

February 8, 1959

Editor Describes Way To Cover Controversy

SAVANNAH, Ga.--(BP)--"Compassionate objectivity." That's how controversial news of his denomination should be handled by a Southern Baptist editor, one of the editors told his fellows here.

The speaker was C. R. Daley of Louisville, Ky. As editor of the *Western Recorder*, weekly newspaper of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, Daley has found it necessary to cover one of Baptists' most controversial stories during the past year.

Louisville is site of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, oldest of six seminaries operated by the Southern Baptist Convention. During the last year, it has been center of a controversy surrounding dismissal of 12 professors of theology.

"Pure objectivity" in handling controversial news "is not possible nor desirable," Daley said. "Too much compassion, on the other hand . . . can result in painful generalities. Deal with the facts; help rather than hurt; exalt the Lord rather than expose his servants of clay." This was Daley's definition of "compassionate objectivity."

Daley's remarks were to the winter meeting of Southern Baptist Press Association here, representing editors of Baptist newspapers in 26 states and editors of Baptist magazines.

"Controversy, like the poor, is always with us. . . . The question is not whether we have controversy, but whether we will handle controversy," he said.

Daley cited progress that has come through controversy, adding that controversy does not necessarily have bad results only.

"Baptists can not be safe without information," according to Daley, who added that in treating controversy within Baptist life, the denominational editor is "reporter and interpreter."

But the question is: "How much interpretation should he attempt . . . and how does he separate the relevant from the irrelevant, the purely sensational from that which should be interpreted."

In addition to "compassionate objectivity," Editor Daley said there are other "healthful attitudes" an editor should have toward coverage of controversy.

"He should work as if he considers himself expendable," the Kentuckian said. "Handling controversy may make the editor controversial."

"The Baptist editor should be as fair as possible to both sides of the quarrel. The temptation is to stay on the official side, but the editor should remember that denominational programs are made for man and not man for the programs," Daley stated.

"The Baptist editor should also maintain confidence of both parties in the controversy," according to Daley.

Texan, Floridian Head
Baptist Organizations

SAVANNAH, Ga.--(BP)--A Texan and a Floridian will head organizations of Baptist state executive secretaries and editors of Baptist papers during the coming year.

Forrest C. Freezor, executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas, was elected president of the secretary group.

W. G. Stracener, editor of the Florida Baptist Witness, Jacksonville, heads the Southern Baptist Press Association, which represents 26 state Baptist papers and other Southern Baptist periodicals.

Freezor succeeds Harry P. Stagg of Albuquerque, N. M., and Stracener succeeds Floyd Looney of Fresno, Calif.

Other officers of the secretary organization are Ray E. Roberts, executive secretary, State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, Columbus, vice-president; and N. J. Westmoreland, executive secretary of Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists, Wichita, secretary.

Southern Baptist Press Association vice-president is W. C. Fields, editor of Baptist Record, Jackson, Miss. Association secretary is Erwin L. McDonald, editor of Arkansas Baptist, Little Rock.

The elections took place at the winter meetings of the two groups here. The groups will hold simultaneous meetings Feb. 15-17, 1960, in New Orleans.

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Loren J. Belt Elected
To Missouri State Work

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.--(BP)--Loren J. Belt has been elected by the executive board of Missouri Baptist Convention as state director of work with National Baptists.

He will assume his duties on Mar. 1, with offices in the Baptist Building here.

Belt, who leaves a similar position with the Illinois Baptist State Association, will succeed D. B. Hoskins. Hoskins resigned to become associated with church bond consultants in Oklahoma City.

Belt has been pastor of Oklahoma and Missouri Baptist churches for 18 years and Superintendent of city missions in Wichita, Kans., for two years.

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Missouri WMU Worker
Promoted To Secretary

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.--(BP)--The executive board of the Missouri Baptist Convention has elected Miss Mary Bidstrup of Jefferson City to the position of secretary for the department of Woman's Missionary Union.

The department directs the missionary education program for women and girls in the 1763 Baptist churches affiliated with the convention. These churches have 4,650 women's and youth organizational units with 70,976 members.

