

June 18, 1958

'Prince Of Peace Best Contribution'

NASHVILLE--(EP)--"Our best contribution to world peace will be made by a greater effort by all Christian churches and forces to make known throughout the world the Prince of Peace," members of the Southern Baptist Convention's Committee on World Peace declared here.

The nine-member committee held its first meeting since being created at the 1958 session of the Convention in Houston.

Rep. Brooks Hays (D., Ark.), President of the Convention, had asked for the formation of such a committee. However, he and Sen. Albert Gore (D., Tenn.), another member of the committee, cancelled plans to attend the meeting because of developments in Congress.

Committee Chairman Walter Pope Binns, president of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., said that in Hays' absence, he was reluctant to "attempt a statement of what Mr. Hays felt would be the purpose and work of the committee."

Binns asked members of the Committee who were present to give their opinions on how the Committee could do the work committed to it by the Convention.

Among the suggestions made were:

"1. We must be clear in defining our terms and objectives. Conflicting views of peace have made its meaning ambiguous and have aroused suspicions of disloyalty toward peace movements.

"2. The Christian task is and must ever be to seek peace among men by proclaiming to all mankind the gospel of personal redemption through Christ which calls him to reconciliation with God and his fellow man.

"3. Since the word 'peace' and peace movements are politically conditioned throughout the world today, we must avoid statements and activities that will lead the people in other lands to identify our missionaries as government agents.

"4. Our best contribution to world peace will be made by a greater effort by all Christian churches and forces to make known throughout the world the Prince of Peace. In this way we will create a climate of spiritual values and motivation in which terms of peace can be made secure among all nations.

"5. A student of world affairs has written: 'He who brings peace to the world must first understand the cause of wars.' Primarily, the cause of wars is rooted in the selfishness of people as expressed in their relationship to the economic values in the world. The Christian view of these economic values is to use them for the growth and development of human life and character and not for power to gain advantage over one's fellow man."

The next meeting of the Committee on World Peace is scheduled in Washington Sept. 15.

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English-Speaking Tokyo Church Forwards \$722

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The English-speaking Tokyo Baptist Church in Japan has forwarded a check for \$722 to the treasury of the Southern Baptist Convention, their gifts through the Cooperative Program since Jan. 1.

The money will be distributed to all phases of Convention missionary, educational, and benevolent work in accordance with percentages approved by the Convention.

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George Hays, Southern Baptist missionary who is treasurer of the Japan Baptist Convention, said that at the time of its organization, the English-speaking Tokyo Church voted to send 12-1/2 per cent of its receipts to the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program.

The Tokyo Church was organized by 75 charter members under the leadership of "Tokyo's Flying Parson," Missionary W. H. "Dub" Jackson Jr. It was subject of an article in a national newsmagazine and was featured in a Baptist Press news story Mar. 12.

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Program For New Life
In Churches Proposed

DALLAS--(BP)--A program to put new life into the teaching and evangelism activities of a church has been suggested here by the public relations advisory committee of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

According to the suggestion, a certain church would be selected. The pilot project would be conducted in this church. The church program would be patterned after modern urban renewal projects.

Leading Baptist pastors, teachers, administration experts, and architects would conduct the project for about a six-week period. Results of the campaign could benefit all churches, it was pointed out.

The public relations advisory group also suggested a committee be appointed to study the possibility of making a feature-length film on Texas Baptist history. A leading California film company has offered to produce such a film, which might feature the life of General Sam Houston, a Baptist layman who was a member of the Old Independence, Tex., Baptist Church.

In other action the committee:

Voted to conduct a church publication award, recognizing different classes of church bulletins and newspapers;

Advised the Texas convention public relations department to produce two film-strips as an addition to a film library service for Baptist churches in the state. The strips will deal with Texas Baptist institutions and the denomination's encampment program; and

Suggested a recognition program for churches participating in a current Southern Baptist 30,000 Movement. The program seeks to add 30,000 new Southern Baptist churches, missions, or preaching stations by 1964. The Texas goal is 1200 new churches and 2400 new missions.

