

# BAPTISTS UNITED NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY BAPTISTS UNITED FOR SPIRITUAL REVIVAL . MORGANTON . N. C. 28655

VOLUME II

April 1, 1974

Number 2

## BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE MEETINGS

A series of five one-day Bible Conferences sponsored by the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship and our Baptists United for Spiritual Revival has been planned to be held here in North Carolina the week of April 8 to 12.

### SPEAKERS

Featured speakers for these Conferences are Dr. Robert Witty, President of Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Florida; Dr. Gray Allison, President of Mid-America Baptist Seminary, Little Rock, Arkansas; Rev. Bill Powell, Editor of "The Southern Baptist Journal"; Rev. James DeLoach, formerly pastor of the Derita Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C. and now pastor of the Woodlawn Baptist Church, Decatur, Georgia; and Rev. M.O. Owens, Jr., President of Baptists United and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship.

### CONFERENCES

The Conferences will be held in the following locations:

#### FAYETTEVILLE

Monday, April 8 - at the Bonnie Doone Baptist Church, Fayetteville, N.C., the Rev. A.R. Teachey, Pastor.

#### ROCKY MOUNT

Tuesday, April 9 - at the Calvary Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, N.C., Rev. Johnnie Bradley, Pastor.

#### GREENSBORO

Wednesday, April 10 - at the Florida Street Baptist Church of Greensboro, N. C., Dr. Gene Russell Pastor.

#### CHARLOTTE

Thursday, April 11 - at the Thomasboro Baptist Church, Charlotte, N. C., Rev. Reid Keiger Pastor.

### WAYNESVILLE

Friday, April 12 - at the Barberville Baptist Church, Waynesville, N.C., Rev. G.W. Jameson, Pastor.

### PLEASE NOTE

PLEASE NOTE THE PLACE OF THE FRIDAY MEETING. Inadvertently the News carried the notice that the Friday meeting would be held at the Merrimon Avenue Church in Asheville. THIS WAS AN ERROR, and we apologize to Brother Cline and his congregation for the error.

THE FRIDAY MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE BARBERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH IN WAYNESVILLE, N.C.

### PROGRAM

The tentative program for the Conferences will follow along these lines:

- 2:30 P.M. - Worship - Hymns, Scripture and Prayer
- 2:45 P.M. - "A Look At The Fellowship" - M.O. Owens, Jr.
- 3:05 P.M. - "The Southern Baptist Journal" - William Powell
- 3:30 P.M. - Special Music
- 3:35 P.M. - "God's Word" - James DeLoach
- 4:05 P.M. - "A Seminary True to the Word" - Dr. Gray Allison
- 4:45 P.M. - Adjourn
- 7:15 P.M. - Song Service
- 7:25 P.M. - Devotional Period
- 7:35 P.M. - "Is the Bible Inerrant?" - M.O. Owens Jr.
- 8:05 P.M. - Special Music
- 8:15 P.M. - "Holding Fast The Word of Life" - Dr. Gray Allison
- 9:00 P.M. - Adjourn

Dr. Robert Witty will be speaking at the times allotted to Dr. Gray Allison in the Conference in Fayetteville. Dr. Allison will speak at the other four Conferences.

### YOU'RE INVITED

These Conferences are open to everyone who will attend. Pastors and Lay People will be welcome. The hope is that Pastors will attend the afternoon sessions to participate in the topics listed.

### RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Josef Ton, an Oxford-trained preacher and the son of a Rumanian peasant is leading a drive to gain greater freedom and constitutional rights for evangelical churches in Rumania. Ton has delivered a doctrinal paper to the Baptist Union and the Ministry of Cults, which states: "The Ministry of Cults conceived a way of weakening the Baptist churches... The officials came with the idea that the Baptist churches were having too many meetings... Following this the union was infiltrated by disloyal members."

Ton declared that fifteen years ago Rumania had 540 ministers. Since then 400 of these have been sacked by the Union, leaving only 140. Fifty of these, many of them leaders, have signed Ton's petition which accompanied his declaration.

### EVOLUTION

The annual meeting of California State Science Teachers, held in San Diego, had creation as the theme of the main session. Dr. Henry Morris, Director of the Institute for Creation Research and Academic Vice-president of Christian Heritage College, spoke on the topic "Scientific Creationism for Public Schools". He declared that the creation-evolution issue is not an argument between religion and science, as evolutionists insist, but that the scientific model of creationism fits the facts of science much better than evolution does.

