hours."

Ray P. Rust, executive vice president at New Orleans Seminary, said they are also working toward similar agreements with other Baptist colleges and began such a program with Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N. C., several months ago.

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Baptist Religion Professors
Pick Meredith Man as Prexy

NASHVILLE (BP)--Bernard Cochran, religion professor at Meredith College, a Baptist school in Raleigh, N. C., was elected president of the Association of Baptist Professors of Religion (ABPR), during their annual meeting here.

The Association, comprised of Baptists who teach philosophy and/or religion in colleges and universities, also elected Joe O. Lewis, chairman of the department of religion at Georgetown (Ky.) College, as vice president. And they re-elected W. Thomas Sawyer, academic dean at Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga., as secretary-treasurer. The group, hosted by the Southern Baptist Education Commission here, will observe its 50th anniversary next year.

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U. S. Education Chief Calls
For Discipline, Morality

Baptist Press
3/23/76

WASHINGTON (BP)--Declaring that he fears "responsible citizenship is withering in our land," the chief educational official of the Federal Government called here for "discipline and moral values in education."

T. H. Bell, U. S. commissioner of education since 1974, said that the country is drifting away from the kind of discipline in our schools, colleges, and universities that could really lead us to greatness.

"For a number of years," he said, "we have been on a nation-wide binge of permissiveness in which "anything goes."

Addressing more than 600 participants at Christian Citizenship '76, a three-day national seminar sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Bell said he subscribes to the belief that "discipline makes us productive, affluent, strong, enlightened and free as a people.

"Take away discipline and you have decay, decline, anarchy and abandonment of truth," he told registrants from some 30 states.

Bell sighted as evidence of eroding discipline recent testimony before a congressional committee that violence and vandalism in some of the nation's schools--especially those in inner-city locations--are on the increase. He also called attention to statistics showing that good grades are much easier to come by today than before.

Other warning signals showing the result of less discipline, Bell said, includes a loss of patriotism, emphasis on student rights, and a tendency on the part of newly enfranchised 18-21 year olds to stay away from the polls.

To help remedy the situation, Bell called for a new emphasis on programs of citizen education and direct challenges to pupils:

"Today's young men and women need to learn that the closest helping hand is at the end of their own arm. We need a strong, new vigorous commitment to the old-fashioned work ethic. It will be the finest lesson our youth will ever learn."

Bell also called for teaching "values" and "moral development" in the public schools. Answering a question following his address, Bell noted that while the home and the church have a rightful role in instilling values, the schools "ought not to cop out."

On school busing, Bell said that it is practically unavoidable. While busing "has solved some problems," he continued, "it has created more in the process."

He indicated that the heart of the problem of school integration, is segregated housing patterns resulting, in part, from "white flight" to the suburbs.

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In addition, Bell defended such practices as standards of conduct, dress and speech in schools. At the same time, he decried what he described as "openness" including open admissions, classrooms, and grading.

These can be corrected, he said, only if schools "assume much more responsibility for moral development . . . Our institution of education . . . should unapologetically teach what we call the American way of life."

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400 Baptist Families
Lose Homes in Guatemala

Baptist Press
3/23/76

By Hubert N. (Ted) Lindwall
Southern Baptist Missionary

GUATEMALA CITY (BP)--Crumbling walls, instant death and broken limbs are now mostly a thing of the past here. But the specter of homeless families and leveled church buildings remain in the wake of a major earthquake on Feb. 4.

Casualty figures of Baptists here have risen steadily, according to the latest count made by Guatemalan Baptist leaders. At least 45 Baptists are known to be dead (including children of church members), 56 seriously wounded, and over 400 Baptist families left homeless. Two Baptist pastors also perished in the early morning quake.

After the quake, more than one million of the nation's five million inhabitants found themselves homeless. Today, they are camping in the streets, parks, fields and amid the ruins of what used to be their homes.

The greatest task, therefore, lies ahead in the rebuilding of permanent houses for the families who are now living under sheets of tin, cardboard, plastic, canvas or material. In a few weeks the rainy season will begin, and a second catastrophe could occur if these families do not secure dry housing.