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New Forward Program
Film Teaching Tool

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A new sound film on the Forward Program of Church Finance was given a premiere showing at the recent Promotion Conference here. Titled, "The Forward Program in Your Church," the black and white, 22 minute film follows the format of a panel discussion led by Merrill D. Moore, Director of Promotion for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

The film is not entertainment or a dramatic presentation with a plot, but rather is a teaching tool which provides information and instruction. Panel members give testimonies of successful use in churches, and share what the Forward Program can achieve in other churches. It is designed to create interest in rather than giving full details about the Program. The film's only emotional impact is that which results from an explanation of the power of the Forward Program and testimonies of results following its use.

Production of the film was a joint project of the Executive Committee and the various state Baptist conventions. Each state convention had the privilege of ordering as many prints as it desired. These will be available for showings in associational and state meetings and assemblies. A church desiring to use the Forward Program will want to show the film to its leaders as well as to general church showings.

Most states plan distribution on a free rental basis or small service charge. Inquiries for bookings in the various states should be directed to the state executive secretaries or their associates in stewardship promotion. Additional prints may still be purchased by state conventions.

Other participants in the film include, Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Executive Committee; Albert McClellan, director of publications of the Executive Committee; Mack R. Douglas, pastor, Tower Grove Baptist Church, St. Louis; Thomas B. Chaney, director of the Forward Program in Kentucky; Jack Altman, pastor, Smyrna Baptist Church, Smyrna, Tenn.; W. Fred Kendall, executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; and Robert Hastings, assistant director of church finance of the Executive Committee.

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Chairman Of Seminary
Trustees Makes Report

EDITOR'S NOTE: The material below is an enlarged statement from the chairman of the trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, regarding dismissal of 13 seminary professors.

by Wade H. Bryant
First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va.

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in its 99 years of service to our denomination has lived through many periods of change, difficulty and crisis: The Civil War years; the removal from Greenville, S. C., to Louisville; the loss by death, with a brief interval between, of the two founding spirits of the seminary, Boyce and Broadus; the Whitsitt controversy, the change from faculty administration to presidential administration and others.

The board of trustees has had to deal this year with another grave difficulty in the life of the seminary. It was a clash between some members of the school of theology faculty and the president, and it roots back in part to the change in the bylaw structure of the seminary made by the trustees in 1942 placing the administrative responsibility in the hands of a president rather than in the hands of the faculty. Let it be said that this is the administrative structure of all six of the Southern Baptist seminaries, as it is of most colleges and universities today.

At the annual meeting of the board of trustees in March a report was received from the school of theology faculty lamenting the low morale existing among members of the faculty and asking for help in resolving the problem. The trustee committee on the school of theology met with a committee from the faculty and discussed at length the difficulties. They were not matters of doctrinal difference nor of academic freedom in the strict sense. Rather they were involved problems dealing with convictions about theological emphasis and the direction in which the seminary should go, the part the faculty should have in the selection of faculty members and deans as well as the promotion and salaries of faculty members, the way the president used his administrative authority, personal differences both with the president and with other members of the faculty, etc.

The committee of trustees reported to the full board and after lengthy discussion the board acted by requesting the president to endeavor to resolve the difficulties within the frame work of the bylaws, and by expressing by unanimous vote their full confidence in the president both as to his integrity and as the administrative head of the seminary.

In the weeks that followed the tension grew steadily worse, and on April 28, at the call of its chairman the committee of trustees on the school of theology, together with the chairman and vice-chairman of the board, met in Louisville. As the trustees gathered for the meeting they were handed copies of a lengthy "supplementary report" signed by 13 members of the school of theology faculty containing serious charges against the integrity and administrative competence of the president. It ended with the statement that the 13 faculty members whose names were affixed had lost confidence and trust in the president.