# REPORT FROM LOUISVILLE

BY: M.O. OWENS, JR.

Those attending the National Church Bus and Evangelism Conference at the Ninth and O Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky, March 13 - 17, sat in enthralment on Thursday afternoon as two pulpit masters presented their viewpoints of the Bible. The speakers were Dr. William Hull, Provost and Dean of the School of Theology at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Dr. Adrian Rogers, pastor of the Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee, a pulpit made famous by Dr. R.G. Lee.

## "THE UNIQUENESS OF THE BIBLE"

Dr. Hull spoke first on the topic "The Uniqueness of the Bible". His charisma and dynamic ability held his audience enthralled as he spoke of God's ability to get His message through in spite of sinful messengers. He challenged his listeners not to depend upon a "magic" Bible, but to let the Holy Spirit make the truths in the Bible come alive.

In the question and answer period following his message, it became fairly clear that Dr. Hull does not hold to verbal inspiration. He also indicated that he believes that all God has said in the Bible is inerrant, but his statement left his listeners wondering if he does not consider the Bible to "contain" the Word of God rather than to "be" the Word of God in totality.

## "THE WORD OF GOD"

Dr. Rogers took as his topic the simple phrase "The Word of God". With great power he held forth his conviction that the Bible is the infallible, inerrant Word of God in its every part. Its inerrancy is possible because God is the author. Through a verbal, plenary inspiration God gave to his messengers the very thoughts and ideas He desired to convey. In its original autographs, therefore, the Bible is without error. Being without error, its message to us is infallible. It cannot lead us astray in any area. It does not purport to be a book of science, or biology, or even psychology, but even in these areas, it gives us no untruth. It is totally dependable wherein it speaks.

## TWO VIEWPOINTS

Those attending were able to see that in the thinking and messages of these two men Southern Baptists have their two viewpoints. One viewpoint holds that spiritual truth can be conveyed even by errant words and ideas. God is able to speak to man through the words of the Bible. He is able to confront man with spiritual truth, even though the words are not historically accurate, nor scientifically correct.

The other viewpoint, which is the one Southern Baptists have repeatedly declared they hold to, both historically and currently, is that the Bible IS the Word of God in every part, and that it consists of truth without any mixture of error. By virtue of this, we do not have to run the words of the Bible through a tortuous exegesis to find out if they contain truth. We can believe that they are true and dependable.

## EDITORIAL

BY: ROBERT M. TENERY

The Biblical Recorder has quoted Dr. William E. Hull, Dean of the School of Theology and Professor of New Testament Interpretation at Southern Seminary, as saying that he would sign the Baptist Faith and Message "at top and bottom and in both margins". Pardon us if we are not impressed. We don't believe that Southern Baptists are as interested in what professors will sign as they are in what they will teach. We have learned through sad experiences that men who have no respect for the integrity of the Scripture will certainly have little respect for any kind of document that they will sign. Men have been known to sign various statements of faith and then teach things contrary to what the statement stands for. They rationalize this inconsistency by "interpreting" the doctrinal statements to suit their own theological fancies.

During a question and answer period Dr. Hull made it quite clear that he will not really stand by the statement of the Baptist Faith and Message on the Scriptures except as he interprets the Message and the Scriptures. To be sure, the Scriptures must be interpreted but interpretation should not be used to erode and massacre the Scriptures. There are places in the Scriptures where symbolical language is used (ie. Daniel, Revelation, the Parables) but it is quite evident when symbolic language is used and when the Bible is to be taken at face value. Moreover, the Bible usually always explains the symbolical language. To take a section that is obviously historical such as the Book of Jonah or the Book of Genesis and make it symbolical is to devastate the Scriptures.

It is time for straight talk with Southern Baptists. Men who are not willing to teach within the framework of the Baptist Faith and Message which was adopted in 1925 and reaffirmed with very few minor changes in 1963 should be honest enough to go elsewhere and not accept salaries from Southern Baptist Institutions which are paid with the tithe money of Southern Baptist People who give their money in good faith that it is going to be used rightly.

## DIRECTORS MEET

The Directors of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, acting under authority given to them in the organizational meeting held in Atlanta, added nine new Directors to the Board during their meeting in Louisville in March.