Since 1954 Miss Bidstrup had been the assistant secretary of the department which she now heads. She had also been field secretary of the department from 1948-54.

A native of Cooper County, Mo., she received her elementary and High School education at Pilot Grove, Mo. She has a master's degree in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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OBU Starts Building
Million-Dollar Chapel

SHAWNEE, Okla.--(BP)--Groundbreaking for a \$1 million chapel at Oklahoma Baptist University here and two dedication ceremonies will highlight Oklahoma Baptists' sixth annual Christian Education convention in Shawnee Feb. 20.

Benefits of attending a Christian college will be stressed at the convention, expected to attract some 1500 Oklahoma church leaders and students. The meeting will be at OBU.

Two dormitory wings and an endowment plaque will be dedicated. The wings, each four stories and built at a combined cost of \$700,000, are additions to Brotherhood Memorial men's dormitory.

John W. Raley, OBU president, will speak at the groundbreaking ceremony for the chapel building, which will house a 2000-seat auditorium plus offices of the college of music faculty, practice rooms for organ and piano students, and a recital hall. Construction will begin immediately after groundbreaking.

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Wake Forest Celebrates
Its 125th Anniversary

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.--(BP)--Frank W. Abrams, chairman of the Council for Financial Aid to Higher Education and former president of Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, and Barnaby C. Keeney, president of Brown University, will speak here Apr. 23, marking the 125th anniversary of Wake Forest College.

The program will be the first formal recognition the college has made of its 125th anniversary, President Harold W. Tribble said.

"We are quite happy to obtain two nationally known speakers who are prominent in the field of higher education," Tribble said. "We hope to make April 23 a time in which our students, faculty, alumni and other friends of the college can be proud."

Abrams is a graduate of Syracuse University and is now vice-chairman of its board of trustees. He is a member of the Ford Foundation, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and the Hoover Commission. He lives at Mattituck (Long Island), N. Y.

Keeney is the 12th president of Brown, located at Providence, R. I., and seventh oldest college in the nation. He was the top-ranking student in his class at the University of North Carolina where he received the B. A. degree in 1936. He holds the master's and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University.

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Furman To Honor 4
At May Commencement

GREENVILLE, S. C.--(BP)--At its May commencement, Furman University here will award honorary degrees to four persons.

They are Joseph C. Robert, president of Hampden-Sydney College, Hampden-Sydney, Va.; J. Edward Rouse, president of Anderson College, Anderson, S. C.; James P. Carroll, pastor, First Baptist Church, Bamberg, S. C., and Thomas T. Goldsmith, president of DuMont Television and Electronics Ltd. of Canada.

Furman University and Anderson College are institutions of the State Convention of the Baptist Denomination in South Carolina.

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Like Father, Like Son
True Of D. M. Nelsons

GREENVILLE, S. C.--(BP)--"Like father, like son" is true in the case of Dotson M. Nelson Jr. of Greenville.

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He was elected chairman of the trustees of Furman University here, a Southern Baptist-related university. His father, D. M. Nelson Sr., retired recently as president of Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., also a Baptist school.

The younger Nelson, pastor of Greenville's First Baptist Church, will serve a two-year term as chairman of Furman trustees, his office expiring in January, 1961.

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State Papers Report
1,363,925 Circulation

SAVANNAH, Ga.--(BP)--The circulation of 26 state Baptist newspapers has reached a combined total of 1,363,925.

The total includes the newspaper published in Alaska under auspices of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Alaska Baptist Convention. It does not include Hawaii.

The new circulation total was given by the editors of the newspapers at their mid-winter Southern Baptist Press Association meeting in Savannah.

Only two papers have exceeded the 100,000 mark. They are the Baptist Standard, Dallas, Tex., with 349,000 subscribers, and the Christian Index, Atlanta, Ga., with 103,000.

The Baptist Courier, Greenville, S. C., has a circulation of 90,500 and the Baptist Record, Jackson, Miss., approaching the 90,000 mark has 89,277 subscribers. The Alabama Baptist, Birmingham, has 93,749.

Seven papers have less than 10,000 circulation. These are located in states in which Southern Baptist Convention work is relatively new. Papers with high circulation have been in existence for many years.

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