For nearly three days the trustees present (six of them were pastors, two were college deans, one was a lawyer, one was a denominational state worker) gave the most earnest and prayerful consideration to the whole problem. The 13 faculty members were called in one by one for interviews and the nature of the difficulties as they related to each one was discussed, as well as possible ways of resolving the difficulties. Also lengthy interviews were held with the president, and deans, and some 15 other faculty and administrative staff members.

After a week of thought and study, on May 7 the same group of trustees met again in Louisville and spent two days dealing with the problem. The school of

theology faculty members whose names were signed to the "supplementary report" were called in again and an earnest effort of understanding and conciliation was made. The committee of trustees formulated a report of its findings to be presented to a meeting of the full board of trustees, which would be held in Houston on May 23.

On May 15 the 13 faculty members sent a copy of the "supplementary report" to all members of the board of trustees, together with a letter in which they reaffirmed their statements in the "supplementary report" and stated, "if we receive no specific proposal from the board of trustees, you may expect to receive our resignations."

The board of trustees met in Houston on May 23 and were in session for nearly 10 hours. Most of this time was spent in dealing with the crisis over the 13 faculty members. The chairman of the trustee committee on the school of theology read the report of his committee to the board, and after some minor changes it was adopted. It stated that recent experience had demonstrated a new necessity of a president with administrative responsibility and authority.

It stated that the president in administering the affairs of the seminary would want at times to consult with faculty and staff members to secure their counsel, and that this was the policy and practice of the president. It stated that the right to disagree is inherent in a Christian community, but that consistent and continued disagreement indicates a basic disharmony which makes co-operation impossible, and that such a spirit should not be condoned.

It stated that the "supplementary report" containing charges against the president had been considered, but that consultations with other members of the faculty and with deans and administrative staff members revealed that instead of having lost confidence in the president, they had the greatest respect for him and full confidence in his character and integrity.

The board of trustees then reaffirmed its trust in the president both as to his integrity and as to his ability to administer the affairs of the seminary in keeping with policies established by the board. The board elected the president dean of the school of theology, to serve until a permanent dean is secured. The board directed the president to continue efforts to work out a reconciliation with the 13 faculty members. The board then adjourned to meet in Louisville on June 12.

The full board of trustees gathered in Louisville on June 12 and continued in session for some 12 hours. The president stated that many hours had been spent in conference with the dissident faculty members, but that it had been impossible to reach basic understanding and agreement. The faculty members were invited to appear before the board and make any statements they would like to make, which they did. Late in the evening after agonizing thought, effort, and prayer, the board voted 32 to 9 to dismiss the 13 faculty members.

In the hope that reconciliation can yet be made, the board authorized that a committee of its members be appointed to reinstate any one or more of these 13 men upon the basis of full confidence of the committee that the reinstated member can co-operate with the administration and work harmoniously within the framework of the charter and bylaws of the seminary and serve in good conscience as part of the faculty.

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Baptist Press

CUTLINES---

AN ORCHID TO YOU---An orchid is presented to Mrs. Ruth Nelson of Nashville, who has been bookkeeper of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention since July, 1932. During her nearly 26 years of service, Mrs. Nelson has disbursed \$211-1/2 million in Cooperative Program and designated offerings to Southern Baptist missionary and other agency activities. Mrs. Lavon Knies, Executive Committee office secretary, pins the orchid as Porter Routh, Committee executive secretary, watches.---Baptist Press Photo.

Baptist Press

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE---The lobby of New Orleans Union Passenger Terminal is site of this large rack for display of religious literature. The rack has been arranged so that various groups may have a special place for their literature, and the names of the denominations and religious societies have been letter d on plates attached to the sections where each group's literature may be found. The Southern Baptist container is in the top row of the rack in nearly the center of the picture. In addition to the literature rack, the New Orleans depot has a large directory of churches listing hours of worship.---Baptist Press Photo.