## NEW DIRECTORS

The new Directors elected are the following:

The Rev. Harold Cathey, Pastor of the East Baptist Church in Paducah, Kentucky;

Rev. Dan Greer, Pastor of the Washington Avenue Baptist Church in Greenville, S.C. and former President of the South Carolina Baptist Convention;

Dr. Robert A. Mowrey, Pastor of the Park Avenue Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee;

Dr. Adrian Rogers, Pastor of the Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee;

Rev. B. T. Scrivener, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Sellersburg, Indiana, and President of the Indiana Baptist State Convention;

Dr. J. Harold Smith, former evangelist, now pastor of the Windsor Park Baptist Church, Fort Smith Arkansas;

Rev. Jack Stricklan, Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Alamogordo, New Mexico;

Dr. Robert Witty, President of Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Florida;

Mr. Charles Jones, Layman, member of the Mount Olive Baptist Church East Point, Georgia.

## OTHER DIRECTORS

Rev. M.O. Owens, Jr., Pastor of the Parkwood Baptist Church in Gastonia, N. C. is Chairman of the Board of Directors. Dr. Laverne Butler, Pastor of the Ninth and O Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky is Vice-Chairman.

Other Directors are Rev. Bob Estes, Triangle, Va.; Dr. Gene Russell, Greensboro, N.C.; Rev. Calvin Capps, Greensboro, N.C.; Rev. Leroy Cooper, East Point, Ga.; Rev. William Powell, Decatur, Ga.; Rev. Wendell Wentz, Benton, Alabama; Dr. Wendell Rone, Mayfield, Ky.; Rev. Elmer Piper, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Rev. Glynn Little, Vincennes, Indiana; Rev. Carmon Hartsfield, Landover Hills, Md.; Rev. Gwin Turner Los Angeles, California; Rev. Bill Sutton, Orlando, Florida; Rev. Walt Fowler, Winter Garden, Florida; and Rev. Kenneth Mobley, Grapeland, Texas.

## PUBLICATION AND LOCATION

The Fellowship publishes the monthly paper "The Southern Baptist Journal", edited by the Rev. Bill Powell. The central office is located in Decatur, Georgia.

# EDITORIAL

BY:  
**ROBERT TENERY**

We join the Christian Action League of North Carolina and other concerned citizens in support of an expanded medical school at Eastern Carolina University. It will mean a greater flow of family physicians into the State of North Carolina and, we believe, that this is the only way to break the back of the medical monopoly that is now gouging the people in regard to medical prices and fees.

In many instances now we are being provided with second rate medical care. This is not to say that every doctor is a crook or that every doctor neglects his patients. There are some doctors who are very compassionate and conscientious about their patients. They are alert to their patient's needs but those doctors are usually so swamped with patients that it is hard to get an appointment with them. The fact is that we are seeing too many doctors who neglect their patients and seemingly couldn't care less about their patients welfare. They go about their practice in a careless manner with the assurance that there is such a shortage of doctors that they need not fear the loss of practice. We join Rev. Coy Privette, President of the North Carolina Christian Action League, in his belief that there is a clear-cut moral issue here that pastors should be speaking to.

## EXAMPLES

A young wife and mother came down with a very deadly form of hepatitis. She became ill on Sunday but was unable to get her Doctor. She finally got in touch with her Doctor around mid-day on Monday. He sent her to the hospital and told her that he would see her later in the evening - that he had a golf game. Her condition worsened so rapidly that another Doctor finally consented to see her and began treatment. She was at death's door before she could get any medical help. There was a strong possibility that her life could have been lost through neglect.

An older gentleman almost lost his foot for lack of a thorough examination. After a year of treatment his doctor finally discovered that he had a broken toe. The family had known that his toe was broken for some time and had assumed that the Doctor knew it.

A middle aged wife died of hepatitis while her family doctor was treating her for a gall bladder attack. When he finally called in another Doctor for consultation and got a proper diagnosis, she was too far gone - it was just too late to save her life. These are only a few of the many examples we could cite.

