



THEO SOMMERKAMP, assistant director

January 31, 1958

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

Church Launches New Saturday Youth Program

WASHINGTON--(BP)--A new experiment in a week-day youth recreation and religious education program is being tried by the First Baptist Church of Wheaton, Md., a suburb of the nation's capital. B. Ross Morrison is the pastor.

The plan calls for an all-day program for the youth of the church and community every Saturday. Beginning at 10 a.m., activities continue through the afternoon, concluding at 6 p.m.

Sixty-two young people of junior and senior high school age responded the first Saturday of the new experiment. There are 250 young people in this age range in the church.

There are two purposes of this new program, pointed out Morrison. It provides wholesome youth recreation and it takes advantage of the non-school time by offering religious instruction in addition to what they receive on Sunday.

The Saturday program gives the young people an opportunity to learn and express themselves in a wholesome Christian environment. The church hopes not only to prevent juvenile delinquency but also to give the young positive Christian experiences.

Activities include supervised games, Royal Ambassador and Girls' Auxiliary meetings twice a month, movies, crafts, religious drama, and other Bible-learning activities.

The program developed under the supervision of the Christian education committee of the church, and is directed by the church's minister of education, Lloyd E. Howard.

Within the Wheaton church membership is a ping pong expert, a woodworker, an electronics engineer, a photography and television specialist, a trained drama teacher, and others who have dedicated themselves to this new program.

The Wheaton church does not have a gymnasium but does have a youth building and a large recreation room. An outside recreation area is also available.

The Wheaton church has 765 members and averages over 700 attendance in Sunday school. 75 per cent of the population of the area are youth 15 years of age and younger.

After the first Saturday Pastor Morrison said he was very encouraged by the response and that church members are determined to make their youth program a success.

-30-

Washington Paper Hits
Jesuit Public Aid Bid

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Jesuit proposals for federal aid to all education, if they represent the Roman Catholic Church as a whole, could doom any federal aid program.

This point was contained in an editorial published recently in the Washington Post. The editorial attacked a proposal made earlier in the month by 28 Jesuit college presidents.

The Jesuit proposals further endanger two principles, the Post said--those of separation of church and state and of independence of private schools.

Jesuit college presidents announced their proposal that money in the Eisenhower administration's current program for federal aid for scientific education be distributed across the board to all educational institutions.

Speaking in favor of federal aid to education but against aid to private and sectarian schools, the Post editorial said: "Their (the Jesuit) support of federal aid to private schools is disastrous and could, if they speak for the Catholic Church as a whole, irretrievably doom any federal aid program."

The Post editorial declared that the federal government could not aid sectarian schools without "demanding of them a conformity, already given by the public schools, to the idea of free schooling for all applicants, to commonly accepted doctrines of education and to the principle of separation of church and state."

The paper then asked, "Could church schools. . . accept aid from Caesar without rendering a good deal unto Caesar in return?"

In a word of caution to those proposing federal aid "for all institutions," the Post said "they open up a controversy involving complex questions of constitutional law and fundamental principles of the American political system."

The Post valued very highly the place of independent and parochial schools in this country. It pointed out that their distinctive contribution had been made largely because of their independence and freedom from government control.

"That independence," concluded the editorial, "ought not to be compromised in an effort which can operate, as it has done in the past, only to deprive public schools of aid which they desperately need and are entitled to receive."

-30-

Wake Forest College
Lowers \$6 Million Debt

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.--(BP)--The \$6 million debt Wake Forest College acquired in building its new campus here has been reduced to \$4,625,000, President Harold W. Tribble reported.

Wake Forest began borrowing the \$6 million in 1955. Most of the money came through two large loans. The debt was approved by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, although the convention said that responsibility for paying the debt rested solely with the college.

One \$3 million note was executed in the fall of 1955. It is a long-term loan from the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. It is to be paid over a 20-year period from revenue coming from dormitories and the faculty apartments.

To date, \$150,000 has been repaid, leaving a balance of \$2,850,000 on that note.

One other major loan, totaling \$2,800,000 was acquired from Wachovia Bank and Trust Co. This is a short-term loan which college officials hope to erase by Dec. 31, 1960. To date, \$1,025,000 has been repaid, leaving a balance of \$1,775,000.

In addition, the college borrowed \$200,000 from the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest. The seminary bought the old Wake Forest campus. This sum later was deducted from payments the seminary made on purchase of the campus.

Wake Forest College moved to Winston-Salem in 1956.

Commenting on the financial picture at Wake Forest and the college's debt, President Tribble said:

"The results accomplished in financing our building program are indeed gratifying. They have been made possible by the generous support of Wake Forest College friends, including especially the Baptist State Convention, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, various corporations and a large number of alumni and other friends of the college who have pledged and given liberally."

"The college is grateful for this support and because of it looks to the future with growing confidence."

January 31, 1958

4

Baptist Press

BP Folks and Facts.....

.....Mr. and Mrs. Ira C. Prosser have resigned as promotional secretary and director of music and promotion at the First Baptist Church, Conway, S. C., and have accepted a similar position with Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky.

Franklin Owen is pastor of the Lexington church.

-30-

EDITORS: Insert following after third paragraph in story "Allison New Assistant Kansas State Secretary" carried in Baptist Press dated January 30.

Allison's new position corresponds much to that held by his father, W. H. Allison, in Missouri. W. H. Allison is secretary of missions and stewardship for the Missouri Baptist General Association.

-30-