

August 27, 1958

Southern Baptists Must Think Boldly Says Hays

RIDGECREST, N. C.--(BP)--Southern Baptist people must think "adventurously and boldly" in working for peace in the world, Rep. Brooks Hays (D., Ark.), Convention president, declared here.

His remarks were made in a brief talk with members of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention assembled in their annual board session.

Hays said that "we must see what men of ingenuity and imagination can do for peace and justice."

"The Christian's definition of the word 'peace' includes justice and good will," he continued.

He told the Commission members that "we have a monumental and challenging job in getting our Southern Baptist people to think adventurously and boldly" in working for peace.

"The opportunities that confront us couldn't be greater or finer," Hays said.

At the 1958 session of the Southern Baptist Convention, Rep. Hays called for bold action by Southern Baptists toward peace. This resulted in the election of a nine-member Committee on World Peace for the Convention.

The Committee on World Peace held its first meeting in Nashville in June and will meet again in September in Washington.

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Conferences To Center On Religious Liberty

RIDGECREST, N. C.--(BP)--Christian Life Conferences held at Baptist summer assemblies here and in Glorieta, N. M., next year will center on a religious liberty theme.

This was decided by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, which sponsors the conferences.

The Commission asked Executive Secretary A. C. Miller of Nashville to begin immediately planning for the conferences. The Commission said it hoped "to break new ground in this increasingly important area of Christian concern."

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\$45,000 Appropriation Needed By Commission

RIDGECREST, N. C.--(BP)--The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention needs an appropriation of \$45,000 for the Convention fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 1960, it declared in its annual session here.

It represents about \$22,000 more than is contained in the current budget.

Executive Secretary A. C. Miller of Nashville said that \$12,000 is "badly needed" for a factual information service the Commission has sought to establish for several years.

The remaining \$10,000 is needed, he said, to meet demands for services which would be received in 1960 even without the establishment of the information service.

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Miller said the number of requests for factual information and for literature produced by the Commission are increasing steadily. "With the present limited staff, we are unable to fill some requests, and some replies are delayed necessarily because of the volume of requests," he added.

"We need a trained man to conduct surveys and to interpret trends, both of which will be a part of the factual information service," according to Miller.

"The addition of such a staff person would permit the Commission to render factual service in a wider area. Requests would receive more prompt attention and we would be able to give more thorough information than we can now give," he added.

The staff of the Christian Life Commission now consists of the executive secretary and two office assistants.

Miller said the cost of establishing the factual information service and of employing a person to handle it would be \$12,000.

"In meeting the requests of Southern Baptist people for services of the Commission, we have found that the demands are exceeding the budget available to render these services which the Southern Baptist Convention has assigned to us," Miller reported.

He said the \$10,000 is necessary for the Commission to meet the increasing demands for its services.

The Convention has assigned the Christian Life Commission the responsibility for services in the areas of labor-management relations, Christian approach to the alcohol and narcotics problems, helping to combat the great amount of obscene literature published today, presenting the need for Christian citizenship, information on race relations, and others.

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Officers Of Commission Re-Elected For Service

RIDGECREST, N. C.--(BP)--The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention has re-elected all its officers to serve another year.

They are Adiel Moncrief Jr., pastor, First Baptist Church, St. Joseph, Mo., chairman; Paul Sanders, of the Vanderbilt University law faculty, Nashville, vice-chairman, and A. C. Miller, Nashville, recording secretary and treasurer.

Miller is Commission executive secretary under indefinite appointment.

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Church-Commission Questions Raised

RIDGECREST, N. C.--(BP)--Questions concerning the relationship between an individual church and a commission of the Southern Baptist Convention have been posed by the Convention's Christian Life Commission here.

The Christian Life Commission voted to ask the Convention's Committee to Study the Total Southern Baptist Program for a clearer definition of a proposed change in relationships between churches and commissions.

The Committee to Study Total Southern Baptist Program has recommended that commissions work with other SBC agencies and with states rather than with churches. Action on this change, first proposed in Houston at the 1958 session of the Southern Baptist Convention was deferred until 1959.

Two of the questions for which the Christian Life Commission is seeking answers are:

1. Can the Commission continue to supply its services to a church at the church's request, if the change is adopted next year?

2. Can a member of the Commission or its staff take part in a conference sponsored by a local church, when such request is presented by the church, if the Study Committee recommendation passes?

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Committee Makes Plans
For Jubilee Advance

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A committee representing seven Baptist groups in North America will meet here Sept. 22-23 to plan the five-year Baptist Jubilee Advance.

The seven organizations have an aggregate membership of more than 18 million Baptists.

Participating organizations are the Southern Baptist Convention; American Baptist Convention; National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.; National Baptist Convention of America; Canadian Baptist Federation; Baptist General Conference of America, and North American Baptist General Conference.

C. C. Warren, of Charlotte, N. C., is chairman of the committee.

Main items of business will include election of a new committee chairman, since because of a time limit on offices the present chairman goes out of office; developing objectives for the years 1959 to 1964, and making plans for a simultaneous meeting of the seven groups in Atlantic City, N. J., in May, 1964.

The year 1964 is the third jubilee, or 150th anniversary, of the founding of the first convention of Baptists on national level in North America. Founded in Philadelphia in 1814, the organization was the General Missionary Convention of the Baptist Denomination in the United States of America for Foreign Missions. It was generally known as the Triennial Convention.

American Baptist Theological Seminary here, a seminary for Negroes supported co-operatively by the Southern Baptist Convention and National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., has invited the committee to meet at the seminary.

Among those expected to attend are:

Rep. Brooks Hays (D., Ark.), president of the Southern Baptist Convention.
T. B. McDormand, Toronto, Ontario, executive secretary, Canadian Baptist Federation.

Mrs. M. B. Hodge, Portland, Ore., president, American Baptist Convention.
J. H. Jackson, Chicago, president, National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.
Frank H. Woyke, Forest Park, Ill., executive secretary, North American Baptist General Conference.

Porter Routh, Nashville, executive secretary, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

Reuben Nelson, New York, general secretary, American Baptist Convention.
Dean Goodwin, New York, director of communications, American Baptist Convention.

Also meeting in Nashville Sept. 22-23 will be the Baptist Jubilee Advance committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. This committee will plan the way in which Southern Baptists will carry out the annual themes through their Convention. (Each convention develops its own activities in keeping with suggested themes.)

Warren is chairman of the SBC committee. He is also chairman of the 30,000 committee which is a sub-committee of the SBC group. This sub-committee will discuss progress being made in Southern Baptists' objective of establishing 30,000 new missions or churches by the year 1964.