## PASTORS

I am satisfied that every pastor who is reading this page can recall numerous instances from his own ministry in which there has been needless suffering and perhaps death through sheer neglect. While we conservative men have never gone overboard for social actionism in any form, it has always been a hallmark of conservative men that they be prophets of God who are unafraid to speak to corruption and injustice regardless of where it is or who may be involved. It's really hard to explain why we have been silent so long about the medical monopoly that exists not only in our own State but all across the Nation. There are likely very few pastors in this State who have not at one time or another been irritated by the ridiculously high medical fees that the people of this state are forced to pay and the outrageous upward spiral in the cost of medical care but we have been too slow to challenge the medical establishment. We have been lulled into believing that "doctors know best" and we have accepted their judgment on all matters whether they were wise judgments or not. Again, perhaps there is lingering in the back of every man's mind a certain dread of reprisal from the medical community if he dares to challenge its monopoly. There is the fear that he may become seriously ill, needing the services of a doctor and not be able to secure one. Perhaps this is the reason that the American citizenry has stood still for an unprecedented fleecing by the medical world.

We have come upon a time when a brief illness can completely "wipe out" a family financially. In spite of all the health insurance that many families can carry, they find themselves losing their life's savings and sometimes their homes trying to pay outrageous medical fees. There is no need for it and it is time that we say so in no uncertain terms.

## DEBATABLE

Dr. W. Perry Crouch has opposed the involvement of the Christian Action League in this issue because it is "debatable" according to the Greensboro Daily News. Really now! What isn't debatable? Everything is debatable to someone. If Christians in this State withdraw from everything that is "debatable" then we are going to withdraw from the world and move back into a monastic existence. Indeed, if we are going to withdraw from everything that is "debatable" then we won't even preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ because there is nothing more "de-

batable" than the Gospel. The "debatable" argument is about the lamest excuse we have ever heard for lack of involvement in anything, and the Christian Action League should not back off from the issue because of Crouch's opposition to their involvement. If we do, we will lose the respect of the grass roots people who have supported the League from its beginning. After all, we have never seen much evidence that Dr. Crouch is a particularly enthusiastic supporter of the League

## SCARE TACTICS

There are some who are trying to scare the Trustees of the Christian Action League into believing that we are going to lose support if we become involved in such issues as the expansion of the Eastern Carolina Medical School. We have, however, noticed the sources of opposition to an expanded Medical School at East Carolina and, for the most part, we can't recall that they even gave us a very friendly nod during the struggle with the liquor forces last Fall, let alone any real support. The grass roots people who have always supported CAL will continue to support it and we believe that the grass roots people in North Carolina who pay the taxes want an expanded medical school so that more doctors will be fed into this State.

## QUALITY CARE?

Some of those who oppose the expansion of the Eastern Carolina Medical School do so under the pretense of maintaining quality medical care. They would have us believe that the three medical schools already in existence in North Carolina are admitting all of the qualified students who need to be admitted. The argument of "quality medical care" sounds so persuasive. The only thing is, it is a hoax. All of us have known of very highly qualified and excellent students who sought entrance to medical schools already existing in the state and were not admitted. Then, there is a strong suspicion in the State that who you know has about as much influence on your admission to a medical school as what you know.

While it is often affirmed that we enjoy the best medical care ever, there is a sense in which medical care has actually declined. It is true that we have better hospitals with more capabilities than ever before and there has certainly been an advance in medical technology but the availability of doctors to people seems to be on the decline rather than on the increase. Many

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small towns in rural areas that once had a doctor no longer have one. In some instances, patients have to travel for miles to see a doctor. Again and again we hear the sick complain "I can't get to see a doctor". Many of the doctors that we do have no longer seem to have the time to sit down and talk to a patient. Many patients visit doctors and are left with lingering uncertainties in their minds about their conditions simply because the doctor felt that he neither had the time nor the inclination to talk with them about their condition. The attitude with many doctors seems to be "get through with them as soon as possible and give them their bill."

To be sure, all doctors are not like this. There are many doctors in our State who are conscientious and compassionate and who want this situation alleviated. The only way that it will ever be alleviated is to train more doctors who will be fed into the State of North Carolina. A large percentage of those who are now studying at Duke and Bowman-Gray Medical Schools are from out of State and they leave the State as soon as they graduate. The medical schools now in existence limit their enrollment. They are obviously unwilling or unable to expand rapidly enough to meet the medical demands of a rapidly expanding population. Eastern Carolina University is spearheading a drive to train more doctors and thus upgrade the amount and quality of medical care that is available to the people of North Carolina.

### NATURAL CONTROL

With the increased availability of Doctors, there will be a natural control on medical inflation. Spiraling medical fees have not only made it difficult for those receiving medical care but they have driven insurance rates out of reason.