Funds totaling \$397,000 have been appropriated by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to aid in the relief and rebuilding efforts in Guatemala. Crews made up of Baptist laymen from the United States have already been aiding in reconstruction. Baptists will continue to try to provide their own people and others with materials, such as concrete and steel blocks, for simple, but safe housing.

As might be expected, concrete blocks are in short supply with houses, stores, schools, churches, hospitals and factories being rebuilt simultaneously. Therefore, some Baptist funds are being used to purchase concrete mixers and a block-making machine.

The Baptist Convention of Guatemala is encouraging church members to clear the sites of damaged and destroyed church buildings. When the sites are cleared, money will be delegated to help with rebuilding.

Some 30 Spanish-speaking evangelists from the United States, Costa Rica, and Honduras have also participated in church crusades here. These evangelists have lived with the church members and slept in tents or lean-tos, for the most part.

Generally, the churches most affected by the earthquake are the ones which have seen the greatest revivals.

Besides street preaching and church revivals, Baptists have also been engaged in "Bible fiestas" for children meeting in the streets and refugee camps. Games, gospel choruses, and Bible stories have attracted crowds of 30 to 60 children. Baptist young people have also presented puppet shows in the camps.

Guatemala still has many problems from reconstruction to spiritual needs. The problems, will be resolved by persistent cooperative efforts of giving.

The greatest contribution Baptists and other Christians have to make, then, is to pray daily for the people of Guatemala.

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'Racism A World-wide Moral
Problem, Says McGovern

WASHINGTON (BP)--Racism is the central moral problem in the world today, U. S. Sen. McGovern (D.-S.D.) said here.

McGovern made the comment during a question and answer session following his address at Christian Citizenship '76, annual national seminar of the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission.

"I think that for 300 years of our history racism was the most miserable stain on our moral fiber. It continues to stain societies in other parts of the world," he added.

McGovern, who previously moderated a World Council of Churches discussion on world racism, added, "The thrust of that discussion was right. It labeled racism as an intolerable practice in the Christian church . . . a threat to peace and justice world-wide . . . and called on Christian people around the world to put an end to this evil."

In his address, McGovern was interrupted several times by applause from the more than 600 participants from some 30 states. Major applause was on his comments on the Vietnam War and the Watergate affair.

Noting a tendency to scorn those who apply moral principles to public affairs, McGovern told of one major news weekly which "concentrated its greatest scorn on what it chose to describe as the hallmark of my campaign--'the politics of righteousness'.

"But after all the politics of hard-boiled cynicism and crass manipulation, I still believe that righteousness exalts a nation, and I think the stain of Watergate and the blot of Vietnam on the recent history of this nation underscores the hazard and pitfalls of divorcing morality from public policy and diplomacy.

"The folly of Vietnam was not the fault of waging war badly. The folly of Vietnam was that it was a bad war," McGovern said.

He said the leaders "asked everything about how the job could be done," but failed to ask the "most important question of all: 'Is it right?'

"We paid a terrible price for the omission of principles from public decision. They were morally wrong and they have not worked politically."

McGovern noted, "No campaign . . . no foreign policy . . . can excuse the telling of lies to the people and their elected representatives."

He also said the "government is supposed to listen to Americans, not listen in on them . . ."

McGovern drew applause as he said, "Americans must be known no longer as the world's chief supplier of arms . . . A gunrunner to dictators who trample on the principles of liberty and justice."

He took a verbal shot at national leaders who "seem more concerned that secrets (of CIA) have leaked out into the public domain than they are about the shocking behavior which led to the revelations."

The former Presidential candidate also praised detente, noting the alternative is "destruction," and spoke of the "folly of risking Armageddon to sustain a particular faction in Angola" as "sheer madness . . ."

He added, the world cannot "permanently continue partly in prosperity and mostly in poverty. The cost of this injustice will be more terror and little hope of stability.

"The works to achieve world-wide liberty," he said, "are not the tasks of a single year nor of a single decade.

"Yet the possibility of doing them and the probability that we will survive . . . will largely be determined by the decisions of these days," he concluded.