We were told by a nurse about three years ago who worked in the surgical suite that one surgeon made \$1,500 in one morning and this was a procedure that was repeated morning after morning. To be sure, we have no objections to doctors and surgeons making a living and we recognize that their overhead such as office, equipment, and nursing help is a factor in their fees, but this is ridiculous.

We applaud the efforts of Eastern Carolina University, the North Carolina Legislature, and a number of medical men over the State who are moving to alleviate this situation that now exists in regard to medical

care in North Carolina. Pastors probably live as close to the problem as anyone else. Pastors can have a tremendous influence by enlisting the support of their people for an expanded medical school at Eastern Carolina. To be sure, an expanded facility at Eastern Carolina will not alleviate the problem overnight. It will take several years but we need to begin now training more young men to move into the medical profession or medical care is going to be priced out of reach of the ordinary individual and people will go to premature graves for lack of care. The issue is very clear cut. It is a matter of selfish vested medical interests as opposed to better and adequate medical care. An expanded school at Eastern Carolina may not be sufficient but it is a beginning. There may need to be a school in the Western part of North Carolina at a later date and the people of this State should not falter if that need arises.

### MY FRUSTRATION

BY: Ronnie Owens

Have you tried to get a Youth Group to Ridgecrest lately? Well, I have. Let me suggest to you that you are in for some frustrations. This is a matter that has concerned me for some time. It has become increasingly difficult, if not impossible, for a church to get its young people in the Youth Conferences at Ridgecrest. It is now almost six months in advance of the Youth Bible Conference in August. I have just gone through the discouraging experience of trying to make reservations for 40 of my young people. I was told that the Conference has been closed for two months. That means that the Conference was closed the last of January.

Was I planning far enough ahead? I wondered at first but when I was told that the reservations opened last year on January 1 and closed on January 2, I concluded that the problem was not in my planning. The Conferences were open last year all of one whole day! That isn't really much of an opportunity to make reservations.

The Committee of Fifteen Report stated that "There is an unprecedented interest in the study of the Scriptures and a meaningful search for the deepening of the Christian life." The demand for reservations at the Ridgecrest Bible Conference seems to bear this out. This being the case, why does the Sunday School

(Continued next column)

Board not provide more weeks for Bible Conferences? We are having to close Bible Conferences leaving vast numbers of people hungry to study God's Word on the outside so it seems that some administrative readjustment is in order.

The Official to whom I spoke related to me that they were only allowing 1,000 young people to attend the Youth Bible Conference. He expects some 600 to show up without reservations. That is not many young people out of more than 11,000,000 Southern Baptists. Is this what we call "meeting needs"?

### HELP FOR CHURCHES

This is one area in which a Convention agency can really be of help to churches - in their summer youth program. The Ridgecrest Bible Conference is one of the finest things that a church can schedule for its young people. Now, many churches will have to set up their own Youth Camps (which can become rather expensive) because they can't get their young people into the Conferences at Ridgecrest; and does someone wonder why mission gifts can't increase more? I thought that Ridgecrest was there to serve our churches in matters of Bible Study, spiritual enrichment, etc. I find, however, in trying to take advantage of that service, that we are caught up in the wheels of a machine that has little concern for the local church situation.

### SERVE THE CHURCHES

We have been told that sponsorship of the Assemblies is partly responsible for the higher cost of our literature which we purchase from the Sunday School Board. This being the case, it seems that we should surely be able to gain more benefit from the Assemblies.

A relevant statement from the Committee of Fifteen appears on Page 20 of the April Issue of the Baptist Program. The report says, "Moreover, we remind the agencies that they exist for the churches, not the churches for them. This simple principal of Baptist polity should always be in the forefront of their thinking as they press on in their work. The church needs their leadership and their help. They, perhaps, need it more now than ever before. We suggest to them that they make the closing years of this decade the years of the churches."

NOTE: Ronnie Owens is the Associate Pastor of the Burkemont Baptist Church, Morganton, N.C.

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37234

APR 8 1974

Baptists United News  
published monthly under  
the auspices of Baptists  
United for Spiritual Re-  
vival, P.O. Box 1201 by  
Burkemont Baptist Church  
Burkemont Road, Morganton  
N. C. 28655. Robert M.  
Tenery, Editor.  
Second Class Postage Pd.